1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
2	STATE OF MISSOURI
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5	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
6	TOWN HALL
7	
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9	
10	In the Matter of an )
11	Investigation into the ) Customer Service and )
12	Billing of Liberty ) File No. 00-2025-0233 Utilities Including )
13	Electric, Gas, and ) Water Utilities )
14	
15	
16	THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025 6:00 p.m.
17	
18	Missouri Southern State University
19	Criminal Justice Auditorium 3950 E. Newman Road
20	Joplin, MO 64801
21	
22	VOLUME IV
23	
24	Transcribed by:
25	Melissa Eicken



1	MARK JOHNSON: Hey. Good evening,
2	everyone. We're going to go ahead and get started
3	here. It is now 6:00 o'clock, but my name is Mark
4	Johnson. I'm the chief staff counsel and the division
5	director at the Missouri Public Service Commission.
6	We're here tonight to host a town town hall meeting
7	regarding Liberty Utilities. As you may know, the
8	Missouri Commission has opened up an investigatory
9	docket. It's Case Number 00-2025-0233, directing its
10	staff to investigate billing inconsistencies that
11	Liberty customers have experienced over the past year
12	or so.
13	Joining us tonight are additional members
14	of the Commission staff, representatives from the
15	Missouri Office of the Public Counsel which is the
16	state agency that represents the interest of utility
17	customers, and representatives from Liberty Utilities.
18	If you have specific concerns you'd like to raise
19	privately from one someone from staff, OPC or
20	Liberty will be available after the meeting or during
21	the meeting, if you would like to speak with you one
22	on one.
23	If you previously attended a PSC local
24	public hearing, this town hall is going to be a little
25	bit different. We're not going to be taking formal

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1 sworn testimony tonight. But tonight's about you, 2 your voice, your experiences, and your concerns. 3 Staff and OPC are here to listen. We are aware of many billing problems, but we also know that we do not 4 5 know everything. That's why it is essential that we 6 hear directly from you. Your input will help us 7 ensure that our investigation covers the full scope of 8 issues Liberty customers are facing.

9 As you can see, we have a strong turnout 10 tonight. So to make sure everyone has an opportunity 11 to speak, we ask you to please keep your remarks brief 12 and focused, ideally, around five minutes or less. 13 We're recording tonight's meeting and a transcript 14 will be prepared of all of the comments, so. We also 15 ask that you please be respectful of one another and 16 avoid talking over others as overlapping speech does 17 make it difficult to capture a clear record.

18 So staff is currently required to file 19 quarterly updates with the Commission on the progress 20 of its investigation. We're holding four town hall 21 meetings, this being the fourth across Liberty's 2.2 Missouri service territory, and the feedback we gather 23 at these events will help us inform staff's future 24 reports and any recommendations that we ultimately 25 make to the Commission.



1	At this time there is no set date for the
2	final report to be filed. However, in addition to
3	this investigation, Liberty has a pending electric
4	rate case before the Commission, and it is possible
5	that some of the issues raised here tonight could also
6	be addressed in that proceeding. Depending on what we
7	uncover, staff or the Office of the Public Counsel may
8	also choose to file a formal complaint against
9	Liberty. As you know, we had a sign-up sheet in the
10	back of the room or outside. We will call speakers in
11	the order they appear on that list. If you did not
12	sign up, but would like to speak, if we have time, we
13	will invite additional comments once we finish the
14	list. If you would prefer not to speak tonight or if
15	we run out of time, you can still share your concerns
16	with us. We have comment forms available outside.
17	You may also submit comments online by visiting the
18	PSC's website at www.psc.mo.gov. Please be sure to
19	reference the case number in those comments. And
20	again that is 00-2025-0233. There's also a handout on
21	the table outside with step-by-step instructions as to
22	how to do this.
23	Before we begin the hearing from you, I'm

Before we begin the hearing from you, I'm now going to invite brief remarks from the Office of Public Counsel and from Liberty Utilities.

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1	GEOFF MARKE: Good evening. My name is Geoff
2	Marke. I'm the chief of economist with the Missouri
3	Office of Public Counsel. Our office represents you,
4	in cases before the Missouri Public Service
5	Commission. This town hall is part of a larger
6	investigatory docket like Mr. Johnson just described.
7	Out of that well, let me step back.
8	There's effectively two tracts that are
9	going on right now. Concurrently with this
10	investigation, you have the rate case itself. In that
11	rate case and we have literature outside that
12	describes what the what the overall rate request is
13	which is a sizable increase. That's going to play out
14	over the next six to seven months. Ultimately, that
15	rate request is going to be yes, no or anything in
16	between is going to be decided by the Missouri Public
17	Service Commission themselves. The information that
18	we hear today will be used in that rate case at least
19	by our office. The information that we hear today
20	will be used in the investigatory docket that we hear
21	which is why it's critically important that you're
22	clear and articulate when you get up here and speak,
23	so we can transcribe it and utilize that information.
24	Over the last three days now, we have heard
25	a number of issues regarding billing, customer



1 service, customer experience, solar, potentially 2 scams, any number of things. In each one of these 3 town halls, we've learned new things. So please, 4 please, please, you know, we want to hear from you. 5 If there are issues that you've experienced, this is 6 the opportunity to do it because we don't know what we 7 don't know.

8 In general, so there -- there is an overall 9 general argument that's effectively being made here with the investigatory -- the investigation in the 10 rate case itself. However, individual accounts and 11 12 billing issues are also critically important, and what 13 I'm afraid is that we might have individuals coming up 14 here identifying issues that they've had with their 15 bill, and then leave. That would be a mistake. Be sure after this, if you have a billing abnormality, if 16 17 you feel like you've been overcharged, if your bills 18 are incorrect, that you speak first with a customer 19 service rep that's out there with the company, and if 20 you're not satisfied with the answer that you get to 21 please go to the -- to the PSC table and/or the Office 2.2 of Public Counsel's table so we can follow up and make sure that your issue is directly addressed. 23 24 I appreciate everybody for coming out

24 I appreciate everybody for coming out 25 tonight, and I can't wait to hear what you have to



1	say. Thank you.
2	Oh, one last thing. I've got a set of
3	business cards with my contact information on it.
4	Please feel free to take one and guarantee that you we
5	will follow up. Thanks.
б	TIM WILSON: Ready? Thanks, Dr. Mark.
7	Thank you to the staff of the Missouri Public Service
8	Commission and to the Office of the Public Counsel for
9	inviting us to participate in this town hall. And
10	thank you to all of those of you in the audience for
11	taking time to be here as well. We value customer
12	feedback, and we look forward to listening and
13	learning and answering questions from our customers.
14	My name is Tim Wilson. I'm the president
15	of the Empire District Electric Company, doing
16	business as Liberty Utilities. I've been serving
17	Empire for 28 years. I've held every job from janitor
18	to president, and I've dedicated to my career to
19	make sure our communities have reliable electricity.
20	I know you expect and demand and depend on this
21	essential service.
22	I'm also here representing hundreds of
23	Liberty team employees who live in the communities we
24	serve including line workers, operators, engineers,
25	customer service reps, and many others who work

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1 literally around the clock to keep the lights on in 2 your homes, schools, hospitals, senior centers, and 3 businesses. We're proud to work for Liberty, and we 4 want you to be proud to have Liberty as your service 5 provider.

6 So how did we get here? As you likely 7 know, we implemented a new software system which 8 included changes to our billing systems. This new 9 system was implemented across our entire company, not just here locally. Approximately 10 percent of our 10 customers in Missouri experienced billing issues 11 12 following that implementation. Certain areas were hit 13 harder like Boliver, Branson, Aurora, Ozark, where we have two commodities in the same community. 14 I want to 15 start by apologizing to those who have experienced We know it's frustrating and certainly 16 issues. 17 inconvenient. And it has taken us longer than we 18 planned to complete the transition. Just being 19 honest.

We have had and continue to have a team of people across our company working to resolve issues and bring good billing and customer service experience back overall. I'm pleased to share that we're making steady progress. In fact, most of our 350,000 customer connections across a six-state region are



1	being billed as they should be. However, we still
2	have work to do so that all customers have good
3	billing and customer service experience. We are fully
4	committed to continuing to make improvements to better
5	serve all customers.
6	With me tonight I have senior director of
7	rates and regulatory strategy, Charlotte Emery. She's
8	here to help answer any regulatory and general
9	questions. I have our director of legal, Diana
10	Carter, who is here to set me straight, typically. I
11	also have Candice Kelly, our director of customer
12	service. So for specific questions on your bills, we
13	have several of our topnotch customer service team
14	members here with their computers this evening.
15	They're out front. Please take advantage of this
16	opportunity to work one on one with them, if you need
17	questions answered. They are here to help you. If
18	you are currently experiencing a billing issue, love
19	to hear from you. But the most important thing to me
20	is that you get help tonight, if you're still having
21	an issue. If you prefer, of course, you can always
22	call us or walk into one of our walk-in centers. We
23	also have Eric Larson with us. He's our senior
24	manager of capital administration and planning for our
25	water utilities. So if anyone's here that's from

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maybe the Aurora area or somewhere else that has a 1 2 water question, he's your quy. I also do want to 3 emphasize that customers who received a delayed bill or didn't receive bills for some time or were given at 4 5 least twice the length of the delay to pay the bill in 6 full, so for example, if you didn't get a bill for two 7 months, you get at least four months to pay. We want 8 to work with our customers to make this right. Thank 9 you again for having us. We're here to listen, learn, 10 and help. 11 CURT GATELEY: My name is Curt Gateley. I'm 12 also with the Public Service Commission staff with 13 A few things, if you have mobility issues, Mark. we're going to bring a wireless mic to you, so if we 14 15 call your name and you need to -- put your hand up. 16 We'll come to you with the microphone. I don't recall 17 if it was said already, but there will be separate 18 local public hearings associated with Liberty's 19 electric rate case that's going on. So this is for 20 overarching issues, but we still have those meetings 21 that are focused on those electric rates. Those will 2.2 be in July. This -- if you're familiar at all with 23 any of our other local public hearings, the testimony 2.4 portions have been recorded and posted online. That's 25 If you have any concerns about not happening tonight.



1	being put on the Internet; such as that, it's not
2	going on. We're just hearing from you, gathering as
3	much information as we can. We are interested in more
4	than just billing. I understand that a lot of folks
5	that's that's the primary concern you have, but if
6	there are other operational problems, other issues
7	as as Dr. Mark had mentioned, we have learned quite
8	a bit of new things at some of these other meetings.
9	These folks have learned quite a bit, too. We only
10	hear it from you guys sometimes because you're the
11	ones experiencing it, and we don't have visibility of
12	that. They mentioned the customer service
13	representatives out front. If you've had trouble on
14	the phone, I have heard very good feedback from
15	customers in dealing with folks that they have out
16	there. They have done great work with folks
17	individually to help them with their accounts, and
18	their bosses are here, too.
19	So I encourage you to stop by if you have
20	an individual billing problem that you still need

21 resolved yourself. You all are going to do fine, but
22 I need to say that we have had -- whenever you get
23 hundreds and hundreds of people together with several
24 meetings, sometimes we have some issues. This is
25 about getting information from you about the problems



1	that you've been having with Liberty. If you spend a
2	bunch of time trying to engage in political debate, if
3	you showed up here to throw personal insults at folks,
4	and these folks didn't create the billing program.
5	This is something that they've been sent here to get
6	feedback from you guys as well. If your statements
7	boil down to, I hate you, that's not helpful. You
8	might. But I we need the evidence from you guys.
9	So we may ask to move on to the next the next
10	person because you're taking time away from your
11	neighbors. We need to hear from folks. It's possible
12	we won't get all through the list. We've got a lot of
13	folks. Folks are still coming in. We will be here at
14	least three hours.
15	We're not planning to break. We might
16	individually take breaks. We're going to keep going
1 7	to true to got through many folks as we can And T

17 to try to get through many folks as we can. And I 18 appreciate you guys being out here tonight.

19 MARK JOHNSON: All right. Well, we're 20 going to go ahead and get started with comments. We 21 have two microphones available, one in each aisle. So 22 I'm going to go ahead and call off two names at a 23 time. We'll go in order of the names called. And I 24 will say right now, I apologize in advance for 25 mispronouncing anyone's name.

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1	All right. First up, we have Gary Powers
2	and Kathleen Burge. Okay. All right. Next
3	GEOFF MARKE: Hold on a second.
4	MARK JOHNSON: Gary? Gary? Yes.
5	CURT GATELEY: Gary.
6	GARY POWERS: Yeah. My name is Gary
7	Powers. I lived in Joplin all my life. I've got four
8	accounts with Liberty. I really never had a billing
9	issue. They did get it squared pretty quick, that
10	there's a couple of things I want to highlight on.
11	My electric bill in the last five years on
12	all four accounts has went up double. I had an
13	engineer from Liberty look at it. He said, well, you
14	don't have really any problems. Why your bill is up
15	is because of the rate hikes.
16	And this one really gets me wound up. But
17	they say on the news your average rate will go up \$7
18	per thousand kilowatts. They make it like the average
19	person uses a thousand kilowatts. That's an absolute
20	lie. The average person uses 2,500 to 4,000. Another
21	thing is, electric heat is not hot. It's lukewarm.
22	Last but not least is, I found this out, 30 years to
23	pay for that mess-up at Asbury Plant is in sane.
24	MARK JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Powers.
25	CHARLOTTE EMERY: I might just jump in. I



1 do appreciate your comments, but I do want to make 2 sure that we -- we set the record straight that the 3 Asbury and the Storm Uri is 15 years, up to 15, not 4 30. 5 All right. I think next was MARK JOHNSON: 6 Kathleen Burge. Or Burge. Okav. 7 Next up we have Richard Hamilton and 8 Cheryl -- Sharon Lillard. And I'd recommend -- if a 9 name is even close to it, yeah, I'm dealing with reading signatures and probably mispronouncing, so. 10 11 Again, I apologize. 12 SHARON LILLARD: Okay. We ended up with 13 eight bills on March -- on March the 25th, and of 14 course, it says zero balance. But then it had a 15 different number, too. And then on April the 22nd, we got a bill for \$620.40, and it was only 5,251, but 16 17 then we got another -- and my husband went to go pay 18 it, they turned and told him we owe another bill that's got due in two days, and it's April the 25th, 19 20 and it's another \$616, and it was only -- and it was 21 5,669. And why 15 years for Asbury? Can you answer 2.2 me that? 23 GEOFF MARKE: Kathleen, before they answer the Asbury question, what's your -- what is your 2.4 25 typical average monthly bill?



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1	SHARON LILLARD: Well, the last few months
2	we've been getting \$600, and we have A solar system,
3	and back in I was just looking at my papers. In
4	January '24 to January '25, we were only paying \$19.
5	So why are we paying \$600 a month now? And why are we
6	getting less on solar system than what we used to get?
7	GEOFF MARKE: So let me let me address the
8	solar issue. That was a relatively new issue that
9	we've discovered through some of these town hall
10	meetings, if you do have solar issues, in the the
11	rate case currently in front of you right now, there
12	is an intervenor that's focusing on just solar issues.
13	So I'd ask that you go back to it, after you get your
14	questions answered, to be sure to touch base with our
15	office outside there because we're redirecting those
16	comments to that advocate because they they're
17	asking for it, and they'd like to go ahead and address
18	your specific issue.
19	SHARON LILLARD: We had the solar back in
20	'24, and like I said, that's all we was paying, and
21	now we're paying \$600 plus we have to pay for the
22	solar every month.
23	GEOFF MARKE: Right.
24	SHARON LILLARD: So we're paying higher
25	bills now than what we did before that what's the



1	15-year Asbury thing?
2	TIM WILSON: First off, I would really
3	encourage you to go talk to our customer service reps
4	if you're if you're wondering about your bills;
5	okay? Secondly, the general assembly passed a law
6	and and Charlotte can jump in called
7	securitization. Securitization was passed for items
8	like Storm Uri and for items like Asbury. It was
9	literally done for that. It was it was some
10	people didn't like it, but it it got support, and
11	it was passed into law. The reason it was passed into
12	law was for extreme and extraordinary events. Storm
13	Uri in less than a week, we spent \$205 million on
14	natural gas to run our generators to keep the lights
15	on. We have fought at FERC for price gouging and for
16	folks getting out of the penalties. I think we were
17	the only utility to do that to fight for our
18	customers, but it's either that or shut the lights off
19	when it's negative 20. Can't do it. We have a
20	responsibility, legally, to provide electric service.
21	What that resulted in, just to give you an
22	idea, \$205 million is just about what we typically
23	spend in a year, a little bit less. What that did
24	was, it saved although, it's over 14 15 years
25	believe me, I don't want it on your bill for 15 years



1	either because we're going to hear about it for 15
2	years. I don't like it either. But that was the
3	method that we all agreed to in order to recover the
4	extreme and extraordinary costs associated with Storm
5	Uri, and it saved our customers. We we calculated
6	\$32 million over regular recovery mechanisms.
7	SHARON LILLARD: So in other words, if
8	something else happens, we're going to end up being
9	billed for that, too; you're trying to tell me?
10	TIM WILSON: Anytime weather comes through
11	and and you consume energy, we're actually working
12	with Dr. Mark on the value of a loss load study. At
13	some point is there a pricing point where people
14	just even if it's really cold, you don't want our
15	service, that's something that we're working on trying
16	to get to, but yes, we have an obligation. I don't
17	have the choice to not pay that to keep the lights on.
18	But that was an extreme extraordinary event once in
19	I don't know how many years, they say, but cold
20	weather events are becoming increasingly, you know.
21	MARK JOHNSON: To clarify the question,
22	though, mentioned Asbury, in particular, just
23	although, it's the same mechanism idea, but you
24	mentioned Uri
25	TIM WILSON: So the general assembly also



passed that to for for coal plants that were
uneconomic for customers, where they weren't fully
depreciated; okay? And, so we had some money on the
books because Asbury wasn't fully depreciated, but
because it wasn't fully depreciated doesn't mean we
shouldn't do the right thing because it was costing
our customers more money to keep it online than it was
to shut it off, and the reason for that was, it was
built in 1970. It was anomaly 190 megawatts. And it
just was not running. It was just setting there.
And, so the general assembly passed that law for
securitization, for not only stranded assets, but that
we use what the law provided for us to do what we felt
was best for our customers.
SHARON LILLARD: Then why don't they up
make it more modern?
GEOFF MARKE: I'm going to go ahead and
SHARON LILLARD: So you're trying to say
modern is what costs so much?
GEOFF MARKE: These are really good
questions, and this is a a thing we've heard in a
number of different public hearings, so I'm going to
give it a stab at explaining that specific surcharge
in your bill. So that specific surcharge in your bill
that you're going to be paying for the next 15 years



1	includes two things. The Storm Uri cost; right?
2	Which was in 2001 was an awful storm. It hit
3	Missouri, it hit Arkansas, it hit Kansas, it hit
4	Oklahoma, Texas. Effectively, what happened is, for
5	two days, the price of fuel just skyrocketed because
6	wind farms froze, solar farms had snow over them, coal
7	plants had the coal plants froze, and the national gas
8	pipe plants, the distribution system broke. There
0	
9	were issues where they weren't properly weatherized
9 10	were issues where they weren't properly weatherized because Texas and Oklahoma weren't used to having that

13 entire wholesale market. There was a big demand for energy because everybody was freezing, and all of 14 15 these units started going offline. So that supply and 16 demand got out of whack. Now, to cover those costs, 17 those fuel costs -- and I can't stress enough, like, 18 how big of an issue this was. We had multiple 19 municipal utilities have effectively got a bill for 20 three days of use, that exceeded their entire annual 21 budget. That meant that municipality couldn't pay for 22 cops or potholes or anything else.

Now, Missouri General Assembly's answer to that was effectively to create a credit card in the form of what we call securitization. And that's



1	what's being paid off.
2	Now, this company deserves whatever they
3	deserve out of this town hall, but on that specific
4	issue, I will defend them. They're the one
5	investor-owned utility here in Missouri that did go to
6	bat and attempt to go ahead and claw back funds for
7	their customers at FERC. FERC ultimately said no.
8	But, you know, at least they tried.
9	Now, the Asbury issue again, this is a
10	coal plant that was built in the '70s, but over the
11	course of that time, there was a number of investments
12	that was made into it to make it more modern including
13	scrubbers. Now, at that time it was not an
14	economically dispatchable investment at that time, and
15	that's that key phrase.
16	Now we don't have foresight. We can't
17	predict the future, and for what it's worth, our
18	office argued against shutting it down. We lost.
19	Now, reality of the situation is that coal plant went
20	down and the demand across the SPP, across the United
21	States, quite frankly, has increased. And that is a
22	real issue that we're dealing with today is that
23	demand is out stripping supply.
24	And what does that mean for you? What does
25	that mean moving forward? Well, there is a fear of

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1 price volatility moving forward. You know, I can tell 2 you that based off of the company's resource planning 3 efforts over the next 20 years, they are committed at 4 least today to investing more into fossil fuel and 5 reliable generation. Well, that is the plan moving 6 forward, but again, what we're the -- the reality of 7 the situation is, we're also going up against just 8 market demand over it.

Think of it this way. 9 There's only so many natural gas engineers out there. And if Kansas is 10 11 looking for gas plants, and Arkansas is looking for 12 gas plants, and right on down the line, there is a 13 long line of people that want to build, and that supply and demand is basically increasing the cost 14 15 that we're experiencing right now. So this is -- this is a real reality that -- that across the United 16 17 States people are dealing with, and there's a lot of 18 strong issues to -- to address.

Unfortunately, the general assembly, the securitization, like Mr. Wilson described, the initial bill was designed around uneconomic coal plants. This last session your general assembly approved in part a larger omnibus bill. Embedded within that bill was a commitment or a requirement for utilities to have reliable, dispatchable generation. For anything that



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1	gets retired, they have to have at least an equivalent
2	amount moving forward. And that's the idea is to
3	rectify Uri-like situations in the future. Now, no
4	doubt more needs to be done, but that's where we are
5	presently.
6	MARK JOHNSON: All right. Well, I think
7	we're up to Richard Hamilton. And folks, I'm going to
8	go to just calling one name at a time. So
9	Mr. Hamilton, would you like to make comments? All
10	right. Next we have Sharon Lillard. That was you.
11	Okay. Okay. Next we have Merna Mosier.
12	MERNA MOSIER: Sorry, I'm climbing over my
13	(inaudible).
14	UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's okay.
15	MERNA MOSIER: First of all, I'd like to
16	thank all of you for being here and hearing our voices
17	today. I really appreciate it. I, too, have always
18	lived in Joplin, and I'm 74 years old, and I just like
19	to speak on part of the elderly community like myself
20	that live in Joplin, and since Liberty bought Empire
21	out, I, too my gas bill I mean, my electric bill
22	has doubled in those years. I have always had gas
23	heat and electricity, and my utilities used to kind of
24	balance each other out in the fact that during the
25	summer my gas bill would go down, electric would come



	-
1	up, and then in the winter, it would kind of rotate,
2	but that's not the case anymore. My electric bill
3	always stays high. For example, in April, my electric
4	bill was 14 percent of social security.
5	Now I'm fortunate in the fact that I have
б	other income, but a lot of my friends do not. And
7	I've never spoken at a town hall. I've just taken the
8	rate increases. But for a customer just looking at
9	the electricity, you know, it seems like they've spent
10	a lot of money in expenditures on a new building,
11	on everybody drives a new pickup. Everybody has
12	new trucks, and for a customer, that makes me think,
13	well, that's why my bill is high is because they're
14	not doing their best to keep the expenses down, and I
15	understand expenses going up.
16	My husband and I ran a truck dealership for
17	25 years, so I understand, and our expenses would go
18	up, too, but before we would raise the rate, we would
19	try to cut expenses to keep the price down for our
20	customers.
21	So my concern, for example, one month this
22	last winter when it was cold, I paid 500 I paid
23	\$250 in electric, and \$250 in gas, and I live in a
24	very modest house, not large at all, good insulation,
25	and most of my friends would never have been able to

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1	pay that much, you know. And there's a lot of us that
2	are trying to stay in a single family home and pay the
3	utilities and all of that, so.
4	Going forward, I would just like to say
5	that when you're considering rate increases, you need
6	to remember that some of us, we can't earn more money.
7	We're just kind of in a place here, and on the other
8	hand, maybe we should look at expenses and try to cut
9	those as well when we're thinking about utilities.
10	GEOFF MARKE: Thank you, Merna Mosier.
11	MARK JOHNSON: All right. Next, we have
12	Mr. Ron Peterson.
13	TIM WILSON: Can I say something just real
14	quick?
15	MARK JOHNSON: Oh, absolutely.
16	TIM WILSON: Ms. Mosier, first off, thanks
17	for speaking. I know you said you're not used to
18	speaking in public, and and it's pretty brave of
19	you to do that. So, thank you.
20	I can assure you not only from my team, but
21	those folks over there look at our expenses. I wake
22	up every day thinking about expenses. You may you
23	know, you may disagree and but I can assure you, we
24	look forward. That's why we're set up the way we are.
25	That's why we're regulated. We hand over our full



Transcript of Proceedings
June 12, 2025

1	books to the Office of Public Counsel and staff, and
2	believe me, they pour through them, and we argue about
3	expenses every time, so. You've got advocates on both
4	sides.
5	MERNA MOSIER: Well, thank you.
6	TIM WILSON: Yeah.
7	MERNA MOSIER: I have to look at expenses
8	every month as well. Thank you.
9	TIM WILSON: Thank you.
10	MARK JOHNSON: All right. Ron Peterson.
11	RON PETERSON: Set up here. Okay. I have
12	a small rental unit here in Joplin, and in in
13	March, I received an electric bill. Ran out of
14	paperclips for how many bills I received, but five,
15	six, seven, eight, nine nine copies of the same
16	bill. Some of them came in four of them in one
17	day, three in one day, two in one day over the course
18	of a week. The April bill came shortly after that.
19	You can leave those there. The April bill came the
20	April bill came and with a due date of April 22nd,
21	and the other one came the next day for a due date of
22	April 25th, two different amounts due, the same
23	billing dates, balance previous balance forward,
24	different amounts. I don't even know what I owe on
25	that.

