Page 1

	Page 1
1	STATE OF MISSOURI
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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4	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
5	Evidentiary Hearing
6	January 3, 2017
7	Jefferson City, Missouri
8	Volume I
9	
10	In the Matter of the ) Application of Laclede Gas )
11	Company to Change its ) Infrastructure System ) Case No.
12	Replacement Surcharge in its ) GO-2016-0332 Missouri Gas Energy Service )
13	Territory. )
14	
15 16	In the Matter of the ) Application of Laclede Gas ) Company to Change its )
17	Infrastructure System ) Case No. Replacement Surcharge in its ) GO-2016-0333
18	Laclede Gas service Territory. )
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20	NANCY DIPPELL, Presiding, REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.
21	DANIEL Y HALL, Chairman,
22	WILLIAM KENNEY, SCOTT T. RUPP, MAIDA J. COLEMAN,
23	COMMISSIONERS.
24	REPORTED BY:
25	KELLENE K. FEDDERSEN, CSR, RPR, CCR NO. 838 MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(WHEREUPON, the hearing began at
3	8:32 a.m.)
4	JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Good morning.
5	We are on the record, then, in Case Nos.
6	GO-2016-0332 and GO-2016-0333, in the matter of
7	Laclede Gas Company and its operating company MGE
8	for a change in infrastructure system replacement
9	surcharge.
10	I am Nancy Dippell, and I'm the
11	Regulatory Law Judge assigned to this hearing. And
12	I see all these friendly faces that I haven't seen
13	in a long time, so it's good to be back on the
14	Bench.
15	We will have Commissioner Kenney
16	calling in on our conference phone. Commissioner
17	Stoll is going to be observing from the Internet
18	access. So the other Commissioners will be present
19	with us later today.
20	We had exhibits already given to the
21	court reporter, I believe, the premarked exhibits,
22	so we'll go ahead and begin with entries of
23	appearance. Can I start with Staff, please?
24	MR. THOMPSON: Kevin Thompson and
25	Marcella Forck for the Staff of the Missouri Public

- 1 Service Commission, Post Office Box 360, Jefferson
- 2 City, Missouri 65102.
- 3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Office of
- 4 the Public Counsel?
- 5 MR. POSTON: Good morning. Marc
- 6 Poston appearing for office of the Public Counsel
- 7 and the public.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: And Laclede?
- 9 MR. ZUCKER: Rick Zucker and
- 10 Michael C. Pendergast here on behalf of Laclede Gas
- 11 Company and Missouri Gas Energy, 700 Market Street,
- 12 St. Louis, Missouri 63101.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: And while this is two
- 14 cases, I'll probably just refer to the company as
- 15 Laclede most of the time. If it's appropriate that
- 16 it's MGE, that's what I mean.
- So were there -- okay. So we
- 18 discussed just before we went on the hearing that
- 19 we have the matter of a pending motion from
- 20 Laclede, basically a motion to dismiss or, in the
- 21 alternative, to limit the issues. I believe the --
- 22 let's see. The issues that you wanted to limit,
- 23 were those the ones that were dismissed or that
- 24 were withdrawn?
- MR. ZUCKER: Well, one of the issues

- 1 was, the one that we argued did not belong in an
- 2 ISRS case.
- 3 JUDGE DIPPELL: And can you talk into
- 4 the microphone, Mr. Zucker?
- 5 MR. ZUCKER: Yes, your Honor. One of
- 6 the issues that has been withdrawn is the issue
- 7 that we argued was not part of this ISRS case.
- 8 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. And the other
- 9 one was the -- which other issue was it, the hydro
- 10 testing?
- 11 MR. ZUCKER: Well, the update issue
- 12 and the incentive compensation issue were
- 13 withdrawn. And so that leaves the hydrostatic
- 14 testing issue and the plastic within the cast iron
- 15 issue.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: All right.
- 17 MR. ZUCKER: And obviously issue
- 18 No. 1 is that we shouldn't be arguing any of them
- 19 today.
- 20 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. And,
- 21 Mr. Poston, did you have anything else to add? You
- 22 filed yesterday a withdrawal of those two issues.
- MR. POSTON: No, I didn't have
- 24 anything to add to that. Just withdrawing them.
- 25 So they're just out of the case as far as I know.

1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. And will there be a -- how will we -- how are you planning to 2 approach the admission of the testimony? Are we 3 4 just going to admit that as a whole or are we going 5 to try to strike those issues from the testimony, 6 the prefiled testimony? 7 Honestly, it doesn't MR. POSTON: matter to me. If we want to strike that, that's 9 I don't intend to cite to any of it in a 10 brief, so it really doesn't matter to me. 11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Zucker, you 12. looked like you had a comment. 13 MR. ZUCKER: I think we are better 14 off striking it. I appreciate your bringing that 15 up. The issues were withdrawn. We might as well 16 not have evidence in the record on it. 17 JUDGE DIPPELL: Well, while I agree that I don't want the record all gunked up, at this 18 19 point it already is. So I think that if there's no 20 objection, obviously if you're going to object to 2.1 that coming in, that I would prefer to just receive 22 it as is. 23 MR. ZUCKER: Judge, that's perfectly 24 fine with me. Thank you. 25 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Obviously,

- 1 like I say, you have a right to make an objection
- 2 when the testimony is entered.
- 3 All right. Besides the motion then,
- 4 are there any other preliminary issues?
- 5 Okay. I think since I said in the
- 6 previous order that you would have the opportunity
- 7 to argue your motion, I'm going to let you -- we're
- 8 going to start with brief arguments about Laclede's
- 9 motion, but I'm going to warn you ahead of time
- 10 that the motion is going to be taken with the case,
- and we're going to go ahead and have the hearing
- 12 today and we'll decide that with the case. Because
- of our quick time frames, we don't have time to
- 14 maneuver otherwise procedurally.
- 15 MR. ZUCKER: Understood, your Honor.
- 16 Thank you.
- 17 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right, then.
- 18 Let's go ahead then and do a brief argument on the
- 19 motion, and this was the motion to dismiss. So I
- 20 quess we'll start with Laclede then.
- 21 MR. ZUCKER: Thank you, your Honor.
- 22 Rick Zucker here on behalf of Laclede Gas Company
- 23 and MGE. Welcome back to Judge Dippell to the PSC
- 24 Bench, and Happy New Year to everybody.
- We are arguing today that OPC when

1 they raised four issues, now two issues in this case on day 70 was past the 60-day deadline to 2. raise issues in a -- in an ISRS case. The statute 3 4 provides a 60-day deadline. It specifies that that deadline 5 6 applies to Staff in the statute, but it certainly 7 cannot be interpreted to say that while Staff has 60 days to give a report and the Commission has 120 9 days to issue an order, that OPC can bring 10 something up whenever they want. 11 Now, the -- I guess maybe my best 12. argument to support this is the fact that OPC 13 understands this deadline and they have been 14 arquing it repeatedly in the case where they oppose 15 the updates. 16 So what they say is, is the 17 Commission should not allow these updates to occur because it doesn't give us enough time to do an 18 19 audit within the statutory 60-day deadline. 20 have argued that -- may I go back to my seat? 2.1 have papers. 22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Certainly. 23 MR. ZUCKER: If I may approach the 2.4 Bench? 25 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes.

1 MR. ZUCKER: What this handout shows is that OPC has argued both in their testimony in 2 3 this case by Mr. Hyneman and in their arguments 4 before this Commission, before the Missouri Court 5 of Appeals for the Western District and before the 6 Missouri Supreme Court that -- that the 60-day 7 deadline applied to them. Now they come in here and say, oh, 9 that 60-day deadline doesn't apply. I can file for issues after the 60-day deadline and I'm free to do 10 11 that. 12 So the question then is, is why were 13 they telling the Commission and these other 14 tribunals that the 60-day deadline applied to them 15 when they're now saying it does not? Which time 16 were they not telling the truth? 17 If we look at the application for 18 transfer to the Supreme Court that OPC filed in the 19 update case on -- in November, and that's on the 20 back page of the handout, they say that the PSC 2.1 allowed Laclede Gas to wait and provide its 22 supporting documents for 20 million in costs just 23 17 days before the statutorily established 60-day review period ended. Laclede's late submission 24 25 denied the PSC, the PSC Staff and the public's

- 1 representative, the Office of the Public Counsel,
- 2 the statutorily prescribed opportunity to review
- 3 such costs.
- 4 Now, one of the things that OPC may
- 5 argue is they were just responding to the Staff's
- 6 recommendation within the ten-day period that
- 7 they're allowed under Commission rules.
- 8 I would respond by saying that their
- 9 response was not a response at all. They didn't
- 10 respond to any of the issues raised by the Staff.
- 11 Their response was basically to raise new issues,
- 12 and none of the issues that they raised had
- 13 anything to do with what the Staff said in their
- 14 recommendation of the two ISRS cases.
- 15 Another argument that OPC may make is
- 16 that in previous cases they have been allowed to
- 17 raise issues after the 60-day deadline. And, in
- 18 fact, in our last ISRS case they raised the update
- 19 issue for the second time in that case after the
- 20 60-day deadline, and we opposed it then in terms of
- 21 it being too late.
- 22 And the Commission kind of said,
- 23 well, we'll let it slide. It's not much of an
- 24 issue. It's not difficult for the parties to get
- 25 this done within the time frame. And so you know,

- 1 we didn't appeal that. We were okay with that. As
- 2 a practical matter, what the judge said was okay.
- But in this case, they -- OPC raised
- 4 four issues. They were not simple issues. They've
- 5 tried to get rid of two of them now to make it look
- 6 a little cleaner, but the fact of the matter is
- 7 they have raised a number of substantive issues too
- 8 late in the process to argue them either legally or
- 9 practically.
- 10 Now, I would say that another ISRS
- 11 will be coming. We file them twice a year like
- 12 clockwork. It will be coming within a couple of
- 13 months. And if they have now identified these
- 14 issues, they are free to raise them within the
- 15 60-day period of the next ISRS, but they are too
- 16 late for this one.
- 17 I'd like to close with one last
- 18 point. In our last rate case, we, Laclede Gas, not
- 19 MGE, this is just Laclede Gas, made an agreement
- 20 with Staff and OPC, approved by the Commission,
- 21 that we would -- that settled a dispute over a tax
- 22 issue in ISRS by us giving up half of the amount of
- 23 the tax issue and Staff and OPC agreeing to
- 24 expedite the administration of our ISRS cases.
- 25 In this case, that half amounts to \$700,000 in

1 revenue requirement. 2 In exchange, what OPC has done is, 3 instead of bring up their issues in a timely 4 fashion or in a legally -- at a legally allowed 5 time, they raised them ten days after the legally 6 allowed time. And so not only did they not 7 expedite, they did the exact opposite. So we did not receive the benefit of our bargain in that 9 case, and OPC has effectively violated a Commission 10 order. 11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Zucker, what was 12 the case that that agreement was approved in? 13 That case would be MR. ZUCKER: 14 GR-2013-0171. And I would also say that we have 15 made that agreement in previous rate cases. 16 have been doing this for a number of years, and Staff has always honored it. They have moved, you 17 18 know, quickly as reasonably possible. 19 OPC has time and again dishonored it 20 by raising things -- raising issues at the last 2.1 minute or past the last minute, as in this case, 2.2 and instead of expediting our cases in exchange for 23 the \$700,000, they've slowed them. 24 In conclusion, I ask that the issues 25 raised by OPC be dismissed. That would leave

1 Staff's recommendation unopposed and we could go forward with filing tariffs as recommended by 2. 3 Staff. Thank you, your Honor. 4 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Were 5 there any questions? 6 CHAIRMAN HALL: No questions. Thank 7 you. Thank you. JUDGE DIPPELL: 9 Mr. Poston, would you like to make a reply? MR. POSTON: Sure. Good morning. 10 11 May it please the Commission? 12 There's no legal requirement that OPC 13 is to raise issues within 60 days. The 60 days 14 applies only to Staff's timing to file a report. 15 The language is clear when it says the Staff, 16 quote, may submit a report regarding its 17 examination to the Commission not later than 60 days after a petition is filed, end quote. 18 19 No mention of OPC. To find otherwise 20 would be reading something into the statute that's 2.1 simply not there. The General Assembly was 2.2 certainly aware that OPC may be reviewing the 23 petitions as well, and they still chose not to place any requirement on OPC. 24 25 In addition, OPC was not directed by

- 1 the Commission to raise issues within 60 days. If
- 2 you look back at the October 3rd order directing
- 3 filing and suspending tariff, ordered paragraph 4
- 4 directs the Staff to file a recommendation by
- 5 November 29th. No mention of OPC.
- 6 Once the Staff filed its
- 7 recommendation, the next day the Commission issued
- 8 its order establishing time to respond to Staff's
- 9 recommendation. Ordered paragraph No. 1 directs
- 10 Laclede to file a response by December 9th.
- 11 Ordered paragraph 2 directs any other party to
- 12 respond by December 9th. The only other party was
- 13 OPC. That was our deadline.
- 14 The Commission's ISRS rules also have
- 15 no requirement on OPC as to when it must raise an
- 16 issue or request a hearing. The procedure OPC
- 17 followed in this case is the same procedure the
- 18 Commission has followed in most ISRS cases.
- 19 GO-2014-0006, it's a Liberty case,
- 20 OPC's motion to deny the petition and request a
- 21 hearing was filed six days after the Staff's
- 22 recommendation. GO-2014-0179, an MGE case, OPC's
- 23 motion for a hearing ten days after the Staff's
- 24 recommendation. GO-2014-0212, a Laclede case, OPC
- 25 motioned for hearing nine days after the Staff's

