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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
STATE OF MISSOURI  
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

In the Matter of Timber Creek Sewer )  
Company's Commencement of a Staff ) Case No. SR-2026-0093  
Assisted Rate Case. )

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Jefferson City, MO

via WebEx

VOLUME 3

JOHN CLARK, Presiding  
REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

KAYLA HAHN, Chair,

MAIDA J. COLEMAN,

GLEN KOLKMEYER,

JOHN MITCHELL,

COMMISSIONERS

Reported By:

{LORI MASSANELLI}

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Mr. John Clark - Judge

COMMISSIONERS:

Kayla Hahn - Chairman

Maida Coleman

Glen Kolkmeier

John Mitchell

Dean Cooper

And

John Clizer - Commission Public Counsel

Dean Cooper - Timber Creek

Casey ASlin - Commission Staff

Sarah Fontaine

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I N D E X

STYLE AND NUMBER . . . . . 1  
APPEARANCES . . . . . 2  
PROCEEDINGS . . . . . 4  
COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE . . . . . 19

EXHIBITS: IDENTIFIED:  
1 - Urabe's chart . . . . . 14

(Exhibits retained by Commission)

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE CLARK: Okay, let's go ahead and go on the  
3 record. Good evening and welcome. Today is February the  
4 19th of 2026. And the current time is 6:48 p.m. The  
5 question and answer portion of this local public hearing  
6 just ended. If you had questions about this case, I hope  
7 you were able to get those questions answered. Now we're  
8 going to start the formal part of the hearing where the  
9 public has an opportunity to offer their comments about  
10 this case to the Commission.

11 The Missouri Public Service Commission has set aside  
12 this time for a virtual local public hearing in Case No.  
13 SR-2026-0093, a General Rate case captioned as In the  
14 Matter of Timber Creek Sewer Company's Commencement of a  
15 Staff Assisted Rate Case. My name is John Clark. I'm the  
16 regulatory law judge presiding over this hearing tonight.

17 The Missouri Public Service Commission regulates the  
18 rates charged by investor owned utility companies in  
19 Missouri to insure that those rates are just and  
20 reasonable. The Commission also regulates the quality of  
21 service and the safety of operations of investor owned  
22 utilities.

23 The Commission is made up of up to five Commissioners  
24 the Chair Kayla Hahn, and Commissioners Maida Coleman,  
25 Glenn Kolkmeier and John Mitchell. One Commission seat is

1 currently vacant. The Commissioners are appointed by the  
2 Governor to a fixed term and confirmed by the Senate. The  
3 Commissioners employ a staff of engineers, accountants,  
4 attorneys, financial analysts and other specialists in the  
5 field of utility regulation.

6 All of the sitting Commissioners are here tonight to  
7 hear your comments. Chair Hahn, would you like to make  
8 any opening comments?

9 MS. HAHN: Yes, thank you, Judge. Kayla Hahn, Chair  
10 of the Commission, and on behalf of the entire Commission  
11 we would like to welcome you to our local public hearing  
12 this evening in this case. We really enjoy hearing the  
13 comments and we take all the comments that are made to  
14 heart before we make any decision. And so we just  
15 appreciate your time, especially in the evening when you  
16 could be doing other things that you would take this time  
17 to spend with us to offer your comments.

18 With that, thank you, Judge, appreciate it.

19 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Chair Hahn. Now, the court  
20 reporter, we have a court reporter online, Leann  
21 Massanelli who is taking down everything that's being said  
22 and a transcript will be produced that the Commissioners  
23 will be able to look back on if they have questions about  
24 what occurred.

25 I'm going to begin by asking counsel for the parties

1 to enter their appearance for the record, starting with  
2 Timber Creek.

3 MR. COOPER: Thank you, Judge. Dean Cooper appearing  
4 on behalf of Timber Creek Sewer Company and I've provided  
5 the address.

6 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Cooper. On behalf of  
7 the Commission Staff?

8 MS. ASLIN: Casey Aslin for Commission Staff. And I  
9 have also provided my contact information.

10 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Aslin. On behalf of the  
11 Office of Public Counsel?

12 MR. CLIZER: John Clizer, on behalf of the Missouri  
13 Office of the Public Counsel. My contact information is  
14 also with the court reporter. Thank you.

15 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Clizer. I don't believe  
16 there's anybody else, but is there anybody else present?  
17 Okay. Now, for those who would like to provide comments  
18 today, I'm going to call the names of the people that have  
19 signed up to speak in the order they appear. As of right  
20 now, I only have three people signed up to speak. When I  
21 call your name, please unmute yourself. If you are  
22 participating by phone you will do that by pressing star  
23 six. At that point I will place you under oath. I will  
24 ask you to state and spell your name for the record and  
25 then I will give you an opportunity to offer your comments

1 to the Commission.

2 After you're done giving your comments, please wait  
3 before remuting yourself because myself, the Commissioners  
4 or some of the attorneys may actually have questions for  
5 you. If the Commissioners have questions, please feel  
6 free to just say those questions at any time. If  
7 attorneys have questions, if they would let me know they  
8 have a question, I will call on them and allow them to ask  
9 that question.

10 Now, the Commissioners won't be able to answer any of  
11 your questions today. And that's because they have to  
12 remain impartial until after the evidence is presented at  
13 an evidentiary hearing. If you have questions about this  
14 case, please speak to representatives of the company, the  
15 Commission Staff or the Office of Public Counsel. I'm  
16 also going to ask that as you offer your comments, as  
17 others are offering their comments, that you be polite and  
18 courteous and respect their opportunity to speak their  
19 mind and they will do the same for you.

20 With that in mind I'm going to go ahead and call the  
21 names on my list. And let me know if I mispronounce your  
22 name. Glen Voles? And again, if you're participating by  
23 phone, and you are muted, you press star six to unmute.  
24 If you're participating by computer there should be a  
25 button the bottom to unmute. Glen Voles? Moving on, Eric

1 Johnson? Mr. Johnson did you want to offer comments to  
2 the Commission this evening?

3 Okay, I see Mr. Johnson and he may have changed his  
4 mind. You don't have to offer comments if you got your  
5 questions answered during the Q&A, I'm very happy for you.  
6 And finally, Ryan Quick. I noticed your hand was up? Mr.  
7 Quick -- (commenter sworn). And would you please state  
8 and spell your name for the record?

9 MR. QUICK: Ryan Quick. R-y-a-n, last name Q-u-i-c-  
10 k.

11 JUDGE CLARK: And what would you like tell the  
12 Commission about this rate case?

13 MR. QUICK: I understand rate increases but I am in  
14 the wastewater business and my thing would be if they look  
15 into the company on where they source their equipment. It  
16 all seems to be from one supplier that's known in the  
17 district to be a top price supplier. And if they're fair,  
18 like, I work with municipalities, so, there are three  
19 quote systems so that when the bills are passed is it fair  
20 to us that are, you know, paying monthly bills to them,  
21 are they, you know, checking that?