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1	And I understand something about billing
2	systems. I've been around the block a few times.
3	Typically, somebody puts in a job, it's called a job
4	in my world, to generate bills. So I'm just awfully
5	curious, how did somebody enter a job nine times and
6	not know they did it? What about the mailroom? Did
7	they say, my gosh, we've got 50,000 bills going out,
8	and we only do like, 5,000 a day, what's going on?
9	Nobody said, maybe because they charge by the bill,
10	your third party, so they didn't say anything because
11	they would get paid? I I don't know. Can you
12	explain that?
13	TIM WILSON: I can. I I we had a few
14	people experience that. I think we had about 8 to,
15	10,000 people. I'll do my best to explain it. I'm
16	not the IT or the billing expert, but just a little
17	bit. So you're right. We do have a third-party
18	vendor that handles those bills. We have two systems
19	that interface together, SAP which generates the
20	invoice or generates the bill, KUBRA prints the bill.
21	We have a subsection of customers. There's about 35
22	to 37,000 of them that are called collective
23	customers. They're ones that generally have multiple
24	premises. You would fit in that category.
25	What happened was, there was an error in



1	one of the bills. And, so that batch we call them
2	batch, like your jobs, and that batch got held back;
3	okay? Whenever it went to print, there is a handshake
4	between KUBRA and between SAP that puts a print date
5	on it, so SAP knows it was printed. Something
6	happened in the system that did not put the print date
7	on it for customers like you. And, so it would go
8	back, and it didn't have a print date on it, so it
9	would send it, and over the course of four or five
10	days, which we found out we had a key control missing,
11	someone should have caught that before nine bills;
12	okay? But I'm just being honest with you and telling
13	you what happened. They found out what it was.
14	That's how it happened.
15	I can tell you, personally, I had a
16	customer who had nine bills just like you. Their
17	first seven were zero dollars, their eighth one was
18	for \$272, and their ninth one was for zero dollars. I
19	had them all, nine on my desk for a month
20	RON PETERSON: You can have these.
21	TIM WILSON: to remind me hey, I
22	appreciate the harmony. I am trying to be honest with
23	you and be serious; okay? But I'm
24	RON PETERSON: Well
25	TIM WILSON: just telling you. I took



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1	it personally as a reminder what our customers went
2	through, and I'm sorry that you had to go through
3	that. That is unacceptable.
4	RON PETERSON: Did anybody lose their jobs
5	over that?
6	TIM WILSON: How many of you were in our
7	organization that know the answer to that? None of
8	you. I cannot discuss personnel issues, but I can
9	assure you things have been handled.
10	RON PETERSON: Well, for my for my
11	business, I I have my bank auto send just an auto
12	draft that goes out every month the same amount. I
13	pay over the highest bill during the year just to
14	maybe get a bit of a credit balance or keep from going
15	negative to make sure the bill's paid every month.
16	But last fall I got an October bill with
17	the typical monthly charges, I paid it, and five days
18	later I got another bill for five or six or seven
19	five or seven a smaller amount. (Inaudible) some
20	changes. Maybe I'll get another bill for the other 25
21	days. I'll just I'll just keep paying my same
22	amount every month. Never was late. Never was
23	underpaid. I thought, oh, everything's great.
24	Well, November the November bill came
25	for a thousand dollars more than what I've ever paid.



1	It was a \$4,000 bill. And nobody could explain that
2	to me. I'll visit with your folks out here to ask
3	about that. But in February, I just gave up and just
4	paid the thousand. Just to shut everybody up. This
5	is awfully frustrating especially when you know our
6	margins are thin where we work, and I never could
7	figure it out. What is the fuel adjustment surcharge
8	on our bills?
9	CHARLOTTE EMERY: Yeah. So that represents
10	fuel costs that we pay outside of the base rates, so
11	the base rates there that that run about 13¢ or 11¢
12	and there's a \$2 or 2¢ credit that can't that
13	contains a base level of fuel cost and cent so
14	twice a year we go in and we evaluate how much actual
15	fuel cost we have incurred for a six-month period. We
16	compare that back to that base amount and that if
17	it's if we have incurred less fuel costs, then we
18	will give you a credit, and if we have incurred more,
19	then there's an additional charge.
20	RON PETERSON: Is that fuel for your trucks
21	or fuel for your plants?
22	CHARLOTTE EMERY: It's for the generation
23	units.
24	RON PETERSON: Okay. Got it. What do the
25	facilities charge?



1	CHARLOTTE EMERY: The facil it's a type
2	of part of the rate design to collect, and it's
3	charged to certain classes of customers.
4	RON PETERSON: But what what does that
5	go to? The
6	CHARLOTTE EMERY: It helps cover the cost
7	of service to provide to that class of services, class
8	of customers in a year.
9	RON PETERSON: Okay. One of my other
10	questions here have been addressed. Seems it seems
11	like Liberty just expects businesses to absorb the
12	arbitrary increases. Our bills have gone up well over
13	60 percent since the Asbury Plant shutdown. But I'm
14	just wondering, you know, I've had to cut hours from
15	my staff. I've had to lay people off. Has Liberty
16	ever laid off anybody?
17	TIM WILSON: Yes.
18	RON PETERSON: Okay. Well
19	TIM WILSON: It's not easy. Yeah, I
20	understand.
21	RON PETERSON: Google is our friend here.
22	And, so is ChatGPT so is Grok. I looked at all three
23	of those platforms. I didn't see any major press
24	announcements or any kind of widespread layoffs from
25	Algonquin or from Liberty. Were you going to say



1	something?
2	DIANA CARTER: I was just waiting for the
3	question if there was a
4	RON PETERSON: I just you know, you say
5	you have. I don't I don't recall that in the news.
6	And it's not on the Internet as a
7	DIANA CARTER: If there had been employee
8	terminations in the history, yes. Yes, there have.
9	RON PETERSON: In the history. How about
10	in the last five years?
11	DIANA CARTER: Employee terminations, yes.
12	RON PETERSON: Widespread, a riff,
13	10 percent reduction, that kind of thing. Has there
14	ever been anything like that?
15	DIANA CARTER: There are various reductions
16	in our workforce, yes.
17	RON PETERSON: Well, like you said
18	DIANA CARTER: Some conditions, part of
19	Liberty coming in, in the merger was certainly to make
20	sure we stayed involved with the Joplin community.
21	That was very important for the Joplin community to
22	keep the jobs here and to keep the workforce at a
23	certain level. So we have maintained that condition
24	and those requirements. The City of Joplin fought
25	really hard for that when Liberty came in. So

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1	certainly, we complied with that requirement and have
2	kept the jobs here in Joplin as promised.
3	RON PETERSON: Okay.
4	TIM WILSON: So Diana is probably going to
5	get on to me here. Last May and this January, our
6	entire organization had two rounds of layoffs. Might
7	not have been in the paper. We don't like to
8	publicize that. I'm sorry.
9	RON PETERSON: Okay. How many coal plants
10	does Liberty currently operate?
11	TIM WILSON: We operate zero.
12	RON PETERSON: Zero.
13	TIM WILSON: We own parts of three power
14	plants. I attend Unit 1. I attend Unit 2. We're
15	12 percent owners of those. They're up north of
16	Kansas City in Plum Point, which we are 7.51 percent
17	owners and 7.51 percent PPA. We have a total of about
18	180 megawatts of coal fire generation that we own.
19	RON PETERSON: Has the U.S. government
20	mandated that you move away from coal?
21	TIM WILSON: Not directly.
22	RON PETERSON: I know what government has.
23	And it's the Canadian government. You're Canadian ESG
24	environmental policy, sir. And you're basing that
25	cost on us. That's why our bills have gone up since



1	the Asbury shutdown, 60, 70 double a hundred
2	percent for a lot of the people here. And if Asbury
3	was so economical to operate, why did our bill why
4	didn't our bills go down?
5	TIM WILSON: Our last rate case was
6	adjudicated in May of '22. And the average base rate
7	increase was, what? 7 percent is what I recall. So
8	I'm not sure about that. And what was your question
9	about Asbury?
10	RON PETERSON: Why didn't our bills go down
11	if Asbury was so un
12	TIM WILSON: In a vacuum in a vacuum, if
13	that was the only thing that we owned and operated,
14	they would have, but we have other substations,
15	transmission lines, distribution lines, other
16	facilities that go up. So it net saved us money. But
17	it's not going to reduce your bills because we have
18	other things that we own and operate, about \$3 billion
19	worth.
20	RON PETERSON: Well
21	CHARLOTTE EMERY: I hate to try to jump in
22	here and mention that
23	TIM WILSON: Call center.
24	CHARLOTTE EMERY: we have roughly having
25	about a 23-megawatt \$23 megawatt hour base rate



1	that was included in the 2019 rate case, and then when
2	we came out of the '21 rate case, that went about
3	\$8.70. So that that's fuel. That's a huge drop in
4	fuel, and then we we through that FAC that I was
5	chatting about, that that actually, we went back
6	up to around somewhere we danced between 12 to \$14.
7	So there has been a pretty dramatic drop in prices as
8	it relates to the fuel cost that run our generating
9	units.
10	RON PETERSON: Well, there's seven
11	there's seven executive in your C suite. Looked up
12	their salaries. Seven people make \$13.29 million a
13	year with Algonquin in Ottawa, Canada. (Inaudible) et
14	cetera. That's 172 million that these seven people
15	will make with zero inflation, by the way or zero cost
16	of living allowance.
17	DIANA CARTER: And Mr
18	RON PETERSON: And we're on the hook for
19	DIANA CARTER: Peterson
20	RON PETERSON: Yes.
21	DIANA CARTER: I just want to make
22	sure because I would like to safely get to my car,
23	we represent the Empire District Electric Company.
24	I'm not sure which entity you're speaking of, but
25	those are not the Empire District Electric Company



1	officers that he's referring to. That that's a
2	parent a parent company and not this utility. I
3	urge you to come back for the rate case.
4	RON PETERSON: I will.
5	DIANA CARTER: It and give that that
6	sort of testimony to the commissioners.
7	RON PETERSON: Well, in closing here, I
8	just see that we're paying facilities costs, we're
9	paying fuel costs, we're paying Asbury, and and a
10	storm cost. I would like to see a line in our bill
11	for CEO pay. Why not? I think that should be
12	included. So I hope you can fix yourself.
13	GEOFF MARKE: Mr. Peterson? Something you
14	said well, it was a lot of things you said that
15	that piques my interest, but one in particular, you
16	said, that you were you paid an excess of a
17	thousand dollars that you were questionable. Just to
18	end this
19	RON PETERSON: Yeah.
20	GEOFF MARKE: could you expand a little
21	bit on that?
22	RON PETERSON: Well, it was the miss
23	charges I think they were double counted kilowatt
24	hours in November. And we couldn't resolve it in
25	December, then the holidays hit, and then January



1	didn't get anywhere, so come early February, I just
2	paid it.
3	GEOFF MARKE: Okay. That right there is the
4	second stream. Like, that is why this investigation
5	is so important, and that's what I'm afraid of is
6	happening right now is that effectively customers are
7	just paying it.
8	RON PETERSON: Okay.
9	GEOFF MARKE: So here hold on. Here
10	here's the thing about that. If you have concerns
11	over now, if you have a large excess payment due
12	to, you know, estimated bills or you didn't get a bill
13	for multiple different months, that's that's
14	understandable. You need to pay for what you use.
15	And the company will set up payment plans. However,
16	if you feel like those are abnormalities that were
17	incorrectly charged, please do not give up on that;
18	all right? That's it's critically important that
19	you follow up with the PSC or the OPC and that we help
20	you get that money back, if it's warranted; okay?
21	RON PETERSON: Okay.
22	GEOFF MARKE: Thank you.
23	RON PETERSON: All right. Thank you.
24	CURT GATELEY: Ladies and gentlemen, for
25	those of you who are for those of you who are

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1	
1	standing in the back, this is going to be a long
2	meeting. This is pretty informal. You can come on
3	down, take a seat, and as always, there's room in the
4	front pew. There's lots of chairs.
5	MARK JOHNSON: All right. Next, we have
6	Sheeba Louis.
7	SHEEBA LOUIS: First, I just want to
8	apologize, because I do not like public speaking.
9	I've lived in Joplin for 40 years, 22 of those I've
10	been on my own. For 22 for 22 of those years, I've
11	lived on my own, and I had Empire for my electric. I
12	can honestly say I feel like Empire had a soul. If I
13	called, a supervisor would get on line and made sure I
14	could afford my payments when I was in crisis.
15	Three years ago or excuse me, last
16	summer, my husband, the electric company our
17	electric bill is in his name. We did not receive a
18	bill the whole summer. My husband called. Now remind
19	you, I pay the bills. My husband called you guys,
20	stated we're doing an update, we don't have your
21	amount. This happened for three months. I had a bill
22	for \$3,000 come Christmas. I bat Mr. Wilson, I
23	did, too, I promise you I did.
24	TIM WILSON: (Inaudible).
25	SHEEBA LOUIS: Okay. I was like, I I



1	promise you, Mr. Wilson, I did. I'm a mother of nine.
2	We my husband made made \$6,000 each month. Last
3	year, he ended up getting his hours cut, and he's a
4	he does his own business. I ended up having to go
5	back after 22 years of being a stay-at-home mom and
6	work two jobs.
7	You also stated that you never turned the
8	power off during the winter. My mother's power was
9	turned off when that big storm hit two years ago for
10	at least 15 minutes.
11	And then another issue is that I like I
12	said, I work two jobs now. I'm also a park manager,
13	and I'm based off of Commission. I cannot get my
14	rentals rented because when they ask who's the
15	provider, I state it's Liberty, and they say they
16	don't they'll go to Carthage or they'll go to
17	new-Mac.
18	So my issue is, sir, Mr. Wilson, is how
19	many more jobs are we going to have to work to be able
20	to afford because I guarantee you, my nine kids, I pay
21	2,000 a month in food for them, and that's not junk
22	food. That's not steak. That's not lobster. That's
23	hamburgers, hot dogs, things like that. So my bill
24	for my monthly payment because of the three months is
25	almost a thousand dollars a month. How many more jobs



1	am I going have to take or my husband going to have to
2	take to be able to pay?
3	TIM WILSON: Ms. Louis, first of all,
4	thanks for coming down. I know like I said, to
5	them, it's hard to speak in public. I if you have
6	questions about your bill, we'd love to help. We have
7	Mr. Nate Hackney here who has programs that he's
8	back there. He's he'll wave at you, if you want to
9	talk to him. He is probably the nicest guy I've ever
10	met.
11	SHEEBA LOUIS: Okay.
12	TIM WILSON: And with respect to to the
13	outage your mom I just want to be clear that
14	what when I was talking about the storms, we don't
15	want to shut people off on purpose. I'm guessing she
16	had an outage that was weather related.
17	SHEEBA LOUIS: No. It was scheduled.
18	
	TIM WILSON: Or or
19	TIM WILSON: Or or SHEEBA LOUIS: Scheduled for that
19 20	
	SHEEBA LOUIS: Scheduled for that
20	SHEEBA LOUIS: Scheduled for that 15 minutes.
20 21	SHEEBA LOUIS: Scheduled for that 15 minutes. TIM WILSON: During that storm, we had
20 21 22	SHEEBA LOUIS: Scheduled for that 15 minutes. TIM WILSON: During that storm, we had we're part of the Southwest Power Pool, and the entire



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1	mandated to do it, but. So I apologize for that.
2	SHEEBA LOUIS: Okay.
3	TIM WILSON: Thank you. Yeah.
4	MARK JOHNSON: Next up we have Randall
5	Barker.
6	RANDALL BARKER: I'll try to keep this
7	short. You already stated my name. And I'll get a
8	little off topic, but it's related to Liberty and who
9	they use PSC, slash, OPC. I come on in
10	September 2023, bought a different home, and since
11	that time, I've got another home on a different
12	electric company, and my bill is double and triple,
13	and it's totally electric, and this home is not, and I
14	use it very electively. I'm a firefighter. I get
15	hot. I've had heat exhaustion, heat stroke, since I
16	was a kid, and I can't even run my electric my
17	my air conditioner more than about 4:00 o'clock
18	peak in the afternoon until about 10:00 o'clock
19	without having a thousand-dollar bill.
20	When Asbury got on there, my first bill was
21	460 bucks, and I about crapped. But this all started
22	when I moved in there. I didn't realize things until
23	I'm settled, and it all started with frequent power
24	outage, consistently. I've been there so a year
25	we're talking a year and a half. Four to six times a



1	month on an average, and this is not it's for a few
2	seconds. And I've I've lost a freezer from it,
3	freezer meat. It's right after the power outage
4	happens. The I call it flashes before, but I call
5	it an outage now. And it's consistent power outages,
6	and everyone around me has it.
7	I'm an advocate for the area. They call me
8	and text me now every time it happens. From Neosho to
9	Seneca and up to Joplin. This has happened repeatedly
10	and still happening now. Three times in January, two
11	times in February. I don't have the list with me. I
12	do have it in my notebook, but I don't want to keep
13	your time. It's still happening. And it's ruining
14	people's appliances. It takes me about 30 minutes to
15	reset all my systems. And I've had trouble with my
16	systems and luckily got my Culligan back, and my
17	freezer back my my refrigerator freezer
18	refrigerator going back again, but I lost the meat
19	that took me two and a half years to grow and the
20	meat, besides the cost and the time, and then got the
21	freezer going it was that power flash, I call it,
22	power outage. It it didn't let the freezer come
23	back on, and as soon as I turned it on and discovered
24	it, the stuff is ruined. It came on and worked great.
25	Worked great for two or three months, but we had



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another power outage. Right after the little flash of
the short seven seconds.

You know, Alexis Rogers have been over this 3 stuff with Mr. Justin, fried the freezer all the way. 4 5 And -- and I said -- like I said, it's -- it affects 6 all -- I'm sure there's plenty of people in this room, 7 and when I went to the Aurora one, everywhere around, 8 they're losing appliances and systems to the short 9 power outages that happen, and you've had Adam Rockmiller come to my place. I've had my place 10 11 checked out three times. My stuff's all good. It's 12 your substations, your infrastructure. It is not my 13 problem, and it's not a squirrel or a bird or a cow or 14 Superman.

15 So I started contacting the PSC kind of getting off my -- I tried to write this out. I'm not 16 17 good at reading and writing, and I'm not great at 18 speaking, but. I called the PSC repeatedly. I'm just going to go off -- off here. It's in my head. 19 Ι 20 can't even read off this paper to you guys. I called 21 the PSC because that's who you send us to. I was 2.2 failed at the PSC. I was hoping Ms. Kahn was here 23 tonight, but I have got a -- ongoing e-mail comment 24 list going now that I've sent, so they've got part of 25 my message, but they've dropped the ball on the front



1	lines of the people that answer the phones.
2	Ms. Jordan finally got frustrated. I probably called
3	30 to 40 times to make a public comment because I'm
4	not good with computers and writing, typing, spelling,
5	all of the above. So I let them take my statement,
6	and they're usually fairly lengthy. There was nothing
7	there but two comments. And it was nothing of
8	substance. And Ms. Nancy looked it up, and there was
9	three quick hits she found which is nothing. So my
10	message never got across to anyone.
11	I finally had more problems go on. I
12	contacted Ms. Jordan. I specifically started asking
13	for her because she's the head over that group that
14	takes the calls. She got frustrated, irritated
15	because I kept calling, and and I called Liberty
16	also every time this happens. I have it all on
17	recording. She got irritated, and she transferred me
18	to Mr. Eastlake (phonetic) because she was tired of
19	it. Mr. Eastlake and me had a nice discussion. We
20	had a very measured and in-depth discussion. And I
21	told him about the power outages, and we spoke about
22	the Asbury Plant which is one of my topics on here. I
23	tried to do a bullet point. Like I said, I suck at
24	this, so. Speaking with Mr. Eastlake, he said that
25	I said that plant should have never been destroyed.



1 And it shouldn't have, and he agreed. And you're 2 charging us -- I don't care if you call it the storm 3 or not. You're charging us because you blew up your 4 own plant. You could have saved that plant and 5 repurposed it or used it as a backup when things were 6 better, and you're charging us for it. 7 And I've called you out already. It's in 8 documentation to the PSC and to the attorney general, 9 and I spoke with the fire marshal that's considered 10 theft and fraud. But you quys somehow got a lobbyist 11 or someone in there to pass this into law and get your 12 securitization. And make us all pay for what is your 13 You blew up the plant, made the decision, problem. 14 Liberty, and you should be paying for that. And if 15 you didn't have the money -- as a business owner myself 16 before and other businessowners, I'm -- they have to 17 go borrow money, and you can borrow money instead of 18 taking it from us customers or going through the 19 government and taking it from the customers. Some 20 lobbyist coming in there talking representatives into 21 doing this. That's my angle on that. But that's what 22 my understanding is, is theft and fraud just like the 23 solar panels where you're not giving the credits back 24 to them with your meter problem. You're stealing 25 money from customers. So that's enough on that.



1	It's already kind of been hashed a million
2	times, and it's in record, and I will come and testify
3	or the on this official. And but after speaking
4	to Mr. Eastlake, he won't return my call now because
5	I've upset him with comments I've made and possible
6	insinuations, but.
7	Trucks were everywhere. Liberty trucks
8	were everywhere after I called Mr. Eastlake about the
9	power outages. They were it was like bees down
10	racing, and they and it's never happened before.
11	But once I got ahold of him, people show up now, not
12	just because of a short power flash, the the power
13	outage. They will say that's an emergency and we have
14	to come out. It's not an emergency. It's happened
15	for a year and a half while I've lived here, and all
16	my neighbors that call me and talk to me as an
17	advocate said it's happened for eight to 10 years or
18	ever since you've took over. Worse than when it was
19	Empire directly instead of as doing business as
20	Liberty. And they said that they just have became
21	complacent and not calling you, and I've been scolded
22	by your service people. Like, you need to turn that
23	in. Well, it was Sunday at 8:00 o'clock or people are
24	having somebody else call or we don't we can't see
25	that on our record. People have to go to work. Some



1	people it's on Sunday, so they're going to church.
2	But I usually call, but I was scolded because I
3	didn't you should have called that in yesterday.
4	I'm like, I can't sit around. I don't get paid by you
5	all, and I don't get paid for my time resetting my
6	equipment and checking my freezers now. I've got more
7	meat and have to go check my freezers and make sure
8	all running again now, so. I don't have thousands of
9	dollars. I'm down \$2,000 at least besides my time in
10	freezer meat and freezer at this point. And, so I
11	digress.
12	GEOFF MARKE: Mr. Barker
13	RANDALL BARKER: I'm sorry, yes.
14	GEOFF MARKE: are you still experiencing
15	the frequency issues?
16	RANDALL BARKER: Yes.
17	GEOFF MARKE: And do you know if your
18	neighbors are as well?
19	RANDALL BARKER: Yes. I call them or they
20	call me. Yep. And it's between from Adam
21	Rockmiller, it's between the Neosho and the Seneca
22	substation. So, you know, it goes all the way through
23	there. And sometimes towards Joplin, so. I have
24	Joplin people towards Joplin that calls me also.
25	But so other than that, I just I finally got



1	through with getting an actual documentation. Like I
2	said, with the PSC, they have failed me. And I I
3	was when I started this, I started doing it for
4	for myself, I did it for me. I mean, because I didn't
5	like the rate increase, and the problems with the
6	outages. But I started talking to people, and I take
7	care of an old lady, and she's on a limited income.
8	She can barely get by. I help her out, and she can't
9	hardly afford her electric bill, and she has them same
10	issues. And, so I started talking to the neighborhood
11	and becoming an advocate, and I'm going around. I'm
12	passed out attorney general forms. I started sending
13	them to Andrew Bailey, and I would send them to PSC,
14	and said here it's on your bill, but it's on a
15	sheet also besides this form for the AG, call that
16	number. And have him document that you're having
17	outages or whatever you're your issue is, your
18	grievance with Liberty.
10	So they probably I probably put out 50

So they probably -- I probably put out 50 to 100 of these driving around. Like, I'm campaigning on my own money and time for the people, for everyone. And I don't think that it probably ever has got documented at PSC. I don't know that. And I'm just saying that I sent that many people your way, and with my experience of what happened, when they're not



asking you questions or making sure it's documented
and putting it in there, you're you're wasting our
time. It's not work it does that doesn't work.
It it obviously hasn't until I finally got a year
and a half later. I have it in my phone, and it's
re fairly recent. Ms. Kahn should be aware of it.
Mr. Eastlake, everyone in there. I kind of called out
and and related Ms. Jordan and all Ms. Jordan,
et cetera.
So I'll finish on that. Yeah. Your
plant could have been decommissioned and reused. We
should not be paying for this. You should get a loan
or I have a question for you. Who is your CEO? Is
it Christopher Huskilson up in Canada or wherever he's
at or Mr. Steven, who is your CEO? Who do you answer
to?
TIM WILSON: Rod West.
RANDALL BARKER: Okay. He's from where?
TIM WILSON: He's new. He started March
the 7th, I believe.
RANDALL BARKER: Okay. And is Chris
Huskilson still involved?
TIM WILSON: Chris Huskilson is back on our
board of directors. He he went from the board of
directors to the interim CEO until they could find a

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LEXITAS

1 permanent one. 2 RANDALL BARKER: Okay. Is this Liberty 3 Electric? This is kind of what happens at the house. 4 Except for it goes all the way off. 5 TIM WILSON: Good timing, so. 6 RANDALL BARKER: This happens in church and 7 people think that God's coming. 8 TIM WILSON: Think God's coming, yeah. 9 RANDALL BARKER: It's not cool. The last time I was at church 10 TIM WILSON: 11 with my dad, the lightning hit pretty good, and it may 12 have been for me, but I think you -- you asked the 13 question regarding where is he out of? Rod West. 14 RANDALL BARKER: Based. Yeah. I don't 15 need --He's out of New Orleans. 16 TIM WILSON: 17 RANDALL BARKER: Okay. 18 We have a U.S. -- the U.S. TIM WILSON: 19 president now. 20 RANDALL BARKER: Okay. And Christopher is 21 where? Ballpark. 2.2 TIM WILSON: Nova Scotia. 23 RANDALL BARKER: Nova Scotia. Yeah. Okay. 24 TIM WILSON: But he's not our -- it's Rod 25 West now.