1	recommendation.
2	GO-2016-0196 and 0197, OPC motioned
3	for a hearing ten days after the Staff's
4	recommendation. In that case Laclede even
5	challenged the lawfulness of OPC requesting a
6	hearing ten days after the Staff rec, the same
7	argument they make here, and the Commission found
8	specifically that OPC's request was lawful.
9	I have that order right here. Quote,
10	the Commission says, Laclede argues that it is
11	unfair and unlawful for OPC to have waited until
12	ten days after the Commission's Staff filed its
13	recommendation on April 1st to request an
14	evidentiary hearing. Laclede seeks either
15	withdrawal of the procedural schedule or a ban on
16	OPC's use of new evidence or arguments that could
17	have been raised prior to April 1st. The
18	Commission will deny Laclede's request.
19	They go on to say, Commission
20	Rule 4 CSR 240-2.080, sub 13, grants a party ten
21	days after a filing in which to respond to any
22	pleading. Although it could have requested a
23	hearing earlier in the process, OPC's motion was
24	lawful.
25	Laclede was well aware of these prior

- 1 cases, and knowing the established practice, could
- 2 Laclede have asked the Commission to direct OPC to
- 3 raise issues within 60 days? They certainly could
- 4 have. Did they? No.
- I also find Laclede's argument
- 6 disingenuous since Laclede argued in prior ISRS
- 7 cases that the 60 days doesn't apply to OPC and
- 8 only to Staff to file a report. Now they're
- 9 singing a different tune. They can't have it both
- 10 ways.
- 11 The last point I'll make is that
- 12 Laclede is partly to blame for us responding when
- 13 we did because they could have provided responses
- 14 to data requests sooner. They waited the full 20
- days to respond to OPC's DRs, while answering Staff
- 16 DRs in less than five days on average.
- 17 We sent most of our DRs to Laclede on
- 18 November 3rd, which is 20 business days after we
- 19 received the petitions. Laclede waited the full 20
- 20 days to respond, giving us only two business days
- 21 to process those responses before the Staff's
- 22 report was due.
- 23 They're certainly within their right
- 24 to answer on day 20, but if they want us to process
- 25 quicker, they should respond to our DRs with the

1 same speed they respond to Staff's DRs. 2 We also sent three DRs on 3 November 8th, meaning they were due November 28th, 4 one day before the Staff's recommendation. 5 they provided answers shortly after 5 p.m. on day 24, which was a Friday, meaning they effectively 6 7 answered on December 5th, a full week late. We advised them December 6th and 7th 9 of our issues with the petitions and we asked them to remove the ineligible costs, and on December 8th 10 11 they said no. 12 Then we filed our response on 13 December 9th to the Staff rec, requested a hearing, 14 and we explained in detail with citations to 15 authority and citations to evidence providing them 16 way more detail than was required. We could have waited until direct testimony, but instead we gave 17 18 them a much better explanation than was required. 19 In regard to Mr. Zucker raising up 20 this prior agreement that we have with them about expediting, if you look at the language of that 2.1 22 agreement, you'll see that it clearly says that we 23 will try to expedite to the extent our resources and response to discovery allow that. Well, their 24 25 response to discovery did not allow that.

1 In summary, we followed all statues and rules. We followed the Commission's orders and 2 3 we followed past practice. In the future I suggest 4 they make a request when they file their petitions 5 asking the Commission to order OPC to raise issues within 60 days if that's what they expect. 6 would certainly follow that change in process if it 7 were to be so. 9 Thank you. 10 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. 11 CHAIRMAN HALL: No questions. Thank 12 you. 13 JUDGE DIPPELL: Would Staff like to 14 make any response? 15 MR. THOMPSON: No, thank you, Judge. 16 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. 17 Mr. Zucker, did you have further reply? 18 MR. ZUCKER: I would love to reply, 19 if allowed. 20 JUDGE DIPPELL: I don't think it's 2.1 necessary at this point, but you looked antsy over 22 there. So I think instead the Commission is going 23 to take this motion with the case and rule on it at the time that they issue their Report and Order. 24 25 The timing of these ISRS cases is short and,

1 therefore, does not really allow for two separate proceedings, so we're going to go ahead with the 2. 3 hearing. I thank you for your time and arguments. 4 Are there any other preliminary 5 matters that need to be addressed before we begin 6 the hearing? 7 All right, then. We can start with oral arguments. And the parties earlier submitted 9 an order of arguments and witnesses and -- I mean, we can start with opening statements. I'm sorry. 10 And so we'll follow that as best we can. So we'll 11 12 begin opening statements. We can start with 13 Laclede. 14 MR. ZUCKER: Thank you, your Honor. 15 There are two issues left in this case to argue. 16 We call them hydrostatic testing is the first 17 issue, and the second issue has to do with plastic interspersed within cast iron and steel main. 18 19 Let me start with the hydrostatic 20 testing issue. This issue arises out of the San 2.1 Bruno incident in 2010. In 2011 PHMSA issued some 2.2 new rules or some different interpretation of their 23 rules in which they, I guess, took a lesson that they learned in San Bruno, which is the 24 25 transmission lines, the high pressure lines that

- 1 were built before 1970 don't have a lot of records
- 2 that go with them in terms of how much pressure
- 3 they can take, what's called the maximum allowable
- 4 operating pressure.
- 5 Starting in 1970, when a utility put
- 6 in a line, before they put the line into service
- 7 they would do a pressure test, normally a
- 8 hydrostatic pressure test, which is forcing water
- 9 at high pressure through the pipe to make sure it
- 10 holds.
- 11 What the -- what that would
- 12 accomplish is setting the maximum allowable
- operating pressure that the company can use the
- 14 pipe for. Before 1970, they didn't have that test
- 15 mandated, and so sometimes it was done and
- 16 sometimes it wasn't.
- 17 Under the PHMSA rules, Laclede or MGE
- 18 has to -- if they don't have a record with that
- 19 test in it, they have to either perform the
- 20 pressure test, the hydrostatic test, or take the
- 21 line out of service. That's their choice.
- The way Laclede looked at it was, it
- 23 was certainly a lot more economical to test the
- line and keep it in service than to have to take
- 25 the line out of service and replace it. So that's

1 what Laclede has chosen to do. 2 In this case we have hydrostatic 3 testing that was done on a line called Grain Valley 4 in -- just outside of Kansas City. There were two 5 different phases to it, and they both add up to about 1.8 million in total cost, which translates 6 7 to about 180,000 in revenue requirement. Laclede tested this line -- or MGE 9 actually did, tested this line in accordance with the PHMSA rules so they would be able to establish 10 11 a maximum allowable operating pressure. So this 12 isn't typical hydrostatic testing as part of an 13 integrity management program. This is a one-time 14 test that is typically done at the time you put a 15 pipe into service and becomes part of the cost of 16 the pipe, and it goes into the asset record of the 17 pipe. So this is basically a substitute or 18 19 proxy for that test, and therefore, as a one-time 20 test done to meet the requirements of PHMSA rules 2.1 in order to extend the useful life of the 22 transmission line, they are ISRS eligible. 23 And let me go into the extent of the 24 useful life a little more. The ISRS statute says 25 that projects that extend the useful life or

- 1 enhance the integrity of the system are ISRS
- 2 eligible. In this case, what we're saying is that,
- 3 without this test, the useful life of this line
- 4 would have ended. So this test by itself extends
- 5 the useful life of this line, and that's to the
- 6 customers' benefit. Obviously they don't have to
- 7 pay for a new line. So all we're asking for is to
- 8 recover the cost of these hydro testing projects in
- 9 rates in ISRS.
- 10 CHAIRMAN HALL: Let me ask you a
- 11 couple questions about this issue first. Are
- 12 you -- are you taking the position that hydraulic
- 13 testing was designed to determine whether or not
- 14 the pipe was worn out or deteriorated? Because
- 15 isn't that the standard?
- MR. ZUCKER: Well, there are
- 17 different standards in the ISRS statute. The first
- 18 standard we call 5A. 5A is about replacing pipes
- 19 or other facilities that are worn out or in
- 20 deteriorated condition. So if we were replacing
- 21 the pipe, it would be because it's worn out.
- 22 Then there's 5B. 5B is a section
- 23 that is not about replacement. It's about other
- 24 types of projects.
- 25 CHAIRMAN HALL: Capital projects?

1 MR. ZUCKER: Capital projects, yes. Everything in the ISRS is capital. If it's an 2 3 expense item, an O&M item, it doesn't go into the 4 ISRS. 5 CHAIRMAN HALL: And hydraulic testing 6 is a capital item? 7 Hydrostatic testing is a MR. ZUCKER: capital item when done in this manner. 9 words, there's other types of hydrostatic testing 10 that are part of our integrity management program. 11 Those are expensed. You will not find them in ISRS. We do not capitalize them. They do not go 12. 13 into this part of the asset record. 14 However, when you do hydrostatic 15 testing to set the maximum allowable operating 16 pressure in a line, usually that test is done right 17 after you've constructed the line and before you put it into service, and it is capitalized. 18 19 becomes part of the line. It goes into the asset 20 records. This test we're talking about is not 2.1 22 part of integrity management. It's being done 23 solely to set the maximum allowable operating pressure so we can continue to use the line. But 24 25 for this test, we would have to take this line out

1 of service. 2 CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you. 3 MR. ZUCKER: Okay. Moving on to the 4 other issue in this case, and that is whether or 5 not, if you replace a line that is mostly cast iron but has some plastic in it, whether or not the 6 7 replacement costs are ISRS eligible. Our position is that they are ISRS 9 eligible, and there are many reasons for it. of all, we have been replacing cast iron with 10 11 plastic in spots where we needed to for decades. 12 So when the ISRS statute was passed in 2004, we had 13 already been replacing pieces of the cast iron line 14 for 20 or 30 years. 15 So the -- the Legislature was well aware or could have been well aware or should have 16 17 been well aware that when a cast iron line gets replaced, there will have been temporary fixes to 18 19 that line which consisted of pieces of plastic. 20 Now what we're doing is we're going 2.1 through in a systematic fashion and changing and 2.2 taking the cast iron out of entire neighborhoods. 23 In other words, instead of doing it piecemeal and disturbing customers here and there, we're going 24 25 into a neighborhood, laying the cast iron -- laying

- 1 the plastic, I'm sorry, abandoning the cast iron,
- 2 and that will take care of the cast iron in that
- 3 neighborhood. We don't have to come back. The
- 4 only other thing we have to do is then reattach the
- 5 plastic service line to the new main and, of
- 6 course, that's part of the cast iron program and is
- 7 also part of the ISRS.
- 8 Now, the ISRS legislation itself
- 9 specifically contemplates that there will be
- 10 some plastic involved, because you have your
- 11 Section 5A and 5B that we just talked about. 5B is
- 12 the temporary fixes. You know, you have done
- 13 something to enhance the integrity of a line so you
- 14 don't have to remove it right away. You've done
- 15 something to extend the useful life of the line so
- 16 you don't have to remove it right away. Those are
- 17 the more temporary fixes of a material like cast
- 18 iron.
- 19 5A is the complete replacement of the
- 20 line. So if you're the Legislature, you're looking
- 21 at it as which order would they be in? If you did
- the replacement first, there would be no temporary
- 23 fixes. There would be no plastic in the line
- 24 because you wouldn't -- you would never have -- you
- 25 would never need to do the temporary fix after you

1 do the permanent fix. So it would never happen that you would do a 5A replacement of a line and 2. 3 then a 5B temporary fix. It just wouldn't go in 4 that direction. 5 The direction it would go in is you 6 would have some 5B temporary fixes until you did 7 the 5A replacement and replace the whole line. Therefore, the 5A replacement -- therefore, the 9 Legislature would have contemplated that when a cast iron line gets replaced, it might have some 10 11 plastic in it, and that does not make the line 12 ineligible in any way for ISRS and is, in fact, 13 exactly what the Legislature wants us to do as part 14 of the ISRS program. 15 In addition --16 CHAIRMAN HALL: Does Laclede take the 17 position that it would be physically impossible to replace the line without replacing the plastic 18 19 patches? 20 Let me answer that by MR. ZUCKER: giving you a handout to start with, if that's okay. 2.1 2.2 This is a two-page handout. 23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Can we mark this as a 2.4 demonstrative exhibit? 25 MR. ZUCKER: Sure.