22 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I understand that you provide  
23 similar service to what they are hiring; is that correct?  
24 Or am I wrong on that?

25 MR. QUICK: I work in the same business, in the

1 wastewater business, so.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Okay and you --

3 MR. QUICK: I have no, like, direct ties to anything  
4 they would do now. I work for a manufacturer out of  
5 Chicago, but I'm in the business and, like, I know how all  
6 the local pump and equipment providers work around here  
7 and --

8 JUDGE CLARK: And you're a Timber Creek customer?

9 MR. QUICK: Yep.

10 JUDGE CLARK: And so your concern is just that you  
11 believe that they're spending too much money by not  
12 sourcing multiple bids?

13 MR. QUICK: Yes.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Did you have any other comments  
15 for the Commission tonight?

16 MR. QUICK: I think that's it.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Quick. I  
18 appreciate your comments and I appreciate your time. I'm  
19 going to go back through the list one more time and then I  
20 will open up if anybody who is online at that time would  
21 like to offer comments, we will be more than happy to hear  
22 it. Glen Voles? Eric Johnson?

23 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. I would like to give testimony.

24 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Johnson. (Commenter sworn). And  
25 would you please state and spell your name for the record?

1 MR. JOHNSON: Eric E-r-i-c, Johnson, J-o-h-n-s-o-n.

2 JUDGE CLARK: And, Mr. Johnson, what would you like  
3 to tell the Commission about this case?

4 MR. JOHNSON: My concern is the 80 percent increase  
5 seems egregious to me. And, you know, if they needed  
6 increases it should have been incremental and not wait  
7 until it's gotten so high to where, you know, in this day  
8 and age I can't imagine, I would think that there is at  
9 least 30, 40 percent of the families out there that  
10 probably couldn't afford this increase.

11 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Did you have other comments you  
12 wanted to offer the Commission?

13 MR. JOHNSON: No, that was it.

14 JUDGE CLARK: Okay, so you just believe that they  
15 should have incrementally have done rate cases before now  
16 and that's it? That because they waited the 80 percent is  
17 just excessively high?

18 MR. JOHNSON: Correct. And it should be much lower  
19 this time and, you know, they can go through this process  
20 in a couple years again.

21 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Johnson. I  
22 appreciate your comments. Is there anyone else who would  
23 like to offer comments to the Commission at this time  
24 about this case? Katie Urabe and if I mispronounce your  
25 name please let me know.

1 MS. URABE: Yes, that's Urabe.

2 JUDGE CLARK: Urabe. Thank you very much.

3 (Commenter sworn). And what would you like to tell the  
4 Commission this evening?

5 MS. URABE: So, agreeing with the, the previous  
6 comments, when I saw the 80 percent rate increase I  
7 thought it seemed exorbitantly high and so, but, you know  
8 maintenance has to be done, costs are increasing, so I did  
9 a survey of the Kansas City area to see what costs other  
10 people with the different sewer companies are being  
11 charged. And am I allowed to share my screen? I've got a  
12 chart that I'd like to show the results.

13 JUDGE CLARK: This is a new one. I haven't -- I  
14 haven't dealt with this one. Do any of the attorneys  
15 object to Ms. Urabe's sharing her screen with us? I hear  
16 no objections, Ms. Urabe. You may share your screen with  
17 us.

18 MS. URABE: Okay. We'll see if the technology  
19 cooperates here. Okay, let me know if you can see that.

20 JUDGE CLARK: I can indeed.

21 MS. URABE: Okay. So you can see the results of the  
22 survey here. So, on the top orange line you can see the  
23 price increase that they are proposing. The dotted blue  
24 line is the average that different wastewater companies  
25 across the Kansas City metro area are charging their

1 consumers. And you can see that the orange line is quite  
2 a bit higher than what other people who live in the Kansas  
3 City area are being charged. And I would assume that  
4 their waste water companies are facing similar maintenance  
5 and expansion and other issues that Timber Creek is  
6 facing.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. That's a very good demonstrative  
8 exhibit that shows what's going on. Can I ask you a  
9 question about it?

10 MS. URABE: Yes.

11 JUDGE CLARK: When you looked at other companies were  
12 you looking at regulated utilities or municipal utilities  
13 or both?

14 MS. URABE: It was a mix. Yes. So, the KCMO primary  
15 provider is KC Water and Johnson County had, I don't have  
16 the name off the top of my head, but, it's the county  
17 provider and then Independence I think was similar. If I  
18 stop sharing I can pull up the actual names. But it was a  
19 mix and it was a mix of rate structures as well. Fixed  
20 rate, like Timber Creek versus having a fixed rate plus a  
21 usage fee rate. So that was Independence Utilities and  
22 Johnson County Wastewater.

23 JUDGE CLARK: Well, thank you for the demonstrative  
24 exhibit and thank you for the comments. Did you have any  
25 other comments you wanted to make to the Commission about

1 this rate case?

2 MS. URABE: Nope, that was it.

3 MR. MITCHELL: Judge it's Commissioner Mitchell.

4 I've got a quick question if it's okay?

5 JUDGE CLARK: Commissioner Mitchell, why don't you go  
6 ahead and Mr. Clizer I'll get to you after Commissioner  
7 Mitchell.

8 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you very much for your effort in  
9 pulling that information together. Do you happen to know  
10 if those rates are all inclusive, did they include monthly  
11 base fee or monthly connection fee or were those  
12 volumetric charges?

13 MS. URABE: It was the total, the total fee, so it  
14 was the volumetric charge plus the extra set fees that  
15 they have to pay for the wastewater.

16 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. Thank you.

17 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner Mitchell. Mr.  
18 Clizer you had a question?

19 MR. CLIZER: Yes, Your Honor, and I'll preface this  
20 by pointing out that the Commission took two exhibits on  
21 the record during the LPH in person that was held  
22 yesterday and I was simply going to offer that Ms. URABE  
23 may be able to send her graph via email to an attorney  
24 within this party who could be taken as an exhibit for the  
25 LPH?

1 JUDGE CLARK: If you would like that and Ms. Urabe's  
2 not opposed to it I'm certainly willing to, if we can  
3 figure out a way to email it, to do that. Ms. Urabe would  
4 you be opposed to having your screen share, the chart that  
5 you shared, as an exhibit for this public hearing?

6 MS. URABE: No, I'd be happy to share it. If you  
7 could just drop the email address I should send it to in  
8 the chat then I will do that.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Would one of you mind doing that? And  
10 I think we'll just use the exhibit's email if you would  
11 like, so. My legal assistant is going to put an email in  
12 the chat that you should be able to do that from. If you  
13 are unable to, if you contact the Commission tomorrow and  
14 ask for adjudication, I believe that we can find somebody  
15 to help you if you're unable to email it to the address  
16 that ends up in the chat. Okay? And I will --

17 MS. URABE: Thank you.

18 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. And when I receive it I  
19 will, well, let me ask this first. Are there any  
20 objections to admission to admitting it on the record as  
21 an exhibit? I hear none. Okay. When I receive that that  
22 will be Commission Exhibit 1.