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1	RANDALL BARKER: Very good.
2	TIM WILSON: Thanks, Randall.
3	RANDALL BARKER: Let's see here. We
4	already addressed that getting passed. I think it
5	should be overturned. I think it should be revisited
6	and overturned, and you all get a loan or have your
7	CEOs take a haircut or somebody take a haircut. They
8	can afford it. And I know Christopher is braggingly
9	put out that he's went from 3 million to 3 billion
10	to 300 billion. You know, when I pulled up his face
11	the first time online, you guys have the money to take
12	care of this yourself. And pay for your own fuel.
13	I I need 10 bucks from coming from Aurora the
14	other night for fuel. I was getting low. You will
15	you all give me some money?
16	TIM WILSON: Randall, as we stated
17	earlier and I appreciate you showing up again.
18	That fuel is to power our power generation facilities
19	to generate electricity. It's not for our trucks.
20	RANDALL BARKER: Yeah. Well, my fuel is
21	trying you know, work on you guys and work with
22	these people and try and help address these issues
23	with the citizens that's being harmed all across the
24	state. Because of you. And the PSC somewhat.
25	So, okay. All right. I'm just going to



1	wrap it up. I look forward to the new analog meters,
2	and I hope that works out. Because all this is going
3	to get addressed, and everything's been addressed.
4	And I thank you for your time.
5	MARK JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Barker. All
6	right. Ladies and gentlemen, we are just over an hour
7	into this, and we still have quite a list to get
8	through. Next up on the list I have Gary. No last
9	name was provided.
10	CURT GATELEY: Who's on deck?
11	MARK JOHNSON: After Gary, we have Maurice
12	Filson (phonetic).
13	GEOFF MARKE: While Gary's coming down, if
14	any other customers are experiencing irregular
15	harmonics or bad harmonics, so you think of it as
16	flickering lights, you know, please bring it to our
17	attention. Thank you.
18	GARY FILSON: I just wanted to see how
19	beautiful you all were. I will do my best to not keep
20	you until midnight.
21	I objected to the putting in of the wind
22	farms up north unless our country goes the direction
23	that I think it's going to go, those could turn into
24	white elephants. I have not turned my heat on, nor my
25	electricity, my cooling '21, '22, '23, for the very



1	reasons that you people have talked about this cost,
2	that went up. The list goes on. I'm not going to pay
3	for that. I can't pay for it, and I don't think these
4	people are going to help me pay for it because they're
5	having problems.
6	And I live alone. I've done everything to
7	my house that I think to do. I've got top
8	installation, I put in all new windows. And guess
9	what? It doesn't do me any profit. So I'm just
10	letting you know what I am going through. I don't
11	think this is going to do any good. I don't think
12	we're going to see any benefit out of it for one
13	reason. Your cost keep going up. And who's going to
14	pay you out? We are, and I'm not pleased with that.
15	Because these people back here ain't going to help me
16	because they need help. Is it midnight yet? I'm
17	going to take that with me.
18	MARK JOHNSON: All right. Would Mr. Filson
19	like to make a comment or was that Mr. Filson? All
20	right. Would Gary like to make a comment? Apologies,
21	Mr. Filson.
22	Okay. All right. Next up, we have Eddie
23	Johnson. And then after that Stafford Griff, Junior
24	or Senior. Apologies for the mispronunciation.
25	EDDIE JOHNSON: Like you said, my name is

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1	Eddie Johnson. I lived here in Joplin. Just built a
2	new home, and everybody knows that when you get into
3	certain stages of the work, you have to rely on other
4	contractors. So at the time we were down for a little
5	while, a couple of weeks. HVAC wasn't even in at the
6	time. We were running on two outlets, one in the
7	kitchen, one in the laundry, running on about six
8	temporary lights, which we were shutting off with
9	breakers, and we ran into a spike of 7,500 kilowatts
10	in 17 days. And nobody there.
11	So I don't understand. We've had Liberty
12	came out, had two or three people come out. They've
13	checked the meters. We had our electrician checked
14	everything that they could check. HVAC I'm not
15	going to mention the name. They came out. They
16	checked their unit. Everything's fine. But at the
17	same time we were left with a \$900 electric bill.
18	They said it went through our meter, and you know
19	and they're wanting us to pay it.
20	So these spikes we were also told happened
21	between 5:00 p.m. and 2:30 a.m. I don't know anybody
22	that works those hours. And but at the same time
23	there was nobody working at that house at the time.
24	We're now living in the home. But we're no
25	appliances, nothing. Like I said, we had just



1	finished the Sheetrock. We were waiting on the
2	painters and the other crews to come in to set doors
3	and cabinets and all that stuff, and then appliances
4	came in after that, so. We're living in the home now.
5	Total electric home except for gas fireplace. And our
6	last bill was like 120 bucks. So, you know, I don't
7	see how can't generate that kind of wattage.
8	Nobody can explain it either. Neither can I, but
9	they're still wanting \$900, and I I've been told
10	that there are computer generated, but we've received
11	three shut-off notices.
12	CURT GATELEY: Sir, can you help me when
13	was the the spike again?
14	EDDIE JOHNSON: I don't have the exact
15	dates. They got it.
16	CURT GATELEY: Like, what months? Was it in
17	February?
18	EDDIE JOHNSON: In February, yeah.
19	CURT GATELEY: Okay. We'd like to be able to
20	follow up on
21	EDDIE JOHNSON: Sure.
22	CURT GATELEY: specific situations like
23	this. We have this unexplained use.
24	EDDIE JOHNSON: We talked to everybody
25	about it. You know, so far I'll pay the electric



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1	bill, you know, but I'm not paying that 900 right now.
2	CURT GATELEY: Correct.
3	EDDIE JOHNSON: That's not happening.
4	CURT GATELEY: If you're willing to if
5	you'd be willing to provide us with your your
6	contact information
7	EDDIE JOHNSON: We have. We have.
8	CURT GATELEY: You already have. Thank you.
9	EDDIE JOHNSON: We have a case going on
10	with you. Again, I just wanted to bring it to your
11	attention. We did have some billing issues, those
12	have been rectified. We got several bills, you know,
13	and they were all different amounts, and blah, blah,
14	but that's all been rectified, but the situation here
15	tonight is the spike and the time
16	CURT GATELEY: Right.
17	EDDIE JOHNSON: of the spike. You know,
18	like I said, nobody works 5:00 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. so.
19	TIM WILSON: Just to be clear, first of
20	all, I appreciate you
21	EDDIE JOHNSON: Go ahead.
22	TIM WILSON: Eddie. Thanks for coming
23	down, and you're running drop cords?
24	EDDIE JOHNSON: No.
25	TIM WILSON: No drop cords.



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1	EDDIE JOHNSON: Not during the there was
2	nobody in the home
3	TIM WILSON: Yeah.
4	EDDIE JOHNSON: at the time. We were
5	having contractors, and the contractor didn't come in
6	until two days after this so-called spike took place.
7	TIM WILSON: Yeah. But we did send someone
8	out to check your meters.
9	EDDIE JOHNSON: Oh. Yeah. Yeah. There's
10	been a number of people out there. Nobody can
11	nobody can explain it.
12	TIM WILSON: And they got your hourly data,
13	and that's how you knew when the spike was and
14	everything.
15	EDDIE JOHNSON: Oh, yeah.
16	TIM WILSON: You got a meter tech.
17	EDDIE JOHNSON: We had multiple people, and
18	you know and we've done everything we can, but at
19	the same time you guys are still wanting you're
20	still wanting \$900. And I
21	TIM WILSON: Yeah.
22	EDDIE JOHNSON: I can't justify paying
23	that.
24	TIM WILSON: If there's anything I can do
25	to help you, we've got people here. I I



1	EDDIE JOHNSON: Yeah. They say it went to
2	
	the meter, but I don't
3	TIM WILSON: Yeah.
4	EDDIE JOHNSON: When you're only running
5	two outlets and you you're shutting the lights off
6	with breakers, it was only three breakers in the whole
7	box
8	TIM WILSON: Right.
9	EDDIE JOHNSON: at the time in the
10	panel. So I mean, I just don't understand it.
11	GEOFF MARKE: And just to be clear,
12	Mr. Johnson, it looks like you're looking for a refund
13	of \$900.
14	EDDIE JOHNSON: Well, I haven't paid it.
15	GEOFF MARKE: Well, that's good.
16	EDDIE JOHNSON: I haven't paid it, no. I'm
17	not I have no, no, no, no. Because it couldn't
18	have been. I don't mind paying my electric bill, and
19	I have. And but the \$900 is still outstanding, and
20	like I said, there's still sending us shutoff notices.
21	Like I said, they say we they're computer generated
22	because of the amount
23	GEOFF MARKE: Sure.
24	EDDIE JOHNSON: and past due, blah,
25	blah, blah, but you know, at the same time I just want



1 it to bring to everybody's attention that this is 2 something else that's taken place. You know, 3 everything seems to be on the up and up now. I mean, we're running good. You know, total electric home, 4 5 it's -- so I don't know. 6 TIM WILSON: Mr. Johnson, I just want to be 7 clear, too. We are -- we're not shutting people off. 8 EDDIE JOHNSON: Oh, no. 9 TIM WILSON: We haven't for a year, and I 10 appreciate you bringing that up, though, because 11 that's been a point of confusion that I want to make 12 sure I clarify. 13 EDDIE JOHNSON: No. 14 TIM WILSON: We're sending out shut-off 15 notices for people that can -- they need those to file 16 for assistance to the programs --17 EDDIE JOHNSON: Sure. 18 -- that we support. TIM WILSON: 19 I understand. EDDIE JOHNSON: 20 TIM WILSON: So if you receive a shut-off 21 notice, it's, A, to remind you of your bill, but B, so 2.2 if you need to get mutual assistance from the programs 23 that we support that you can have that --24 EDDIE JOHNSON: I understand. 25 TIM WILSON: -- proof for that.



1	EDDIE JOHNSON: I'm disputing this in
2	totally you know
3	TIM WILSON: Yeah. Okay.
4	EDDIE JOHNSON: that's all I'm doing on
5	this one.
б	TIM WILSON: Thank you.
7	EDDIE JOHNSON: You know, if I used it
8	since I moved into the home, everything seems to be
9	fine. And it was fine after those 17 days. It was
10	just the 17-day spike that generated 7,500 kilowatts
11	to an unoccupied half built home. You know, I mean,
12	we wasn't even there was nobody even working there
13	at that time. So that's that really and even if
14	you did have just two outlets and six lights, you
15	can you couldn't use that much wattage in that
16	period of time. So there has to be something wrong
17	somewhere. I think I think it was the meter
18	myself. I don't know if the meter was ever changed.
19	I don't you know, we weren't there. So I don't
20	know what's taken place at certain times whether
21	Liberty came in and changed the meter.
22	TIM WILSON: I can follow up with you to
23	see if someone changed a meter. I will I can do
24	that if
25	EDDIE JOHNSON: Yeah.

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1	TIM WILSON: you want us to do that.
2	EDDIE JOHNSON: I have no idea. We you
3	know, like I said, we weren't there.
4	GEOFF MARKE: Can you give us your name and
5	address? And we'll double check for you.
6	EDDIE JOHNSON: Sure. Yeah. Okay.
7	TIM WILSON: I want to get to the bottom of
8	it as well.
9	EDDIE JOHNSON: I don't know what's taken
10	place, but that's that's where we stand today, and
11	it's just a spike issue. And I think it needs you
12	know, something really needs to be done about it.
13	There's just no way it could have happened.
14	Appreciate your time.
15	TIM WILSON: Yep. Yes. Yeah.
16	MARK JOHNSON: Stafford.
17	STAFFORD GRIFF: Yeah. I don't want to
18	bore you going over the same routine about high bills
19	and not getting my bills out on time and whatnot like
20	that. So, you know, it's the same thing everybody
21	else is having tonight. Same problem, you know.
22	UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Inaudible) say that.
23	STAFFORD GRIFF: So that's basically it.
24	That's what brung me out here tonight is the high
25	bills, and you know, customer service is good, don't



1	get me wrong, but the high bills and stuff like that,
2	you know, I'm I'm just struggling just like
3	everybody else. And I get the bills late sometimes,
4	and then they do the duplicate bill billing me like
5	that all the time, too, so. Yeah. That's that's
6	pretty much it.
7	MARK JOHNSON: Well, thank you for those
8	comments. Next, we have Christine Shote.
9	CHRISTINE SHOTE: I have a few hello. I
10	have a few statements along this. Since this is in
11	regards to the money, I'll start with that part first.
12	I also have multiple outages for short periods of
13	time. It can go anywhere from five to 10 seconds to
14	seven to 15 minutes. I have lost a refrigerator
15	freezer, and the wonderful food that was in it. And I
16	know that's not your worry, but when I'm paying your
17	electric bill plus buying a \$2,500 refrigerator, that
18	gets expensive, and that's how come I worry about, can
19	I pay my bills? I can be gone for two weeks at a
20	vacation. I mean, my husband and myself, we have a
21	small dog that goes with us. So there is nothing in
22	that house. I mean, the refrigerator is going, and
23	the usual utilities are going, but my bill won't
24	change. I'm gone and not watching TV. I'm gone not
25	washing clothes. I'm gone, and my bills the same or



1	maybe five or \$10 more than when I'm there. It
2	doesn't make sense to me. It irritates me. But I pay
3	my bill on time, and if you look at my record, the
4	only time I've been late is when I get late bills.
5	And in regards to the man who had nine
6	bills, in that short period of time, I got six. Other
7	than the one I got late made me worry. I ran down to
8	the company. I didn't even I live in between
9	Neosho and Joplin. So I have to come into town to pay
10	my bills. Because your automated phone system and the
11	people I try to get on for an actual person on the
12	phone, when I'm trying to pay a bill, neither one of
13	them understand why I can't pay my bill. And I say,
14	here's the the the account number you guys have
15	given me, and that doesn't suit. Here is my phone
16	number that it always asks since you can't get the
17	correct account number, which I have it written down,
18	and I read, we need your phone number. Well, your
19	phone number doesn't work either. Try another day. I
20	love it.
21	You want your money. I want to give it to
22	you, but nobody wants to take it. So I come in town
23	now, and I pay it in town because nobody wants it.
24	Not they don't want to make it easy on me and let
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25 me pay it over the phone. They want me to travel for



1	it. Now I got a surcharge on my gasoline, too.
2	Okay. So when it comes to the spikes, I
3	never thought of it until I listened to these other
4	people, but when I have those outages and stuff, some
5	reason my bills are higher the more outages that I
6	have that month, the higher my bill is that month.
7	Totally doesn't make sense to me unless when it comes
8	back on that rush of electricity back to the house,
9	makes me pay more which really isn't my fault, because
10	I didn't turn the electricity off I'm not saying
11	you cut it off. I'm just saying I had a loss of
12	power. I so I don't understand.
13	CANDICE KELLY: Ms. Shote, you mentioned
14	you lost a refrigerator and freezer.
15	CHRISTINE SHOTE: And a nice-sized TV,
16	about the size of that sign behind you.
17	CANDICE KELLY: Was that recently?
18	CHRISTINE SHOTE: It was expensive. It was
19	within the last six months.
20	CANDICE KELLY: Okay. Did you reach out to
21	us and let us know that, that took place?
22	CHRISTINE SHOTE: Yeah.
23	CANDICE KELLY: And did somebody know?
24	Okay.
25	CHRISTINE SHOTE: I actually called



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1	Frigidaire. And, so I called Frigidaire and said, you
2	know, this one's not that old. You know, I don't
3	other than I had a power loss
4	CANDICE KELLY: Uh-huh.
5	CHRISTINE SHOTE: I'm having problems
6	with it. And they said the compressor was going out
7	of it. I had it checked. So I I bought a brand
8	new one. Well, that's not true. I got another one.
9	And then I had a power outage, so now it's no the
10	second one is no good. Then I went and bought a brand
11	new brand new one which is expensive.
12	TIM WILSON: Ms. Shote, you may not want to
13	say it in public, but I know that they're wanting
14	addresses. If we can get your address, I have no
15	problem sending someone out
16	CHRISTINE SHOTE: Yeah.
17	TIM WILSON: to check your situation out
18	to make sure that you know, sometimes in high
19	demands is when, you know, your electricity might
20	be I want to make sure we double check where you're
21	at.
22	CHRISTINE SHOTE: If you can look those
23	charges, I mean, those the power boosts back up, I
24	think it's killing something. I mean, I don't know.
25	I'm not an electrician, but I lost my beautiful TV and



1	my
2	CANDICE KELLY: We definitely
3	CHRISTINE SHOTE: Plus the food that was in
4	it, that I replaced because Frigidaire didn't want to
5	replace it. You guys didn't replace it. I still had
6	to eat because I love food. And, so I replaced it.
7	CANDICE KELLY: Do you mind coming up and
8	giving me your address?
9	CHRISTINE SHOTE: No. I don't mind at all.
10	And then along with an Asbury billing, I have brought
11	up I believe you were at the desk when I brought
12	that up, but when it comes to customer service, I was
13	really disappointed because I was having bills that
14	were going up and down, and someone sometimes it
15	would be \$300 more than I ever paid, so. I finally
16	called electric, and they're like, nothing's wrong.
17	And, so I got ahold of the attorney general and wrote
18	them a letter and showed them my bills on how, you
19	know, it might be, for an example, 300 one month and
20	600 the next month, and then it's down to 200, and
21	then it's back up to 400, and I don't understand when
22	it's the same two people, same amount of clothes, same
23	TV shows, and the and the amounts are going wild.
24	Always paying them on time, though. I'll tell you.
25	I'm good about that. And, so I wrote a letter to the

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1 And he wrote a letter or made a attorney general. 2 phone call, whatever they do, and got ahold of 3 Liberty, and said, this is the complaint that she's processing, and I got a letter back from the attorney 4 5 I brought it in with me today, and they general. 6 said, well, we contacted Liberty. Liberty says they 7 don't see any problems and everything is fine. And, 8 so the attorney general told me everything is fine. 9 And I'm like, okay, but that doesn't tell me why I'm having power outages, why my bills aren't halfway 10 11 close to each other. And I'm not talking about winter versus fall, and fall versus summer. I'm talking 12 13 Month after -- month by about summer versus summer. 14 So those things were very irritating. month.

15 Now, when it comes to the Asbury thing, as 16 a -- as a responsible homeowner, I have always -- I'm 17 insurance poor. I literally am insurance poor. Ι 18 have everything insured including my dog, who just had 19 surgery which was another bill. But the thing is, is 20 I have insurance on my home. If I get hit by a 21 tornado or a bad storm or a quy wants to be crazy and 2.2 drive into the house or something, I have insurance. 23 Why did you guys not have insurance on the Asbury 2.4 building, that way the insurance could have paid for 25 your Asbury problem instead of me paying for your



1 Asbury problem? 2 So the phrase Asbury problem DIANA CARTER: 3 has been used and -- and maybe --4 CHRISTINE SHOTE: Well, the building being 5 destroyed or whatever you did to it. 6 DIANA CARTER: Well, it was demolished. 7 CHRISTINE SHOTE: Yeah. It was. 8 DIANA CARTER: Because it wasn't being 9 used. The -- for safety reasons, it was demolished at 10 the end. 11 CHRISTINE SHOTE: Okay. 12 The purpose couldn't be DIANA CARTER: 13 There wasn't an insurable loss. There repurposed. 14 wasn't any --15 CHRISTINE SHOTE: That's because you guys 16 did it to your own building which means when you were 17 discussing your losing on it, it's not being helpful. 18 It's not being used appropriately. This building or 19 this facility is not doing what our company needs it 20 You guys should not -- you, personally, your to do. 21 company should have made the decision if we bring it 2.2 down, we need to pay for it, not we need to make 23 everybody else pay for it. That's called a business 24 loss. You take it off your taxes. But it's not a business loss to me. It shouldn't be -- it is a 25



1	business loss to me because I'm paying because you
2	guys who decided this particular facility was not
3	appropriate for your usage. It's not my fault.
4	TIM WILSON: Ms. Shote.
5	DIANA CARTER: Ms. Shote, I understand
6	you're just wanting to share that, and we very much
7	want to listen and for everybody who just wants to
8	share that. So just just let us know if you have a
9	question and want us to response
10	CHRISTINE SHOTE: The question is, why did
11	your company not take its own responsibilities on or
12	carry insurance?
13	DIANA CARTER: There it's not something
14	that could be insured.
15	CHRISTINE SHOTE: Then why didn't you take
16	care of your own problem instead of asking us to take
17	care of the problem?
18	DIANA CARTER: We we utilized the proper
19	procedure that was established by law.
20	CHRISTINE SHOTE: Okay.
21	DIANA CARTER: We went to the Missouri
22	Public Service Commission through the proper procedure
23	established by law
24	CHRISTINE SHOTE: Okay.
25	DIANA CARTER: went through an entire



1	proceeding with the staff
2	CHRISTINE SHOTE: Thank you.
3	DIANA CARTER: the Public Service
4	Commission and various intervenors obtained
5	approval
6	CHRISTINE SHOTE: Okay.
7	DIANA CARTER: from the Missouri Public
8	Service Commission, and then acted according to the
9	order of the Missouri Public Service Commission.
10	CHRISTINE SHOTE: Thank you so much for
11	that because that did exactly what I wanted it to do.
12	It throws it on to you guys. You guys approved it,
13	and thank you very much for not taking care of your
14	city and your workers, instead you passed it right on
15	to us because you're right along with them. Thank
16	you, Joplin.
17	GEOFF MARKE: Ms. Shote, I got a couple of
18	questions for you. And just for the record, we
19	opposed it. We just lost. But, I'm sorry.
20	CHRISTINE SHOTE: They lost to Liberty.
21	Liberty didn't want to pay for it. They said, I
22	don't we don't want Joplin to pay for it. Liberty
23	says, too bad. So somehow that became the law.
24	GEOFF MARKE: But, Ms. Shote, what I really
25	am interested in hearing is three quick things here.



1 Would you happen to know just a brief estimate of out 2 of pocket expenses, your -- the frequency you had? Т 3 heard, you know, a TV, I heard a refrigerator, 4 ballpark. 5 CHRISTINE SHOTE: I'd say just over 5 6 grand. 7 GEOFF MARKE: Over 5 grand. 8 CHRISTINE SHOTE: Because the refrigerator 9 freezer cost me just over 2,000. The food I lost, it's the meat alone -- I only took pictures. I took 10 11 pictures of it and everything to show, you know, that 12 it was really spoiled. I wasn't just saying it and making up a story. So I took pictures of it and 13 14 everything else, and just the meat alone I lost over 15 \$300, not counting the stuff that was in the 16 refrigerator area. 17 I've got a number of other GEOFF MARKE: 18 questions to follow up with that, but my colleague 19 Mans Zelpaines (phonetic) right over there, he's going 20 to hand you a business card. I'd like to follow up 21 with you after the fact. 2.2 CHRISTINE SHOTE: Yeah. 23 GEOFF MARKE: Thank you for your comments. CHRISTINE SHOTE: And our TV was over 24 25 2,000, so.

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1	CANDICE KELLY: Ms. Shote, to clarify, you
2	did not notify Liberty that you lost all of that?
3	CHRISTINE SHOTE: Yes, I did.
4	CANDICE KELLY: Okay. Because I asked that
5	earlier and you
6	CHRISTINE SHOTE: Oh, I'm sorry.
7	CANDICE KELLY: That's okay.
8	CHRISTINE SHOTE: I said, yeah, I had
9	contacted because they were the first person
10	when I say I am insurance poor
11	CANDICE KELLY: Yes.
12	CHRISTINE SHOTE: I took out the extra
13	warranty.
14	CANDICE KELLY: Okay.
15	CHRISTINE SHOTE: I really am insurance
16	poor on everything.
17	CANDICE KELLY: And again, could you please
18	provide me with your address?
19	TIM WILSON: Yes. So we can go back and
20	check.
21	CANDICE KELLY: Thank you.
22	CHRISTINE SHOTE: I'll be glad to.
23	MARK JOHNSON: All right. Thank you,
24	Ms. Shote.
25	Next we have Mike Sword.



1	MIKE SWORD: Hi. I have something just a
2	little bit different than what everybody else is
3	talking about. Over a year ago, I started this
4	process of building a garage that I was going to put
5	power in, so I could work on my trucks and my cars. I
6	still don't have power. I keep getting because the
7	recent storms, because of this, well, we've got to
8	figure out this. This all started back in June, and
9	then all the way well, actually, clear up into
10	February when they said, well, okay, we've got all
11	this stuff, we're coming out with underground boring,
12	we're going to get it in there, we'll put a have
13	your city inspector come out, inspect what all your
14	electric. The box I put on the side of the garage,
15	got everything done, still no power, haven't heard
16	from them.
17	TIM WILSON: One year
18	MIKE SWORD: I've been waiting for a year.
19	TIM WILSON: To be clear, this is a new
20	meter set?
21	MIKE SWORD: Yeah.
22	TIM WILSON: Okay. Can you come over here
23	and give me your phone number? I will call someone
24	personally.
25	MIKE SWORD: Because I've been waiting, and

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1 I've got a light pole at the back with the light on 2 The fiber optic quy knocked it out two years ago. it. 3 It's still not fixed. Now the one in the front yard, 4 It just went out last night. it's out. Can't get 5 nothing fixed. Can't get nothing done. Write the 6 number?

7 CURT GATELEY: And while that's the first 8 time that's been mentioned here, our staff has been 9 aware of complaints from homeowners and such on meter sets for quite some time. When the company deployed 10 11 the new billing system, it wasn't just billing. Ιt 12 changed all of their managing their work orders 13 internally and such. We received complaints from a 14 lot of folks about delays in meter sets for the home 15 builders. Of course, they were used to a certain 16 routine, and then getting their work done and moving 17 on to the next house. But other incidents like this, it -- I have never heard of someone who was still 18 19 waiting a year.