1 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'm going to go ahead and give it your next exhibit number, Laclede 2 Exhibit 6, just to mark it. 3 4 (LACLEDE EXHIBIT 6 WAS MARKED FOR 5 IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) MR. ZUCKER: So I will now continue 6 7 to answer your question. This is not a real good drawing. It's a little rudimentary, but given the 9 time involved, this is the best we could do at the 10 moment. 11 The top picture on page 1 is what 12. Laclede is actually doing today. So if you see 13 along the top, the green grass, this is where 14 Laclede is putting in the new pipe. We're not 15 putting it in the street, but we're putting it between the curb and the sidewalk. So in that kind 16 of grassy area that's just off the curb, we're 17 putting in a full line. 18 19 In other words, we dig at one spot, 20 we bore the line through to the other side, and we 2.1 dig all the way down the block to pull the line through, so that has a minimum of disturbance for 2.2 23 the property and the customers. 24 Meanwhile, underneath -- well, it's 25 not actually under -- it looks like the cast iron's

1 underneath the plastic that we're putting in, but If I may approach the Bench? 2 it isn't. 3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes, please. 4 MR. ZUCKER: So the old cast iron is 5 usually under the street. So it is off on the other side of the curb, the street side of the 6 curb. As you can see in the bottom picture, the 7 top is gray, indicating street. 9 So the other point to note is that 10 the plastic is going in at a certain depth, maybe 11 three feet, and the cast iron, though, is much 12 deeper, maybe five or six feet. So looking at my 13 arms for an example, here's the new plastic and 14 here's the old cast iron, so they're not under --15 they're not either at the same height or at the 16 same width position. 17 And so to actually use the old plastic, we would have to do something like what's 18 19 on the bottom part. We would have to dig down, put 20 some line in, stop it, then go at an angle from the grassy period down and out into the street to hook 21 22 up to the plastic piece that's within the cast iron 23 line, use that plastic piece, then come in the other side and come off the other side of the 24 25 plastic piece and go back and hook it into the new

1 main. 2 CHAIRMAN HALL: So in other words, it 3 is physically possible, it's just more expensive 4 and there's probably also some safety issues? 5 MR. ZUCKER: Yes. Well, there are 6 safety issues. CHAIRMAN HALL: Is that correct, that 7 it is physically possible to continue to use that 9 plastic pipe? I think that it 10 MR. ZUCKER: Yes. 11 is, that if we had to do that we could, but it is 12. so economically infeasible, operationally 13 difficult, it prevent -- it presents safety issues 14 such that I don't think that you would look at that as a prudent way to do it. 15 16 CHAIRMAN HALL: Distinguish for me 17 this situation from the telemetry equipment decision that we reached either in the last ISRS 18 19 case or the ISRS case before that. In that case, 20 my understanding of our order was that we 2.1 determined that it was not worn out or 2.2 deteriorated, and therefore, not ISRS eligible. 23 MR. ZUCKER: That's right, but that 24 stood on its own. That was a -- telemetry was a 25 computer. It was located in regulator stations,

1 and it stood on its own. It was not part of -- it was not integrated into the cast iron like this is. 2 3 CHAIRMAN HALL: But the company's 4 position in this case was it was more economically 5 expedient to replace the equipment while you were replacing the pipe, and I believe the Commission 6 7 determined, while that may be true, it wasn't worn out or deteriorated, so therefore, it wasn't ISRS 9 eligible. So how do you distinguish this situation from that one? 10 11 MR. ZUCKER: I guess in this 12 situation it is not -- it's not feasible to get to 13 that pipe in any kind of a reasonable fashion. Ι 14 quess I distinguish it by saying that the telemetry 15 stood on its own. This is -- this is part of the 16 cast iron line. 17 CHAIRMAN HALL: If the Commission 18 were to determine that the plastic patches 19 replacement is not ISRS eligible, is it possible to 20 determine what percentage of the ISRS request will 2.1 be ineligible? Is that -- is there a mathematical 22 way to do that? 23 MR. ZUCKER: It would take a lot of 24 work, but I think that we have numbers about how 25 much plastic was replaced at the time we replaced

cast iron. It's a minimum. It's a minimal amount 1 of the total amount, but we could figure it out. 2. 3 CHAIRMAN HALL: Is there an argument 4 that if you were to try to continue using the 5 plastic patches, that you would have significantly 6 higher costs because you'd have -- these -- this 7 drawing that you use where you dig down and over to connect with the plastic, that that, in fact, 9 increases the -- it's not mileage but increases the 10 amount of total piping? 11 MR. ZUCKER: Yes, definitely. No 12. question about that. 13 CHAIRMAN HALL: And what witness 14 would be most appropriate to get more details on 15 that? 16 MR. ZUCKER: On the operational side? 17 CHAIRMAN HALL: On --18 MR. ZUCKER: How much pipe would be 19 used? 20 CHAIRMAN HALL: How much additional piping or the fact that there would be additional 2.1 22 piping necessary in order to connect with the 23 plastic patches. 24 MR. ZUCKER: I would say Mr. Lauber, 25 our second witness, would be more -- better able to

1 answer those questions. 2 Okay. Thank you. CHAIRMAN HALL: 3 MR. ZUCKER: The whole point of the 4 ISRS legislation was to provide incentive for us to 5 do the safety work. If we were to change the arrangement such that, if there's any plastic, that 6 7 is then cut out of -- of being ISRS eligible, that's going to change the incentive for us. 9 going to frustrate what the Legislature wants us to do because we're simply going to prefer fixing 10 11 lines that are more cast iron over lines that are 12 more -- that have some plastic in them. The whole 13 point of the ISRS legislation was to encourage us 14 to do this work by giving us a more timely recovery 15 of it. What we're saying is, if we're not 16 17 going to get a timely recovery for some of the pieces, then we, I quess, go back to the drawing 18 19 board in terms of what we're motivated to do. 20 If we look at the second page of the handout I gave you, that kind of answers the 2.1 2.2 question we've been talking about in terms of what 23 the cost would be to do our method versus the way OPC is suggesting we do it or implying we should do 24 25 it by using the pieces of pipe that are deeper in

- 1 the ground and at a different location.
- 2 So in the first set under cost, you
- 3 see we're doing it -- we're putting the plastic in
- 4 for a lower price than we would if we were having
- 5 to connect to the old plastic. Under ISRS
- 6 recovery, our view is that we should recover the
- 7 costs of putting in the new pipe.
- 8 It's all part of the cast iron
- 9 replacement system, cast iron replacement program.
- 10 We do not have a plastic replacement program.
- 11 We're not out there to remove plastic. We're out
- 12 there to remove cast iron. And the extent that
- 13 there is a little plastic in it, that's -- should
- 14 be of no consequence.
- 15 But OPC wants to make it of
- 16 consequence. They want to assess a penalty on us
- 17 because there is some plastic interspersed in the
- 18 cast iron. And so the second line shows where
- 19 Laclede believes it should have an ISRS -- it
- 20 should have ISRS recovery for the work it does, but
- 21 OPC assesses a penalty for the fact that there is
- 22 some plastic in the ground.
- The third example down shows what's
- 24 actually happening. In the nine work orders
- 25 identified by OPC, they -- I mean, they asked for a

- 1 lot of work orders. We provided them the
- 2 information. They cherry picked the nine they
- 3 wanted. When you add up the feet, there is more
- 4 cast iron coming out than plastic going in.
- 5 So we don't believe that that is --
- 6 that that is required. I mean, this -- in my view,
- 7 it's all part of the cast iron program, so it
- 8 should all be ISRS eligible. But if you're going
- 9 to measure feet and match them, we have taken out
- 10 more than one foot of cast iron for each foot of
- 11 plastic we've put in.
- Now then, what about the old plastic
- 13 that's in there? In the ISRS, we give the customer
- 14 credit for the old plastic. In other words, it
- 15 gets retired and the customer gets credit for --
- 16 for what they had previously been paying for. So
- 17 their depreciation expense goes down. It reduces
- 18 the ISRS.
- 19 And that's what the arrows show there
- 20 on the far right. The new plastic is basically a
- 21 cost that -- of the ISRS. The old cast iron gets
- 22 retired, And that is a minus, a negative, because
- 23 depreciation is reduced, and the plastic -- I call
- 24 it the older plastic, it's the plastic that's in
- 25 there now -- is also retired and that is a

- reduction off of the ISRS. 1 2 So the customer is getting credit, 3 the cast iron is being replaced, and the customer 4 is getting credit for the incidental plastic that's 5 also being replaced. And we believe that that is how the ISRS should work. 6 7 I think the final point I would make is that the -- the lines on the handout there are 9 not drawn to scale. I think the cost of doing -of using the old plastic, of having to dig extra 10 11 trenches and make extra turns and Ts would be 12. substantially more expensive. 13 It's not a prudent way to do it, and 14 that's why we chose not to do it that way. We're 15 doing it in a way that is less expensive, a less 16 expensive way to get the cast iron out of the
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you,
- 19 Mr. Zucker. And let me just ask, Mr. Zucker, if

ground. If there are no more questions?

- 20 you could give me copies of -- go ahead and give me
- 21 copies of that exhibit for the Commissioners who
- 22 aren't present right now. I'll need three of
- 23 those.

17

- 24 Thank you. We'll hear from the
- 25 Staff.

1 MR. THOMPSON: May it please the 2. Commission? 3 The Staff is aligned with the company 4 on both of these issues, the issue of hydrostatic 5 testing and the issue of replacement of plastic 6 pipe that's integrated into the cast iron or steel 7 gas mains. With respect to the hydrostatic 9 testing, you heard Mr. Zucker describe the regulatory environment within which this occurs. 10 11 If that test is not performed, the line has to be 12 taken out of service and replaced. Therefore, performing the test extends the life of the line. 13 14 It is squarely, in Staff's opinion, within the 15 permissible purpose of the ISRS statute. 16 With respect to the plastic mains, I 17 believe the way to think about this is to think of an entire segment of line. Laclede replaces an 18 19 entire segment of line at a time. They don't 20 replace just ten feet here and five feet there. That's what they do when they make repairs. 2.1 22 is the replacement of a line. 23 The plastic pieces are integrated 24 into that cast iron or steel main, and it's the 25 entire segment that is worn out and deteriorated

1 and requires replacement. The fact that some pieces, individual pieces of pipe within that main 2. might still be sound I think is not what the 3 4 Legislature had in mind. 5 If we were to push OPC's reasoning to 6 the extreme, then Laclede would have to dig up the 7 entire length of that cast iron or steel main and examine each piece to see if it was sound or not, 9 replacing only those that were not. I don't think that's what the Legislature had in mind. I don't 10 11 think that's what the ISRS statute requires. Thank 12. you. CHAIRMAN HALL: A couple questions. 13 14 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, sir. 15 CHAIRMAN HALL: Looking at 16 5A concerning the hydraulic testing, the statute says mains, valves, service lines, regulator 17 stations, vaults and other pipeline system 18 components -- excuse me. 5B was the one I wanted 19 20 to focus on. Main relining projects, service line 2.1 insertion projects, joint encapsulation projects 22 and other similar projects. 23 So the hydraulic testing is similar to which of these types of designated projects? 24 25 MR. THOMPSON: It's similar to them

in the fact that it extends the life of the main. 1 2 CHAIRMAN HALL: Well, but it's other 3 similar projects extending the useful life. So the 4 way I look at it is it has to be similar to one of 5 those designated projects, does it not? It needs to be similar to one of those, and I'm not sure how 6 it's similar. 7 MR. THOMPSON: Staff would understand 9 the word similar more broadly. It's similar in 10 that its purpose and effect is the same. 11 CHAIRMAN HALL: So it's Staff's 12 position that any project that extends the useful 13 life of a pipeline would be ISRS eligible? 14 MR. THOMPSON: I'm sure we could come 15 up with examples that Staff wouldn't agree with. 16 Let me just say that with respect to hydrostatic 17 testing, Staff believes that it is eligible. 18 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. My second 19 question is similar to one that I raised with 20 Mr. Zucker, is how do you distinguish this 2.1 Commission's decision on the telemetry equipment 22 from the plastic patches in this case? 23 MR. THOMPSON: By thinking about the 24 line segment as a whole. In other words, I don't 25 think the company is required to dig up the entire

1	length of pipe and salvage those pieces that are
2	still sound and could still possibly be reused in
3	order to put them back into service. I think that
4	when an entire line segment has been determined to
5	be at the end of its useful life, then I think the
6	company gets to replace the entire line segment
7	without having to go in and recover and examine
8	each individual segment of the pipe.
9	CHAIRMAN HALL: So it's not really a
10	function of the cost to do that, it's more of a
11	function of how Staff is interpreting the project?
12	The project is the entire line?
13	MR. THOMPSON: That's correct.
14	CHAIRMAN HALL: And therefore, the
15	whole line needs to be replaced?
16	MR. THOMPSON: That's correct.
17	CHAIRMAN HALL: And if there was
18	telemetry equipment there, that would still be
19	ineligible based on a prior interpretation because
20	it's not part of the line?
21	MR. THOMPSON: I think that's how
22	Staff would apply that prior decision, yes.
23	CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Thank you.
24	MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, sir.
25	JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you,