23 (Exhibit No. 1 is entered into the record.)

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor?

25 JUDGE CLARK: Yes?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just a, again, you had two on  
2 the record yesterday, for what it's worth.

3 JUDGE CLARK: I understand, but this is a new  
4 hearing.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right. Just wanted to  
6 make sure.

7 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Okay, this will be Commission  
8 Exhibit 1 for this hearing. All right. Hopefully we got  
9 that all that cleared up. Is there anybody else who would  
10 like to offer comments to the Commission at this time and  
11 about this rate case? And if you need to unmute use star  
12 six. Hello?

13 MR. TACKETT: Yes, Your Honor. This is Shawn  
14 Tackett, just like to go on the record.

15 JUDGE CLARK: (Commenter is sworn). Would you please  
16 state and spell your name for the record?

17 MR. TACKETT: My name is Shawn, S-h-a-w-n, Tackett,  
18 T-a-c-k-e-t-t.

19 JUDGE CLARK: And Mr. Tackett, what would you like to  
20 tell the Commission?

21 MR. TACKETT: Yes, sir. I would just like to not  
22 that I did send in a comment submitted to the PNT's  
23 electronic filing information which was -- covers some of  
24 the -- the concerns that I've had and I appreciate the --  
25 the fellow citizens' commentary because it helps put it in

1 the perspective for me how everybody was feeling. When I  
2 asked the question if there's was a profit paid out to  
3 investors that really hit home to me because it seems like  
4 in this letter lots of operating expenses are being cited  
5 as the reason for the increase. Knowing that inflation is  
6 nowhere near 80 percent, it does seem really high to ask  
7 for this -- this increase. With operational expenses  
8 being a for profit organization as a private business  
9 operator myself, it's expected that normal operating costs  
10 are managed through existing revenues and sound financial  
11 planning. Shifting the internal budget shortfalls onto  
12 customers in such a rapid manner is quite offputting and  
13 brings concerns regarding fiscal management and efficiency  
14 of the organization. Overall, that would be where I was  
15 left at saying if you paid a profit every year, with this  
16 organization pulling profit and avoiding infrastructure  
17 improvements along the way which -- which leaves me quite  
18 concerned as a citizen who has no choice but to use this  
19 service. That would be my statement. Thank you.

20 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Mr. Tackett, thank you for your  
21 statement. Well said and you said you offered written  
22 comments as well.

23 MR. TACKETT: Yes, sir, I did.

24 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much. Is there anybody  
25 else who would like to offer comments to the Commission

1 this evening? Please feel free to speak up. Okay. I  
2 hear no one. Chair Hahn, would you like to make any  
3 closing remarks?

4 MS. HAHN: Thanks, Judge. Just want to say thank you  
5 for the really thoughtful comments tonight and the time  
6 that was taken to prepare those demonstrative ahead of  
7 time and -- and your thoughts. So, thank you all very  
8 much. I appreciate it and hope you have a good night.

9 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you very much, Chair Hahn.  
10 If you have additional comments or someone you knew who  
11 would like to make a comment but was unable to attend  
12 tonight, as Mr. Tackett said, you can offer written  
13 comments to the Commission. You can do that by contacting  
14 the email address [pscinfo@psc.mo.gov](mailto:pscinfo@psc.mo.gov), by contacting the  
15 Office of Public Counsel, they've been very gracious about  
16 getting comments to us. Or by going to the PSC's webpage  
17 and you will see a place to offer comments.

18 If you are going to offer comments on this case, you  
19 should know the case number so that your comments make it  
20 to the right case. The case number for the Timber Creek  
21 Sewer Company rate case is SR-2026-0093. At this time I'd  
22 like to thank everyone for their participation tonight,  
23 and with that we will adjourn and go off the record. Have  
24 a good evening.

25 (OFF THE RECORD)

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(WHEREUPON, the proceedings were concluded in the  
matter at 7:08 p.m.)

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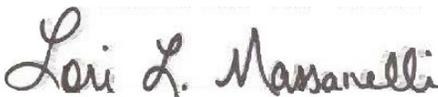
CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MISSOURI)

I, Lori Massanelli, #1509, do hereby certify that the facts stated by me in the caption on the foregoing proceedings are true; and that the foregoing proceedings were reported verbatim through the use of the voice-writing method and thereafter transcribed by me or under my direct supervision to the best of my ability, taken at the time and place set out on the caption hereto.

I FURTHER CERTIFY, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or employed by the parties hereto, nor financially interested or otherwise, in the outcome of this action, and that I have no contract with the parties, attorneys, or persons with an interest in the action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original deposition transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial attorney, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties to the action.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 6th day of March, 2026.