MIKE SWORD: Yeah. I'm waiting a year. If I would have known it was going to take this long -because, see, I checked with Liberty -- oops -- before I did anything because I had two acres out of town, that I could have built my garage on, already had electric on it, already been going. But I checked



1	with Liberty if I needed to do anything before I had	
2	this built before I sold my house to build this	
3	garage, and they said, nope, call us when it's done.	
4	Now I get from the guy that's coming out and looking	
5	at it, you should have contacted us before. Yeah. So	
6	it's a little irritating. I spent money on getting	
7	everything done like he's wanted, and he keeps telling	
8	me, oh, two weeks, we're going to do it. Nope. Here	
9	it is. A year later. I've had the building permit	
10	for a year.	
11	CURT GATELEY: If you're willing to take one	
12	of my cards or remarks, if you if you don't have	
13	resolution of this within the next week or two, I'd	
14	appreciate to follow back up, if you're willing.	
15	MIKE SWORD: Yeah, I am.	
16	CURT GATELEY: Thank you.	
17	MIKE SWORD: I really want to get this	
18	done. Thank you.	
19	MARK JOHNSON: Next on the list is Sid	
20	Davis.	
21	GEOFF MARKE: Jeremy Nelson on deck.	
22	SID DAVIS: Good evening, everybody. Okay.	
23	First of all, without having to rehash a bunch of the	
24	stuff that's already been said, all those issues, I	
25	have experienced. However, that's not my number one	



1	concern. When the solar program began and Liberty
2	Utility started in that program, we were in it year
3	two. I put in a big enough system that could generate
4	electricity for my house. For years, our electric
5	bill year round was \$19 a month because we generated
6	sufficient extra electricity. Now I received a letter
7	that said that what what the utility company was
8	going to pay me was going to be reduced per kilowatt
9	hour. Now, so we have called the office, and their
10	phrase is directly laid on you, and their response
11	every time is, I am sorry this happened, but it's the
12	Missouri Public Service Commission who approved the
13	decrease in rate. You see, it's not them. They're
14	getting electricity at the old original price, if you
15	will, and paying me less. And, so I have called up
16	and said, hey, that's just not right because, see, I
17	am an electric producer. I am just like they are, in
18	that if they can raise their rates, I can raise my
19	rates, to them. But but do you think they say yes?
20	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 1: No.
21	SID DAVIS: No. They blame you guys right
22	here, and you cannot say we lost the argument because
23	it's coming out of our wallets; okay? Now, I did not
24	come up here as a whiner or a crier. I came up here

25 because our family has been in business since before



1	1960. Big John's Heavy Equipment. We have figured	
2	out how to succeed, but this is one problem we've got	
3	to have your help on. We've got to get paid what	
4	we're selling in electric production, and that's	
5	basically all I got.	
6	DIANA CARTER: Excuse me, sir? And I'm	
7	sorry, I didn't catch your name. Possibly Mr. Davis?	
8	SID DAVIS: Yes. Sid Davis.	
9	DIANA CARTER: Sid, you may want to contact	
10	Renew Missouri. Are you familiar with Renew Missouri,	
11	the organization?	
12	SID DAVIS: I will be.	
13	DIANA CARTER: Okay. Or or someone who	
14	advocates for solar. You got it for him?	
15	MARK JOHNSON: Mr. Davis, I'm going to give	
16	you the contact information. Thank you.	
17	SID DAVIS: Okay. So does that mean that	
18	you guys are not on our side?	
19	DIANA CARTER: Most of you all would hate	
20	me personally. I'm a I'm a	
21	SID DAVIS: We don't hate you personally.	
22	DIANA CARTER: No. I mean, I I am a	
23	I am an environmentalist. I'd be all for your solar,	
24	but. We do have to charge the rates that are in our	
25	tariff, and for that to be changed, that has to go	



1 through a rate case, but Renew Missouri is in our rate 2 And, so they can possibly be an advocate for case. 3 you there. 4 GEOFF MARKE: -- my advocate who is going to 5 advocate on the solar. 6 MR. NELSON: I think this summed up what 7 everyone feels and I feel is frustration and lack of 8 trust. My journey again started back when everything 9 changed. I own over 80 properties in Joplin and the surrounding area that use Liberty. And my bills were 10 11 going all over the place. So what do I do? I call 12 Try to figure out what's going on. customer service. 13 And runaround after runaround, after run around. 14 Bills changing. Why are they changing? Why am I 15 qetting billed? They said, why don't we put all your 16 stuff on one account; okay? So I put it all on one 17 That took five months. Every time I called account. 18 in, oh, sorry, you've got to talk to someone in 19 business. Oh, wait, they're busy. They can't talk to 20 They'll call you back. They never call you vou. 21 A month later, I get my bills again. back. I'm 2.2 frustrated. I call in, hey, someone's going to call 23 Nobody calls me. After the fifth month, I me. 2.4 threaten to go to the utility Commission. I got a 25 return phone call. So went through that process.

1	That wasn't fun. They wanted an additional, I don't	
2	know, 15, \$1,800 all up front, so I could get	
3	everything on to one bill. So I could try to track to	
4	find out where my costs are and why my costs are and	
5	why they're changing and why I again, I don't	
6	trust; right? I don't know.	
7	GEOFF MARKE: Mr. Nelson, can you clarify?	
8	You attempted to try to consolidate these bills?	
9	MR. NELSON: Yes. So I could have one	
10	bill.	
11	GEOFF MARKE: Right.	
12	MR. NELSON: So I could one time see what	
13	all my expenses are.	
14	GEOFF MARKE: And they wanted an additional	
15	1,500?	
16	MR. NELSON: They wanted everything to be	
17	paid current.	
18	GEOFF MARKE: Uh-huh.	
19	MR. NELSON: at a set time in order for	
20	them to move it to a single billing	
21	GEOFF MARKE: Okay.	
22	MR. NELSON: which I did. Which I did.	
23	So we kind of got that sorted out. Very painful.	
24	Then I get bills, and I'm trying to figure out, like,	
25	well, wait, this isn't my name. This is a tenant's	



1	name. Why is it back in my name? I got some landlord	
2	stuff.	
3	It's a great service when it works. Come	
4	to find out, what these are bills from September of	
5	last year. Or from August or from July or from so	
6	trust, I don't know what I'm paying for; right? I go	
7	to Walmart, and I buy a dozen eggs for whatever, and I	
8	know I've got a dozen eggs. I'm trusting them that	
9	they're delivering that power to my house, tenants	
10	lights whatever. I don't have any trust; right? And	
11	this I mean, I can go on and on. I mean, then,	
12	okay, you're going to charge me late fees for bills	
13	that I never received. And you expect me to pay them.	
14	Took me three phone calls over the course of, I think,	
15	three different months here where I'm on the phone	
16	with the rep for a good 30 minutes, 45 minutes. Oh,	
17	we'll take care of it and get back to you. I never	
18	get a phone call back. I never get a credit. And	
19	some of these are stupid. They're 20 cents, but you	
20	know what? It's principal; right?	
21	Here, recently, I called back again because	
22	I didn't get any of those credits. And the nice lady	
23	on the phone spent 45 minutes on the phone with me,	
24	putting me on hold, numerous times, and maybe in my	
25	next bill, I'll have a credit. I don't know. I hope	

1 But it's just -- I think what -- it says to me I do. 2 is, if I'm paying for a service, I shouldn't question 3 it; right? I shouldn't question if I -- I received it I have solar, too, and that's jacked up in my 4 or not. 5 I don't have time to screw with this house, too. 6 stuff. I really don't; right? 7 GEOFF MARKE: Mr. Nelson, I've got a couple 8 of quick questions for you. 9 MR. NELSON: Yeah. 10 GEOFF MARKE: I didn't mean to interrupt, 11 but. 12 MR. NELSON: No. 13 GEOFF MARKE: One thing I'm hearing 14 continuously, you know, throughout this evening and 15 other sessions that we've held, and I -- honestly, I 16 should have brought it up earlier, but there's a bit 17 of time tax; right? There's -- there's an amount of 18 time to --19 Absolutely. MR. NELSON: 20 GEOFF MARKE: Can you give me a ballpark 21 figure of how many -- over the past year, how many 22 times you've called this utility? 23 MR. NELSON: I probably spent 10 hours at 24 least. 25 10 hours? GEOFF MARKE:



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1	MR. NELSON: Yeah.
2	GEOFF MARKE: Okay.
3	MR. NELSON: Because I'm at work I
4	unfortunately, I have a lot of downtime.
5	GEOFF MARKE: And you're a businessowner?
6	MR. NELSON: I own rental properties.
7	GEOFF MARKE: Rental properties.
8	MR. NELSON: And I work full-time.
9	GEOFF MARKE: Is there do you have this
10	experience with any other
11	MR. NELSON: No.
12	GEOFF MARKE: Okay.
13	MR. NELSON: None. I say the last thing
14	that's frustrating is for me as a as a landlord
15	with tenants. My goal has been for the last 17 years
16	to provide quality homes and fair values to blessed
17	families. And it makes me sick that they're paying
18	half of their rent in electricity; right? So you have
19	an 800-dollar place that they're renting, and they're
20	paying over \$400 a month in utilities. I don't know
21	how they survive.
22	GEOFF MARKE: I don't either.
23	MR. NELSON: Right. So again, it comes
24	down to frustration, and it's them pinning it to us,
25	and it's trust. I can't trust that you guys are

1	providing a service to me that I'm that you're
2	providing me that service. I will gladfully pay it.
3	But what I used to pay a couple of hundred bucks a
4	month are now thousands. And it varies, and it's all
5	over the place. But I mean, I'm sorry, your customer
6	service people are great. Your systems are horrible.
7	And you guys should be responsible for it. Not us.
8	GEOFF MARKE: Thank you.
9	MARK JOHNSON: Next, we've got Dustin
10	DeMier and on deck we have Virginia Armstrong.
11	DUSTIN DEMIER: Good evening. My name is
12	Dustin DeMier, that's D-E, capital M, I-E-R. My
13	background's in manufacturing. We also build real
14	critical little components, so I'm going to make a
15	statement followed up by a couple of questions. I
16	also have worksited material that I'm going to give
17	you guys because I understand that some of my
18	information might be a little on the higher end.
19	So there's what's called in these smart
20	meters a current sensor, uses a magnetic field to
21	detect current and generate a proportionate output.
22	If the current sensor fails, it can lead to inaccurate
23	readings. There's also what's called a shunt low
24	resistor. It's precisely caliber rated for current
25	measurement. Current flows through the shunt creating



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1	a voltage drop. Smart meters measure this drop and
2	calculates the current drop using Ohm's Law. If the
3	shunt resistor is not precise, the voltage drop
4	across, it will not accurately represent the circuit's
5	total current. This will lead to inaccurate readings
6	of the AM meter. So I know that these digital meters,
7	they're made by Itron, Inc., and that's out of Liberty
8	Lake, Washington. It's an American technology-based
9	company. So I know that at least a warranty coverage
10	on these digital meters. Itron smart meters are under
11	warranty, and Itron will repair and replace them at no
12	charge, if the failure is due to components or
13	workmanship. Warranty on Itron smart meters is
14	generally provided to the utility company, not the
15	individual homeowner.
16	So question one is, how many of these smart
17	meters are you guys actually seeing getting warrantied
18	out? Question number two is going to be, if my
19	home if my smart meter that you guys put on my
20	house, if that is defective, how are you guys going to
21	calculate what mathematical formula are you going
22	to calculate to reimburse me for over charges? Those
23	are my questions.
24	GEOFF MARKE: Thank you.

TIM WILSON: Mr. DeMier, we'll definitely

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1 have to follow up with you. I'm not our meter expert,
2 but to my knowledge, I don't know of any we've had a
3 warranty out. Our person in charge of meters is here.
4 I don't know if there's anything -- get him a
5 microphone. He acts like he don't want to talk, but
6 he does.

7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: So when we deployed 8 the meters, we did have some that were bad, that 9 didn't fire up. They didn't warranty because they When we get in all the meters, 10 weren't accurate. 11 they're all tested from the factory, and we get the 12 test results, and they're all loaded in. Missouri 13 state standards is 102 to 98 percent. At Empire we 14 test ours to 101 to 99, so we have a 50 percent more 15 stringent than -- than the state requires. If -- if 16 we have a meter that somebody calls in or we see a 17 spike that's not explainable in the system, it'll 18 error, and we'll go out and test those meters. Our 19 test equipment that we use is Radiant. Radiant comes 20 out once a year. We pay them to come out and 21 independently test all of our test equipment, so. So 2.2 we ensure that accuracy. We test about -- we sample 23 test and complaint test about 2,500 meters a year to 24 ensure the accuracy across the system.

25

DUSTIN DEMERE: Okay.



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1	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: So to my knowledge,
2	and you know, I don't see every one of those tests,
3	but to my knowledge, we've had two that have tested
4	high. And we send those in to customer service and
5	billing, and then they they get ahold of the
6	customer.
7	UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Everybody told you
8	(inaudible) we all
9	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: Yeah. If you want
10	your meter tested, you call into customer service,
11	tell them you think your meter is not not being
12	UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: test everybody in
13	(inaudible).
14	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: No. There is no
15	cost. It's Missouri statute that there's no cost.
16	The Missouri statute actually says you can have a test
17	every 12 months.
18	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 3: (Inaudible) why can't
19	I go back to my old (inaudible) meter.
20	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: So so you
21	MARK JOHNSON: Excuse me, I'm going to
22	insofar as, the whole point of this is to get a
23	transcript to build the record. We can't hear
24	anything, so.
25	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: So you can opt out.



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1	MARK JOHNSON: Could you please repeat the
2	question?
3	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: Oh. Here you go,
4	sir.
5	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 3: On mine, I want to
6	know why I'm mandated to use your smart meter, so
7	called, where I used to be able to read my own meter
8	and send it in because there is a trust factor that I
9	don't really trust what you guys are are getting,
10	and what you send to me, you know, as a bill, where I
11	can read my own numbers. I used to be able to and
12	send it in, and I knew for sure what I was using in
13	and compare it that way, and now, no, everybody's
14	using this smart meter.
15	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: You don't have to use
16	a smart meter. You can opt out. There's a lot of
17	people say, hey, I want my old analog meter back.
18	There there is not a major manufacturer of analog
19	meters anymore.
20	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 3: (Inaudible).
21	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: You do have a choice.
22	There is an opt out. There is a new Missouri bill
23	that just came out. It's Senate Bill Number 4. It
24	says you can opt out, and you can have a traditional
25	meter which not a mechanical. It's an it's a



1 digital meter, but it has no communications on it. 2 It's not an AMI meter with the network turned off. 3 It's just a plain digital meter. They've been around 4 for 40 years, since the mid '80's or so. And the opt 5 out fee is \$15 a month, and that -- that is a Missouri 6 law that -- that just came out.

7 GEOFF MARKE: So I'll try to clear that up. 8 This past general assembly is a part of larger only 9 novus bill. There was a provision in there to allow customers to opt out of AMI meters. That law goes 10 11 into effect in August. However, that specific 12 provision doesn't effectively -- we need to -- there's 13 a rulemaking process, but also, just an implementation process that needs to be filled out, so the law 14 15 effectively doesn't go into effect for that specific 16 issue until next July. But at that point you have the 17 option of getting a digital meter, and at -- you would 18 be required to self-report. So you would -- you would 19 read your -- you would be able to read exactly how 20 much you're using. You would report that back to the 21 utility, and you could effectively have a meter reader 22 coming out. At this point we've contemplated twice a 23 year on a biannual basis just as a sanity check to 2.4 make sure that you're reporting correctly. But that 25 process, like I said, is probably a year out.



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1	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: But but just
2	because you opt out doesn't mean you have to self
3	read. We can put you on a read route where a manual
4	reader comes out. I don't want you to think just
5	because you opt out, and we don't have to wait for
6	that law. We have a current tariff. We have an
7	opt-out tariff we have had since we deployed the
8	meters.
9	GEOFF MARKE: And all of that is true.
10	The really, the uncertainty there is just the cost
11	that's associated with it.
12	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: Yeah. That cost does
13	change in August
14	GEOFF MARKE: Right.
15	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: to the cheaper.
16	GEOFF MARKE: Right. That's the key there,
17	so.
18	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: But we you don't
19	have to wait until August. We do have an opt-out
20	program now.
21	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 3: So there is no extra
22	cost besides the \$15, there's some more cost involved.
23	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: There there is a
24	cost inside that that tariff that or that bill
25	that just got passed.



1 GEOFF MARKE: Passed. 2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: And I believe it's 3 \$125 fee. Yeah. It's a one-time fee. It pays to pay 4 the -- change out the meter. 5 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 3: So there's 6 (inaudible) guaranteed you're not going to have any 7 spikes anymore. 8 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: It -- it's --9 GEOFF MARKE: No 10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: No. I mean, it still 11 is -- it's still an electric meter. 12 GEOFF MARKE: Yeah. 13 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: But I would tell you, 14 as the quy that's over the metering, I mean, I - - I15 haven't -- these meters are testing well. I haven't 16 seen an issue where they're not testing well. Our 17 equipment is certified. I have the same meters at my 18 I have two. I'm an Empire Liberty customer. house. 19 I have the same AMI meters at my house. I'll be quite 20 honest with you. My wife pays the bill. I don't. 21 And -- and I will be quite honest with you. In this 2.2 billing issue, I -- I missed a few bills myself, and I 23 didn't have to answer to customers. I had to answer my wife when I came home. So I mean, I do understand 2.4 25 what you guys are going through.



1	UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible) analog
2	instead of digital.
3	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: There is not a
4	main a major main manufacturer that makes analog
5	meters anymore. They're just not out there on the
6	market. You can find some on eBay or a refurbished
7	meter company, but there is not a socket.
8	UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Inaudible).
9	CURT GATELEY: Sir, we really need to work
10	through the list, but we
11	DUSTIN DEMERE: My last statement is, if
12	you homeowners are seeing irregular spikes in your
13	billing, that may be due to your meter, so. I would
14	maybe suggest to warranty that out.
15	VIRGINIA ARMSTRONG: Good evening. My name
16	is Virginia Armstrong, and I have not been here very
17	long, but I have a couple of questions, and they may
18	not be as significant as some of these others, but. I
19	would just like you to I have some questions I'd
20	like to find some answers for. In our May bill, April
21	and May bill, we they have a section that's called
22	usage charge, and we have two charges by that same
23	thing, and I had I couldn't understand why we had
24	two usage charges, and then the Asbury concern has
25	already been covered, so that's fine, but I just want





1	to know why we have that charge, and then why that we
2	keep getting, like, every so often they're sending
3	information that says we're going to raise your rates,
4	and we're going to because of other people have
5	mentioned this, too, because of certain laws or
6	because of certain rulings that you have that you're
7	raising the bill.
8	I'm living with my sister and I am helping
9	pay with the bills, and I am a retired teacher, and I
10	do not I did not make a lot of money when I was
11	teaching. I came from California. I I taught in a
12	private school. So I I don't have a lot of funds
13	to work with. And, so I just wonder about these two
14	things, and then why the the charges keep going up.
15	DIANA CARTER: So ma'am, I think Candice is
16	going to address your question on the usage charge.
17	You mentioned that you keep receiving things about the
18	bill going up.
19	VIRGINIA ARMSTRONG: Yes.
20	DIANA CARTER: I'm not sure exactly what
21	you're referencing. You may have recently received
22	notice of the public hearings coming up about the rate
23	case.
24	VIRGINIA ARMSTRONG: Yes, ma'am. And I
25	I plan on attending that and finding out what's going



1 on there. 2 That should -- that should DIANA CARTER: 3 be the only thing from us here recently. Oh. 4 VIRGINIA ARMSTRONG: Okay. And 5 then --6 TIM WILSON: Customer charge. 7 CANDICE KELLY: No. The usage charge. So 8 you will -- if you use over a certain amount of 9 kilowatts, you're going to see two usage charges on your invoice because they're charged different rates. 10 11 The first 600 should be a cheaper rate, and then 12 anything over that, you're going to see that different 13 rate. 14 VIRGINIA ARMSTRONG: Yes. That's --15 CANDICE KELLY: It depends on the number of 16 kilowatts that you use in a month. 17 VIRGINIA ARMSTRONG: Okay. But -- well, 18 never mind. Thank you. I appreciate that. Okay. 19 CANDICE KELLY: Thank you. 20 Thank you, Virginia. TIM WILSON: 21 MARK JOHNSON: All right. Next up we have 2.2 Melissa Graham and on deck is Rex Rohelson. 23 MELISSA GRAHAM: I don't have to point out 2.4 how short I am. I'm okay with it. We're good. So 25 this isn't where you want to have to have these



1	conversations because it feels like when the point's
2	gone this far, we've long exceeded where differences
3	are going to be felt by the people who are
4	experiencing this. Tim, earlier, you said that nobody
5	has been shut off in the last year. That
6	TIM WILSON: Not for non-pay.
7	MELISSA GRAHAM: That is not a true
8	statement. That is an absolute lie.
9	CANDICE KELLY: We have not actively done
10	disconnects since before April 2024.
11	MELISSA GRAHAM: I was disconnected October
12	31st of 2024.
13	CANDICE KELLY: I would like to take a look
14	at your account, if that's okay
15	MELISSA GRAHAM: You
16	CANDICE KELLY: because we are not
17	actively doing any disconnects for nonpayment.
18	MELISSA GRAHAM: So October 31st, 2024, I
19	was disconnected. The previous year in 2023, I had
20	gotten behind on my bill. And you know, things
21	happen. But summer had come, and I want to point out
22	that you you know, say, how you've reached out to
23	help people, because in the winter, you don't shut
24	people off. But that program is predatory. People
25	get behind, they can't catch up, and once you get



1	behind with Liberty, there is no catching up. You
2	you put the bill in the bag, and you put so much on
3	each new bill. Now the bill that they couldn't afford
4	to pay before, it's exponentially higher because they
5	put the back bill on top of it. And then when you see
6	this, and they say that you've done this program to
7	help them, they ask something like, can I pay off just
8	the back balance so I can get back to my regular bill,
9	and the answer is no. You have to pay it off
10	100 percent before you can start seeing your regular
11	bill, and you start to drown. You choose things like
12	food. You choose things like comfort in your own home
13	over having regular electricity.

14 This past winter we've seen an average 15 electric bill of over \$600 per month. It was 16 disgusting. And while we know that there's always 17 that opportunity that we can get on the payment plan once you're on it, it's worse. 18 It is so hard to 19 discern that of understanding and the -- the thing is, 20 you're sitting here saying, we didn't know. Every 21 single person in this room, I quarantee you, has had 2.2 heard the words, we are recording this call for 23 customer assurance and training purposes. You have 24 heard us cry. You've heard us beq. You've heard us 25 say, we don't know what to do anymore. And the sad



1	thing is, I used to work with you. I used to be a
2	contracted administrator over all of your new
3	developments. And never once does the amount that you
4	need to raise to keep running reflect what I seen in
5	those contracts. I am confused. And now you're
6	asking for another 30 percent? How are we going to
7	pay that? We're just people. We have families.
8	Now I asked you in the hall, Tim, if you
9	took over for Bradley Beecher, and you said there was
10	a few people in between. Bradley ran it for 29 years.
11	And then in the course of the last 10 years, there's
12	been multiple people in that place. Bradley left with
13	an average salary of \$1.36 million, base salary. That
14	is before stock auctions, that is before bonuses.
15	What are you making at the cost of these people in
16	this room?
17	TIM WILSON: It's actually public
18	information. It's not even close to what Mr. Beecher
19	made. I can tell you that. Not even remotely close,
20	and I will tell you this.
21	MELISSA GRAHAM: You can search it on your
22	own then.
23	TIM WILSON: You run the company for 29
24	yeah. It
25	MELISSA GRAHAM: Benefits and compensation



1	packages.
2	TIM WILSON: He ran the company for less
3	than eight or nine years, not 29 years. He might have
4	worked there 29 years.
5	MELISSA GRAHAM: You think that makes us
б	sleep better at night?
7	TIM WILSON: I'm just trying to make sure
8	the record is straight.
9	MELISSA GRAHAM: I got I now work in
10	POE, so. If you know electricity, you know that POE
11	lights can run for three hours on what it takes to run
12	a toaster one time. Why aren't we pushing things like
13	that? Why aren't you asking, you know, what you can
14	do for the people in the area? Why aren't we pushing
15	common sense things? Why aren't we looking for where
16	the tax breaks come in because, obviously, there has
17	to be a place. Something. Because you're starving
18	us, and we're hurting. And it's at the point where
19	it's easier to be off the grid than it is to live in
20	the city. You can go out, and for the price of I
21	don't know maybe less than a million dollars, I
22	think is what it is, buy a hydrogen and solar micro
23	grid that can power 40 different houses and have
24	and have a homestead. That's a scary thought that we
25	can't live like humans in our own homes because we

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can't pay electric, so.

No. You have shut people off. You have hurt us. You taped the calls. If it comes -- you know, I understand you guys are researching this, and we want to believe everything that is good. Is there any way we can have a third-party research company go through all of this? And, so that way we know that someone who had absolutely nothing to do with this state would look into it and say, hey, this is bad, and just not say, they're going to find anything, but if they do, and if they been overcharged, what are your plans for paying back these people?

TIM WILSON: We're going to -- we need your name and address, so we can look up and verify if you were shut off, because if that's the case, that's unacceptable. We have not shut off people for nonpayment. We're struggling to find you right now.

MELISSA GRAHAM: Okay. I'm going to go in there -- it's under my husband, Christopher.

TIM WILSON: Thank you.