1 Mr. Thompson. 2 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. 3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Public Counsel? 4 MR. POSTON: I'd like to begin with 5 issue No. 5 on the issues list, which is the ISRS 6 eligibility of replacing the plastic and polyethylene pipe that's not worn out or 7 deteriorated. 9 I don't think anyone here will 10 dispute that the eligible ISRS recovery of a 11 replaced main or service line must be, quote, 12 installed to comply with a state or federal safety 13 requirement as replacements for existing facilities 14 that have worn out or in deteriorated condition, 15 end quote. 16 So there's two parts to that. First, 17 must be required by a safety law, and second, the pipe being replaced must be worn out or 18 19 deteriorated. The facts of this case will show 20 that Laclede's ISRS petitions include ineligible 21 projects that meet neither requirement, because, 2.2 one, there's no state or federal safety requirement 23 that Laclede is following when it places -- when it replaces recently installed plastic pipe with newer 24 25 plastic pipe. And, two, since such pipe is in fine

- 1 working condition, the unimpaired plastic pipe does
- 2 not satisfy the requirement that it be worn out or
- 3 deteriorated.
- 4 CHAIRMAN HALL: Mr. Poston, let me
- 5 interrupt for a moment. I'm sorry to do that, but
- 6 I want to make sure I remember this question. So
- 7 OPC would take issue with Staff and Laclede's
- 8 interpretation of the statute distinguishing
- 9 5A from 5B, that in 5B there is no requirement that
- 10 the -- that the facility be worn out or in
- 11 deteriorated condition?
- MR. POSTON: I would agree that 5A is
- 13 for replacement, and that's the worn out and
- 14 deteriorated. They're replacing it as the worn out
- 15 and deteriorated. 5B where they're doing something
- 16 to enhance the line, it's not necessarily worn out
- 17 or deteriorated, because at that point it would
- 18 need to be replaced.
- 19 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Well, I took
- 20 your comments a moment ago that -- that Laclede has
- 21 to show worn out or deteriorated in order to --
- MR. POSTON: For the replacements
- 23 under 5A. So plastic pipe, that's all 5A. They've
- 24 said it's eligible under 5A, not 5B.
- 25 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay.

1 MR. POSTON: So as you heard in Mr. Zucker's opening and you'll hear a lot of other 2 3 talk today about how replacing new plastic with 4 newer plastic somehow makes the system safer, that 5 they're somehow helping cut costs, makes sense from 6 a strategic perspective. I'll even go as far as to 7 say it's safer because their crews won't be standing in the street doing those projects. 9 Those are distractions from the real 10 issue here, the real issue in any ISRS petition. 11 The real question to ask, is it required by law and 12 is the existing plastic pipe that was replaced worn 13 out or deteriorated? That's it. That's where the 14 focus need to be here, because that's the legal 15 standard that was established by the General 16 Assembly. 17 The Commission has seen the same issue twice before, and there's clear guidance from 18 19 both the Missouri Supreme Court and the Commission 20 The Missouri Supreme Court applied a itself. 2.1 narrow interpretation of the ISRS statute and said 22 all replacements must be replacing pipe that is 23 worn out or in a deteriorated condition. 24 In that case, the pipe was actually 25 destroyed by a third-party excavator. So even in

1 that instance, when there's clear damage, the court said it's still not eligible. It must have become 2. 3 worn out over time. 4 This case is essentially the same 5 case that you addressed in 2015 regarding 6 telemetry. The Commission rejected that equipment, 7 and I'd like to read from the Commission's order just to show how it does apply here. 9 The Commission said, quote, the Court's decision makes clear -- and they're 10 11 referring to the Supreme Court. The Court's decision makes clear that the Commission should 12 13 evaluate the eligibility of gas utility plant 14 projects narrowly in order to ensure compliance 15 with the Legislature's intent. When evaluating the 16 telemetry equipment Laclede replaced, which are 17 pipeline system components installed to comply with state or federal safety requirements, the evidence 18 19 shows that the specific units at issue and work

- OF Commission wort on to sow that while it is
- 25 Commission went on to say that, while it is clear

There were no signs of deterioration such as

orders -- and gave you two work orders -- were

still operable at the time of the replacements.

It's the same issue here.

The

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corrosion.

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- 1 that telemetry equipment plays a vital role in
- 2 monitoring and ensuring the safe distribution of
- 3 gas, Laclede failed to show that specific parts
- 4 replaced were in an impaired condition. To simply
- 5 state that the software was old and the
- 6 manufacturer no longer provided repair parts is not
- 7 sufficient to demonstrate ISRS eligibility due to a
- 8 worn out or deteriorated condition.
- 9 And then it goes on to say, Absent
- 10 some type of impairment in quality, stake or
- 11 condition, age alone does not justify inclusion of
- 12 a gas utility in that project.
- 13 Lastly, the Commission says, Since
- 14 the telemetry equipment replacement occurred at the
- 15 same time as regulator station upgrades, it appears
- 16 the timing of the replacement was more likely
- 17 motivated by the efficiency of changing both at the
- 18 same time than the age of the equipment or any
- 19 actual impairment.
- 20 That's the exact same issue we have
- 21 right here today. The case is clearly analogous.
- 22 Laclede is replacing ineligible plastic mains and
- 23 service lines at the same time it replaces eligible
- 24 mains and service lines due to efficiency or
- 25 strategic purposes. This would be consistent with

- 1 the telemetry order and the Supreme Court's opinion
- 2 that ineligible plastic replacements must be
- 3 removed from ISRS costs.
- 4 The evidence in this case will show
- 5 Laclede is replacing plastic pipe with plastic
- 6 pipe. Miles of recently installed plastic pipe,
- 7 much of it partly recovered through an ISRS, have
- 8 been slipped into these petitions. And they're
- 9 actually installing brand-new pipe, and as
- 10 Mr. Zucker showed you, above and slightly to the
- 11 side. So they'll have brand new pipe over plastic
- 12 pipe that was recently installed.
- They say all the millions and
- 14 millions of dollars we spent on ISRS over the past
- 15 12 years, those were just temporary patches, and
- 16 now we have to replace everything again.
- 17 In this case we are not challenging
- 18 the prudence of Laclede's strategy of replacing
- 19 functioning pipe with new pipe. We're only saying
- 20 the cost associated with the ineligible pipe needs
- 21 to be removed. It's as simple as that. The
- 22 prudence of the strategy, that's a rate case issue.
- 23 That's not before you today.
- In this case we are not challenging
- 25 the vast majority of the work order replacement

- 1 costs because most appear to be for cast iron and steel that we're assuming are worn out or 2 3 deteriorated. So we ask that you simply tell 4 Laclede to take out the plastic cost and include 5 everything else, which would allow Laclede to begin 6 recovering on the majority of the claimed costs. 7 Chairman, you asked a question to Mr. Zucker about whether Laclede could determine 9 the percentage of plastic, and you may or may not 10 be aware of this, but in Kansas they pretty much 11 adopted our ISRS statute almost entirely, except 12 they called it the GSRS instead of the ISRS. Maybe 13 they're trying to hide the fact that they stole 14 from us. That's really the only change they made 15 to it. 16 And there, there was a company doing
- 17 what they're doing here. And there in Kansas, what
- they told them to do, they told them to separate it 18
- 19 They even told them to change their system on
- 20 how they report this to the Commission so the
- 21 system actually separates out the plastic or the
- 22 ineligible from the eligible pipe.
- 23 And I would also like to respond
- 24 to -- Mr. Zucker raised this, brought this
- 25 demonstration. And if you look at this, you think,

- 1 well, it's just a little section of plastic that
- 2 they're replacing. It's mostly this cast iron.
- 3 But if you look at the evidence in this case, it's
- 4 going to show we're talking lengths of plastic pipe
- 5 100, 200, 400, 1,000 feet are being replaced in
- 6 this -- in these petitions.
- 7 So these aren't little, small pieces
- 8 of plastic. There are some of those in there, I
- 9 would agree, but there's a lot more than what this
- 10 visual would demonstrate.
- 11 Moving on to hydrostatic testing
- 12 costs.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Poston, let me
- 14 interrupt you just a second. Do you have a
- 15 specific cite to the Kansas matter that you were
- 16 talking about or can you provide that in a brief?
- 17 MR. POSTON: I can provide that.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: If you'd include that
- 19 in your brief. Thank you.
- 20 COMMISSIONER RUPP: So to follow up
- on your point there where you say there's 1,000
- 22 feet of pipe out there, is it OPC's position that
- 23 even if there's a six-inch piece of pipe, that
- 24 should be taken out, or is there a magic number
- 25 that if it's over three feet of pipe, it should be

- 1 dealt with differently, or are you saying that
- 2 every piece?
- 3 MR. POSTON: We haven't taken a
- 4 position on that. I mean, if we were looking at
- 5 the petitions and we were just seeing a foot here
- 6 and there, small sections, we probably wouldn't
- 7 raise an issue with it.
- 8 But at some point you've got to look
- 9 and see, you know, a 100-foot, 500-feet section, to
- 10 us that's unreasonable and unlawful. I think the
- 11 portion of the one foot, that's also unlawful, but
- 12 we probably wouldn't have raised the issue just on
- 13 those little sections.
- 14 COMMISSIONER RUPP: So what -- and
- 15 maybe this will come up in the testimony. So what
- 16 percentage of the plastic that is currently being
- 17 replaced with the cast iron is larger chunks, the
- 18 100, 200 feet, what percentage of that -- of all
- 19 the plastic that is being replaced?
- 20 MR. POSTON: I don't know if that's
- 21 been calculated. I don't think anybody's
- 22 calculated that.
- 23 COMMISSIONER RUPP: All right. And
- 24 you also kept referencing the telemetry case.
- 25 Refresh my memory, what was the vote on that case,

1 do you remember? 2 MR. POSTON: I can look. The vote 3 was four to one, with Commissioner Rupp dissenting. 4 So hydrostatic testing costs. 5 Hydrostatic testing involves filling a pipe with pressurized water to see if it has leaks. Nothing 6 7 is done to extend the life of the pipe or enhance its integrity because no changes are made to the 9 pipe at all. 10 If the destiny of a particular pipe 11 is that it will wear out in ten years, the test 12 does not change that. It simply indicates that it 13 isn't worn out today. That pipe will still wear 14 out in ten years. 15 To be eligible under the ISRS statute they claim it qualifies under, which is 5B, there 16 17 must be something done to the pipe to extend its life or enhance its integrity. Simply testing a 18 19 pipe only tells whether you need to do more to it, 20 such as replace it or do work on the pipe to fix 2.1 it. 22 We will present evidence today 23 showing that not only is ISRS not allowed testing costs -- not only does ISRS not allow testing 24 25 costs, but will also show that these are

- 1 maintenance expenses that should not be capitalized
- 2 per the Commission's own accounting standards.
- 3 Testing expenses simply do not belong in ISRS, and
- 4 the evidence we present today will support that
- 5 conclusion. So we ask that these costs be removed.
- 6 Thank you.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you,
- 8 Mr. Poston.
- 9 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Hey, Judge,
- 10 this is Commissioner Kenney. I have a question.
- 11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes. Go ahead,
- 12 Commissioner.
- 13 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Yes. Thank
- 14 you, counsel. Have you guys figured out what the
- 15 net benefit the company must be to replace all the
- 16 pipe instead of parts of it?
- 17 MR. POSTON: I do not know that. I
- 18 did actually ask the company for some type of a
- 19 cost/benefit analysis that it had done on that, but
- 20 they did not provide anything.
- 21 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Have you looked
- 22 at the cost differential to take out sections at a
- 23 time and replace sections versus replacing the
- 24 entire length of the pipe?
- MR. POSTON: We've not done that.