  
LORI MASSANELLI

<p><b>1</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>1</b> 14:22,23 15:8</p> <p><b>19th</b> 4:4</p> <hr/> <p><b>2</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>2026</b> 4:4</p> <hr/> <p><b>3</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>30</b> 10:9</p> <hr/> <p><b>4</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>40</b> 10:9</p> <hr/> <p><b>6</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>6:48</b> 4:4</p> <hr/> <p><b>7</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>7:08</b> 18:2</p> <hr/> <p><b>8</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>80</b> 10:4,16 11:6 16:6</p> <hr/> <p><b>A</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>able</b> 4:7 5:23 7:10 13:23 14:12</p> <p><b>about</b> 4:6,9 5:23 7:13 8:12 10:3,24 12:9,25 15:11</p>	<p>17:15</p> <p><b>accountants</b> 5:3</p> <p><b>across</b> 11:25</p> <p><b>actual</b> 12:18</p> <p><b>actually</b> 7:4</p> <p><b>additional</b> 17:10</p> <p><b>address</b> 6:5 14:7,15 17:14</p> <p><b>adjourn</b> 17:23</p> <p><b>adjudication</b> 14:14</p> <p><b>admission</b> 14:20</p> <p><b>admitting</b> 14:20</p> <p><b>afford</b> 10:10</p> <p><b>after</b> 7:2,12 13:6</p> <p><b>again</b> 7:22 10:20 15:1</p> <p><b>age</b> 10:8</p> <p><b>agreeing</b> 11:5</p> <p><b>ahead</b> 4:2 7:20 13:6 17:6</p> <p><b>all</b> 5:6,13 8:16 9:5 13:10 15:5,8,9 17:7</p> <p><b>allow</b> 7:8</p> <p><b>allowed</b> 11:11</p> <p><b>along</b> 16:17</p> <p><b>also</b> 4:20 6:9, 14 7:16</p>	<p><b>analysts</b> 5:4</p> <p><b>answer</b> 4:5 7:10</p> <p><b>answered</b> 4:7 8:5</p> <p><b>any</b> 5:8,14 7:6,10 9:14 11:14 12:24 14:19 17:2</p> <p><b>anybody</b> 6:16 9:20 15:9 16:24</p> <p><b>anyone</b> 10:22</p> <p><b>anything</b> 9:3</p> <p><b>appear</b> 6:19</p> <p><b>appearance</b> 6:1</p> <p><b>appearing</b> 6:3</p> <p><b>appointed</b> 5:1</p> <p><b>appreciate</b> 5:15,18 9:18 10:22 15:24 17:8</p> <p><b>area</b> 11:9,25 12:3</p> <p><b>around</b> 9:6</p> <p><b>as</b> 4:13 6:19 7:16 12:19 13:24 14:5,20 16:5,8,18,22 17:12</p> <p><b>aside</b> 4:11</p> <p><b>ask</b> 6:24 7:8, 16 12:8 14:14,19 16:6</p> <p><b>asked</b> 16:2</p>	<p><b>asking</b> 5:25</p> <p><b>Aslin</b> 6:8,10</p> <p><b>assistant</b> 14:11</p> <p><b>Assisted</b> 4:15</p> <p><b>assume</b> 12:3</p> <p><b>at</b> 6:23 7:6,12 9:20 10:8,23 12:11,12 15:10 16:15 17:21 18:2</p> <p><b>attend</b> 17:11</p> <p><b>attorney</b> 13:23</p> <p><b>attorneys</b> 5:4 7:4,7 11:14</p> <p><b>average</b> 11:24</p> <p><b>avoiding</b> 16:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>B</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>back</b> 5:23 9:19</p> <p><b>base</b> 13:11</p> <p><b>because</b> 7:3, 11 10:16 15:25 16:3</p> <p><b>before</b> 5:14 7:3 10:15</p> <p><b>begin</b> 5:25</p> <p><b>behalf</b> 5:10 6:4,6,10,12</p> <p><b>believe</b> 6:15 9:11 10:14 14:14</p>	<p><b>bids</b> 9:12</p> <p><b>bills</b> 8:19,20</p> <p><b>bit</b> 12:2</p> <p><b>blue</b> 11:23</p> <p><b>both</b> 12:13</p> <p><b>bottom</b> 7:25</p> <p><b>brings</b> 16:13</p> <p><b>budget</b> 16:11</p> <p><b>business</b> 8:14,25 9:1,5 16:8</p> <p><b>but</b> 6:16 8:13 9:5 11:7 12:16,18 15:3 16:18 17:11</p> <p><b>button</b> 7:25</p> <p><b>by</b> 4:18 5:1,2, 25 6:22 7:22, 24 9:11 13:20 17:13,14,16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>C</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>call</b> 6:18,21 7:8,20</p> <p><b>can't</b> 10:8</p> <p><b>captioned</b> 4:13</p> <p><b>case</b> 4:6,10, 12,13,15 5:12 7:14 8:12 10:3,24 13:1 15:11 17:18, 19,20,21</p> <p><b>cases</b> 10:15</p> <p><b>Casey</b> 6:8</p>
---	---	--	---	--

<p><b>certainly</b> 14:2 <b>Chair</b> 4:24 5:7,9,19 17:2,9 <b>changed</b> 8:3 <b>charge</b> 13:14 <b>charged</b> 4:18 11:11 12:3 <b>charges</b> 13:12 <b>charging</b> 11:25 <b>chart</b> 11:12 14:4 <b>chat</b> 14:8,12, 16 <b>checking</b> 8:21 <b>Chicago</b> 9:5 <b>choice</b> 16:18 <b>cited</b> 16:4 <b>citizen</b> 16:18 <b>citizens</b> 15:25 <b>City</b> 11:9,25 12:3 <b>Clark</b> 4:2,15 5:19 6:6,10, 15 8:11,22 9:2,8,10,14, 17,24 10:2, 11,14,21 11:2,13,20 12:7,11,23 13:5,17 14:1, 9,18,25 15:3, 7,15,19 16:20,24 17:9 <b>cleared</b> 15:9</p>	<p><b>Clizer</b> 6:12,15 13:6,18,19 <b>closing</b> 17:3 <b>Coleman</b> 4:24 <b>Commencement</b> 4:14 <b>comment</b> 15:22 17:11 <b>commentary</b> 15:25 <b>commenter</b> 8:7 9:24 11:3 15:15 <b>comments</b> 4:9 5:7,8,13, 17 6:17,25 7:2,16,17 8:1, 4 9:14,18,21 10:11,22,23 11:6 12:24,25 15:10 16:22, 25 17:5,10, 13,16,17,18, 19 <b>Commission</b> 4:10,11,17, 20,23,25 5:10 6:7,8 7:1,15 8:2,12 9:15 10:3,12,23 11:4 12:25 13:20 14:13, 22 15:7,10,20 16:25 17:13 <b>Commissioner</b> 13:3,5,6,17 <b>Commissioners</b> 4:23,24 5:1, 3,6,22 7:3,5, 10</p>	<p><b>companies</b> 4:18 11:10,24 12:4,11 <b>company</b> 6:4 7:14 8:15 17:21 <b>Company's</b> 4:14 <b>computer</b> 7:24 <b>concern</b> 9:10 10:4 <b>concerned</b> 16:18 <b>concerns</b> 15:24 16:13 <b>concluded</b> 18:1 <b>confirmed</b> 5:2 <b>connection</b> 13:11 <b>consumers</b> 12:1 <b>contact</b> 6:9, 13 14:13 <b>contacting</b> 17:13,14 <b>Cooper</b> 6:3,6 <b>cooperates</b> 11:19 <b>correct</b> 8:23 10:18 <b>costs</b> 11:8,9 16:9 <b>could</b> 5:16 13:24 14:7</p>	<p><b>couldn't</b> 10:10 <b>counsel</b> 5:25 6:11,13 7:15 17:15 <b>county</b> 12:15, 16,22 <b>couple</b> 10:20 <b>court</b> 5:19,20 6:14 <b>courteous</b> 7:18 <b>covers</b> 15:23 <b>Creek</b> 4:14 6:2,4 9:8 12:5,20 17:20 <b>current</b> 4:4 <b>currently</b> 5:1 <b>customer</b> 9:8 <b>customers</b> 16:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>D</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>day</b> 10:7 <b>dealt</b> 11:14 <b>Dean</b> 6:3 <b>decision</b> 5:14 <b>demonstrative</b> 12:7,23 17:6 <b>different</b> 11:10,24 <b>direct</b> 9:3 <b>district</b> 8:17 <b>doing</b> 5:16 14:9</p>	<p><b>done</b> 7:2 10:15 11:8 <b>don't</b> 6:15 8:4 12:15 13:5 <b>dotted</b> 11:23 <b>down</b> 5:21 <b>drop</b> 14:7 <b>during</b> 8:5 13:21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>E</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>E-R-I-C</b> 10:1 <b>efficiency</b> 16:13 <b>effort</b> 13:8 <b>egregious</b> 10:5 <b>electronic</b> 15:23 <b>else</b> 6:16 10:22 15:9 16:25 <b>email</b> 13:23 14:3,7,10,11, 15 17:14 <b>employ</b> 5:3 <b>ended</b> 4:6 <b>ends</b> 14:16 <b>engineers</b> 5:3 <b>enjoy</b> 5:12 <b>enter</b> 6:1 <b>entered</b> 14:23 <b>entire</b> 5:10</p>
---	---	--	--	---