MELISSA GRAHAM: And it's

It's a business address. Anybody can have it if they looked it up. Have a good night. Westin, sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE 2: (Inaudible) laws,

1 not you, your company, permission for all these 2 charges and -- and (inaudible) law has passed 3 (inaudible). MARK JOHNSON: It would be the Missouri 4 5 state legislature. 6 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE 3: (Inaudible) I've 7 been told (inaudible). 8 MARK JOHNSON: It -- the entire congress 9 votes on it. We do need to move along. I believe Rex Rohelson, I'm -- apologies for the pronunciation. 10 11 GEOFF MARKE: Gary Potter on deck. Monica 12 Dixon in the hole. All right. Mr. Potter, go ahead. 13 GARY POTTER: My comment this evening will 14 be about the billing and just general billing 15 practices. I started to have to deal with the Joplin 16 office last year when you ended up changing your 17 We started getting bills from two billing procedure. 18 different systems. And they were not -- they were not 19 consistent between the two. We have two properties or 20 two meters there in northwest Joplin, and the bills 21 are combined, but look, for a while, there was one on 2.2 one bill, and another one was on another bill, and 23 we'd get bills from both of them. I went into Joplin 24 office to talk to the staff, and I was told by the 25 person that they couldn't do anything for us. They



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1	didn't have access to the accounting program. And
2	they didn't have anybody that I could talk to.
3	GEOFF MARKE: I'm sorry, Mr. Potter. I need
4	to understand that a little bit more. So you you
5	approached the company about
6	GARY POTTER: Yes. I went in June
7	GEOFF MARKE: Okay.
8	GARY POTTER: to to the desk where
9	you end up paying at, and I talked to the staff member
10	there.
11	GEOFF MARKE: Uh-huh.
12	GARY POTTER: This was in late June, and I
13	said, I have these two bills. They said, well, we
14	have two billing systems going on. And they're not
15	reconciling. They're not talking to each other. And
16	I said, well, do you have anybody in accounting I can
17	talk to? They said no. Now, she was very very
18	sympathetic, comforting, and basically said, we don't
19	have anybody to talk to. I asked, I said, where's
20	county office? Where's the general your general
21	office? They said, we don't know. And finally, I had
22	to go out and search considerably out on the Internet
23	to find out it was in Toronto to find out it was a
24	Canadian because nobody knew where Liberty would
25	came from. Well, I had previously, before going in

**Transcript of Proceedings** 

1	talking to them, I had written a e-mail that described
2	the situation, the problems we were having. When I
3	went in and talked to her, they said, no, we never saw
4	that e-mail.
5	So anyway, we got a bill about a week or so
6	later. So I went back in and talked again to the
7	office. This was in July, so a couple of weeks later.
8	That person was even more brain dead than the other
9	one. She she said the bill is valid. There's
10	nothing I can do about it. And the there's
11	basically, told me to go away. So it became quite
12	obvious I was not going to get any satisfaction out of
13	this office.
14	My wife had called repeatedly to during
15	this same period talking to the phone to whoever
16	she could end up talking to, and they said, we will
17	get it taken care of. We never heard anything. So
18	basically, it became a waste of time.
19	Now, the kind of bills we're getting still
20	are inconsistent and that we end up getting a bill the
21	first week of the month, but it's due the 10th of the
22	following month, but on that bill is what we were
23	charged the previous month, but we have a receipt that
24	has already been paid. So basically, if we paid our
25	bills based upon the paper that we're receiving, we'd



1	be double paying. Now, it didn't make any sense to
2	us, so we go ahead and pay the actual bill that we
3	know that is due, and things seem to be working, but
4	that's consistently been happening for the past year.
5	So the billing system that you all have, it just does
б	not work. You have apparently more than one, and
7	they're not talking to each other. Okay. Thank you.
8	TIM WILSON: No. I actually would like to
9	try to address your issue if that's okay.
10	GARY POTTER: Okay.
11	TIM WILSON: Are you on auto pay or are you
12	not on auto pay?
13	GARY POTTER: There's no way I would be on
14	auto pay with you.
15	TIM WILSON: Okay.
16	GARY POTTER: Absolutely no way.
17	TIM WILSON: Touche. We would love to try
18	to help you. If you're still having billing issues,
19	if you want to
20	GARY POTTER: Well, my wife did tell me
21	this morning or last the day or two preparing for this
22	is that things are beginning to straighten out. And
23	almost my comment was, is it because of this hearing?
24	TIM WILSON: No.
25	GARY POTTER: These things are occurring,

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1	but anyway, she's still getting bills, and she gave me
2	a copy of a bill here where, again, it is the previous
3	month is on there, but she has receipts that she's
4	paid that bill.
5	CANDICE KELLY: So it could be a timing
6	issue on when the payment was received, if you're
7	mailing the payment in. I don't know how you're
8	sending that in, if you're paying it through online or
9	by phone.
10	GARY POTTER: But she has the receipt she
11	paid the bill.
12	CANDICE KELLY: In the office?
13	GARY POTTER: Due date.
14	CANDICE KELLY: In the office?
15	GARY POTTER: No. She mails it in.
16	CANDICE KELLY: Okay. So that's what I'm
17	saying. If the payment is mailed in, we have no
18	control over the post office. So I I'm not sure
19	how long it's taking.
20	GARY POTTER: No, no, no, no, no, no.
21	CANDICE KELLY: No.
22	GARY POTTER: Because the other problem
23	CANDICE KELLY: Let me finish, please.
24	GARY POTTER: Yeah.
25	CANDICE KELLY: I'm not sure how long it's



1 taking to get the payment, but if it happens to cross 2 with when the new invoice's created, you will still 3 see that charge on the bill until the payment gets 4 posted. 5 GARY POTTER: Well --6 CANDICE KELLY: It really just depends on 7 the timing of when that payment hits your account and 8 when the new charge is generated. 9 GARY POTTER: They're paid three weeks before the due date. And if -- if -- if you cannot 10 11 verify that within the three weeks, then, again, your 12 processes are broken. 13 And the other issue that we have is when 14 you go out online and try to read it, the information 15 online makes no sense. And you can't figure out --16 the dates aren't in the right place. You just have 17 You have codes in the thing. It's almost numbers. And I -- I had -- it took my wife 18 impossible to read. 19 five times to explain what was happening with her, and 20 I still don't quite understand everything. 21 CANDICE KELLY: Yeah. And -- but you said 2.2 that it is getting better. 23 GARY POTTER: Well, she thinks it might be. 2.4 It's hard to tell because it's been maybe three weeks 25 now.



1	CANDICE KELLY: I know it doesn't seem like
2	it, but over the last eight, nine, 10 months we've
3	made a lot of changes to the system trying to fix some
4	of these issues you guys have experienced. There's a
5	lot of things still happening that we're doing to try
6	to make it better.
7	GARY POTTER: Where is this initiated out
8	of? Is it initiated out of Toronto?
9	CANDICE KELLY: Where
10	TIM WILSON: When you say
11	GARY POTTER: When you have
12	TIM WILSON: initiated.
13	GARY POTTER: A accounting change when
14	you change your accounting system, and you know,
15	obviously, SAP is a real problem in itself, but
16	however, if you're trying to reconcile with SAP,
17	who who goes through and makes those changes and
18	then who validates it that it works for the customer?
19	TIM WILSON: So there was a team we have
20	multiple utilities across the United States, Bermuda,
21	and Chile; okay? Every single one of them were
22	acquired. Empire was acquired. Each and every one of
23	them were on a different billing system, a different
24	accounting system, a different finance system which
25	made it almost impossible to reconcile your accounts



1	for your books; right? And, so there was a team in
2	Oakville that said we need to be on the same system.
3	So, yes, you are correct in that regard, that the team
4	that decided to pick where we and the
5	implemented with IBM was a team there, yes.
6	GARY POTTER: Okay. But it's this has
7	been going on with us for a year now, and it's still
8	not reconciled.
9	TIM WILSON: It has. I can tell you
10	GARY POTTER: And when will it be
11	reconciled? Because right now the the only way
12	that we can deal with it is to ignore the bill. The
13	information's coming across the bill and pay the
14	most what we think is right, that seems to be
15	working. If we followed the bill, it wouldn't work.
16	GEOFF MARKE: Mr. Potter, I want to follow up
17	with a comment that you made. You said you had some
18	difficulty with the online app.
19	GARY POTTER: Yes. The online app is
20	difficult to read and understand what's been paid and
21	when things are being paid.
22	GEOFF MARKE: So did you happen to cross
23	reference your hard copy bill with what's on your app?
24	GARY POTTER: I can't answer that. Again,
25	I'm I'm in the same situation as other people. My

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1	wife takes care of those bills.
2	GEOFF MARKE: Just a show of hands, does
3	anybody else have any problems with their online tool
4	or the web page itself? Thank you.
5	GARY POTTER: A few times I went to look at
6	it. I couldn't understand it.
7	MARK JOHNSON: All right. Next, Monica
8	Dixon and Ashley Finmore is next up.
9	MONICA DIXON: I have a two-pointer here
10	on on the bill and service; okay? If everybody
11	remembers on the 15th of February was when we had that
12	really bad snow storm, and they were telling people to
13	go to the store and get prepared because businesses
14	are going to be closing; okay? So on February the
15	15th, which was on a Saturday, I got my utility bill.
16	And it was due February the 27th. And because it
17	was on a Saturday, the office is not open, and I'm
18	a person that if I can go pay my bill in person, I do
19	that the day I get the bill. I the minute it comes
20	out of my mailbox, I write the check, and I take it to
21	the office to pay it; okay? This particular time in
22	February, I could not do that because of the weather.
23	So I took a chance and put it in the mail. And the
24	postal system is not your problem. It's not my
25	problem until it takes 31 days for them to get my

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1	bill my payment to Liberty. And I've got proof of
2	it on my bill and my bank statement. It took 30 days
3	for the post office to get my payment to you.
4	So when I got my my next bill, it showed
5	that the the balance was \$78.31 on on February
6	the 6th. Payment was received on March the 7th for
7	the full amount showing the balance forward was zero.
8	But then when I get down here at the bottom, there was
9	a late fee of 20 cents. Now 20 cents may not seem
10	much. It's nothing. But it was the principal of the
11	thing. So I took my bill into the office, and I said,
12	you know, I have never been late on my bills. I
13	always pay them on time. And I get this 20-cent late
14	fee. It's not my fault that, that payment was late.
15	I refused to pay the 20 cents. I want it taken off of
16	my bill. And I was right there at the office which is
17	what they did. And I have my receipt showing that
18	open balance is zero; okay? April, I get my my
19	bill, and it shows that my bill was \$54.56, but it
20	should not have been 20 cents higher; okay? It shows
21	on this bill that they reissued that late fee of 20
22	cents; okay? I paid it because I knew because the
23	woman told me at the office, she says, you know, we
24	can scratch that 20 cents off, but that's only a
25	one-time thing. You can't have late fees constantly



1	taken off. I said, okay, but we want to take it off.
2	The minute she took it off, I said, now I can go pay
3	my bill and and have it reduced by 20 cents, and
4	she said yes. And that's what happened. And I have
5	the receipt to prove it, but then when I got that next
6	bill, that 20 cents was on there. So I thought, okay,
7	20 cents is 20 cents. I'm not going to fight that
8	one, but you can better be sure that I will be looking
9	at every penny on my bill from now on; okay? And I
10	will question everything.
11	Another thing that I have a problem with is
12	not the bill, it's the transformers. I live in a
13	neighborhood that has a vacated alley. Everybody in
14	the neighborhood has either a chain link or wooden
15	fence, front and back; okay? There is a utility pole
16	in my backyard that is attached the power goes to
17	the guy that lives across the fence from me. The
18	the pole that my that brings power to my house is
19	in the corner of my next-door neighbor; okay?
20	Whenever a squirrel or or wind, rain takes out the
21	transformer, they have to bring that utility truck
22	through my yard. I had to take out my front fence in
23	order for them to get their truck in so that they can
24	replace that transformer. And then redoing the
25	lines on north Florida and Salem, I I asked the


1 guys that were working there because they were in my 2 neighbor's yard working on the pole, I said, can you 3 quys tell me how to get safety for my home because the guy has a walnut tree that grows up along -- his side 4 5 of the chain link fence over my house and over the 6 line that connects my house to the pole that they're 7 working on the poles. Says, no, that's private 8 property, we can't touch it, blah, blah, blah, blah, 9 blah. So now this guy won't take out the fence. Т can't -- he won't take out the tree. And I can't use 10 11 the size of the house -- the size of the tree and the 12 size of the limbs that come over into my property, if 13 I were to even attempt to cut it down, if I had a ladder and tried to cut it, it would all fall on to 14 15 that line. It -- it goes -- it goes like this, and 16 the line's right here. And every time the wind blows, 17 my lights flicker; okay? I can't afford \$3,000 to 18 have that man's tree pulled out, and he doesn't want 19 it taken out because his father planted that tree over 20 This tree has got to be at least 70 years ago. 21 50-feet high. Okay. So I need help from Liberty to 22 get those limbs off of my line, and you're going to 23 have to go through his property in order to get to the 2.4 tree. You're going to have to go through my property 25 to get to the tree. And my house -- I've lived in



1	this house for over 30 years, and my side yard is full
2	of ruts because of your utility trucks. I can't
3	reroute the lines because the way the house is built.
4	The house was built in 1928. It doesn't have
5	insulation in it. Out of the 21 windows, four of them
б	have been replaced. I do a lot of quilting and
7	crocheting and knitting to make afghans to keep warm.
8	You know, but I I need Liberty's help to get that
9	tree trimmed. There's got to be a way to help him get
10	that tree trimmed or taken out. Because I can't
11	afford to do it, and he can't afford to do it, but it
12	is a it's a safety hazard for my house, and for
13	those two I live on a double lot, so one utility
14	pole's over here, and one's over here. One's in my
15	yard. And one's in my neighbor's yard. I I don't
16	want my house to catch fire.
17	GEOFF MARKE: Can you and I have a discussion
18	with her now to where we can move on with the next
19	MONICA DIXON: Okay.
20	TIM WILSON: Sorry, I was waiting for you
21	to get that I want to get your address and see if
22	we can't get your limbs cut.
23	MONICA DIXON: But I'm done. I just wanted
24	to you know, when I got that lousy 20 cents late
25	fee, you know, how many other people during that time



1	frame who do have large utility bills what were their
2	late fees like? Because that was beyond their
3	control. It was beyond my control. I mean, I don't
4	have a problem paying the 20 cents, but I'm worried
5	about the others that can't afford it.
6	My husband and I live on social security,
7	so we get paid once a month. So we're doing our bills
8	as we can. You know, and we just need your help and
9	I'm just getting tired of looking out my bedroom
10	window where that tree is. I'm just waiting for it to
11	come right through the backside of my house because
12	it's going to take it out. It will take it out.
13	Thank you.
14	MARK JOHNSON: Thank you, Ms. Dixon. Earl
15	Higgens on deck.
16	ASHLEY FINMORE: Hello. So my name is
17	Ashley. I'm going to come this at kind of a different
18	perspective tonight. I'm a property manager. I
19	manage about 180 rental properties for prop or
20	owners all across the United States. I've been doing
21	this my team and I've been doing this for about 15
22	years. We have a really good procedure in place.
23	We've worked really closely with Empire and Liberty
24	this whole time until you guys changed, and it is
25	becoming a nightmare. One of the things that we kind

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1 of pride ourselves on for our owners is, when they use 2 One of the things that they do is, they our services. 3 set us up as a point of contact with Liberty and 4 Empire as the property manager. They set up a 5 landlord revert. They -- their first piece of 6 homework is to call Liberty, set up their landlord 7 revert. Have us in the system, so that whenever a new 8 tenant moves in or moves out, we can call them and make sure that the bills -- that the -- the electric 9 goes back into their name without any lapse. 10 That's 11 like their first thing.

12 Somehow when -- when the systems changes, 13 you guys lost all of my owners' information. All of 14 It's gone. For me to have to go back to my it. 15 owners and be like, sorry, guys, you guys, all 50 of 16 you, now have to call them back and provide all of 17 your information again. I don't know. It's a pain, 18 and my owners, we've had to do -- try to do three-way 19 I even had some of your guys' customer service calls. 20 representatives demand that I provide a deed. I'm not 21 providing your customer service agents a deed to a 22 property for anything. Nothing. I've had them hang 23 up on me. And tell me that they're not going to help 2.4 Some of the agents will -- are really nice and me. 25 they'll go back in the system and find the old



1	landlord revert information. Others will just flat
2	out tell me that they don't have access to the system,
3	and they just won't do it. So it's really difficult
4	to to get things done now.
5	I've had recently, the biggest thing is,
6	I'll start getting bills for owners when there's still
7	tenants in the house. They'll just automatically
8	revert back to my owners. And the tenants have been
9	living there for a year or better. I don't know why,
10	and when I call in, I can't get an answer. Or they
11	just will refuse to talk to me. I also had an owner
12	that got sent to collections by you guys because the
13	bill just didn't get sent. So I got a collection
14	letter, and when I called to find out what was going
15	on, they were, like, oh, we don't know. We sent it to
16	collections. You guys cashed the check that I had
17	been sending for her utility meter for the light pole.
18	I had to actually physically bring the check into the
19	local office and show that you guys had cashed it.
20	But you still sent her to collections. That was A
21	really embarrassing phone call for me to have to
22	provide to my owner, and let her know that she was in
23	collections. So it's been pretty awful.
24	GEOFF MARKE: Ms. Finmore, if you haven't
25	already well, I'm I'm asking on on my behalf



1	if you can please go ahead and give your contact
2	information to the PSC and OPC out there, so we can
3	follow back up on this.
4	ASHLEY FINMORE: Great.
5	GEOFF MARKE: There's a lot of more questions
6	we need to follow up on.
7	ASHLEY FINMORE: Sure.
8	CANDICE KELLY: And I apologize. I did not
9	catch your name.
10	ASHLEY FINMORE: Ashley Finmore.
11	CANDICE KELLY: Ms. Edward {sic}, my
12	manager is one of the managers for the customer
13	services back there in the back, if you wouldn't mind
14	talking to her as well, please.
15	ASHLEY FINMORE: Sure. Absolutely.
16	CANDICE KELLY: Thank you.
17	MARK JOHNSON: Earl Higgens is next with
18	Joe Airheart on deck.
19	GEOFF MARKE: Charles Snider in the hole.
20	All right. Next after Charles would be Josh Horton.
21	Joe Airheart?
22	JOE AIRHEART: I'm the accounting manager
23	for a College Heights Christian Church, and that's who
24	I'm really representing today. We had last year
25	would have been in July, I we did not receive a



1	bill in July. And, so our bookkeeper called Liberty
2	and asked for a a for the amount for the bill
3	for that month because we didn't get one. So they did
4	not give us a or they said they didn't have a bill
5	so we would have to wait until it was generated before
6	we could get one. We waited for that, and we called
7	again, and they the bill so because we don't
8	want to get behind. And, so we volunteered to go
9	ahead and pay it, but they said, well, you can't pay
10	it because there's no bill. It's zero. So we just
11	did we didn't do that. So we did it the next
12	month. It happened again. So this happened about
13	four months in a row, I think, four or five.
14	Finally, I let's see. And we also
15	volunteered to do it online. And of course, if you go
16	online, we did not have a bill online. So we didn't
17	have anything to pay that didn't have any way to
18	pay that. We were we would definitely would
19	have paid our bill during that period of time, and we
20	were willing to pay even just a flat amount, like,
21	an average bill, if we could have. But they said they
22	couldn't do it because it was a zero bill.
23	So I guess, I'm just I what I'm
24	really concerned about is, just the fact the
25	billing that the people wouldn't do it. And



1	there we actually had some pretty good customer
2	service people. Now, one of them I think they said
3	they just didn't know they weren't very
4	cooperative, and it was okay. It was not that good.
5	But then we had some after that, I think the last two
6	or three, that our bookkeeper talked to was real nice
7	and understood what happened, and they said it was
8	because of the system changing, so I I guess, I'm
9	just wanting to make sure you know that your that
10	the customer service was not it was okay, but it
11	was not what we needed, and we would like to have paid
12	our bill. So we got a bill at the end for five
13	months, and it was we our bills were pretty big.
14	So it was a lot of money when we did that, so. Then
15	the final level on that, though, is when we finally
16	got that bill for the five months, and we paid it, and
17	we paid it well, we've always paid our bill on
18	time. We paid the bill, but then they charged us a
19	late fee, and we waited so we we called them
20	after we and we paid it. We went ahead and paid
21	the late fee, but then we called then the following
22	month and said we well, I don't I can't remember
23	if I told her to call that same month or not.
24	But anyhow, we called customer service. We
25	have a late fee, and we asked if we were going to get



1	a refund on that because we knew we had already paid
2	it. We paid it on time. But because the bill came
3	out late, I I guess that's why the we had the
4	late fee. I'm not sure, but.
5	CANDICE KELLY: And when you asked about
6	having it removed
7	JOE AIRHEART: We did ask about having it
8	removed, and they said it would, and I've got a recent
9	bill, and we still don't have a refund on it.
10	CANDICE KELLY: And it's College Heights
11	Christian Church.
12	JOE AIRHEART: Yes.
13	CANDICE KELLY: Okay.
14	JOE AIRHEART: And we have
15	unfortunately, we have two meters on our facility
16	CANDICE KELLY: Uh-huh.
17	JOE AIRHEART: main facility, and we
18	also have three separate houses that are separate
19	residences, too.
20	CANDICE KELLY: And my apologies, I didn't
21	catch your name.
22	JOE AIRHEART: Joe Airheart.
23	CANDICE KELLY: Have you talked to one of
24	the ladies or gentleman out front?
25	JOE AIRHEART: No. But again, my our



1	bookkeeper had called the office.
2	CANDICE KELLY: I want to make sure we get
3	that removed before you leave because it should have
4	already been removed from the account.
5	JOE AIRHEART: Okay. Okay. And also, I'd
6	like to make a statement. I'm an accountant, and I
7	know business. I understand business, and you know,
8	if a business doesn't make enough money to cover their
9	expenses, they go out of business, and they can't
10	continue to operate. And I know I've heard a lot of
11	complaints today, and I understand they're complaints
12	because I have the same one, the one about February
13	storm, and for and Asbury, but you know, somebody's
14	got to pay that bill, but you guys did have the
15	expense. And, so Liberty had the expense, and they
16	have to be able to operate. If they don't have the
17	if something if they don't have some way to recover
18	that cost, you're going to go out of business. And
19	then we're not going to have electricity. I mean,
20	that's the that's the fact. I I realize it's a
21	law. You have to provide it, but I'm just saying,
22	somewhere along the line you have to be willing to pay
23	the to recover your cost. So I appreciate what you
24	guys do. Okay. Thanks.
0 F	

MARK JOHNSON: Next up is Charles Snider

25



1	with Josh Horton next.
2	GEOFF MARKE: Megan Megan Dolley in the
3	hole. Oh.
4	MEGAN DOLLEY: I'm messing with three
5	Liberty accounts that all have issues. The main
6	concern is our personal home. I have solar, and we
7	are getting \$800 bills. I have not seen no \$19 bill
8	like these other people, \$800, and my roof is covered
9	in solar. There's something wrong. My solar company
10	has come out three times. They've sent three third
11	parties, so I know my solar is working correctly.
12	This is a Liberty problem, but they won't see it.
13	They sent a tech out last week. I have a video of
14	him. He was rude. He was supposed to come check my
15	meter, but when I questioned him and said, I wanted to
16	watch him do it, he told me, no, he didn't have to do
17	that. And I said, well, if you're not here to help
18	me, why are you here, and he got in his truck and
19	left. I have all that on video. I would be willing
20	to show anybody.
21	TIM WILSON: I just want to tell you that's
22	not acceptable. So if you have a person's name, I
23	would love to follow up on that myself.
24	MEGAN DOLLEY: I don't have his name, but
25	you can probably recognize him on the video.



1	TIM WILSON: Okay.
2	MEGAN DOLLEY: When you call customer
3	service, I'm actually surprised nobody else has really
4	complained about this. They are rude. They don't
5	care. They don't care if you're getting shut off.
6	They're not getting shut off. So why does it matter?
7	My second account is my sister's, and I
8	will say that the not shutting people off after a
9	certain time is a lie because she was shut off
10	March 2024. After she passed away, her electric was
11	shut off for nonpayment. She died in February. I
12	took my estate papers, her death certificate, her
13	obituary to the office. They copied all of it, told
14	me I would be receiving a thousand-dollar check
15	because that was her deposit. It's a year and four
16	months later. I still don't have her deposit back.
17	And then our rental I used to do a
18	thousand dollars a month, all bills paid. I had to
19	tell my tenants, I can't do this anymore. You're
20	going to have to pay your own electric. It's just too
21	expensive. And I same problem with the last girl.
22	I can't get tenants in there because they don't want
23	Liberty. And and nobody wants to help. Liberty
24	like, his snarky comment earlier about when
25	somebody was when everybody said, no, and he's



1	like, does anybody work there? That's how they treat
2	you on the phones all the time. Nobody's polite,
3	compassionate. Tonight, they've been short, rude.
4	They could care less. They don't care about any of
5	these people. There's people in here that don't eat
6	to pay their electric. That's ridiculous. But having
7	solar and paying 8, 900-dollar bills is crazy. They
8	say I used 8,000 kilowatts in my house. There's no
9	way I could run everything in my house, and I wouldn't
10	use 8,000 kilowatts. It's ridiculous, but again, the
11	tech, so.
12	GEOFF MARKE: Ms. Dolley, there's a couple of
13	different threads here, so.
14	MEGAN DOLLEY: Uh-huh.
15	GEOFF MARKE: As far as the solar issue,
16	that's a serious issue. I'm going to hand you a card.
17	In the back is
18	MEGAN DOLLEY: He gave me one, yeah.
19	GEOFF MARKE: Did you get the solar advocate?
20	MEGAN DOLLEY: Yes.
21	GEOFF MARKE: Okay.
22	MEGAN DOLLEY: Yeah.
23	GEOFF MARKE: That's going to be key to any
24	video you send. The second one is the down payment,
25	the deposit, you know, from from your sister.