1 That is something that we do think should be explored in the rate case, because that's a 2 3 prudence issue on the project. That's not an issue 4 of ISRS eligibility. 5 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Okay. So if 6 this cost the -- if we do cut and piece, that costs 7 the customer more, that doesn't concern you. just the -- the dynamics of the case; is that 9 correct? 10 MR. POSTON: We're not asking the 11 company to change the way it does anything. All 12 we're saying is, there is a narrow band of costs 13 that ISRS allows, that is ISRS eligible. We're 14 just saying that what you recover through the ISRS 15 has to be eliqible. We're not asking them to 16 change anything the way they're doing it. 17 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Okay. Thank 18 you. 19 CHAIRMAN HALL: I have another 20 question. If the Commission were to adopt OPC's 21 position on the plastic patches, what would -- what 2.2 should the Commission do concerning the older 23 plastic that has been replaced? Should the company continue to recover for that capital expenditure? 24 25 MR. POSTON: Once it comes out of

1 service, is retired, they should no longer recover 2. for it. 3 CHAIRMAN HALL: So even though the 4 new plastic that replaced the old plastic would not 5 be ISRS eligible under the position, the older 6 plastic would still be ineligible? 7 Well, the older plastic MR. POSTON: 8 has probably already been in an ISRS and --9 CHAIRMAN HALL: But they're 10 continuing to recover on it? 11 MR. POSTON: And then it got probably 12. rolled into general rates, so then they're 13 recovering on that. So they're actually double 14 recovering right now on the stuff that's still in 15 the ground and the stuff they put on top. 16 CHAIRMAN HALL: My understating of 17 Laclede's position, which Staff supports, is that the older -- the ISRS recovered on the older 18 19 plastic is coming out? 20 I know they're retiring MR. POSTON: 2.1 it, but I guess my understanding is their general 22 rates aren't changing at all. And that's where 2.3 those costs are in. 24 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Thank you. 25 MR. POSTON: And I'd ask you to ask

our witness this question. He could probably do a 1 better job of answering that for you. 2 3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. That 4 concludes the opening statements, so we can go 5 ahead and begin with our first testimony. And 6 we'll let Laclede begin with its first witness. 7 MR. ZUCKER: Laclede calls to the stand Glenn W. Buck. 9 (Witness sworn.) 10 JUDGE DIPPELL: Could you state your 11 name and spell it for the court reporter. 12 THE WITNESS: My name is Glenn 13 William Buck. G-l-e-n-n, Buck, B-u-c-k. 14 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. You can 15 proceed when you're ready, Mr. Zucker. 16 MR. ZUCKER: Thank you, your Honor. 17 GLENN BUCK testified as follows: DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. ZUCKER: 18 19 Good morning, Mr. Buck. Q. 20 Good morning, sir. Α. 2.1 Can you tell me who your employer is? Q. 22 My employer is Laclede Gas Company. Α. 23 Are you the same Glenn W. Buck who 0. 24 filed direct testimony in this case on 25 December 16th, 2016?

1 Α. That's correct. 2 0. And are you also the same Glenn W. 3 Buck who filed testimony -- rebuttal testimony in 4 this case on December 23rd, 2016? 5 Α. Yes, sir. 6 Okay. Going back to your direct Q. 7 testimony, which has been marked as Laclede Exhibit No. 1, if asked the same questions today, would you 9 give the same answers in that testimony? Yes, sir. 10 Α. 11 Q. Okay. Is there any changes that you 12 would make? 13 No, sir. Α. 14 MR. ZUCKER: Okay. I offer Laclede 15 Exhibit No. 1 into evidence. 16 JUDGE DIPPELL: Is there any objection to Exhibit No. 1, Laclede Exhibit No. 1? 17 18 (No response.) 19 JUDGE DIPPELL: Seeing none, then, I 20 will admit Laclede Exhibit No. 1. 2.1 (LACLEDE EXHIBIT 1 WAS RECEIVED INTO 2.2 EVIDENCE.) 23 BY MR. ZUCKER: 24 Q. Moving on to your rebuttal testimony, 25 Mr. Buck, which has been marked Laclede Exhibit

1 No. 2. 2. Α. Yes. 3 If asked the same questions today, 0. 4 would you give the same answers? 5 Α. With one correction. One correction. And where would we 6 0. 7 find this correction? It's actually to Revised Rebuttal 9 Schedule GWB-1. 10 Q. Okay. And I'd ask to submit the whole 11 Α. 12 schedule again just to make it easier, but I can 13 point out where the differences are. 14 Q. Is this, what I'm holding in my hand, 15 the revisions? 16 Α. Yes, sir. 17 MR. ZUCKER: Okay. Permission to 18 approach the witness. 19 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes. Have the other 20 parties seen this change yet? 2.1 MR. ZUCKER: No, but it's not 2.2 substantive. 23 BY MR. ZUCKER: 24 Q. Mr. Buck, this document is marked 25 Revised Rebuttal Schedule GWB-1; is that correct?

1 Α. That's correct. 2 0. And do you intend it to be a 3 substitute for the Rebuttal Schedule GWB-1 that's 4 in your rebuttal testimony? 5 Α. I do. 6 Okay. And can you explain the change 0. 7 to us? Α. Sure. There were two relatively 9 minor changes. In the services section, if you go to the second to the last column over, I believe in 10 11 the original that was submitted with my testimony 12. it said copper retirements, and I've changed the 13 word to plastic. 14 And then also in that same section, 15 on Work Order 900882, right next you'll see a 16 highlighted number, 7,812. Okay. In the original 17 testimony -- I'll have to go back and check -- that number shown, 15,624, and on revision what ended up 18 19 happening is I summed the columns of steel and 20 copper and plastic and total retirements up and 21 that's what the original number was. 22 So as I go back and correct it, it's 23 just picking up columns for the steel, copper and plastic retirements. So see, the 7,812 is 24 25 duplicated in both the third column over and the

- 1 last column. And obviously it's something that
- 2 will change at the bottom.
- 3 O. Okay. So the difference in footage
- 4 installed was you -- it was a calculation error in
- 5 which you doubled the amount?
- 6 A. Yes. So actually it's showing that
- 7 the total footage installed went down.
- 8 Q. Okay. That -- so that adds up down
- 9 there, so 44,868 feet of service work was
- 10 installed?
- 11 A. I believe what was showing was
- 12 52,680.
- 13 Q. Right. Okay. And with that change,
- 14 if I asked you the same questions that are in this
- 15 testimony today, would your answers be the same?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 MR. ZUCKER: Okay. I move for entry
- 18 of Laclede Exhibit No. 2 into evidence.
- 19 JUDGE DIPPELL: Is there any
- 20 objection to Laclede Exhibit No. 2 with that
- 21 substitution?
- (No response.)
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Seeing none, then, I
- 24 will admit Laclede Exhibit No. 2, replacing the
- 25 Revised Rebuttal Schedule GWB-1.

1	(LACLEDE EXHIBIT 2 WAS RECEIVED INTO
2	EVIDENCE.)
3	MR. ZUCKER: Thank you, Mr. Buck.
4	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
5	MR. ZUCKER: Your Honor, one other
6	thing. We had agreed Laclede Exhibit No. 4 is
7	the application of Laclede Gas Company. Laclede
8	Exhibit No. 5 is the application by Missouri Gas
9	Energy. We had agreed that those would just go
10	into the record without objection.
11	JUDGE DIPPELL: Would there be any
12	objection to the admission of Laclede Exhibit No. 4
13	and Laclede Exhibit No. 5?
14	MR. THOMPSON: No objection from
15	Staff.
16	JUDGE DIPPELL: Seeing none, then I
17	will admit Exhibit No. 4 and Laclede Exhibit No. 5.
18	(LACLEDE EXHIBITS 4 AND 5 WERE
19	RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.)
20	MR. ZUCKER: Thank you, your Honor.
21	JUDGE DIPPELL: And do we have any
22	cross from Staff?
23	MR. THOMPSON: Just briefly, your
24	Honor.
25	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. THOMPSON:

1 0. You testified that you did not 2 receive any work papers from Mr. Hyneman and, 3 therefore, you could not replicate his 4 calculations; is that correct? 5 That's correct. Α. 6 0. Did you ever get those? 7 No, sir. Α. MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. No further 9 questions. 10 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Is there 11 cross-examination from Public Counsel? 12 MR. POSTON: Yes, thank you. 13 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON: 14 Good morning, Mr. Buck. 0. 15 A. Good morning, sir. 16 Q. Happy New Year. 17 You as well. Α. For purposes of my questions, when I 18 0. refer to Laclede, I'm referring to both Laclede Gas 19 and MGE unless I specify one or the other. Okay? 20 2.1 Α. Okay. I'll try to do the same. 2.2 Is it your understanding OPC is Q. 23 not -- or is opposing two types of work order costs 24 in this case as ineligible, replacing segments of 25 plastic mains and service lines and hydrostatic

1 costs? 2 Α. That's correct. 3 0. Would you agree with me that the 4 majority of the costs in the ISRS petitions are for 5 other types of costs that OPC is not opposing? 6 Α. Yes. 7 OPC is not opposing recovery of costs 0. in replacing segments of cast iron main that's worn out or deteriorated; is that correct? 9 10 Α. Correct. 11 Q. And we're not opposing costs incurred 12 in replacing unprotected bare steel that's worn out or deteriorated? 13 14 That's my understanding. Α. 15 So if the Commission were to agree Q. 16 with OPC and disallow the costs that we oppose as 17 ineligible, Laclede would still get to include the 18 majority of the costs you've included in your ISRS 19 petitions; is that correct? 20 I haven't seen the calculations. Α. 2.1 not really sure if that's true or not, Marc. 22 sorry. Counselor. 23 0. When I asked you the question, would 24 you agree with me the majority of costs in these

ISRS petitions are for other types of costs OPC is

25

1 not opposing, you said yes. 2 Ask me the question again, please. Α. 3 Never mind. I'll move on. 0. In your 4 upcoming rate case, you'll have an opportunity to 5 request to include the plastic replacements in 6 permanent rates; is that correct? 7 Α. Correct. Do you agree with me that to be 0. 9 eligible for ISRS, the project must be installed to 10 comply with state or federal safety requirements? 11 Α. Under 5A, yes. 12 And when Laclede files its petitions, Q. 13 it included references to safety laws it says 14 require each work order; is that correct? 15 Α. Excuse me one second. Can you ask 16 the question again, please? 17 When Laclede filed its petitions, it 0. 18 included references to the safety laws it says 19 required each work order; is that correct? 20 Α. It includes reference to the statute 2.1 which includes multiple types of recovery. 22 Well, let's look at your petition. Q. 23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Can I encourage each 24 of you gentlemen to speak into the microphone a 25 little bit?

1 THE WITNESS: Sure. I'm trying. 2 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. 3 BY MR. POSTON: 4 Do you have a copy of your ISRS Q. 5 petitions? 6 Α. Not with me, no. 7 I believe the court reporter has Q. Laclede Exhibit 4. 9 Thank you. Α. 10 Q. Have you turn to Appendix A, 11 Schedule 3. 12 Okay. I'm there. Α. 13 0. Okay. And in that schedule you have 14 a column titled state or federal safety 15 requirements; is that correct? 16 Α. That's correct. 17 0. And in that column you have letter 18 codes; is that correct? 19 Α. Yes. Which letter codes reference 20 Appendix A's Schedule 4. 2.1 And with a few exceptions, would you Q. 22 agree with me that the vast majority of your work 23 orders you cited to four specific safety 24 requirements and you labeled using codes A, B, C 25 and K; is that correct?

1 Α. Generally, yes. 2 0. And you agree with me these are the 3 safety requirements you cited for the majority of 4 the work orders that include the replacement of 5 plastic mains and service lines? 6 Α. Yes. 7 And as you, I believe, just said, the 0. legend to those codes can be found in Schedule 4 to 9 Laclede Gas' petition; is that correct? 10 Α. That's correct. 11 MR. POSTON: I'd like to have an 12 exhibit marked. 13 JUDGE DIPPELL: That will be marked 14 as OPC Exhibit No. 2. 15 (OPC EXHIBIT 2 WAS MARKED FOR 16 IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) 17 BY MR. POSTON: 18 0. Would you agree with me that the 19 court reporter has handed you what's been marked as 20 OPC Exhibit No. 2? 2.1 Α. Correct. 2.2 And is OPC Exhibit No. 2 a copy of Q. 23 Laclede's legend -- or included on the top a copy 24 of Laclede's legend of state or federal safety 25 requirements, and then behind that's a statute and

1 some of the Commission's gas safety rules? 2 Correct. I'm not as familiar with Α. 3 the very last two pages, but it looks similar to 4 that, yes. 5 So we've already established that you 0. 6 cite to A, B, C and K as the safety rules that 7 require those replacements, correct? Α. Yes. 9 0. Would you please circle those letters on the official court reporter's copy on the top 10 11 page? 12 A. Okay. 13 MR. POSTON: Judge, I offer 14 Exhibit -- OPC Exhibit No. 2. 15 JUDGE DIPPELL: Would there be any 16 objection to OPC Exhibit No. 2? 17 MR. ZUCKER: No, your Honor. 18 JUDGE DIPPELL: Seeing none, then I 19 will admit Exhibit No. 2. 20 (OPC EXHIBIT 2 WAS RECEIVED INTO 2.1 EVIDENCE.) 2.2 BY MR. POSTON: 23 Q. So I'd like to ask you questions on 24 each of these so the Commissioners can better 25 understand why you believe these laws require you

- 1 to replace plastic mains and plastic service lines.
- 2 The first letter A cites to Section 393.130 of the
- 3 Missouri statutes, and if you turn the page, you'll
- 4 see I have that attached. Would you agree you're
- 5 referencing the general requirement that a facility
- 6 be safe and adequate?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Is it your opinion that this statute
- 9 requires you to replace plastic pipe that's not
- 10 worn out or deteriorated?
- 11 A. Ask the question again, please.
- 12 Q. Is it your opinion that this statute
- 13 requires you to replace plastic pipe that is not
- 14 worn out or deteriorated?
- 15 A. I think this addresses safe and
- 16 adequate service.
- 17 Q. Would you agree with me that it was
- 18 only recently, I believe you told me during your
- 19 replacement work tour in 2011, that Laclede changed
- 20 its strategy to replace plastic along with cast
- iron and bare steel?
- 22 A. It was approximately 2011 that we
- 23 changed the strategy, yes.
- Q. So is it Laclede's position that
- 25 before 2011, Laclede's practices of replacing just