<b>equipment</b> 8:15 9:6	<b>extra</b> 13:14	<b>formal</b> 4:8	<hr/> <b>H</b> <hr/>	14:24 15:13
<b>Eric</b> 7:25 9:22 10:1	<hr/> <b>F</b> <hr/>	<b>free</b> 7:6 17:1	<b>Hahn</b> 4:24 5:7,9,19 17:2, 4,9	<b>hope</b> 4:6 17:8
<b>especially</b> 5:15	<b>facing</b> 12:4,6	<b>from</b> 8:16 14:12	<hr/> <b>G</b> <hr/>	<b>Hopefully</b> 15:8
<b>evening</b> 4:3 5:12,15 8:2 11:4 17:1,24	<b>fair</b> 8:17,19	<b>General</b> 4:13	<b>hand</b> 8:6	<b>how</b> 9:5 16:1
<b>every</b> 16:15	<b>families</b> 10:9	<b>get</b> 4:7 13:6	<b>happen</b> 13:9	<hr/> <b>I</b> <hr/>
<b>everybody</b> 16:1	<b>February</b> 4:3	<b>getting</b> 17:16	<b>happy</b> 8:5 9:21 14:6	<b>if</b> 4:6 5:23 6:21 7:5,6,7, 13,21,22,24 8:4,14,17 9:20 10:5,24 11:18,19 12:17 13:4,10 14:1,2,6,10, 12,13,15 15:11 16:2,15 17:10,18
<b>everyone</b> 17:22	<b>fee</b> 12:21 13:11,13	<b>give</b> 6:25 9:23	<b>haven't</b> 11:13,14	<b>imagine</b> 10:8
<b>everything</b> 5:21	<b>feel</b> 7:5 17:1	<b>giving</b> 7:2	<b>having</b> 12:20 14:4	<b>impartial</b> 7:12
<b>evidence</b> 7:12	<b>feeling</b> 16:1	<b>Glen</b> 7:22,25 9:22	<b>head</b> 12:16	<b>improvements</b> 16:17
<b>evidentiary</b> 7:13	<b>fees</b> 13:14	<b>Glenn</b> 4:25	<b>hear</b> 5:7 9:21 11:15 14:21 17:2	<b>in</b> 4:12,13,18 5:4,12,15 6:19 7:20 8:13,16,25 9:5 10:7,20 12:2 13:8,21 14:7,11,16 15:22,25 16:4,12 18:1
<b>excessively</b> 10:17	<b>fellow</b> 15:25	<b>go</b> 4:2 7:20 9:19 10:19 13:5 15:14 17:23	<b>hearing</b> 4:5,8, 12,16 5:11,12 7:13 14:5 15:4,8	<b>include</b> 13:10
<b>exhibit</b> 12:8, 24 13:24 14:5,21,22,23 15:8	<b>field</b> 5:5	<b>going</b> 4:8 5:25 6:18 7:16,20 9:19 12:8 13:22 14:11 17:16, 18	<b>heart</b> 5:14	<b>inclusive</b> 13:10
<b>exhibits</b> 13:20	<b>figure</b> 14:3	<b>good</b> 4:3 12:7 17:8,24	<b>held</b> 13:21	<b>increase</b> 10:4, 10 11:6,23 16:5,7
<b>exhibit's</b> 14:10	<b>filing</b> 15:23	<b>got</b> 8:4 11:11 13:4 15:8	<b>Hello</b> 15:12	<b>increases</b>
<b>existing</b> 16:10	<b>finally</b> 8:6	<b>gotten</b> 10:7	<b>help</b> 14:15	
<b>exorbitantly</b> 11:7	<b>financial</b> 5:4 16:10	<b>Governor</b> 5:2	<b>helps</b> 15:25	
<b>expansion</b> 12:5	<b>find</b> 14:14	<b>gracious</b> 17:15	<b>here</b> 5:6 9:6 11:19,22	
<b>expected</b> 16:9	<b>first</b> 14:19	<b>graph</b> 13:23	<b>high</b> 10:7,17 11:7 16:6	
<b>expenses</b> 16:4,7	<b>fiscal</b> 16:13		<b>higher</b> 12:2	
	<b>five</b> 4:23		<b>hiring</b> 8:23	
	<b>fixed</b> 5:2 12:19,20		<b>hit</b> 16:3	
	<b>for</b> 4:12 5:25 6:1,8,17,24 7:4,19 8:5,8 9:4,15,25 12:23,24 13:8,15,24 14:5,14 15:2, 8,16 16:1,5,7, 8,20 17:5,20, 22		<b>home</b> 16:3	
			<b>Honor</b> 13:19	