Transcript of Proceedings June 12, 2025 Page 122 1 Uh-huh. MEGAN DOLLEY: 2 It's my understanding you still GEOFF MARKE: 3 have not received that. MEGAN DOLLEY: I still do not have it. 4 5 That needs to be reconciled GEOFF MARKE: 6 immediately; all right? So if -- if it is not -- if 7 it isn't, please follow up. 8 MEGAN DOLLEY: Okay. GEOFF MARKE: As far as the customer service 9 10 and the comments there, we got it on the transcript 11 and appreciate it. Thank you. 12 Thank you. Uh-huh. MEGAN DOLLEY: 13 Next we have Paul and Blenda MARK JOHNSON: 14 After that, Samuel Kanotson (phonetic). James. Ι 15 apologize, sir. 16 BLENDA JAMES: We have a mobile home park 17 in Neosho, Missouri. I'm Blenda James, and this is my 18 husband, Paul. We have owned the mobile home park now 19 for nearly five years. And it's always had Liberty 20 electric, and when we first started getting the bills, 21 it was great. You got one bill. It came in a little 2.2 letter-size envelope. It was printed on both sides, 23 very efficiently. The only things that we pay for in 2.4 the mobile home park is the electric lighting for 25 outside, which is like street lights. We have a water



1	treatment plant for our sewage in the back and that
2	has motors and things that has to be run. We have
3	a an empty mobile home that we use for storage and
4	for tools and things like that. And we pay for that.
5	So on the bill, the way it used to come,
6	there was like a line, and it would say, lot number
7	such and such, and here was the bill and all the
8	breakdown on it, very efficient. Now, with the new
9	billing, I get an envelope that is this big with a
10	page per or two pages per a thing, whatever that
11	you're charging for, and which is not really
12	efficient. We get paper bills because of our taxes,
13	and the way we file them, we need the documentation.
14	So when I get a paper bill, I go into our account
15	online at the bank, and I pay it within 24 hours, if I
16	get a bill. With the new billing system, the first
17	bill I got was \$69. Well, I knew that wasn't right
18	because our bill is usually, you know, \$300 or to
19	\$400, if we have a revert to landlord on a tenant or
20	something like that. So I go up to the office, they
21	can't do anything about it because all the billing
22	comes out of somewhere else. So she said, just pay
23	the bill. You'll probably get another bill
24	eventually. Well, we've been playing this game now
25	for well over a year, since whenever your billing



1	changed. Then this year just just an example. So
2	the bills have been Helter Skelter and a mess, but
3	just an example, in March, we got a bill for zero,
4	said we owed zero. In April, we got a bill that said
5	we owed zero. So I'm thinking, okay, typical.
6	They'll get it fixed eventually, and we'll get a
7	1,200-dollar bill. So then I get a letter from your
8	accounting people that we haven't paid our bill for
9	months for March, and we haven't paid our bill for
10	April, well. Those bills that I got that I received
11	said zero. So in typical fashion, I'm thinking you
12	all will get your act together eventually, and I'll
13	get a bill, but I got a letter that said I was past
14	due. So I call, and I did get a very nice efficient
15	young lady on the phone, and I said, I don't get this.
16	The last two bills I have received in my hand, in my
17	mailbox said I owed you zero, but now you're saying I
18	owed \$260.92 cents for March and \$209.55 cents for
19	April, but I never received those bills.
20	And, so she I said, I have no problem
21	paying the bill, but I need a paper bill and I'll pay
22	you through my bank, and the bank pays you
23	electronically, within 24 hours. So I got those, and
24	she was gracious enough to e-mail me the pay a
25	bill, so I had something for my tax records. But my



1	question is, when is this going to be fixed? Because	
2	the last bill I got was 200-some-odd dollars, and I	
3	paid it on May 15th, and now we're in almost the	
4	12th of June. I have not received a bill yet, so it	
5	may be the same thing over again. I I don't	
6	I I don't plan how I have to pay you. Luckily, I	
7	can I have the funds to pay you, but we have	
8	tenants that are going through this very same thing,	
9	and I got to tell you, folks, they have been late and	
10	behind on their rent because they've had to pay your	
11	electric bill, and that's not fair to them, and	
12	they're not here to speak for themselves tonight, but	
13	there's been a whole bunch of other people saying that	
14	same thing. So indirectly, I'm not getting paid	
15	because of your billing, so.	
16	CANDICE KELLY: Ms	
17	PAUL JAMES: We have	
18	CANDICE KELLY: Ms. James, is that in your	
19	personal name or is there a business name I need to be	
20	looking for?	
21	BLENDA JAMES: I can show you. It's in our	
22	LLC.	
23	CANDICE KELLY: Yes, please, that would be	
24	great.	
25	BLENDA JAMES: name, but I I just	

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1	you know, if you all send me a bill, I'll pay you	
2	gladly, but I I don't want to know how you make	
3	your watch. I just want you to tell me what time it	
4	is. Because I don't have I don't have time to	
5	go like, the guy, you know, that went through all	
б	your public information and all that, I don't care.	
7	Send me the freaking bill, and I'll pay it.	
8	GEOFF MARKE: That's fair.	
9	CANDICE KELLY: All right. Thank you.	
10	PAUL JAMES: And one other thing, just one	
11	of our tenants, two brothers, they do the same thing,	
12	month to month. They've been behind and paying 300 a	
13	month for at least six months, and all theirs changed	
14	a year ago, and just a month ago, they got a	
15	1,500-dollar bill on top of everything else, and these	
16	type of people are going to go under. They're going	
17	to lose everything, and it's all because the	
18	accounting.	
19	MARK JOHNSON: All right. So Mr. Horton.	
20	JOSH HORTON: Hi. So like, quite a few	
21	people here, I'm also on a fixed income. I get paid	
22	once a month. I'm a 100 percent disabled veteran. My	
23	wife is a full-time student, getting some money off of	
24	my VA benefits, for what she does in school. We	
25	when it rains it pours. We have issues like everybody	



1	else, and we got a letter in the mail saying that the	
2	payment arrangement we were on was going to be	
3	cancelled if we didn't pay by a date that had already	
4	past the day I got the letter by like two weeks. So I	
5	called, spoke to a rep, and she said, no, you're still	
б	good, go ahead and pay it. So I made the payment	
7	right then and there, and not too long after I got	
8	another disconnect notice, and I called and spoke to	
9	somebody named Laura, who kindly told me that all the	
10	problems were my fault because I don't check my mail	
11	often enough, and I'm supposed to read all of that	
12	even though I do. I asked her specifically, because I	
13	looked things up, what can I do to get on a cold	
14	weather role agreement? She had no clue what that was	
15	and told me I had to pay \$1,200 to not get	
16	disconnected so. When you guys say, you don't	
17	disconnect your customers, you might want to let your	
18	reps know that, and when I asked her, okay, how long	
19	do I have to pay this \$1,200, she said, quote, that's	
20	your prerogative.	
21	So instead of the month I was behind on	
22	rent or the 2,000-dollar surgery my dog needed for his	
23	cancer, which we were going to pay for because I still	
24	had a little bit left from our tax return, we paid the	

25 | electric bill, and I now have an urn with my dog's



1	ashes. So you can apologize, but that's not going to	
2	bring my dog back. It's not going to help the late	
3	fees I paid in rent. I even called back later and was	
4	lucky enough to speak to Laura again, who still had no	
5	clue what she was doing, even though I spoke with a	
6	manager before her, made a complaint about her, and I	
7	also filed a report with these guys who launched an	
8	investigation, sent me a letter and gave me a phone	
9	call saying they investigated that call, and you guys	
10	should get dinged for it.	
11	TIM WILSON: Well, first of all, thank you	
12	for your service.	
13	JOSH HORTON: Thank you.	
14	TIM WILSON: We have Lauras. We want to	
15	get your name and address back there. She's waving at	
16	you.	
17	JOSH HORTON: Okay.	
18	TIM WILSON: We want I'm sure Dr. Mark	
19	will be following up on it, but we certainly want to	
20	follow up as well.	
21	JOSH HORTON: Thank you.	
22	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 4: Sorry about your dog.	
23	JOSH HORTON: Thank you.	
24	MARK JOHNSON: Okay. Next up we have	
25	Samuel Kanotson, and after that, Dale Denman.	



1	SAMUEL KANOTSON: A lot of the issues that
2	I've been through are similar. I do all of my billing
3	through the electronic system, and it won't even
4	now it's weird because I looked today, and it's got
5	the bills credited on the right days, but they
6	wouldn't roll out on the correct times. There was a
7	couple of bills that didn't exist. Magically, it's
8	gone now. I don't have a record of it because it was
9	all electronic. And I don't know why it's changed,
10	but that was very odd. And frustrating, and then I
11	had a bill that was very high that I don't I went
12	into the office in Joplin, and they said, we don't
13	know. It's right. I I got no recourse and to say
14	whether, you know, what was going on, so that
15	that's very frustrating, and then I'd like to know
16	from POC not POC, P what are you guys? LP,
17	whatever. Anyway, is it accurate that this is that
18	they're not monopoly utility monopolies everywhere
19	in the State of Missouri, that it's just different
20	regions?
21	And then I have seen my bill double. I've
22	tried to get utility assistance. What good is utility
23	assistance for through Liberty for 50 percent
24	agreement if you don't have the money for the
25	exorbitantly doubled bill to begin with, and they're



1	all the same. They're all doubled, and where are	
2	these rate increases going to? What are you paying	
3	for? Why are you asking for another rate increase?	
4	Except it's going to the stockholders. I don't know.	
5	It's very frustrating. So I'd really like to know,	
6	where is this money going? What are you using it for?	
7	Why do you keep asking for more money and just ripping	
8	us? I'm on a fixed income. I am terrified of my	
9	every utility bill, and then it doesn't even roll out	
10	on time.	
11	GEOFF MARKE: Lots to unpack there. A lot of	
12	questions. They are a monopoly. They're a franchise	
13	agreement to effectively serve this area. Missouri's	
14	a vertically integrated state, so there are	
15	monopolies. They come in three flavors. There's	
16	investor-owned utilities, like Liberty, Ameren, and	
17	Evergy. There's cooperatives, and there are municipal	
18	utilities like City of Springfield. You guys have	
19	investor-owned utility. That is heavily regulated by	
20	Missouri Public Service Commission.	
21	Our office, the Office of Public Counsel	
22	represents the public on issues before that, the	
23	dollar amount that the price that you guys are	
24	paying is reflective of the cost of that service.	
25	Now, reasonable minds can and do differ and will	



1	disagree as to what that price is, and that's going to
2	play out in this next rate case where they're asking
3	for a 30 percent rate increase on top of what you're
4	paying right now. That is recovering cost associated
5	with fuel, the investments made since their last rate
6	case, their distribution lines, wires, poles, meters,
7	billing software. Now, all of that stuff is up for
8	review. And we are in the process of auditing the
9	company simultaneously, while we're doing this
10	investigation on that. So we're in a position to go
11	ahead and sit there and make recommendations and say,
12	no, we don't think the customers should be charged for
13	X because of a lot of reasons. And we will be making
14	those recommendations, now at
15	SAMUEL KANOTSON: I appreciate that.
16	GEOFF MARKE: Well, that is our job. But
17	unfortunately, at the end of the day those
18	recommendations, and there are other parties in this
19	case, so it's not just our office and the PSC and the
20	company. You've got environmental groups, you've got
21	large industrial customers, you've got everybody. And
22	all of that effectively goes in and that'll play
23	out over the next six, seven months, and the
24	Commission, the five appointed commissioners,
25	ultimately, make that determination. I don't know.



1	Additional questions?	
2	SAMUEL KANOTSON: I was wondering one	
3	thing, when I was looking at my bill, why are we able	
4	to be gouged for different hours? Of service? Why is	
5	that allowed?	
6	GEOFF MARKE: So it the time of use	
7	rates	
8	SAMUEL KANOTSON: Nobody's up at 2:00 in	
9	the morning using their washer.	
10	GEOFF MARKE: That is a fair question. So	
11	the idea behind the time of use rates, so it if	
12	you're familiar with it, it's a couple cents cheaper,	
13	like 1:00 in the morning, that reflects the wholesale	
14	energy market prices. In if you kind of all	
15	appreciate this, there's a lot of wind farms that are	
16	out there in Kansas and Oklahoma and Nebraska that are	
17	building in energy. The reality of the situation is,	
18	those wind farms are mostly operational in the middle	
19	of the night because it's windy in the middle of the	
20	night. Now, there's no fuel cost related to those	
21	wind farms, which means the wholesale market prices	
22	are lower during that time. The idea behind it is	
23	that there's some people that want that elect to go	
24	all electric and that put a larger strain on the	
25	system.	



1	So think about EV cars, if everybody drove
2	an electric vehicle car and was charging it at the
3	same time, that means we're firing up more and more
4	generating plants to meet that demand. Well, that
5	means it's a higher price so. We're trying to send
6	you a price signal to make it cheaper than it
7	otherwise would be. It it is frustrating for
8	customers, and I can absolutely appreciate that. But
9	it is it is a the utility bill is probably one
10	of the few few companies where you're not getting
11	billed almost immediately for that service. You're
12	getting it a month after the fact, and then looking at
13	the bill and the frustrations that we're hearing
14	tonight is largely because those bills aren't accurate
15	or you're not getting a bill. So I believe me.
16	We've got copious amounts of notes to to look into
17	that.

18 Moving forward to address the specific time 19 of use issue, that was in -- also an amendment or a 20 line item within the ominous bill that was just passed 21 which allows if you don't want to be on a time of use 22 rate, you don't have to be. But if you want to save a 23 few more cents and change how you use your energy, you 24 But it is an optional feature for you. can.

SAMUEL KANOTSON: But is it any cheaper if

25



1	you're not on that?
2	GEOFF MARKE: No.
3	SAMUEL KANOTSON: Okay. So then there's no
4	point.
5	GEOFF MARKE: Well, it's cheaper if you if
6	you use your energy when it's cheaper. I mean, that's
7	the long and short of it. That's true.
8	SAMUEL KANOTSON: Right. Right. It's
9	really hard to know whether we can trust those things
10	because with the energy going up so much and the
11	prices doubling, it's just it doesn't make sense.
12	And, so like everybody expressed an issue with
13	trusting what we're getting, so. I concur with that.
14	GEOFF MARKE: Thank you for your comments.
15	They're absolutely noted.
16	SAMUEL KANOTSON: Thank you.
17	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 5: Thank you, sir.
18	MARK JOHNSON: Next is Dale Denman. After
19	you, it is Charis Seaton (phonetic). I'll be right
20	back.
21	DALE DENMAN: All right. Thank you for
22	coming. My first question or I'll make a comment
23	to the Commission company in regard to as the lady
24	said earlier, a lot of the old a lot of people in
25	Jasper County are of elderly and on fixed incomes, and



1 we just got hit by a big property tax increase in 2 Jasper County under state law. So with the increase 3 of on our electric bills, it is extremely higher than what the increase is on social security cost of living 4 5 is every year that the government gives you. So like 6 these other people said, it's going to be a decision 7 where they're going to have to sacrifice medicine or 8 food or something else if they want to keep their 9 electricity on. 10 Next point is, this all started because of 11 your billing company that you contracted of April of 12 last year. You might take into consideration in 13 changing that contract. I don't know how it reads, but to eliminate a lot of this problem because of the 14 15 billing issue, and I have a billing issue just like 16 everybody else. First month or two didn't get 17 anything until I got a late notice saying that I hadn't paid my bill. So I got caught up. 18 July was 19 August was three times higher, put me behind on fine. 20 me paying my bill, and spending a year trying to catch 21 up and within 25 percent of -- of catching up to -- on 22 the billing, but every month I get a cut-off notice. 23 How many cut-off notices do you send out before you 24 actually cut off people's electricity? 25 CANDICE KELLY: Right now we're not



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1 actively disconnecting service. 2 Right there is a good DALE DENMAN: Okay. 3 place to start saving money is to quit sending out cut-off notices. 4 5 Those are -- those are sent CANDICE KELLY: 6 so customers can receive assistance that need to 7 receive assistance and without those, the --8 DALE DENMAN: That's how catching --9 CANDICE KELLY: -- agencies will not provide assistance. 10 11 The trouble with that, though, CURT GATELEY: 12 is if they include that, then the folks who -- the 13 community action agencies and others, they have limited amount of funds, and they're going to try to 14 15 help the folks that are imminently about to be disconnected, and if -- if they put language on there 16 17 saying, well, it's -- it's a disconnect notice, but 18 it's not really, then those folks are putting a -- put 19 in a bind of, well, we can't really distribute that 20 kind of money that the --21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 6: (Inaudible) paper 2.2 (inaudible). 23 CURT GATELEY: It's a good point, yeah. Ι 24 mean, it's something we've been debating and 25 discussing of, how do we get around this?

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Your wind 1 Next point. DALE DENMAN: 2 turbines, I get up every day and look at them. I went 3 to schooling to become a wind turbine technician. Т know it takes three miles an hour of wind to get one 4 5 The wind conditions outside, you can tell aoina. 6 whether it's five miles or 20 miles an hour. A lot of times when wind turbines aren't moving, when it's over 7 8 three, five, 10, for some reason or another, I was 9 told today that the electric load that goes from there to the La Russell Power Plant stations before it goes 10 11 on to the power line systems can be too much for the 12 line system, and they won't allow it to put on; is 13 that true or false?

So what we have with our wind 14 TIM WILSON: 15 farms, sometimes -- you're right. It's a little 16 higher than three miles an hour. But there is a --17 what we call a cut in speed for our wind farms, and 18 generally, if there's not maintenance being performed, they should be rotating, if the wind is above those 19 20 However, there are times as part of the levels. 21 Southwest Power Pool, if there is congestion on the 2.2 transmission system, they will send us a price signal 23 that tells us to -- to back them off or to shut them So if you see an entire park out, it's due to 24 down. 25 transmission congestion.



1	DALE DENMAN: Okay. How much electricity
2	to produce off those wind turbines stay in Jasper
3	County or southwest Missouri, and how much is put on
4	the line to ship back east where the ratings are
5	higher?
6	TIM WILSON: So again, we're part of the
7	Southwest Power Pool. It doesn't go east of Missouri
8	and so it's kind of if you think of the the
9	electric grid and the transmission grid, it's a very
10	good question. I get asked it a lot, so I'm glad you
11	asked it. It's like it's like take a lake;
12	okay? You don't know and if you scoop a cup of
13	water out of the lake, you don't know exactly where
14	that water came from, but it came from
15	DALE DENMAN: Uh-huh.
16	TIM WILSON: one of the tributaries.
17	That's kind of how the the electric bulk system
18	power grid works. I can tell you it it most likely
19	stayed in the Southwest Power Pool, but it's it's
20	generally
21	DALE DENMAN: You guys don't have a problem
22	if they pass a state law saying all electricity
23	produced in Missouri stays in Missouri?
24	TIM WILSON: I don't know if that's
25	technically possible.



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1	DALE DENMAN: Okay. The contract on these
2	wind turbines with landowners is, they tell me is
3	about 30 years before they dismantle them, take them
4	down, take out the concrete, the roads, and
5	everything, when you how much percentage of your
6	electricity comes from the wind turbines for Liberty?
7	TIM WILSON: So it again, it's a little
8	difficult to say. Very good question. How the
9	wholesale power market works is, we bid our units into
10	the into the Southwest Power Pool, and they
11	economically dispatch the entire pool. So Nebraska,
12	Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, parts of Arkansas, parts
13	of Texas, parts of Louisiana, you get it. They
14	economically dispatch the entire system; okay? And,
15	so at the end of the day you don't really know exactly
16	where things are going.
17	DALE DENMAN: Okay.
18	TIM WILSON: And if I didn't address your
19	question, rephrase it. About our generation mix.
20	There you go. So so it's hard to tell what your
21	generation mix is. I can tell you what we generate,
22	but our consumption mix is different.
23	DALE DENMAN: Uh-huh.
24	TIM WILSON: We're between 15 and
25	20 percent generation mix on wind right now, the last



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	I looked, but it's been a while.
2	DALE DENMAN: When those wind turbines go
3	offline and you take them down, will they be replaced
4	back by coal that's a lot cheaper as our life
5	experience has been with Empire in the past?
6	TIM WILSON: So, again, we're getting into
7	the Asbury deal. Asbury was not cheaper, but Unit 1,
8	Unit 2 in Plum Point which are coal fire facilities
9	that were cheaper. We we perform a study every
10	three years called the integrate resource plan. And
11	it looks out 20 years; okay? And it takes what they
12	call the net present value of revenue requirement.
13	What that means is, in today's dollars, how much your
14	customer's going to pay over a 20-year period, what's
15	the most economic way to meet the energy demands that
16	you have for your customers while meeting all rules
17	and regulations? Right now, we have zero wind in our
18	20-year forecast. We have to do an annual update, and
19	if market conditions change as they do rapidly, then,
19 20	if market conditions change as they do rapidly, then, sorry, we may have to change, but right now, our next
20	sorry, we may have to change, but right now, our next
20 21	sorry, we may have to change, but right now, our next big generator is is scheduled, and it's public
20 21 22	sorry, we may have to change, but right now, our next big generator is is scheduled, and it's public information. It is it is natural gas turbines.

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1	to earlier, you said, it doesn't take a lot of
2	petroleum or gas oil to run a wind turbine. In regard
3	to there's 30 to 50 gallons of oil up in there to keep
4	that thing cool, and it's got to be switched out about
5	every 30 or every three months. And the blades are
6	all hundred percent epoxy which is made from
7	petroleum-based product. So is the paint, so is
8	there's a lot of petroleum in gas that goes into the
9	production, building them things and operating them
10	things. So it may be a green energy, but it does take
11	a lot of fossil fuel to make it work.
12	GEOFF MARKE: A hundred percent right. I
13	concur with that, yes.
14	DALE DENMAN: Thank you for your time.
15	GEOFF MARKE: Yes. Thank you. Great
16	questions.
17	CHARIS SEATON: I'd like to thank Senator
18	Carter. Are you still here? I'd like to thank her
19	first and foremost because without her, I don't think
20	we'd be here today. Okay. So my question is for
21	and I'm sorry, I don't I'm not really good with
22	names, for the attorney, the attorney that represents
23	Empire that
24	TIM WILSON: Definitely not me.
25	CHARIS SEATON: Doesn't represent Canada.

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1	
1	Represents Empire. Okay. Were you on board when I
2	got the letter as a shareholder for Empire stock that
3	told me that I had to sell my shares back to Empire?
4	Were you on this board or were you aware of that?
5	Were you present when that happened years ago when
6	Liberty and and Empire did whatever they did to
7	combine or merge or whatever they did?
8	DIANA CARTER: So I am a regulatory
9	attorney.
10	CHARIS SEATON: Okay. So you okay.
11	DIANA CARTER: I was working with Empire at
12	the time, but no, I I represent Empire in
13	regulatory matters.
14	CHARIS SEATON: Gotcha. Okay. So can
15	anyone guess why Empire would tell me as a stockholder
16	years ago that I had to sell my shares back to Empire?
17	Anybody want to give me a guess on why that would be?
18	I'm just I'm curious. Probably because they knew
19	that they could have me sell low so that their
20	executives who ARE making millions and billions of
21	dollars in salaries can can buy back low, and now
22	have more shares to support their retirements and
23	their benefits.
24	Okay. So with that said, it's going to
25	lead to my next question. Okay. So you're a



1	regulatory attorney; correct? And your name again,
2	I'm sorry.
3	DIANA CARTER: My name is is Diana
4	Carter.
5	CHARIS SEATON: Okay. So Diana, do you
6	make decisions every day that affect people like me
7	who's as far as re as far as going into
8	subrogation with insurance companies for damages that
9	Liberty has caused to its customers? Do you go into
10	subrogation at all?
11	DIANA CARTER: I do not.
12	CHARIS SEATON: Okay. Do you have
13	subrogation attorneys?
14	DIANA CARTER: Does the company?
15	CHARIS SEATON: Yeah.
16	DIANA CARTER: I imagine
17	CHARIS SEATON: That subrogates.
18	DIANA CARTER: the corporate and
19	CHARIS SEATON: Okay.
20	DIANA CARTER: does deal with insurance
21	companies.
22	CHARIS SEATON: So then you're admitting
23	that Liberty at some point subrogated with my
24	insurance company?
25	DIANA CARTER: Ma'am, I



1	CHARIS SEATON: I'm just saying.
2	DIANA CARTER: I don't even have your name.
3	I have
4	CHARIS SEATON: Well, Mr. Mark is very
5	familiar with my case. So my point is, you do have
6	attorneys that sit there every day and subrogate on
7	behalf of Liberty's interests when it comes to damages
8	but not to the customer of all these people that lost
9	their their appliances and stuff, and now they have
10	to go to their insurance company and ask them to
11	mitigate those damages, and Liberty is saying, not our
12	fault, even though I can prove and the Missouri Public
13	Service Commission proved that it was Liberty's
14	damages that caused my my or caused Liberty's
15	excuse me. It is Liberty's fault that caused my
16	damages. So you guys settle with me; okay? And I
17	don't know well, I don't know if I can be sued by
18	this because the in the settlement agreement that
19	you guys gave me to settle my damages after three and
20	a half, four and a half years of trying to get this
21	mitigated, you're coming to me and saying that I
22	cannot disclose unless by law, my settlement agreement
23	with you; right? Is that correct? So essentially
24	DIANA CARTER: Ma'am, again, I'm sorry. I
25	know they have a list of names there, but we don't


have the list of names. So I don't have your name or
your information.

3 Well, that's exactly what CHARIS SEATON: So I file with Missouri Public 4 happened in my case. 5 Commission two years after I tried to mitigate damages 6 with my insurance company, when my insurance company 7 comes back on me after paying out a measly \$1,300 8 settlement to replace all the equipment and -- and --9 and items in my house that were damaged by Liberty's 10 failure to maintain their -- their equipment properly; 11 They come back, and two and a half years after okay? 12 they pay out that 1,300 claim, two and a half years 13 back later, they come out and say, this is AAA. Thev 14 come out and say, okay, Mrs. Seaton, we -- we tried to 15 subrogate, wink, wink. We tried to subrogate with 16 Liberty Utilities, and they said that they're not 17 responsible for the damages. Please send me the 18 letter from the Missouri Department -- or Missouri 19 Commission department -- public utilities Commission 20 saying that they can prove that it is Liberty's 21 damages. And we'll -- we'll mitigate your premiums 22 now that we've risen your premiums -- now that we've 23 increased your premiums by the \$1,300. So 24 essentially, my -- I'm having to pay back my own claim 25 So I'm paying back now \$1,300 plus AAA to AAA. Okay.