1 the piece of main that was worn out or deteriorated was in violation of law because it didn't also 2. 3 replace the connective plastic main or line? 4 MR. ZUCKER: Objection. He's asking 5 him to make a legal conclusion. Mr. Buck is not an 6 attorney. He can argue this in his brief if he 7 wants. MR. POSTON: Mr. Buck is here with --9 supporting the petition and supporting their claims of eligibility for all of these costs. He's the 10 11 witness up here supporting those, and --12 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'll sustain the 13 objection. You're asking him to make a legal 14 opinion about what happened in the past. 15 MR. POSTON: He's -- okay. It's been 16 sustained. I'll move on. 17 Well, Judge, he's here telling us that all of these costs are eligible. My questions 18 19 are asking him about rules that they're citing to. 20 JUDGE DIPPELL: You asked him about 21 whether what happened in the past was illegal. 22 MR. POSTON: I said, is it Laclede's 23 position. I'm not asking him to give me a legal 24 opinion. 25 JUDGE DIPPELL: That's not the

- 1 question that I heard. I sustained an objection on
- 2 a question asking him whether something was
- 3 illegal.
- 4 MR. POSTON: Well, can I rephrase the
- 5 question?
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Please ask a
- 7 different question.
- 8 BY MR. POSTON:
- 9 Q. Is it Laclede's position that before
- 10 2011 Laclede's practice of replacing just the piece
- 11 of main that was worn out or deteriorated was in
- violation of law because it didn't also replace the
- 13 connective plastic main or service line?
- 14 A. I'm not positive I understand the
- 15 question. Can I try and rephrase so that you
- 16 understand what I'm answering?
- 17 **Q.** Sure.
- 18 A. Okay. So I think what you're asking
- 19 is, if we replaced a section of cast iron main,
- 20 let's say it's 100 feet, and there was a piece of
- 21 connecting plastic next to it, if we didn't replace
- 22 both of them, would that be considered, what was
- 23 the term you used, illegal or --
- Q. Was that Laclede's position that when
- 25 they followed that practice of not replacing the

- 1 plastic at the same time, was that -- was that
- 2 Laclede's position that that was unlawful?
- 3 A. I wouldn't say it was unlawful. I
- 4 think we were taking pipe out of the ground that
- 5 was at risk. And frankly, I think Mark Lauber, our
- 6 other witness, would probably be the better person
- 7 to ask these questions.
- 8 Q. So is it Laclede's position now that
- 9 it is unlawful to replace any segment of cast iron
- 10 main without replacing all connecting plastic?
- 11 A. I think we're approaching it a
- 12 different way, if that's an answer to your
- 13 question.
- 14 O. Well, either Laclede has taken a
- 15 position that it's unlawful or not. Do you know?
- 16 A. I really don't know whether it's
- 17 unlawful. I know what our practice is.
- 18 Q. Let's move on to the second authority
- 19 you cite, B, and that's the next page of OPC
- 20 Exhibit 2. The second authority you cite is
- 21 Section 13 of the Commission's gas safety rules,
- 22 correct?
- 23 A. That's correct.
- Q. And if you see on the OPC Exhibit 2,
- 25 the next page, you look down toward the middle

- 1 bottom of that page, you see there's Section 13,
- 2 correct? It's page 46 of the Commission's safety
- 3 rules.
- 4 A. I'm there.
- 5 Q. Would you agree with me that under
- 6 13B2 -- and I'll let you get there.
- 7 A. Okay. I'm there.
- 8 Q. It says, Each segment of pipeline
- 9 that becomes unsafe must be replaced, repaired or
- 10 removed from service. Do you agree it says that?
- 11 A. It does say that, yes.
- 12 Q. Would you agree then when a segment
- of cast iron wears out, this rule requires that
- 14 that segment be replaced?
- 15 A. It discusses a segment of pipeline,
- 16 not a segment of cast iron.
- 17 Q. Doesn't pipeline refer to all types
- 18 of pipe?
- 19 A. I'm not really sure where the term
- 20 segment is defined. Maybe that would help.
- Q. What's your definition of segment?
- 22 A. From my standpoint, a segment is a
- 23 continuous set of pipe that's providing service,
- 24 and could be cast iron, it could be plastic, it
- 25 could be steel, it could be a combination of all

- 1 three.
- 2 Q. And when it joins another segment of
- 3 pipe, then that's a separate segment?
- 4 A. Again, I'm not sure where segment is
- 5 defined here.
- 6 Q. But this definition -- I mean, under
- 7 maintenance --
- 8 A. Yes
- 9 Q. -- where it says each segment of
- 10 pipe, regardless of what the definition of segment
- is, this requirement only requires you to replace
- 12 the segment that becomes unsafe. Would you agree
- 13 with that?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. Does not require you to replace an
- 16 adjoining segment that is not unsafe, correct?
- 17 A. I think that's correct, yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. Let's move on to the next,
- 19 which is letter C of what you've listed as why this
- 20 project should be eligible. Can you turn there?
- 21 What does C reference?
- 22 A. C is 4 CSR 240.40-30.15. So No. 13
- 23 was maintenance. Under 15 is replacement programs,
- 24 which is on page 52 of your exhibit.
- 25 O. And you're familiar with Laclede's

1 gas safety replacement programs, correct? 2 Α. Generally, yes. 3 0. Does Laclede have written replacement 4 programs to implement the requirements of this 5 section? 6 Α. Yes and no. For example, and now I'm 7 going to designate between Laclede and MGE, if I might, because MGE was on a replacement program 9 that had a mandated amount of cast iron or steel that has to be taken out of the ground. That was 10 11 an order in like 1990, 1992. 12 For Laclede we've had various orders 13 or agreements between the company and the Staff's 14 gas safety group on removing pipe, but I'm not sure 15 that there has been a program per se. But, once again, I'd probably defer to Mr. Lauber on that. 16 17 If you look under Section 15, 0. 18 replacement programs, and you see there is a 19 Subpart B, and do you see the last -- or the second 20 sentence of that says, The requirements of this 21 section apply to pipelines as they existed on December 15th, 1989. Do you see that? 22 23 Α. Yes. 24 Q. By implication it does not apply to 25 new portions of pipeline added after December 15th,

1 1989, correct? MR. ZUCKER: I'm going to object to 2 3 It calls for a legal conclusion again. that. 4 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'm sorry, 5 Mr. Poston. Would you repeat your question? 6 MR. POSTON: I asked him if by 7 implication when something says it applies to pipelines as they existed on December 15, 1989, 9 that by implication it would not apply to pipelines -- pipes installed after that date. 10 11 MR. ZUCKER: How would Mr. Buck know 12. that? He's a fact witness. He's not here to provide legal opinions to Mr. Poston. 13 14 MR. POSTON: Again, he is here to 15 support their claim of eligibility, and it's tied 16 to every legal authority that they cite. 17 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Poston, I will 18 let you ask him what his opinion is with regard to 19 whether that applies. 20 MR. POSTON: With the understanding 21 he's not an attorney. 22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Exactly. 23 BY MR. POSTON: 24 So by implication, as a non-attorney, 0. 25 would you say that that would mean that these rules

- don't apply to new portions added after
- 2 December 15th, 1989?
- A. According to -- what I see here is
- 4 according to this section. But again, I think
- 5 you're probably, once again, better off to ask
- 6 Mr. Lauber that question.
- 7 Q. Pipelines installed after 1989 were
- 8 subject to new safety requirements that the
- 9 pipelines installed before 1989 were not subject
- 10 to; is that correct?
- 11 A. Again, I'll defer to Mr. Lauber.
- 12 Q. Okay. Let's turn to Subsection C of
- 13 the replacement programs.
- 14 A. Okay. The unprotected steel service
- 15 lines and yard lines?
- 16 Q. Yes.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 O. And a service line connects a
- 19 customer to the main line; is that correct?
- 20 A. Yes, or -- yes, that's correct.
- 21 Q. And has Laclede replaced all of its
- 22 unprotected steel service lines and yard lines that
- 23 existed on December 15th, 1989?
- A. I would gather the answer would be
- 25 no.

Do you believe -- well, perhaps this 1 Q. 2 is a better question for Mr. Lauber. Do you know under C, you see down -- I guess the last sentence 3 4 of that first paragraph, where it says, the 5 operator shall choose from the following options 6 unless otherwise ordered by the Commission and 7 shall notify the Commission by May 1st, 1990 which option or combination of options the operator will 9 undertake. Do you see that? 10 Α. Yes, I see that. 11 Q. Do you know which of these options 12 Laclede Gas and MGE chose? And I think you're right, it's better 13 Α. 14 to ask Mr. Lauber that. 15 And moving on to the next type of 0. 16 replacement program under Subsection D, that's for 17 cast iron, transmission lines, feeder lines and 18 mains, correct? 19 Α. Correct. 20 And under Subsection D it says, 0. 21 Operator shall first prioritize and eliminate those 22 pipelines that present the greatest potential for danger; is that correct? 23 24 Α. That's correct. 25 Has Laclede eliminated all the high 0.

1 priority cast iron? 2. Again, I'll defer to Mr. Lauber on Α. 3 that. 4 Do you know if Laclede has a current Q. 5 cast iron replacement program? 6 Α. I believe we have both probably 7 informal and formal cast iron replacement programs. And were those programs ordered and 0. 9 approved by the Commission? 10 Α. Once again, I certainly know they 11 were for MGE. I believe they were for Laclede, but 12 I'm not sure there's been an overarching 13 requirement. 14 But you are citing to this rule as 0. 15 requiring you to replace these plastic 16 replacements, correct? 17 Α. The company is, yes. 18 0. The last type of replacement program 19 under Subsection E is for replacing or cathodic 20 protection of unprotected steel, transmission 2.1 lines, feeder lines and mains, correct? 22 Α. Correct. 23 0. Would you agree with me that 24 Laclede's unprotected steel main replacement 25 program ended recently?

- 1 A. For the Laclede operating unit,
- 2 that's correct.
- 3 Q. So does that mean Laclede has
- 4 replaced or used cathodic protection on all
- 5 unprotected steel mains?
- 6 A. I think we use cathodic protection on
- 7 all steel mains whether they're coated or not.
- 8 Q. So that answer is yes, then, you've
- 9 either replaced them or there's some type of
- 10 cathodic protection on them?
- 11 A. Bare steel we've replaced. Coated
- 12 steel is still in the ground and it's cathodically
- 13 protected.
- 14 O. So that would leave your cast iron
- 15 replacement program as the only remaining
- 16 replacement program under the safety rules; is that
- 17 correct?
- 18 A. For the Laclede operating unit,
- 19 correct.
- 20 Q. Can you point to me anywhere in
- 21 Section 15 or anywhere else in the Commission's gas
- 22 safety rules that require a plastic safety program?
- 23 A. I would probably go back to the safe
- 24 and adequate service section, because technically
- 25 that's not in the gas safety section. So without

- 1 having a complete set here, I'm not sure I can.
- 2 There may or may not be some. I just don't know
- 3 without them being here.
- 4 Q. Can you point me to any Commission
- 5 order that specifically requires Laclede to replace
- 6 plastic or polyethylene mains or service lines?
- 7 A. Not that I am personally aware of,
- 8 no.
- 9 Q. So the last letter you've cited to in
- 10 your legend that requires these plastic
- 11 replacements is the letter K; is that correct?
- 12 A. That's correct.
- 13 O. And this refers to Section 17 of the
- 14 Commission's gas safety rules, and if you'll turn
- 15 the page, you'll see I've added that as well. And
- 16 that section is titled gas distribution pipeline
- integrity management; is that correct?
- 18 A. That's what it's entitled, yes.
- 19 Q. Is it Laclede's position that this
- 20 rule mandates replacement of plastic mains and
- 21 service lines that were recently installed?
- 22 A. Ask that question one more time,
- 23 please.
- Q. Is it Laclede's position that this
- 25 rule mandates the replacement of plastic mains and

- 1 service lines that were installed recently? I'm not sure where the term recently 2 3 is defined in there, but I would again probably, 4 once again, defer to Mr. Lauber. He would be a 5 better person to ask the question. 6 Would you agree that these four laws, Q. 7 one statute and three rules are the extent of which your petition has stated is why -- is what requires 9 you to replace plastic mains and service lines; is 10 that correct? 11 Α. No. I think we also quote A, B, C, 12 D, E and K, and also have F in there. 13 0. For the plastic replacement? 14 I'm not sure that we have anything Α. 15 just strictly designated as plastic replacements in 16 here, sir.
- 17 Q. Would you agree that the petition
- 18 will speak for itself as to what you've designated?
- 19 A. I would assume that the description
- of the work order header sheets describe what's
- 21 being replaced, yes.
- 22 Q. I'm saying your citation to what
- 23 authority requires those replacements are contained
- 24 within the petition?
- 25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. Okay. So we've just addressed 2 whether the plastic replacements are made to comply 3 with the state and federal safety requirement. 4 be eligible would you agree that replacements must also be a pipe that is worn out or in deteriorated 5 condition? 6 7 Α. Yes. 0. Do you deny that the work orders 9 you've included in these petitions include the 10 replacements of plastic mains and plastic service 11 lines that are not worn out or in deteriorated 12 condition? 13 Α. I would say that we include segments 14 of pipe that is in worn out or deteriorated 15 condition, yes. 16 0. That are not in worn out or 17 deteriorated condition? 18 Α. That are. 19 Q. Do you also include segments --20 replacing segments that are not worn out and 2.1 deteriorated? 2.2 And this gets back to the question of Α. how you define a segment. 23 24 0. Okay. Let's define it. For purposes 25 of my question, a segment is a continuous portion