<p>8:13 10:6 <b>increasing</b> 11:8 <b>incremental</b> 10:6 <b>incrementally</b> 10:15 <b>indeed</b> 11:20 <b>Independence</b> 12:17,21 <b>inflation</b> 16:5 <b>information</b> 6:9,13 13:9 15:23 <b>infrastructure</b> 16:16 <b>insure</b> 4:19 <b>internal</b> 16:11 <b>into</b> 8:15 14:23 <b>investor</b> 4:18, 21 <b>investors</b> 16:3 <b>issues</b> 12:5 <b>it</b> 5:18 8:15,19 9:16,22 10:6, 13,16,18 11:7 12:9,14,18,19 13:2,13 14:2, 3,6,7,15,18, 20 15:25 16:3,6 17:8, 19 <b>it's</b> 10:7 12:16 13:3,4 15:2 16:9</p>	<p><b>I'd</b> 11:12 14:6 17:21 <b>I'll</b> 13:6,19 <b>I'm</b> 4:15 5:25 6:18 7:15,20 8:5 9:5,18 14:2 <b>I've</b> 6:4 11:11 13:4 15:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>J</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>J-O-H-N-S-O-N</b> 10:1 <b>John</b> 4:15,25 6:12 <b>Johnson</b> 8:1, 3 9:22,23,24 10:1,2,4,13, 18,21 12:15, 22 <b>judge</b> 4:2,16 5:9,18,19 6:3, 6,10,15 8:11, 22 9:2,8,10, 14,17,24 10:2,11,14,21 11:2,13,20 12:7,11,23 13:3,5,17 14:1,9,18,25 15:3,7,15,19 16:20,24 17:4,9 <b>just</b> 4:6,19 5:14 7:6 9:10 10:14,17 14:7,10 15:1, 5,14,21 17:4</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>K</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Kansas</b> 11:9, 25 12:2 <b>Katie</b> 10:24 <b>Kayla</b> 4:24 5:9 <b>KC</b> 12:15 <b>KCMO</b> 12:14 <b>knew</b> 17:10 <b>know</b> 7:7,21 8:20,21 9:5 10:5,7,19,25 11:7,19 13:9 17:19 <b>Knowing</b> 16:5 <b>known</b> 8:16 <b>Kolkmeier</b> 4:25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>L</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>last</b> 8:9 <b>law</b> 4:16 <b>Leann</b> 5:20 <b>least</b> 10:9 <b>leaves</b> 16:17 <b>left</b> 16:15 <b>legal</b> 14:11 <b>let</b> 7:7,21 10:25 11:19 14:19 <b>letter</b> 16:4 <b>let's</b> 4:2 <b>like</b> 5:7,11 6:17 8:11,18</p>	<p>9:3,5,21,23 10:2,23 11:3, 12 12:20 14:1,11 15:10,14,19, 21 16:3,25 17:2,11,22 <b>line</b> 11:22,24 12:1 <b>list</b> 7:21 9:19 <b>live</b> 12:2 <b>local</b> 4:5,12 5:11 9:6 <b>look</b> 5:23 8:14 <b>looked</b> 12:11 <b>looking</b> 12:12 <b>lots</b> 16:4 <b>lower</b> 10:18 <b>LPH</b> 13:21,25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>M</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>made</b> 4:23 5:13 <b>Maida</b> 4:24 <b>maintenance</b> 11:8 12:4 <b>make</b> 5:7,14 12:25 15:6 17:2,11,19 <b>managed</b> 16:10 <b>management</b> 16:13 <b>manner</b> 16:12 <b>manufacturer</b> 9:4</p>	<p><b>Massanelli</b> 5:21 <b>matter</b> 4:14 18:2 <b>me</b> 7:7,21 10:5,25 11:19 14:19 16:1,3, 17 <b>metro</b> 11:25 <b>mind</b> 7:19,20 8:4 14:9 <b>mispronounc e</b> 7:21 10:24 <b>Missouri</b> 4:11,17,19 6:12 <b>Mitchell</b> 4:25 13:3,5,7,8,16, 17 <b>mix</b> 12:14,19 <b>money</b> 9:11 <b>monthly</b> 8:20 13:10,11 <b>more</b> 9:19,21 <b>Moving</b> 7:25 <b>Mr</b> 6:3,6,12,15 8:1,3,6,9,13, 25 9:3,9,13, 16,17,23,24 10:1,2,4,13, 18,21 13:3,6, 8,16,17,19 15:13,17,19, 21 16:20,23 17:12 <b>Ms</b> 5:9 6:8,10 11:1,5,15,16, 18,21 12:10,</p>
---	---	--	---	--

<p>14 13:2,13,22 14:1,3,6,17 17:4</p> <p><b>much</b> 9:11 10:18 11:2 13:8 16:24 17:8,9</p> <p><b>multiple</b> 9:12</p> <p><b>municipal</b> 12:12</p> <p><b>municipalities</b> 8:18</p> <p><b>muted</b> 7:23</p> <p><b>my</b> 4:15 6:9, 13 7:21 8:14 10:4 11:11 12:16 14:11 15:17 16:19</p> <p><b>myself</b> 7:3 16:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>N</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>name</b> 4:15 6:21,24 7:22 8:8,9 9:25 10:25 12:16 15:16,17</p> <p><b>names</b> 6:18 7:21 12:18</p> <p><b>near</b> 16:6</p> <p><b>need</b> 15:11</p> <p><b>needed</b> 10:5</p> <p><b>new</b> 11:13 15:3</p> <p><b>night</b> 17:8</p> <p><b>no</b> 4:12 9:3 10:13 11:16</p>	<p>14:6,23 16:18 17:2</p> <p><b>none</b> 14:21</p> <p><b>Nope</b> 13:2</p> <p><b>normal</b> 16:9</p> <p><b>not</b> 9:11 10:6 14:2 15:21</p> <p><b>noticed</b> 8:6</p> <p><b>now</b> 4:7 5:19 6:17,20 7:10 9:4 10:15</p> <p><b>nowhere</b> 16:6</p> <p><b>number</b> 17:19,20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>O</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>oath</b> 6:23</p> <p><b>object</b> 11:15</p> <p><b>objections</b> 11:16 14:20</p> <p><b>occurred</b> 5:24</p> <p><b>of</b> 4:4,5,8,14, 20,21,23 5:3, 5,6,10 6:4,6, 10,11,12,13, 18,19 7:4,10, 14,15 9:4 10:9 11:9,14, 21 12:16,19 14:9 15:23 16:4,14 17:6, 15</p> <p><b>off</b> 12:16 17:23,25</p> <p><b>offer</b> 4:9 5:17 6:25 7:16 8:1, 4 9:21 10:12,</p>	<p>23 13:22 15:10 16:25 17:12,17,18</p> <p><b>offered</b> 16:21</p> <p><b>offering</b> 7:17</p> <p><b>Office</b> 6:11,13 7:15 17:15</p> <p><b>offputting</b> 16:12</p> <p><b>on</b> 4:2 5:10,23 6:4,6,10,12 7:8,21,25 8:15,24 11:22 12:8 13:20 14:20 15:1,14 17:18</p> <p><b>one</b> 4:25 8:16 9:19 11:13,14 14:9 17:2</p> <p><b>online</b> 5:20 9:20</p> <p><b>only</b> 6:20</p> <p><b>onto</b> 16:11</p> <p><b>open</b> 9:20</p> <p><b>opening</b> 5:8</p> <p><b>operating</b> 16:4,9</p> <p><b>operational</b> 16:7</p> <p><b>operations</b> 4:21</p> <p><b>operator</b> 16:9</p> <p><b>opportunity</b> 4:9 6:25 7:18</p> <p><b>opposed</b> 14:2,4</p>	<p><b>orange</b> 11:22 12:1</p> <p><b>order</b> 6:19</p> <p><b>organization</b> 16:8,14,16</p> <p><b>other</b> 5:4,16 9:14 10:11 11:9 12:2,5, 11,25</p> <p><b>others</b> 7:17</p> <p><b>our</b> 5:11</p> <p><b>out</b> 9:4 10:9 13:20 14:3 16:2</p> <p><b>over</b> 4:16</p> <p><b>Overall</b> 16:14</p> <p><b>owned</b> 4:18, 21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>P</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>p.m.</b> 4:4 18:2</p> <p><b>paid</b> 16:2,15</p> <p><b>part</b> 4:8</p> <p><b>participating</b> 6:22 7:22,24</p> <p><b>participation</b> 17:22</p> <p><b>parties</b> 5:25</p> <p><b>party</b> 13:24</p> <p><b>passed</b> 8:19</p> <p><b>pay</b> 13:15</p> <p><b>paying</b> 8:20</p> <p><b>people</b> 6:18, 20 11:10 12:2</p>	<p><b>percent</b> 10:4, 9,16 11:6 16:6</p> <p><b>person</b> 13:21</p> <p><b>perspective</b> 16:1</p> <p><b>phone</b> 6:22 7:23</p> <p><b>place</b> 6:23 17:17</p> <p><b>planning</b> 16:11</p> <p><b>please</b> 6:21 7:2,5,14 8:7 9:25 10:25 15:15 17:1</p> <p><b>plus</b> 12:20 13:14</p> <p><b>PNT'S</b> 15:22</p> <p><b>point</b> 6:23</p> <p><b>pointing</b> 13:20</p> <p><b>polite</b> 7:17</p> <p><b>portion</b> 4:5</p> <p><b>preface</b> 13:19</p> <p><b>prepare</b> 17:6</p> <p><b>present</b> 6:16</p> <p><b>presented</b> 7:12</p> <p><b>presiding</b> 4:16</p> <p><b>press</b> 7:23</p> <p><b>pressing</b> 6:22</p> <p><b>previous</b> 11:5</p> <p><b>price</b> 8:17</p>
--	---	---	---	--