1	is telling me that because you didn't subrogate with
2	them in good faith, after my due diligence, they come
3	back and say, okay, now we want we the State of
4	Missouri is allowing us to charge you 30 percent on
5	that claim two years after we settle, two and a half
6	years after we settled, mind you, and we're going to
7	add that to your premiums, and oh, by the way,
8	Ms. Seaton, because you had to file this claim,
9	because of Liberty's fault, we are now going to
10	you're going to lose your discounts.
11	So I think I figured it up with Mr. Mark
12	and my out costs after I settled with Liberty is
13	another 3 grand. Okay. Because you guys are making
14	decisions that affect me as a homeowner. So I go back
15	to department of insurance with the State of Missouri
16	under Missouri Public Service Commission, and I am
17	told that, and I quote, this is coming from the State
18	of Missouri. I quote, we do not regulate the
19	insurance industry.
20	You don't you don't regulate the
21	insurance industry? Really? You tell me I have to
22	have auto insurance. You put it by law that I have to
23	have at least this amount of insurance to drive my car
24	and to be licensed to drive my car and register my
25	car, but you're telling me you don't regulate the



1	homeowners insurance side of it, so AAA for
2	essentially, put me on a bad debt list. It's called
3	a a high risk list, and they do it nationwide
4	because I filed this claim over Liberty's fault,
5	knowing it's not my fault. Now AAA is saying, okay,
6	not only are we going to add insult to injury by all
7	these charges and premiums, we're going to now charge
8	you over this next five-year period, but we're going
9	to put you on this list. So if you try to go look for
10	insurance elsewhere to get better rates, by a
11	better by an ethical company, unlike AAA, that
12	insurance company, because it happened to me, all the
13	insurance companies that I've been to since then have
14	told me they cannot insure me because I've been put on
15	this high risk list by AAA. So they can't insure me,
16	but they can insure me under a subsidiary until I come
17	off of that list, and by the way, that's going to cost
18	me three times more than what AAA is already now
19	increasing my premiums at.
20	So I'm the bad guy. And Liberty's making
21	these decisions that yeah. And Liberty's making

23 protects my assets because the State of Missouri is 24 telling me it's not them because then they tell me,

these decisions that affect me as a homeowner, who

25 oh, the department of insurance tells me go to the

22



1	
1	attorney general's office. I go to the attorney
2	general's office. I give them my case number. It's
3	for both Liberty and and Missouri Department of
4	Insurance, and I give them my claim number, I give
5	them the settlement that you guys we settled on the
6	settlement document, and I give that to the attorney
7	general's office. I said, what this amounts to is
8	extorsion, racketeering, and price fixing. And it's
9	between Liberty or the utility companies and their big
10	pocket influence, and it's between the insurance
11	industry, and we're the ones that are being put in the
12	middle of all of this. So if if somebody's trying
13	to tell you if Liberty is trying to tell you
14	they're not responsible for the damages, and you can
15	prove it through them, fight it. Because I'm
16	continuing to fight it. And I'm not getting any help
17	from the State of Missouri. I was told I needed to go
18	to my state rep. So, and that's what I'm trying to
19	do. Thank you. I appreciate you.
20	MARK JOHNSON: Thank you, Ms. Seaton.
21	Brent Buford or Boford. Jordan Wilson. M. Kenblock.
22	I I can't figure that one out. Leah or lieu.
23	GEOFF MARKE: Leigh. We're going to come
24	back to we're going to come back to that one. How
25	about Camille Lombardi.



1	CAMILLE LOMBARDY: I'm going to start off
2	with this. It appears that listening to everybody,
3	everybody thousands of customers have been subject
4	to overcharging. Now, as far as overcharging goes,
5	every time you put that bill, that false bill into the
6	mail, and you send it to that customer, that
7	entitle that ends up being mail fraud. Mail fraud
8	when it's thousands of customers overcharged, that's
9	racketeering, that's RICO charge. So perhaps, we need
10	to start looking overcharge.
11	I had the regular old meter until I changed
12	it out last year, and I got the smart meter. I didn't
13	want the smart meter. I had the option. Because I
14	live on the other side of Duquesne Road, so I'm not
15	mandated like everybody else. But they went ahead and
16	put it in. I didn't know until I got my first bill,
17	and my first bill was 33 percent higher than last year
18	even though I used less kilowatts. Three percent
19	higher with less usage. When I called up to complain
20	about my bill, because I had like a \$57 bill in
21	February, and then all of a sudden the end of April,
22	it's \$249. And the same time last year, I think I
23	paid 63. So something happened. I'm not using more.
24	I'm actually using less. The lady was very rude. And
25	told me that, well, I probably have too many



1	appliances plugged in. I said, really? I said, I
2	don't keep anything plugged in other than my
3	refrigerator, my stove, and my washer, and dryer. I
4	unplug. I use my microwave. I unplug it. Every I
5	unplug it. I don't leave things plugged in. So I'm
6	very low usage.

7 My air conditioning right now, I keep it at 8 82 during the day. I'm sure you'd all enjoy that kind 9 of balmy weather. But that's what I do to try to, you know, afford the bills that you guys are charging me 10 11 In the winter, I have gas, and generally -for. 12 generally, my electric was low, but that since I got 13 your smart meter, the smart meter that everybody has 14 been talking about, I even met a lady at the electric 15 company at the office, and she had a 1,500 -- a little old lady had a \$1,500 electrical bill. And she has a 16 17 little bitty house, and she was up there trying to 18 figure out how she was going to pay this bill.

19 And what you guys are doing, you're 20 victimizing every single customer that's on your 21 Every single one of us you have made a rating. 22 hostage to your rate increases, and as far as what 23 they did in Jeff City, kind of deregulating and 24 allowing you guys to raise the rates, you already 25 You've already raised them. raised them. They're



1 already on the billing. But you're lying and going 2 through this big circus saying, oh, we're going to 3 have town hall meetings, and we're going to get input. But basically, you've already stabbed us in the back. 4 5 The other problem is, you're buying from 6 Canada. You don't think that's a problem? I lived in 7 Afghanistan in 2018 and 2019. I was a charitable. Ι 8 ran a charity, and they had rolling blackouts, kind of like what we -- are going through on 20th Street. 9 Because we always have them. Not for 15 minutes. 10 We 11 get them for a couple hours at a time. And I'll be 12 looking out thinking, what happened, did somebody hit 13 the electric pole? The last one was, like, two weeks We lost power for three hours. 14 We also qet aqo. 15 And what these people are talking about with surges. their appliances getting ruined, it's not the outages, 16 17 It's the surges. I had a teapot, I quarantee. 18 electric teapot, almost blow up because the 19 electricity surged through that line. I've had things 20 that I plugged in. Like, my phone charger gets so 21 hot, because the electrical is surging. I could hear 22 it humming because I have a pole right next to my 23 house. When it's going through the surge period, you 24 hear a loud humming. It comes all the way in the 25 house. You hear it. So it's not the outages that are



1	killing people's appliances and electrical products.
2	It is the surges which is a problem with your lines.
3	You know, that's lack of maintenance. Oh, I forgot.
4	That's why you wanted to raise rates for future
5	maintenance, and you know, modernization, I guess,
6	that's what I read. You know, you want to raise them.
7	So these future costs, well, you're not taking care of
8	it right now.
9	The maintenance is problematic. I'm
10	waiting for something really bad to happen. Because
11	where I live, we get outages of hours at a time, and
12	we get surges all the time. All the time. You know,
13	a sudden surge, if it almost blows up an electronic
14	teapot, there's a problem somewhere in the line.
15	There there's a lack of I don't know if it's a
16	capacitor or whatever you call it, to control the
17	electrical current that's going through that line, but
18	you guys have problems. And you want us to pay for
19	it. And bottom line is, like I said, you're
20	overcharging us. There's proof that's racketeering,
21	and I hope you all get held to account. Thank you.
22	GEOFF MARKE: Thank you. Ms. Lombardi,
23	I'll
24	MARK JOHNSON: Next, we got Andy Mayers and
25	Jessey Manison.



1	JESSEY MANISON: Hi. Thank you. Thank you
2	for being here. I just wanted to bring to your
3	attention billing, slash, customer service issue that
4	I've been dealing with for the last year.
5	So in June of 2024, we moved into a new
6	mobile home. We're very fortunate and that we had the
7	meter put in right away. Electricity got ran right
8	away, and it was great. But I I never received a
9	bill. And, so two months went by, and I was like, I'm
10	only getting charged for a service fee which was
11	because they had me open as an account, but there
12	wasn't actually any usage as being read on the meter.
13	So over the course of the last 11 months, I
14	have called seven times, I've went into the office
15	once to talk to someone in person, and every single
16	time they just kind of give me the runaround, and they
17	are like, oh, well, it needs to go to billing, there's
18	just an issue that needs to be turned on, and then I
19	call back the next month because there's not an issue,
20	same thing, oh, we have another ticket on your
21	account, I've been asked to forward it to a manager.
22	I've been forwarded to two different managers. Now
23	this issue has been taken care of as of today, so.
24	Low and behold this morning, I got a bill.
25	And as you can imagine, it's, you know, very high, and

1 I appreciate the fact that we're working with your 2 company to set up a payment plan, but I think the lack 3 of accountability and the fact that for 11 months, I continued to call to try and get a bill to pay you 4 5 guys, and no one could help me, and no one was 6 reaching out to try to solve my problem, and to be 7 frank, my experience like a lot of people, the -- the 8 customer service wasn't amazing. And it was just kind of, well, call back, and we'll try to figure it out, 9 no quarantees, and there doesn't seem to be any 10 11 accountability; right? If I pay my bills late, 12 there's late fees. There's late service charges, but 13 when it takes you quys almost a year to get me a bill, 14 when I -- all I want to do is pay; right? And, so now 15 I'm hit with a giant bill that I'm going to be paying 16 on top, that just doesn't seem right, and it doesn't 17 seem like there's any accountability. So I just 18 wanted to -- I know that when I spoke with some 19 customer service reps, I'm not the only one that this 20 has happened to, and they just sort of brush it off 21 and said, oh, yeah, this is happening to people, and 22 I'm like, well, I'm on month 10 now that I haven't 23 gotten a bill. 24 I'm a medical student. So I'm really busy 25

and I don't -- I'm not trying to say that my time is



1	more valuable than anyone else's, but I don't have
2	time to spend making seven phone calls and come and
3	spend three hours at meetings like this just to try
4	and pay you for the service. So that was really
5	frustrating, and I just wanted to bring that to your
6	attention. Thank you.
7	TIM WILSON: Thank you for doing so. Can
8	we get your name again?
9	JESSEY MANISON: Yeah.
10	TIM WILSON: Thank you for sharing your
11	story.
12	JESSEY MANISON: Jessey Manison. Last name
13	M-A-N-I-S-O-N. First name J-E-S-S-E-Y. Thank you.
14	DIANA CARTER: I want to say props for
15	being in med school. Super cool.
16	Also, I I know that's super frustrating,
17	and for everybody, I hope everybody understands we
18	know it's frustrating, and as Tim said in his opening
19	statement, we apologize. We know it is frustrating.
20	And more than anything, I wish someone could have just
21	handed you a bill, so. To me, as how I function
22	I'm like, can't I just write people bills, like,
23	because that to me seems how my brain works. I should
24	just be able to hand people a bill, but it you
25	know, it needs to be in the system, it needs to be

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1	properly recorded, and accounted, and I know you don't
2	see the work going on. I don't really see the work
3	like, it's not present to me, but behind the scenes,
4	the people on the computer end, they have been working
5	all this time and and they want to make sure it's
6	all fixed going forward. And, so we're just not
7	manually kicking out a bill and handing it to you.
8	So again, I am so sorry. I know that's
9	very frustrating. Hopefully, not only is it fixed for
10	you now, right now, this morning, but hopefully,
11	the it's taken this long, so it's now fixed so
12	there doesn't need to be manual intervention, and
13	it'll just kick out for you as it's supposed to every
14	month, and you get a nice smooth billing experience
15	from here on out which is what we hope for, for all of
16	our customers all the time.
17	JESSEY MANISON: I appreciate that. I I
18	think also just the fact that every single time I
19	talked to someone seven times it needed to go to a
20	different person or, oh, no, it actually needs to be
21	forwarded to the manager or, oh, no, it needs to be
22	forwarded to this billing. Like, how are you a
23	customer service representative, but no one's able to
24	solve a simple issue which is just, hey, can you turn

25 on my billing, you know? That seems a little crazy,



1 but thank you. 2 I know, and they really DIANA CARTER: 3 couldn't just turn it on because it's -- it was a much 4 bigger computer issue to be fixed. 5 So it took 11 months to JESSEY MANISON: 6 fix the computer? 7 DIANA CARTER: I wish I had a better answer 8 for you. 9 JESSEY MANISON: Okay. Thank you. MARK JOHNSON: I'll -- again, it's either 10 11 Lee or --12 GEOFF MARKE: Kim or Jim. If you signed and 13 you haven't spoken --14 How about I try that. A11 MARK JOHNSON: 15 right. So next is Sarita Elridge. Eldridge, pardon 16 Barbara Cracksburger (phonetic). Okay. Sharon me. 17 Judith Augustanov (phonetic). McConner. Or McConnan. 18 Ms. Augustanov, if you wouldn't GEOFF MARKE: 19 mind speaking into the microphone just so we get it 20 on -- we can transcribe that. 21 JUDITH AUGUSTANOV: Most of my issues have 2.2 probably been answered here. It's probably the same 23 complaints that everybody else has. I didn't 2.4 understand -- because my dad is -- has a very small 25 pension, and in our family, we have about \$900 a month

1	of income just from a rental and selling milk. And we
2	are starting a trying to, you know, have a organic
3	little farm that we're trying to start a business. I
4	just don't understand how okay. Maybe I should go
5	back a little bit. We bought a party property that
6	used to be an old rental had multiple units on it.
7	And, so we are renting out one unit and redoing some
8	other ones and stuff, and we live very simply. We
9	don't use heating. We use a wood stove. And we live
10	with that. Air conditioning, we only use when it's
11	absolutely like, 90 degrees in the house, then we
12	turn it on. We do have a lot of refrigerators and
13	freezers because we grow our own food. And I just
14	don't understand how in the wintertime, our bill, when
15	we don't have air conditioning on is is much higher
16	than what we have in the summertime when we do have
17	air conditioning on. And it's between like 400 to
18	almost \$800 a month, and it's just like, I don't
19	understand how we can live simply and still have a
20	bill quite that high, and when my dad and my dad
21	takes care of the electrical, he pays for the billing.
22	And he says, you know he he's just very adamant
23	about writing checks, and it's like, he gets a
24	check a thing saying that the electricity is going
25	to go out. And, so he gets all panicked you know, and



1	he does already go around shutting off lights
2	because when the children leave it on, you know,
3	and everything. It's a lot of stress, and he says,
4	next month it's going to be a thousand dollars, and
5	it's like, what? Dad, something is wrong. There's
6	something desperately wrong when we live simply, and
7	we pay that much money, and you're telling me that
8	we're going to have a 30 percent hike? That's
9	that's really scary. And, you know and then he
10	pays the bills, and he calls and says, you know,
11	you're going to shut off our electricity, but I paid
12	you. He goes, well, that account is up to date
13	there's no you have actually have a little bit
14	of a credit on that account, but you do have 200
15	something dollars on another one. So I just wonder if
16	there's a way of, like, getting rid of all these
17	accounts and putting everything on one electric bill.
18	And I also wanted to know, I to get some
19	answers about an analog. I don't I don't want the
20	smart meters. I want just I'll gladly send you
21	the the readings every month. I'll you know, I
22	don't want those smart meters. I think there's a lot
23	of lying that goes on behind it. I don't and I
24	know that there's a lot of, you know, truth that we
25	take care of them and that they're honest and blah,



1	blah, blah. I don't believe it. I have to think of
2	what else do I have, I think that's it.
3	GEOFF MARKE: Mrs. Augustanov, am I
4	pronouncing it correctly?
5	JUDITH AUGUSTANOV: Uh-huh.
6	GEOFF MARKE: Please be sure to go ahead and
7	touch base with the PSC and the OPC out there. I
8	would like to look over your bills and try to get a
9	better understanding of that because those prices
10	those numbers seem very high based off of what you're
11	telling me.
12	CANDICE KELLY: And Ms. Augustanov, I would
13	also like for you, if you don't mind, to speak to the
14	manager in the back there. She's waving her hand.
15	TIM WILSON: Yeah.
16	CANDICE KELLY: Because we can look at
17	consolidating that to see if we can get you one
18	invoice instead of multiple invoices, as well as
19	looking at the account as a whole to see what else is
20	going on.
21	JUDITH AUGUSTANOV: Okay. The other
22	question I had, I just remembered is, if I request a
23	normal meter, is it a year before I get it?
24	CANDICE KELLY: So you can request for your
25	meter to be changed out. I don't know if you're

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1	referring to the Bill SP-4 that we spoke about
2	earlier.
3	JUDITH AUGUSTANOV: Yeah. And \$15 a month
4	in addition, just so I can have it a normal meter. I
5	mean, it's just like, I don't get it. Why why
6	are you always tacking more and more bills for
7	something that I want simpler?
8	DIANA CARTER: So the difference between
9	the smart meters and a digital meter, having the smart
10	part turned off is how you read it. And the the
11	equipment involved. And if you have need to have a
12	person come and check it, and the labor cost involved.
13	When we switched, when the company switched to smart
14	meters, we no longer employ the number of people to go
15	and check the meters. So those costs dropped out.
16	And, so then you have to pay more money, if we're
17	going to have to rehire people to go and read meters.
18	JUDITH AUGUSTANOV: You had people going
19	out regularly and the the electricity bill was a
20	lot less, and now it's a lot more, and nobody's coming
21	out to read it.
22	DIANA CARTER: It's read now by by the
23	computer, and this is not the lawyer's probably not
24	the one to explain the technology on it, but from
25	hearing other people, primarily from staff explain it,

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1 when you get the new meters put in, they're often 2 times much more accurate. If you had your meters for 3 a long time, they slow down over time, and -- and, so 4 some people do experience that when you get your meter 5 switched out. 6 JUDITH AUGUSTANOV: -- tons of money. Ι 7 mean, all that shouldn't be tons of money, still. 8 Yeah. 9 DIANA CARTER: And that is something Dr. Mark had mentioned we're in a rate case. 10 That is 11 part of one of our tariff designs is the opt-out 12 provision and what those charges are. We currently 13 have a tariff provision that allows you to opt out of 14 a smart meter, and I'm sorry, I don't recall the cost 15 offhand. It is a one-time charge to switch the meter 16 back, and then also a monthly charge, and then as 17 we've discussed, there's the new law that is coming into effect, and then will be implemented that lowers 18 those charges. So our tariff will change to conform 19 20 to that law, but there still will be that one-time 21 charge to change out the meter. 22 JUDITH AUGUSTANOV: When you talk about 10 23 and a half million dollars paying for gas to -- to 24 have a continuous supply of electricity, you have to 25 also measure it with what your income is because you



1 can scare a bunch of people with, wow, it's such a 2 huge cost for us to supply you with continuous 3 electricity, but you're -- not to mentioning how much 4 more you are getting so that the pockets can be 5 filled. DIANA CARTER: And it is a really 6 7 expensive --8 TIM WILSON: I just want to be clear. We 9 don't --JUDITH AUGUSTANOV: I don't understand 10 11 that. 12 TIM WILSON: -- make any money on fuel. 13 DIANA CARTER: Yeah. It is a straight passthrough, 14 TIM WILSON: 15 so I want to be clear on that. 16 JUDITH AUGUSTANOV: You are saying you're 17 spending a lot of money for continuous -- for fuel to 18 have a continuous supplied electricity; is that 19 Am I understanding it correctly? correct? 20 TIM WILSON: Yeah. During that storm, 21 yeah, absolutely. 2.2 JUDITH AUGUSTANOV: So I'm just saying 23 you're telling everybody you spent 10 and a half 24 million dollars, but you don't tell them how much you 25 are earning. So I -- I just --



1	TIM WILSON: I'm not earning on fuel. I'm
2	just getting it back. Okay.
3	JUDITH AUGUSTANOV: General, what you are
4	earning. You 10 and a half million dollars for you
5	guys is nothing.
6	DIANA CARTER: It and that is, again,
7	our rate cases that we talked about. We go through
8	this, this process, and staff and OPC and everyone
9	involved. It it looks at every dollar that's
10	coming in as well as every dollar that's going out,
11	and that's how the rates are established. They don't
12	look at just one side. They're not looking just at
13	expenses.
14	JUDITH AUGUSTANOV: Yeah. I don't
15	DIANA CARTER: They look at every dollar
16	that comes in as well as every dollar that goes out.
17	JUDITH AUGUSTANOV: I don't know enough
18	about government how it runs. I don't know what the
19	commissioners do. I have no idea. I wish I could
20	understand more. But I can see that it's not helping
21	us a the whole situation is not helping the people
22	a lot. And for us to be spending that much money, you
23	can say 10 and a half millions, but if everybody is
24	paying 4 to \$700 or even 200 to \$400 a month for
25	electricity, you're still getting tons more because



1	you have everybody giving you that per month.
2	TIM WILSON: Yeah. I'm sorry, if I either
3	misspoke or you misunderstood. During that storm
4	event, we spent \$205 million in in, like, five
5	days, but I just want to make it clear.
6	JUDITH AUGUSTANOV: Which is still
7	irrelevant. I mean, it's still not it's not how
8	do you say it's not it's not what given with
9	other figures, you know.
10	TIM WILSON: Okay. Kelly, when you check
11	her account, can you make sure she's on the right
12	rate? If they've if it used to be something else,
13	it might be on a different rate and can look into
14	that.
15	MARK JOHNSON: Next, we have Mary Krish
16	(phonetic). Lynn Teedee (phonetic). Chris Richards.
17	GEOFF MARKE: After that, it's open mic
18	night, so.
19	CHRIS RICHARDS: I'll after I get
20	finished with open mic, I'll try to do a little
21	karaoke. You might want to leave.
22	So at the risk of rehashing some stuff
23	that's a been beaten until it's bloody and pulpy,
24	as the '90s called in, they want their billing system
25	back.



1	Give you a little background from where I'm
2	coming from here, I I've been writing software and
3	supporting systems for 40 years. And, so I have a
4	little experience with with this particular problem
5	set. I haven't been writing billing systems, but I've
6	written professional software for some small-ish
7	companies. You may have heard of them. Mayo Clinic,
8	Cleveland Clinic, Barnes Jewish Noble, Kaiser
9	Permanente, small outfits. Yeah. I wasn't
10	responsible for that.
11	Having a system have problems for a month,
12	okay, things happen. Two months, somebody needs to be
13	taken out behind the wood shed. A year, that's not
14	just unconscionable. That's incompetent, so. You
15	said that problem's been taken care of. I would like
16	to take your word for that.
17	As of the last couple of months, my bills
18	have been kind of sort of approaching normal. But
19	like many of the people that have spoken in here, the
20	first three months, after your system switched over,
21	two months, I didn't get a bill at all. Third month,
22	I got a bill that said I owed no money. I didn't owe
23	anything. Fourth month, I got a bill that said I owed
24	\$560, and that it was due immediately. That's not a
25	place to make me happy.



1	Since then, my bills have been erratic. It
2	finally got to the point at one point that I was
3	just blanket paying \$300 a month, and then when I got
4	another bill that had something on it that looked
5	approachable, I would look at it, and it would go, oh,
6	you have a credit or you you owe us a little bit
7	more and whatever, and I would pay the difference.
8	I shouldn't have to guess what I owe you.
9	And I'm not the kind of individual that that likes
10	to buy into theories about, oh, space aliens built the
11	pyramids or humanity wouldn't have been able to
12	survive if it hadn't been because of help from
13	somebody from office (inaudible) or whatever.
14	But I'm going to put on my tinfoil hat here
15	a minute and suggest that it almost seems like this is
16	designed incompetence to keep people from being able
17	to understand what their bill is, so they don't
18	realize what's happening to the rates. I'm not
19	suggesting that's what's actually happening. I'm just
20	saying it seems that way.
21	TIM WILSON: I don't blame you for feeling
22	that way. It I just want to be clear. We have
23	made significant progress, and we're we're this
24	close, but we're not completely there.
25	I'm just going to be flat out honest with

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1	you. So I I wholeheartedly agree. It's been
2	longer than what we would like for it to. So I
3	understand your frustration. All due respect to you,
4	sir, apologies. Don't pay my bills. I appreciate you
5	making the effort, but. Actions speak.
6	TIM WILSON: Totally get it.
7	CHRIS RICHARDS: Billing cycle. When you
8	switched over to your new billing system, my billing
9	cycle I have my budget laid out, and unlike a lot
10	of people here, I am not on a fixed income. So I do
11	have some flexibility in the way I do things, but.
12	I'm a creature of habit. I get used to doing things
13	certain ways, and I kind of like for them to be that
14	way. When things are a certain way, it makes my world
15	happy, and then I'm happy. My billing cycle had been
16	set up so that I was normally due, I think, on the
17	12th. And, so I would get my bill around about the
18	4th or 5th. I would pay it around the 7th or 8th, and
19	everything was wonderful.
20	Now your billing system for some reason
21	decided that my bill's not due until the 20
22	something-ish. And, so in order to keep my sanity, I
23	have to go on your website, which sucks, and try to

24 figure out what my bill is, but I can't until the 10th

25 or 11th, and then I put in whatever the website says,



1	hoping that it's correct, because I don't get a bill
2	until the 21st or thereabouts, and this just creates a
3	lot of frustration on my part.
4	Now, I did speak with one of your folks a
5	while ago, and they told me that I was because I
6	own two properties well, I don't own two
7	properties. I own a single property, but I have
8	two meters. And because of that, I was somehow
9	unilaterally put onto a combined billing system or a
10	combined billing process. I get both of my bills in
11	one statement. I didn't ask for that. I didn't want
12	that. You all just decided I needed it, I guess. I
13	don't know. But they told me they could take me off
14	of that, and then that should make me go back to the
15	billing cycle that I had been on previously, so.
16	CANDICE KELLY: So Mr. Richards?
17	CHRIS RICHARDS: Yes, ma'am.
18	CANDICE KELLY: You did not receive one
19	invoice before the system change? For those
20	two meters.
21	CHRIS RICHARDS: No.
22	CANDICE KELLY: Okay. And they are taking
23	care of that for you?
24	CHRIS RICHARDS: That's what I was told.
25	CANDICE KELLY: Okay.