- of pipe between two joints, no breaks in the pipe.
- 2 It's one continuous pipe with a joint connected to
- 3 another segment of pipe. Would you accept that for
- 4 purposes of these questions?
- 5 A. For your hypothetical, yes.
- 6 Q. So considering that, would you -- do
- you deny that the work orders you've included in
- 8 these petitions include the replacement of plastic
- 9 main and plastic service line segments that are not
- 10 worn out or deteriorated conditions?
- 11 A. Under your hypothetical, yes.
- 12 Q. Do you deny that you replace plastic
- mains and service lines that have been installed
- 14 recently with newer plastic mains and service
- 15 lines?
- 16 A. There are some recent mains that have
- 17 been retired, yes.
- 18 Q. Would you agree that in some
- 19 instances a new plastic main or service line is
- 20 going near and parallel to the plastic main that's
- already in the ground?
- 22 A. With the caveat being some instances,
- 23 I could accept that. I would assume that would
- 24 actually be the majority of time, but I don't know
- 25 for certain. Again, Mr. Lauber would be much

- 1 better on the engineering issues.
- 2 Q. Would you agree with me that the
- 3 existing plastic mains and service lines being
- 4 replaced were installed in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s
- 5 and 2000s?
- 6 A. I -- there may be even 2010s in
- 7 there, and it could be before '70s.
- 8 Q. That's my next question. Would you
- 9 agree that some of the plastic being replaced was
- 10 originally installed since 2010?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Some of it since 2014?
- 13 A. I'm not sure that I've looked that
- 14 closely, but I would -- once again, within your
- 15 assumption, I'll say yes.
- 16 Q. Have you provided any evidence to
- 17 suggest that any of the replaced plastic mains or
- 18 service lines were worn out or in deteriorated
- 19 condition?
- 20 A. For those discrete pieces that were
- 21 replaced, no.
- 22 Q. According to Laclede's depreciation
- 23 rates, plastic and copper service lines fully
- depreciate in 44 years on average; is that right?
- 25 A. On average, yes.

1 0. That means some will last longer and 2 some will last shorter; is that correct? 3 Α. Much like cast iron, correct. So anything installed after 1972 4 0. 5 would have been in the ground less than 44 years; 6 is that correct? 7 Simple math, yes. Α. I'd like to move on to your rebuttal 0. 9 testimony. Do you have that? T do. 10 Α. And your replacement page makes it 11 Q. 12 easier because that's what I'm going to refer to. 13 Do you have that? Was that marked as an exhibit? 14 JUDGE DIPPELL: It was included in 15 the exhibit as a substituted page. 16 MR. POSTON: So which exhibit is that, do you know, Judge? 17 18 JUDGE DIPPELL: Laclede Exhibit 2. 19 THE WITNESS: Mr. Poston, are you 20 done with OPC No. 2? 2.1 MR. POSTON: Yes. 2.2 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 23 BY MR. POSTON: 24 Q. Now, in your rebuttal testimony you refer to Work Order 900547 on page 10 within your 25

- 1 testimony; is that correct? You use that one as an
- 2 example?
- 3 A. On line 14, correct.
- 4 Q. I'd like to use that same example for
- 5 the next series of questions. So going back to
- 6 GWB-1, here you show a summary of work orders
- 7 identified in Mr. Hyneman's testimony; is that
- 8 correct?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. And you base your footage amounts on
- 11 what was actually installed and retired, which is
- 12 likely different from the total shown in the work
- order authorization sheet, correct?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. And why are they different?
- 16 A. It could be a number of things. The
- 17 first thing would be that the work order
- 18 authorization sheets are based on estimates. So
- 19 they're done by, for example, an engineer,
- 20 compliance engineer in our construction engineering
- 21 department who may or may not have gone out to the
- 22 field, because he goes out there to see if there --
- 23 where you could put the pipe, for example, if you
- 24 could put it in the causeway, we'd either have to
- 25 sit there and trench out the street, et cetera.

1 But it's also a matter of determining how closely accurate the -- they are when they sit 2 3 there and do the work, because it may be a more 4 efficient way to do it in the field than what they 5 did when they planned it out. 6 For the most part are those work 0. 7 authorization sheets accurate to what work is actually done? 9 That's a good question. I'm hesitant Α. to say yes, because I'm sure that there are times 10 11 when it varies. But I would think that generally, 12 yes, these are indicative of the type of work planned to be done on that job. 13 14 And looking at the top of your table 0. 15 that's titled mains --16 Α. Yes. 17 -- you have -- you show footage 0. installed, cast iron retirements and other 18 19 retirements. Does this other category include 20 retirement of plastic mains? 2.1 Α. It's not listed on the work order authorization sheet. 2.2 23 What do you think it includes? 0. 24 I would have to go back to the -- I Α. 25 quess the retirement records to be sure exactly

- 1 what it includes.
- Q. Well, if it's not cast iron, wouldn't
- you -- it would have to be either plastic or steel,
- 4 correct?
- 5 A. And for the most part, steel has been
- 6 retired, but there may have been -- not looking at
- 7 the record, I don't have it in front of me, I
- 8 assume that there's no steel. I think -- amongst
- 9 all these nine work orders, I think there was about
- 10 100 feet of steel that was retired.
- 11 Q. So what other type do you have if
- 12 it's not steel and it's not cast iron?
- 13 A. That's what I'm saying. So I'm just
- 14 saying other retirement is probably -- it's
- 15 probably plastic.
- 16 **Q.** Okay.
- 17 A. But there may be a little bit of
- 18 steel there. I just don't know for sure without
- 19 looking at the records.
- 20 Q. Do you recall a number of data
- 21 requests I sent you where, in regard to a number of
- work orders, I asked for a specific footage of each
- 23 retired segment of main and service line, the
- vintage or year that segment was installed, and to
- 25 identify whether the replaced segment was iron,

1	steel, plastic or copper?
2	A. I don't have a copy of the data
3	request with me. Do you by chance?
4	Q. I do.
5	MR. POSTON: May I approach?
6	JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes.
7	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
8	BY MR. POSTON:
9	Q. Would you agree what I've provided
10	you was Laclede's answers to the data request; is
11	that right?
12	A. This was like numbers 1 through 31, I
13	think it was.
14	Q. It's on there. And if you see Data
15	Request No. 10 on there, that's where I asked you
16	about the work order that you reference in your
17	testimony, 900547; is that correct?
18	A. Looks like we hit a page break on
19	that one. Okay. Ask the question again, please.
20	Q. Data Request No. 10, that's where I
21	asked you about Work Order 900547?
22	A. Yes.
23	MR. POSTON: I'd like to have another
24	exhibit marked.
25	JUDGE DIPPELL: That will be OPC

Exhibit 3. 1 (OPC EXHIBIT 3 WAS MARKED FOR 2 3 IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) 4 BY MR. POSTON: 5 Do you agree with me what's been 0. 6 marked as OPC Exhibit No. 3 includes the actual 7 retirements from Work Order 900547 by vintage, footage and type? 9 Α. It appears to be, yes. That's 10 correct. 11 Q. And so looking at the first page, 12 would you agree that by far the majority of the 13 service lines you replaced were plastic, they were 14 not worn out or in a deteriorated condition? 15 Doing eyeball, I would agree with Α. 16 that on an eyeball basis. Don't make me use a calculator, please. 17 18 0. And if you turn to the second page, 19 you'll see at the bottom of that page it shows the 20 vintage and footage of the replaced plastic mains, 2.1 correct? 22 That's correct. Α. 23 0. And these replaced mains were 24 initially installed between 1997 and 2011; is that

correct?

25

1 Α. That's correct. 2 0. Would you agree with me that these 3 mains were not worn out or in deteriorated 4 condition? 5 I personally didn't look at any of Α. 6 them, but I would assume based on their vintage 7 that, in and of themselves, the plastic main was probably not worn out or in deteriorated condition. 9 I'm going to object to MR. THOMPSON: 10 that, Judge. I think the witness is speculating at 11 this point. 12 He already answered. MR. POSTON: 13 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'm going to allow 14 his answer to stand. 15 BY MR. POSTON: 16 0. These mains are still in the ground, 17 are they not? 18 Α. They're not in service, if that's 19 what you're asking. 20 0. I believe you make the point in your 2.1 testimony that in some instances, including this 22 one, you're retiring more plant than you're installing; is that correct? 23 24 Α. Give me one moment. That's correct. 25 Can you point me to anywhere in the 0.

- 1 ISRS statutes where there's this rule that says
- 2 replacement of pipe that's not worn out or
- deteriorated is eligible so long as the retirements
- 4 exceed the installations?
- 5 MR. ZUCKER: To the extent he's
- 6 calling for a legal conclusion, I object.
- 7 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'll let him answer
- 8 if he knows. Mr. Zucker, could you please use your
- 9 microphone?
- 10 MR. ZUCKER: Yes.
- 11 THE WITNESS: Ask the question again,
- 12 please.
- 13 BY MR. POSTON:
- 14 O. Can you point me to where in the ISRS
- 15 statutes or rules it says replacements of pipe
- 16 that's not worn out or deteriorated is eligible so
- 17 long as the retirements exceed the installations?
- 18 A. I'm not aware of any place, no.
- 19 Q. An old cast iron pipe and plastic
- 20 pipe that's retired is still in Laclede's rate
- 21 base, correct?
- 22 A. Ask the question again, please. I
- 23 think the answer is no, but ask me again, please.
- Q. The old cast iron pipe that's retired
- 25 is still in Laclede's rate base?

1	A. No, that's not correct.
2	Q. Can you explain that?
3	A. It may well, I can sit there and
4	direct you to GWB Schedule 2. But essentially when
5	you do a retirement, you're taking the gross
6	property out of plant in service. You're also
7	taking the gross value of the property out of your
8	depreciation reserve. So it comes out of plant in
9	service and depreciation reserve. So it's not in
10	service anywhere. It's not on your books.
11	Q. But your general rates don't change;
12	is that correct?
13	A. You asked me a different question.
14	Q. I asked you if it's still in your
15	rate base that you're recovering through rates.
16	A. And the answer would be, no, it's
17	not.
18	Q. But your rates haven't changed,
19	correct?
20	A. My depreciation rate has changed.
21	Q. But the rates that are being charged
22	to customers have not changed?
23	A. I'm not sure I'm following.
24	Q. When you put in a new pipe, both the
25	old pipe and the new pipe are earning a rate of

1 return; is that correct? 2 It depends on the age of the pipe as Α. 3 compared so what the depreciation rate is. 4 So in some instances would that be 0. 5 true? 6 Α. In some instances it's actually a 7 credit for customers. I said, in some instances would that Q. 9 be true? 10 Yes, that and the converse. Α. 11 Q. And in your testimony you're asked 12. the question, does early retirement of plastic 13 mains cause the ISRS request to increase, and you 14 say, no, retirements reduce the ISRS. Would you 15 agree that the additions cause the ISRS to 16 increase? 17 Α. That's correct. 18 MR. POSTON: I have no more 19 questions, but I would ask that Mr. Buck not be excused until after Mr. Lauber has testified in 20 21 case some questions he may defer to Mr. Buck. 22 JUDGE DIPPELL: And were you going to 23 offer OPC Exhibit No. 3? 24 MR. POSTON: Yes. Thank you, Judge. I would like to offer that. 25

1	JUDGE DIPPELL: Would there be any
2	objection to OPC Exhibit No. 3?
3	(No response.)
4	JUDGE DIPPELL: Seeing none, then, I
5	will admit that into the record.
6	(OPC EXHIBIT 3 WAS RECEIVED INTO
7	EVIDENCE.)
8	MR. POSTON: Did I offer Exhibit 2?
9	JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes.
10	THE WITNESS: Mr. Poston, would you
11	like this back?
12	MR. POSTON: Yes.
13	JUDGE DIPPELL: Can I ask the
14	commissioners, will you have substantial questions
15	for this witness? We're really close to needing a
16	break for the court reporter.
17	CHAIRMAN HALL: I have a few.
18	JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Then let's go
19	ahead and take Commissioner questions before we go
20	to a break. So, Chairman Hall, did you have
21	questions?
22	CHAIRMAN HALL: Just a few.
23	QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN HALL:
24	
25	A. Good morning.