11:23 <b>primary</b> 12:14 <b>private</b> 16:8 <b>probably</b> 10:10 <b>proceedings</b> 18:1 <b>process</b> 10:19 <b>produced</b> 5:22 <b>profit</b> 16:2,8, 15,16 <b>proposing</b> 11:23 <b>provide</b> 6:17 8:22 <b>provided</b> 6:4, 9 <b>provider</b> 12:15,17 <b>providers</b> 9:6 <b>pscinfo@psc. mo.gov.</b> 17:14 <b>PSC'S</b> 17:16 <b>public</b> 4:5,9, 11,12,17 5:11 6:11,13 7:15 14:5 17:15 <b>pull</b> 12:18 <b>pulling</b> 13:9 16:16 <b>pump</b> 9:6 <b>put</b> 14:11 15:25	<hr/> <b>Q</b> <hr/> <b>Q&amp;a</b> 8:5 <b>Q-U-I-C-</b> 8:9 <b>quality</b> 4:20 <b>question</b> 4:5 7:8,9 12:9 13:4,18 16:2 <b>questions</b> 4:6,7 5:23 7:4,5,6,7,11, 13 8:5 <b>quick</b> 8:6,7,9, 13,25 9:3,9, 13,16,17 13:4 <b>quite</b> 12:1 16:12,17 <b>quote</b> 8:19 <hr/> <b>R</b> <hr/> <b>R-Y-A-N</b> 8:9 <b>rapid</b> 16:12 <b>rate</b> 4:13,15 8:12,13 10:15 11:6 12:19, 20,21 13:1 15:11 17:21 <b>rates</b> 4:18,19 13:10 <b>really</b> 5:12 16:3,6 17:5 <b>reason</b> 16:5 <b>reasonable</b> 4:20 <b>receive</b> 14:18, 21	<b>record</b> 4:3 6:1,24 8:8 9:25 13:21 14:20,23 15:2,14,16 17:23,25 <b>regarding</b> 16:13 <b>regulated</b> 12:12 <b>regulates</b> 4:17,20 <b>regulation</b> 5:5 <b>regulatory</b> 4:16 <b>remain</b> 7:12 <b>remarks</b> 17:3 <b>remuting</b> 7:3 <b>reporter</b> 5:20 6:14 <b>representative s</b> 7:14 <b>respect</b> 7:18 <b>results</b> 11:12, 21 <b>revenues</b> 16:10 <b>right</b> 6:19 15:5,8 17:20 <b>Ryan</b> 8:6,9 <hr/> <b>S</b> <hr/> <b>S-H-A-W-N</b> 15:17 <b>safety</b> 4:21	<b>said</b> 5:21 16:21 17:12 <b>same</b> 7:19 8:25 <b>saw</b> 11:6 <b>say</b> 7:6 17:4 <b>saying</b> 16:15 <b>screen</b> 11:11, 15,16 14:4 <b>seat</b> 4:25 <b>see</b> 8:3 11:9, 18,19,21,22 12:1 17:17 <b>seem</b> 16:6 <b>seemed</b> 11:7 <b>seems</b> 8:16 10:5 16:3 <b>Senate</b> 5:2 <b>send</b> 13:23 14:7 15:22 <b>service</b> 4:11, 17,21 8:23 16:19 <b>set</b> 4:11 13:14 <b>sewer</b> 4:14 6:4 11:10 17:21 <b>share</b> 11:11, 16 14:4,6 <b>shared</b> 14:5 <b>sharing</b> 11:15 12:18 <b>Shawn</b> 15:13, 17 <b>Shifting</b> 16:11	<b>shortfalls</b> 16:11 <b>should</b> 7:24 10:6,15,18 14:7,12 17:19 <b>show</b> 11:12 <b>shows</b> 12:8 <b>signed</b> 6:19, 20 <b>similar</b> 8:23 12:4,17 <b>simply</b> 13:22 <b>sir</b> 15:21 16:23 <b>sitting</b> 5:6 <b>six</b> 6:23 7:23 15:12 <b>some</b> 7:4 15:23 <b>somebody</b> 14:14 <b>someone</b> 17:10 <b>sound</b> 16:10 <b>source</b> 8:15 <b>sourcing</b> 9:12 <b>speak</b> 6:19,20 7:14,18 17:1 <b>SPEAKER</b> 14:24 15:1,5 <b>specialists</b> 5:4 <b>spell</b> 6:24 8:8 9:25 15:16 <b>spend</b> 5:17
--	--	---	---	---