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1	CHRIS RICHARDS: He said I should see that
2	on my July bill.
3	CANDICE KELLY: Okay. And I'm I'm going
4	to take a look at that as well because it should have
5	stayed the same
6	CHRIS RICHARDS: Okay.
7	CANDICE KELLY: but I will definitely be
8	looking into that, so. I appreciate you coming and
9	talking this evening.
10	CHRIS RICHARDS: Now, having said that, the
11	old Empire bill was a thing of beauty. It was simple.
12	It was concise. I could read it. I could understand
13	it. I didn't have to have a freaking CPA to interpret
14	it. Could we please go back to a simple bill that I
15	know how to read?
16	I'm not a stupid man. I was trained as an
17	electrical engineer. I understand fairly complex
18	topics. I know how to do calculous. I have a
19	readable command in the English language. This bill
20	reads like sand script, so. I don't know I don't
21	know how to get at that problem.
22	TIM WILSON: I don't disagree. There are
23	certain things that we're required to put on the bill
24	that the third parties have agreed to whether it's
25	different line items for different things, but

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1	phonetically, one thing we've heard in all four of
2	these is that this bills are complicated.
3	CHRIS RICHARDS: Well, I mean, you know,
4	okay, fair enough. There's things that you have to
5	put on there. It seems needlessly complicated.
6	TIM WILSON: I I've actually mentioned
7	it to staff and OPC yesterday that let's work together
8	on simplifying our bills.
9	CHRIS RICHARDS: Okay.
10	TIM WILSON: I literally said it yesterday.
11	CHRIS RICHARDS: I would love to see some
12	improvement there.
13	Having said that, with respect to your
14	personnel, I feel like a whiner now because I'm going
15	to complain about the fact that my electricity goes
16	out three or four times in the spring, when we have
17	thunderstorms, and maybe once a year, otherwise. Some
18	of you all, you're having your electricity go out
19	every day. So I feel like a whiner, but.
20	You all came out and chopped down my trees
21	to make my electricity more reliable. It's less. So
22	I'm kind of confused on that. But be that as it may,
23	the times that I've had your people out to my house,
24	they have always been polite, very helpful, done what
25	they could to to solve my problem, so. From that



1	standpoint, I got no gripes there. I have asked on
2	multiple occasions to have a tree taken down. The
3	tree is dying, and well, at this point it's dead.
4	I've been asking now for two years. It's going to
5	fall over, and when it does, it's going to take down
6	my neighbor's power line. I'm not qualified to jack
7	around taking down a tree over a power line. And I
8	I kind of thought that's what you guys were for. Am I
9	misunderstanding it?
10	TIM WILSON: Well, we want to certainly get
11	your address. I just want to be clear on on your
12	neighbor's power line. Are you saying that their
13	power line with respect from the transformer to the
14	weather head?
15	CHRIS RICHARDS: From the main line to the
16	transformer.
17	TIM WILSON: Okay. We should be able to
18	help you there.
19	CHRIS RICHARDS: Okay.
20	TIM WILSON: Yep. Can we make sure
21	Kelly's going to take your address and see if we can't
22	get that tree taken care of for you.
23	CHRIS RICHARDS: Okay. That
24	TIM WILSON: I don't blame you. Because I
25	work for an electric company, and I won't mess with my

1	trees.
2	CHRIS RICHARDS: Yeah. That's I have a
3	healthy respect for 220. I've been hit by it enough
4	times.
5	TIM WILSON: I have once.
6	CHRIS RICHARDS: Meters. I mentioned that
7	I was trained as an electrical engineer. I have
8	electronic meters on my property. To kind of echo
9	what some other people have been saying here, I get
10	the idea of having an electronic meter. I get the
11	idea of you being able to ping it with a radio signal
12	and pick up the meter reading off of it. I think
13	that's wonderful. Makes things a lot simpler for you
14	from an administrative standpoint, less overhead, all
15	that. I can't read the bloody thing. Why can't we
16	have a digital display on the meter that you can also
17	read with your radio? Why is that so complicated? I
18	just want to see how much power I used.
19	CANDICE KELLY: So the meter does flash
20	with the read, and there is a it'll give different
21	criteria.
22	CHRIS RICHARDS: Therein, lies the problem.
23	I don't know which of the 14 sets of numbers it gives
24	me are the ones that I want.
25	UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So D1 is your delivered

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1	power. If you're a solar customer, R1 which is a
2	second screen is your received power.
3	UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE 1: (Inaudible) bills.
4	UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Huh?
5	UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE 1: Can you put that
6	legend on bills, so we can understand that?
7	UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I I don't know if
8	they can put that on the bill or not. I I'm not
9	that guy.
10	TIM WILSON: That's something for clarity.
11	We're trying to get our current billing issues fixed,
12	but maybe there's something we can do to put on our
13	website we can consider.
14	UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah. Now, one thing I
15	would tell you what you can't see on the face of your
16	meter is your TOU. You can't see whether it's peak or
17	off peak.
18	TIM WILSON: Time of use.
19	UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That that would
20	that would be the only thing I would tell you, you
21	can't see, but your cumulative received is the R1 or
22	D1, and then the R1 is if you have solar, and you're
23	pressing back. But if you just watch the screens,
24	you'll see it cycle. It's the first screen.
25	CHRIS RICHARDS: Yeah. I've watched it



1	cycle.
2	UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah.
3	CHRIS RICHARDS: But I didn't know what the
4	numbers actually meant. Because
5	UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's what it is. And
6	it's read in kilowatt hours.
7	CHRIS RICHARDS: Okay.
8	UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So, you're welcome.
9	TIM WILSON: Mr. Richards, I expect other
10	people have that problem, and we'll we will address
11	it in the rate case.
12	CHRIS RICHARDS: Okay. Good. Thank you.
13	Final comment, and this is not directed so much of you
14	as it is at the audience at large. I don't know if
15	our senator is still here. Oh, hi. Thank you for
16	being here. But I'm going to cast some shade on you.
17	There have been questions asked here about, well,
18	where do these laws come from? Who passed them? Who
19	made them law? Talk to those folks. You voted for
20	them.
21	TIM WILSON: I'll actually stick up huh?
22	I'll actually stick up for for Senator Carter on
23	Senate Bill 4. She voted no.
24	GEOFF MARKE: Yeah. I'll stand up, too.
25	Most of the bills predate Senator Carter.

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1	CHRIS RICHARDS: Fair enough.
2	TIM WILSON: Got to be honest.
3	CHRIS RICHARDS: Fair enough. But just
4	remember, we have electric representatives who vote
5	for our laws. So if you have a problem with the laws
6	that got passed, talk to them. Right. So anyway,
7	thank you all for your time.
8	CHARIS SEATON: I forgot to add. After my
9	conversation with Mr. Mark on this insurance deal, I
10	had a power outage, a power surge in my house. I call
11	Empire, Liberty, I call Liberty, I tell them my
12	address, tell them what happened. They said, well,
13	we've not had anybody else call from your
14	neighborhood. Excuse me. But how is that relevant?
15	I'm calling you. Are you calling me a liar? Oh.
16	Well, let me see if anybody I said, whom am I
17	speaking with? Am I speaking with somebody here
18	locally or am I speaking from a call to somebody at
19	a call center? Oh. Well, we're here, but at this
20	other location, but we represent Joplin. Because we
21	have different units that and I'm like, oh, okay.
22	But I'll make sure we get a truck out there. I said,
23	what good is that going to do? They're all going to
24	look at each other, look at my smart meter, that I
25	didn't know that was installed and without my



1	permission, by the way, and I was not given any offer
2	or option, otherwise. And they'll come out, and
3	they're just going to look at each other and go, oh,
4	well, we checked your meter, and nothing is wrong.
5	You know what they did? I said, don't even bother
6	sending them out. I'm sure they got more pressing
7	issues to address, like fires and stuff caused by
8	power surges. So just make sure you note it on my
9	account that I called, and you're telling me that no
10	one else from my area has called, so that's somehow
11	relevant just to get on the record so that when I talk
12	with the Missouri Public Service's Utility's
13	Commission again, I can tell them we're having more
14	problems after you guys said you fixed it with the
15	project that you put in place, that you're charging us
16	for.
17	And then I also have a a friend who is a

And then 1 also have a -- a friend who is a  $\perp$  / 18 disabled veteran that I was speaking with last week at 19 the local VA clinic, and he said he got his bills, 20 were the same thing (inaudible) sad. At one point he 21 got a bill, and when he went in to try to mitigate 22 that bill, to find out why he was being charged this 23 charge, and why it had the name of the previous owner 24 of the house on his bill for his use, come to find out 25 you guys were charging him for the previous owners'



1	delinquent bill; okay? Now I said to him, and I gave
2	him Mr. Mark's number, and I said, if you do not call
3	them and tell them what I'm telling you now right
4	now, then it's on you. Because you need to make sure
5	that the Missouri Public Service Commission knows.
6	You need to make sure that Liberty knows what's being
7	done. I mean, how does that happen? Seriously. How
8	does that happen? So I don't know, Mr. Mark, if he's
9	contacted you. I'll check with him when I see him at
10	the VA again on Wednesday.
11	GEOFF MARKE: Please do. Thank you,
12	Ms. Seaton.
13	CHARIS SEATON: Thank you.
14	GARRETH: My name is Garreth. I'm kind of
15	a newer homeowner. We moved up to Missouri in
16	February of last year, at the end of February to
17	March, and at first our bills made a lot more sense to
18	what I was used to as an adult having to pay for
19	bills. Like, the water and electric made sense. I
20	think in May it was around 180, and then all the
21	problems started when they did their whole billing
22	switch through, like the April area. For I think
23	it was June or July, our total on our account jumped
24	from the 180 from the previous month up to like
25	\$700 which put us, like, way under for the rest of the



1	year.
2	I mean, we just bought a new home. And I'm
3	going to pay mortgage before anything else. And, so
4	then there was the whole thing where in July, I
5	mentioned earlier, where they were going to cut us
6	off, and we had to borrow money. So we were destroyed
7	last year, financially. We haven't been able to pay
8	for her medicine for Crohn's Disease because of all of
9	this. And, so we lost that.
10	And then the electricity finally started
11	calming down in the winter months, like you would
12	hopefully expect; right? But during those those
13	months that they supercharged us, like, it was, like,
14	700, like 500, then, like, 450 or something like that,
15	but it's really vague because. Just like everyone
16	else, the bills were a mess. I got different amounts
17	on different things. The app was a mess. We didn't
18	know what we owed half the time, so we were just
19	trying to pay whatever we could to keep the lights on.
20	And those three months that were super
21	high, conveniently, their app did not have data and
22	could not tell us the usage for it for months, and
23	when we would call and ask, they didn't have the info
24	either and every time we got anything on the app or
25	anything, it was always blank for those three months.



1	Up until this year, we didn't even know what the
2	cost or the usage was for those three months. We
3	just knew that we apparently had to pay 700, 500, 400,
4	whatever it was. And, so throughout last year, a lot
5	of people no one's really talked about the water
6	this whole time. Yeah.
7	CANDICE KELLY: The water is a separate
8	company.
9	GARRETH: Well, I get billed through
10	Liberty for the water. And
11	CANDICE KELLY: Are you in I'm sorry.
12	GARRETH: I'm in Noel.
13	CANDICE KELLY: Okay. Yes.
14	GARRETH: Yeah.
15	CANDICE KELLY: So you do have Liberty
16	water and electric, yes.
17	GARRETH: Yes. And, so we only we use
18	around 6,000 gallons or less, like a standard home or
19	whatever, and in the middle of summer, you would
20	expect we have a garden. We use we would expect
21	to use more during the summer, but it stayed even in
22	those months, under 6,000. And then come November to
23	December, December shot up to 24,000 gallons of usage.
24	Then January, shot up to, like, 49,000 gallons of
25	usage. Then in February, says 52,000 gallons of

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1 usage, and we're like, okay, maybe there's a leak or 2 But then March drops all the way down to something. 3 30,000. And then April dropped down to around 19,000, and then May dropped down to like -- looks like --4 5 their chart is by sixes instead of fives. I don't 6 know why. But it looks like it's around 8,000. So 7 clearly, there's not a leak if the usage is going 8 down.

9 So we went up -- because last week we got a notice that we were going to be cut off. We didn't 10 11 know that, that wasn't a thing that they were doing So I had to take a day off of work on --12 right now. 13 on Wednesday last week to drive up to Joplin, and we talked with them, and they said that they're not 14 15 shutting it off or whatever, but the mail that we got on July -- I think it was July 3rd, literally said, 16 17 oh, you're going to be cut off today on July -- June, They said, you're going to be cut off 18 June. sorry. 19 June 3rd, and we got the mail that same day.

So it was like, okay. So what was I supposed to do if that was literally -- if that was going to be cut off, I got it the day of. So there was nothing I could have done. But we went up. We talked to the lady. She seemed helpful and nice or whatever. She thought there was something weird. And



1 we had mentioned to her as well our electric issues. 2 She tried to use the computer. We weren't able to do 3 levelized billing until we've been there for a year, 4 which we wanted the whole time anyway because of how 5 crazy the prices jump all over the place. And, so 6 whenever we went, she couldn't get the computer to 7 calculate it because it was so bugged out. So she 8 manually calculated it by hand and said that we are levelized billing, should be around 220 a month. 9 So that means if -- for that 700 or whatever last year, 10 11 that's like three times more than we should have been 12 paying for electricity.

13 And then our water is insanely -- I mean, I 14 think we are over a thousand dollars that they say we 15 owe in water, and I don't -- we don't have a leak 16 because our yard -- I mean, you would see 17 50,000 gallons of water in a yard. There is no way 18 you wouldn't see that. And we -- so she sent out a 19 tech to check last week, supposedly. I -- I never saw 20 Because our thing's out on the road. the tech. So 21 they went and pulled it up out of the ground and 2.2 checked it. It's just a little white box attached to the pipe that I can't -- I don't think it had a meter 23 24 on it that I can read or anything. It's just digital. 25 The tech said it was all good, basically, and that



1	it's on us, and if we find a problem, they can
2	possibly back credit us for three months or whatever,
3	but basically, it's our problem to deal with, and we
4	have to pay someone to figure it out.
5	CURT GATELEY: So when a person comes out
6	dealing with the water meter, when a person comes out
7	to assess a meter to see if you have a leak
8	GARRETH: Uh-huh.
9	CURT GATELEY: they can't tell that unless
10	they actually communicate with you and and work
11	with you on that, just just to you know, do a
12	drive by on its own. They need to be able to
13	communicate with you what they're actually looking at.
14	GARRETH: Uh-huh.
15	CURT GATELEY: If you shut off your water in
16	your house, if you have a whole house shut off
17	GARRETH: Uh-huh.
18	CURT GATELEY: you can tell if that meter
19	is still spinning that then water is leaving
20	somewhere, perhaps, in the yard, if you are there and
21	are not using any water, but still have it turned on,
22	and you can see if the tech is looking at the meter
23	and sees a slow amount of usage, it could possibly
24	indicate like a a bad flapper valve, for example
25	would, be going down the sewer system when then you



1	wouldn't see anything in the yard. Those kinds of
2	things are
3	GARRETH: Our house is
4	CURT GATELEY: are done with a with the
5	tech there with you communicating with you, so.
б	GARRETH: Uh-huh.
7	CURT GATELEY: If you weren't able to to
8	be there when they were there, that was a a
9	tremendous missed opportunity to have more of that
10	discussion and more of that assessment.
11	GARRETH: My wife was there the whole time.
12	No one ever came to the door.
13	CURT GATELEY: They never came and knocked on
14	the door or anything. Uh-huh.
15	UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE 2: He actually worked
16	(inaudible) so he was home the next day. He said most
17	likely unless (inaudible) weather was bad, which it
18	wasn't that day. He the tech should be there that
19	day.
20	GARRETH: No one ever came to the door.
21	CURT GATELEY: Uh-huh.
22	UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE 2: Earlier this week,
23	because I only got the voicemail from her yesterday
24	that she called me back and told us this, I was home
25	every day. I get up when he gets up in the morning.



1	I'm up the entire time. You know, no one stopped by.					
2	No one knocked on the door, so. No one stopped to try					
3	to talk to me or him.					
4	CURT GATELEY: And as far as the erratic					
5	meter reports, you're not the only customers who have					
6	said about					
7	GARRETH: Uh-huh.					
8	CURT GATELEY: water as well. It's not					
9	just electric.					
10	GARRETH: Yeah. And then the quality of					
11	the water, too, there was, like, a report that they					
12	sent with one of these that was saying, like, the					
13	water quality is fine or whatever, but there is in					
14	Noel I don't know about other areas, but in Noel					
15	especially, we get like like, right now,					
16	specifically the last two or three days, the water					
17	smells so strongly of sulphur that the kitchen stinks,					
18	and you can't even get near the sink without yeah.					
19	UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE 2: (Inaudible) vouch					
20	for this, too, because there's been plenty of times					
21	(inaudible) people complaining about this, and I've					
22	seen (inaudible) Liberty saying, we try to get them to					
23	come out here, and either they're told it's not their					
24	problem, talk to the city hall (inaudible) this has					
25	nothing to do with us. It's Liberty.					

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1	GARRETH: So you just get the runaround in						
2	a circle.						
3	UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE 2: They will say						
4	someone will come out and check and not really do						
5	much, and then no one really ever hears anything.						
6	CURT GATELEY: So besides I would						
7	encourage you to contact the company and and stay						
8	in touch with us, but. There isn't a a water						
9	quality standard for sulphur, in particular for for						
10	drinking water from from the feds or from DNR.						
11	There is, however, requirements for what's called						
12	taste in odor.						
13	GARRETH: Uh-huh.						
14	CURT GATELEY: It's more of a general DNR,						
15	would also be an avenue because they would also be						
16	investigating, you know, not only is there a						
17	compliance issue, but then what what construction						
18	needs to be done						
19	GARRETH: Uh-huh.						
20	CURT GATELEY: if additional treatment is						
21	necessary because if if something happens once,						
22	well, then is it a good expense to install additional						
23	treatment and such. If it happens over and over, just						
24	about all the all the regulatory folks are going to						
25	agree something needs to be done as far as treatment.						



	,
1	GARRETH: Yeah. And then as far as our
2	water as well, I know you mentioned sewer, but we're
3	supposed to be on septic. So I don't know if you can
4	fill a septic tank with 50,000 gallons that quick.
5	CURT GATELEY: I didn't want to try to mess
6	around on the phone and listen to you, but you can
7	also figure out pretty quick how much water,
8	physically, can go through a five-eighths inch meter
9	in a day, and I've dealt with some customers where
10	GARRETH: Uh-huh.
11	CURT GATELEY: I mean, it was called an
12	improbable billing amount where a manual meter read
13	was was incorrect. It was, you know, millions of
14	gallons in a month. That math is pretty simple to do.
15	But as far as filling up a septic tank, then, yeah,
16	there's certainly a problem. You would see certain
17	(inaudible) from the (inaudible) field.
18	GARRETH: Uh-huh. Oh, yeah. And then we
19	also one more note on that as well. We had our
20	main waterline to inside the house that's next to our
21	washer and dryer, we were changing the water heater,
22	and it got broken, and that was in August. And, so we
23	had our basement flood; right? And in August, even
24	with the flooding, was still under 6,000 gallons, like
25	you're saying we lost a ton of water. It took us a



1	little bit to try and figure out how to get it off.			
2	And, so even with all that flooding, we were still			
3	under 6,000. But then, apparently, for several months			
4	in a row, it just skyrocketed, so.			
5	GEOFF MARKE: So I want to do you have a			
6	balance today?			
7	GARRETH: Yeah. Our outstanding balance is			
8	like a \$1,700, and we don't even know how it's broken			
9	up.			
10	GEOFF MARKE: There's a lot to unpack here.			
11	There's multiple issues. You absolutely this			
12	warrants a formal complaint. I apologize you've got			
13	to go through that process. I'll give you a card. We			
14	can talk through how to do that. There's honestly			
15	at 10:00 o'clock tonight we probably need to hear from			
16	some more people, but			
17	GARRETH: I agree.			
18	GEOFF MARKE: let's talk.			
19	GARRETH: Yeah. And then the last part of			
20	that was just she's been trying to fix this on the			
21	phone all last year, and it was always just, well, the			
22	computer says it, so it's right. So we were just			
23	ignored, basically.			
24	GEOFF MARKE: I'm sorry.			
25	UNIDENTIFIED MALE 7: Garreth, when you're			

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1 done, if I can get your address and -- and 2 information, we're going to look into this. These 3 numbers don't sound correct to us either. And, so if 4 I can get your -- your name and address, I'd 5 appreciate it. 6 MARK JOHNSON: Yep. Go ahead. 7 MR. SEATON: I'll keep it brief. When she 8 was talking about AAA and the insurance thing, I'm a 9 fixer, so. That \$1,300 could have been 10 to \$12,000 In other words, instead of replacing the 10 dollars. 11 oven and the stove, I went and bought the brain box 12 off Amazon for 150 bucks. I replaced it myself. I'm I don't put my -- my -- I don't try 13 a good consumer. 14 to take advantage of the company and make them pay for 15 my mistakes. But that wasn't my mistake. That was 16 Liberty's mistake. You know, we got the brain box for 17 the HVAC system. I could have had that replaced. But now we're being punished by AAA because of what 18 19 Liberty did to our -- our systems. 20 Luckily, the television was still under our 21 five-year warranty with the Best Buy, so they came out 22 and put a new motherboard in. They fixed it. And we 23 got a couple more years out of it. 24 I'm a responsible consumer. We pay our 25 bills, and we also take care of things, and when



1 something's broke, I don't call you up because, gee, I 2 need you to come out and fix something. I'm going to 3 try and fix it myself. I'm going to try to be a 4 responsible person. 5 With that being said, I just feel like now 6 we are paying for next, what, five years -- five years 7 we're going to be paying through the nose because of 8 insurance because now I'm considered a high risk even 9 though I've had insurance since 1974. Never had any claims, but that doesn't weigh anything that -- my 10 11 good behavior didn't weigh in that decision. You 12 know, I don't understand why I'm being punished 13 because of that kind of stuff. That's all I have to 14 say. 15 GEOFF MARKE: Thank you, Mr. Seaton. 16 UNIDENTIFIED MALE 7: I didn't sign up 17 because I really didn't intend to say anything here, 18 We've noticed 80 percent of the folks have left, but. And I believe that most of them, like 19 obviously. 20 ourselves, are fixed income individuals. So every 21 increase, every rate, any problems or fluctuations 22 Affects us drastically. 23 I am luckily married to a very frugal 24 woman. When she gets a bill and it's way different 25 than before and there's great fluctuations, somebody's



1	going to tell her why, so she calls until she does get
2	to somebody that's going to give her an answer. And
3	what we've got several times that we've received from
4	that is, it's an estimated bill. We have been
5	estimating through this time. So we're not getting
6	our meters read or whatever. Well, we're estimating.
7	So for a period of time, it's going to be an estimated
8	bill. Well, it's estimated \$90 this time, \$300 this
9	time. So, and we're the same usage or less, but.
10	Anyway, that's that issue.
11	I do want to say when the big snow we had
12	last year and the lines were all out, we were out of
13	service for about a week, but. When the line guy's
14	there, they did a great job. They work hard. I
15	appreciate them. They're fit. I know they've got a
16	dangerous job. And they work very hard. Bad
17	conditions, all that, but my concern, there was six
18	trucks showed up, not pickups. We're talking about
19	big trucks, booms, everything. One person per truck,
20	and two guys working. I was like, you know, I'm
21	waiting to see that there must be some major thing
22	that the rest of them are doing. No. They watched,
23	and I guess, maybe it's a safety issue. I don't know.
24	Maybe it is. But anyway, I appreciate the line guys.
25	And their work. I know it's dangerous. They do a

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1	great job. I'm sure they're paid well for it.						
2	But I do want to say this. I did find out						
3	something that I wasn't aware of, but I thought, so.						
4	You guys are a monopoly; right? That's what you are.						
5	So it doesn't matter that we're all fixed incomes, and						
6	we only make this much money. You're going to give a						
7	rate increase anyway whether we want it or not. We						
8	don't get a rate increase on our checks. But our						
9	bills are going to keep going up. So anyways, just a						
10	statement. So thank you for your time.						
11	GEOFF MARKE: Thank you, sir.						
12	TIM WILSON: So I'll try to answer that, if						
13	that's okay. Our when Empire District put itself						
14	up for sale, a lot of people bid on it. A company						
15	called Algonquin Power & Utilities bought them out.						
16	So effectively, they bought all of the shareholders of						
17	Empire, voted to sell at X price, and what I I						
18	got that feeling. But, so that's how that happened.						
19	And, so they so they bought Empire.						
20	Our parent company is based out of out						
21	of based just out of Toronto, Canada. But we						
22	people say that we're Canadian owned. I just want to						
23	make clear. We're shareholder owned. I'm a						
24	shareholder, so I'm a part owner. Our largest						
25	shareholder is out of New York City, and we're traded						



1	on the New York Stock Exchange. I do understand that
2	some folks don't like the fact that our parent company
3	is in Canada. But at least I wanted to to address
4	that for you. Absolutely. Thank you for the
5	question. I would have to have our land folks but
6	the answer is yes, I'm pretty sure. Jordan, do you
7	know what he's talking about? I don't. Okay. We
8	don't have a time frame on that. I'm sorry?
9	MARK JOHNSON: All right, everyone.
10	TIM WILSON: Whenever there is a need,
11	yeah.
12	MARK JOHNSON: I think we're going to wrap
13	it up. We are after 10:00 o'clock. We greatly
14	appreciate everyone's participation and your comments.
15	And for all of you that stuck around 'til the end.
16	Thank you very much.
17	GEOFF MARKE: Thank you.
18	MARK JOHNSON: If you would like to make
19	additional comments or if you did not get a chance to
20	make a comment, you can make comments online. We have
21	paperwork in the atrium, but again, thank you very
22	much.
23	(Audio ended.)
24	
25	



1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	
3	
4	I, Melissa J. Eicken, Certified Court
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20	Melissa J. Eicken, CCR, CSR, RPR
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	Date: June 25, 2025



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