<p><b>spending</b> 9:11</p> <p><b>SR-2026-0093</b> 4:13 17:21</p> <p><b>staff</b> 4:15 5:3 6:7,8 7:15</p> <p><b>star</b> 6:22 7:23 15:11</p> <p><b>start</b> 4:8</p> <p><b>starting</b> 6:1</p> <p><b>state</b> 6:24 8:7 9:25 15:16</p> <p><b>statement</b> 16:19,21</p> <p><b>stop</b> 12:18</p> <p><b>structures</b> 12:19</p> <p><b>submitted</b> 15:22</p> <p><b>such</b> 16:12</p> <p><b>supplier</b> 8:16, 17</p> <p><b>sure</b> 15:6</p> <p><b>survey</b> 11:9, 22</p> <p><b>sworn</b> 8:7 9:24 11:3 15:15</p> <p><b>systems</b> 8:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>T</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>T-A-C-K-E-T-T</b> 15:18</p> <p><b>Tackett</b> 15:13, 14,17,19,21 16:20,23</p>	<p>17:12</p> <p><b>take</b> 5:13,16</p> <p><b>taken</b> 13:24 17:6</p> <p><b>taking</b> 5:21</p> <p><b>technology</b> 11:18</p> <p><b>tell</b> 8:11 10:3 11:3 15:20</p> <p><b>term</b> 5:2</p> <p><b>testimony</b> 9:23</p> <p><b>than</b> 9:21 12:2</p> <p><b>thank</b> 5:9,18, 19 6:3,6,10, 14,15 9:17 10:21 11:2 12:23,24 13:8,16,17 14:17,18 16:19,20,24 17:4,7,9,22</p> <p><b>Thanks</b> 17:4</p> <p><b>that's</b> 5:21 7:11 8:16 9:16 10:16 11:1 12:7</p> <p><b>them</b> 7:8 8:20</p> <p><b>then</b> 6:25 9:19 12:17 14:8</p> <p><b>there's</b> 6:16 16:2</p> <p><b>they're</b> 8:17 9:11</p> <p><b>they've</b> 17:15</p> <p><b>thing</b> 8:14</p>	<p><b>things</b> 5:16</p> <p><b>think</b> 9:16 10:8 12:17 14:10</p> <p><b>this</b> 4:5,6,10, 12,16 5:12,16 7:13 8:2,12 10:3,7,10,19, 23,24 11:4, 13,14 13:1, 19,24 14:5,19 15:3,7,8,10, 11,13 16:4,7, 15,18 17:1, 18,21</p> <p><b>those</b> 4:7,19 6:17 7:6 13:10,11 17:6</p> <p><b>thought</b> 11:7</p> <p><b>thoughtful</b> 17:5</p> <p><b>thoughts</b> 17:7</p> <p><b>three</b> 6:20 8:18</p> <p><b>through</b> 9:19 10:19 16:10</p> <p><b>ties</b> 9:3</p> <p><b>Timber</b> 4:14 6:2,4 9:8 12:5,20 17:20</p> <p><b>time</b> 4:4,12 5:15,16 7:6 9:18,19,20 10:19,23 15:10 17:5,7, 21</p> <p><b>to</b> 4:7,8,9,10, 19,23 5:2,6,7, 11,13,17,23,</p>	<p>25 6:1,17,18, 19,20,24,25 7:1,6,8,10,11, 14,16,18,20, 23,25 8:1,4, 16,17,20,23 9:3,19,21,23 10:3,5,7,12, 23 11:3,8,9, 11,12,15 12:25 13:6,9, 15,22,23 14:2,3,4,6,7, 11,12,13,15, 20 15:5,10, 11,14,19,21, 22 16:2,3,6, 18,25 17:1,2, 4,6,11,13,16, 17,18,20,22</p> <p><b>today</b> 4:3 6:18 7:11</p> <p><b>together</b> 13:9</p> <p><b>tomorrow</b> 14:13</p> <p><b>tonight</b> 4:16 5:6 9:15 17:5, 12,22</p> <p><b>too</b> 9:11</p> <p><b>took</b> 13:20</p> <p><b>top</b> 8:17 11:22 12:16</p> <p><b>total</b> 13:13</p> <p><b>transcript</b> 5:22</p> <p><b>two</b> 13:20 15:1</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>U</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>unable</b> 14:13, 15 17:11</p> <p><b>under</b> 6:23</p> <p><b>understand</b> 8:13,22 15:3</p> <p><b>UNIDENTIFIED</b> 14:24 15:1,5</p> <p><b>unmute</b> 6:21 7:23,25 15:11</p> <p><b>until</b> 7:12 10:7</p> <p><b>up</b> 4:23 6:19, 20 8:6 9:20 12:18 14:16 15:9 17:1</p> <p><b>Urabe</b> 10:24 11:1,2,5,16, 18,21 12:10, 14 13:2,13,22 14:3,6,17</p> <p><b>Urabe's</b> 11:15 14:1</p> <p><b>us</b> 5:17 8:20 11:15,17 17:16</p> <p><b>usage</b> 12:21</p> <p><b>use</b> 14:10 15:11 16:18</p> <p><b>utilities</b> 4:22 12:12,21</p> <p><b>utility</b> 4:18 5:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>V</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>vacant</b> 5:1</p> <p><b>versus</b> 12:20</p>
--	--	--	--	---

<p><b>very</b> 8:5 11:2 12:7 13:8 16:24 17:7,9, 15</p> <p><b>via</b> 13:23</p> <p><b>virtual</b> 4:12</p> <p><b>Voles</b> 7:22,25 9:22</p> <p><b>volumetric</b> 13:12,14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>W</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>wait</b> 7:2 10:6</p> <p><b>waited</b> 10:16</p> <p><b>want</b> 8:1 17:4</p> <p><b>wanted</b> 10:12 12:25 15:5</p> <p><b>waste</b> 12:4</p> <p><b>wastewater</b> 8:14 9:1 11:24 12:22 13:15</p> <p><b>water</b> 12:4,15</p> <p><b>way</b> 14:3 16:17</p> <p><b>we</b> 5:11,12, 13,14,20 9:21 14:2,14 15:8 17:23</p> <p><b>we're</b> 4:7</p> <p><b>webpage</b> 17:16</p> <p><b>welcome</b> 4:3 5:11</p> <p><b>well</b> 12:19,23 14:19 16:21,</p>	<p>22</p> <p><b>we'll</b> 11:18 14:10</p> <p><b>what</b> 5:24 8:11,23 10:2 11:3,9 12:2 15:2,19</p> <p><b>what's</b> 12:8</p> <p><b>when</b> 5:15 6:20 8:19 11:6 12:11 14:18,21 16:1</p> <p><b>where</b> 4:8 8:15 10:7 16:14</p> <p><b>WHEREUPON</b> 18:1</p> <p><b>which</b> 15:23 16:17</p> <p><b>who</b> 5:21 6:17 9:20 10:22 12:2 13:24 15:9 16:18,25 17:10</p> <p><b>why</b> 13:5</p> <p><b>will</b> 5:22,23 6:22,23,25 7:8,19 9:20, 21 14:8,16, 19,22 15:7 17:17,23</p> <p><b>willing</b> 14:2</p> <p><b>with</b> 5:17,18 6:1,14 7:20 8:18 11:5,10, 14,15,16 16:7,15 17:23</p> <p><b>within</b> 13:24</p>	<p><b>won't</b> 7:10</p> <p><b>work</b> 8:18,25 9:4,6</p> <p><b>worth</b> 15:2</p> <p><b>would</b> 5:7,11, 16 6:17 7:7 8:7,11,14 9:4, 20,23,25 10:2,8,22 11:3 12:3 14:1,3,9,10 15:9,15,19,21 16:14,19,25 17:2,11</p> <p><b>written</b> 16:21 17:12</p> <p><b>wrong</b> 8:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Y</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>year</b> 16:15</p> <p><b>years</b> 10:20</p> <p><b>Yep</b> 9:9</p> <p><b>Yes</b> 5:9 9:13, 23 11:1 12:10,14 13:19 14:25 15:13,21 16:23</p> <p><b>yesterday</b> 13:22 15:2</p> <p><b>yourself</b> 6:21 7:3</p> <p><b>you're</b> 7:2, 22,24 9:8,10 14:15</p>
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