1 0. What is the total amount of old 2 plastic that was replaced? 3 If you're talking about on all the Α. 4 ISRS projects, I don't think anybody's done that 5 calculation at this point. 6 How easy would it be to perform that ο. 7 calculation? It obviously can be done. It would 9 be a very painstaking process, especially when you consider the fact that, for example, in an ISRS, in 10 11 the current ISRS, we may have 200 work orders and 12 80 of them may be for work that was actually in prior periods and you're having negative amounts 13 14 coming through on the work order balance itself 15 that actually reduces your ISRS. 16 So I'm not sure exactly how you 17 allocate those out. And probably the bigger issue 18 is I'm not sure how you allocate the cost of a 19 project between the various types of main that's 20 going in, going out. 2.1 Yeah. I don't know how you calculate Q. 2.2 it either. I'll be interested to hear how, because 23 my understanding of OPC's position, it would 24 require us to perform that calculation. So I'll be 25 interested in OPC's witnesses as to how they think

- 1 we could perform it.
- 2 A. I guess that's personally where we're
- 3 struggling, sir, is that if you've taken out more
- 4 main than you put in the ground, I'm not sure how
- 5 you sit there and allocate the pipe that you're
- 6 putting in the ground between main -- cast iron
- 7 main that came out that was more than the amount
- 8 of plastic that you put in and some other plastic
- 9 that came out incidentally.
- 10 So if we turn to -- if I might go
- 11 back to the Revised Schedule GWB-1, staying with my
- 12 Work Order 900547, you'll see that we installed
- 13 footage of 6,306 feet.
- 14 Q. I'm sorry. Where are you on here?
- 15 A. Okay. The very top one, the mains.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. So the very first line for Work
- 18 Order 900547, you'll see in the first column the
- 19 footage installed, so the plastic main put in was
- 20 approximately 6,306 feet. What was actually
- 21 removed from the ground -- or not removed from the
- 22 ground but abandoned in place, because we don't
- 23 normally take plastic or cast iron out of the
- 24 ground, was approximately 6,896 feet of cast iron
- 25 main and 2,125 feet, which I think 20 feet of that

- 1 was steel, but the other portion of it was largely
- 2 cop-- or plastic.
- I don't know how you allocate the
- 4 cost of putting 6,300 feet of main in the ground,
- 5 how you take it out when you've got more main that
- 6 you removed from service than what you put in in
- 7 the first place. I'm not sure if there is any
- 8 logical way to do that calculation.
- 9 Q. I don't know either. Would you
- 10 explain for me how the retirement of plastic
- 11 patches figures in to the calculation of the ISRS
- in your application?
- 13 A. Sure. Actually, this actually came
- 14 up when we -- the ISRS rule was first passed in
- 15 2004. This was a question about what do you do
- 16 with the retirement value of the property that
- 17 comes out of the ground. The concern was something
- 18 that they kind of referred to earlier -- or the OPC
- 19 counsel referred to double recovering.
- 20 Reality is is that when you sit
- 21 there -- and let's say you put 1,000 feet of main
- in and you take 500 feet out. You're putting the
- 23 cost of the new main in, so we get a return on the
- 24 cost of the main plus depreciation expense on that
- 25 main.

1 So let's say it was \$1,000 and your depreciation rate was 2 percent. You would sit 2 3 there and have a \$20 depreciation expense. You 4 would look at the 500 feet of main that came out, 5 and let's say that's also at a 2 percent rate and that was worth \$500. You would take \$10 out of 6 depreciation expense on the other side. So now the 7 effect of depreciation expense is \$20 up for the 9 new main but then \$10 down for the old main on the 10 depreciation expense. 11 Q. So you would net that out in the new 12. ISRS? 13 Α. Yes, absolutely. 14 And where -- where in the application 0. 15 itself is that -- or is it set forth in the 16 application? 17 Α. Unfortunately, it's a really It is. 18 long document, but I will try and get you to the 19 right spot. If you go to Appendix B, page 3 of 11, which is probably about six or seven pages from the 20 2.1 very back. 22 Which appendix? I'm sorry. Q. 23 This would be the application, Α. 24 Laclede Exhibit No. 4. 25 Appendix C? 0.

1 Α. Appendix B. Page 3 of 11. 2 like you may be at A. 3 0. I'm in Appendix B. 4 Oh, that may be MGE's. I apologize. Α. 5 Okay. That's fine. 0. The only one I have is Laclede's with 6 Α. 7 me. That's fine. I assume it's similar, Q. 9 and I don't have that appendix with me. Do you? Can I offer this to you? 10 Α. 11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Sure. 12 THE WITNESS: Okay. That's our 13 application for the Laclede operating unit, and as 14 part of the application, we file Appendix A, which 15 shows all the additions, retirements, et cetera. And then we have Appendix B, which actually does 16 the ISRS calculations. So if you actually look to 17 18 the page before, that page 3 of 11 shows what our 19 original filing was for the total ISRS revenue 20 requirement. But Appendix B, page 3 of 11 shows the depreciation expense on the additions, in this 2.1 22 case \$1,320,163. 23 And you'll see next to it the retirement annual depreciation, which was negative 24 25 \$221,919. Net increase in depreciation expense is

a million ninety-eight. So, in fact, in essence 1 we're giving customers credit for the depreciation 2. 3 expense on the retired property. 4 CHAIRMAN HALL: I have no further 5 questions. Thank you. 6 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. I don't 7 believe there are any other Commissioner questions, and I don't have any questions. I'm going to go 9 ahead and take just a short -- well, let me ask: 10 Are there going to be any recross questions? 11 MR. THOMPSON: None from Staff. 12 MR. POSTON: I have a few. 13 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Let's go 14 ahead and take a quick ten-minute break. My clock 15 shows 10:43. The clock in the hearing room was 16 dead this morning, so come back in ten minutes. 17 (A BREAK WAS TAKEN.) 18 JUDGE DIPPELL: We're back after a 19 brief break, and thank you for the clock 20 miraculously returning in our absence. Okay. So 2.1 we are ready then. There was no recross from 2.2 Staff. 23 Public Counsel? 24 MR. POSTON: Yes, thank you. 25 RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON:

I'm going to -- I'm going to start 1 0. 2 with the first questions that you got from the 3 Chairman. He asked you how easy would it be to do 4 a calculation to try to determine and remove the 5 plastic amount. Do you recall that? 6 Α. Yes. 7 Well, first he asked you how would 0. you identify the total amount of plastic, and would 8 9 you agree that OPC Exhibit No. 3 for Project 900547 10 or Work Order 900547, you were able to determine 11 that? 12 For that work order, yes. Α. 13 And you did it for other work orders 0. 14 that we asked about, right? 15 I did, but there's a -- the concern I 16 had with this is there's a time issue related to 17 when a project is complete and sometimes actually in service and when the actual trailing information 18 19 comes in. So that information I provided, for 20 example, in that work order is not always available 2.1 for all the work order in an ISRS. That's why a 2.2 lot of them are charged to -- originally to 23 account 10600, which is construction not yet classified. On those ones that would not 24 25 necessarily be available.

1 0. Okay. Do you think there's some work 2 around that could -- we could figure out to try to 3 come up with a reasonable number? 4 You know what? I've never Α. 5 contemplated it. I really haven't. 6 And then he asked you how easy it 0. 7 would be to calculate just a percentage -- I mean, to determine an amount, and would you agree that 9 one way you could do it is you could determine what 10 the percentage of plastic pipe that's in the entire 11 petition or you could even do it by work order, 12 percentage by work order, and then just apply that 13 percentage to the total work order cost? 14 I don't really think that would be Α. 15 accurate, and the reason why is because I'm not sure that you can -- how do you take -- I'm not 16 17 sure how you take 8,000 feet coming out of the ground, comparing it to 6,000 feet that was put in 18 19 the ground, and come up with some ratio that says 20 this amount is related to X, this amount is related 21 to Y. It's not logical. 2.2 Well, absent some other way to find Q. 23 out exactly how much it costs, would that be one 24 way you could do it? Say Work Order 900547, if you 25 were to say 10 percent of the retirements were

- 1 plastic, then we just remove 10 percent of the work
- order cost. That's one way that could be done?
- A. I'm sure there are a lot of different
- 4 ways it could be done. I really haven't
- 5 contemplated how to do it.
- 6 Q. But that's one way the Commission
- 7 could do it?
- 8 A. I'd have to think through whether
- 9 that's logical or not.
- 10 Q. So you can't give a yes or no,
- 11 whether they could possibly do that?
- 12 A. I hadn't really considered it.
- 13 Q. Okay. I'm asking you to consider it.
- 14 A. Okay. Please describe the scenario
- 15 again.
- 16 Q. If 10 percent of Work Order 900547
- included plastic retirement and 90 percent included
- 18 other types of retirement, could you just say,
- okay, 10 percent of that total work order was
- 20 plastic, and so we just remove 10 percent of the
- 21 total cost of that work order?
- 22 A. And I guess I don't think that's how
- 23 you could do that, because I don't think putting
- 24 the plastic in or out is necessarily part of an
- 25 average cost of putting stuff in or taking pipe out

- 1 or putting pipe into the ground. The -- doing
- 2 plastic may be an incremental cost versus the fixed
- 3 cost of actually setting the job up in the first
- 4 place. So I don't think that's a logical way to
- 5 look at it, no.
- 6 Q. But if you're trying to come up with
- 7 a simple way to do it that doesn't require you to
- 8 go back and determine how much it cost to replace
- 9 every foot of plastic, isn't that a possible way
- 10 you could do it, just do a general percentage, that
- 11 the Commission could do it?
- 12 A. It is a possible way. I wouldn't
- 13 agree with it, but --
- 14 Q. So would you prefer them to go
- 15 through and determine the cost to replace each
- 16 plastic foot?
- 17 A. I really hadn't considered it because
- 18 this really isn't our position at this point.
- 19 Q. Are you a certified public accountant
- 20 **or CPA?**
- A. I am not.
- 22 Q. I'm going to ask you some accounting
- 23 questions anyway because they were asked of you
- 24 already.
- 25 A. If it will help you, I was in the

- 1 finance area and actually certified books for
- 2 25 years. So I think I'm probably an accountant by
- 3 trade, if nothing else.
- 4 Q. Can we hold one moment, please?
- 5 Thank you. I'm not a CPA either. So it's taking
- 6 me a while to understand.
- 7 A. Okay.
- 8 Q. So the question you were -- the
- 9 discussion you were having with the Chairman about
- 10 how you treat the retirements and -- isn't the
- 11 reduction in depreciation on the retirement --
- 12 retired plant in ISRS only because you're not
- 13 recovering the depreciation on books, not recording
- 14 the depreciation on books?
- 15 A. Ask the question again. I'm sorry.
- 16 I was getting the schedule out.
- 17 O. I thought you would say that. Okay.
- 18 Isn't the reduction in depreciation on the retired
- 19 plant in ISRS only because you're not recording the
- 20 depreciation on your books?
- 21 A. It's because we took it out of
- 22 service and depreciation expense is your gross
- 23 plant in service times the depreciation rate. So
- 24 it's a function of the plant in service and the
- 25 depreciation rate itself.

1 Q. Let me try the question one more 2 time. 3 Α. Okay. 4 Isn't the reduction in depreciation 0. 5 on the retired plant in ISRS only because you're 6 not recording depreciation on your books? 7 It's because the plant isn't in Α. service anymore. 9 0. Is the answer no or is it yes? It's not a logical question. I think 10 Α. 11 the answer would be, is that your plant in service 12 is no longer there, so as you take that times the 13 depreciation rate, it has a reduction in your 14 depreciation expense. If you're getting to the 15 point so the depreciation expense isn't on your 16 books anymore, it's because the plant isn't in 17 service anymore. 18 0. So does the company receive full 19 recovery for the short-lived assets? 20 I don't understand the question. Α. 2.1 Are depreciation expenses built into Q. 22 revenue requirement? 23 Α. Yes. 24 Q. What happens to the dollars collected 25 related to plant that is retired?

- 1 A. You don't recover retired plant
- 2 through anything other than the depreciation
- 3 expense originally. If you sit there and think of
- 4 a piece of property, let's say it's a piece of
- 5 property that's going to last ten years and it cost
- 6 \$1,000 and has a ten-year depreciation expense.
- 7 You're recovering the gross property amount, the
- 8 \$1,000 initial investment, \$100 a year through the
- 9 depreciation expenses, all else being equal. So
- 10 that's how you're getting the return of your
- 11 property at that point.
- 12 Then your return on your property is
- 13 the your net plant times your weighted average cost
- of capital. So the retirement value really does
- 15 not have anything to do with recovering the gross
- 16 investment.
- 17 Q. So when you retire plant early --
- 18 let's say you put in plastic pipe. Even though you
- 19 retire it, you still get to recover the full amount
- 20 of that initial investment?
- 21 A. You're now actually getting into what
- 22 a depreciation calculation would do. I can go into
- 23 as much detail as I can about this, but essentially
- 24 depreciation is a self-reconciling methodology,
- 25 whereas once you've taken -- if you retire

- 1 something early, you stop recovering on that at
- 2 that point in time.
- 3 You continue the depreciation
- 4 expenses till your net rate case, because we have
- 5 open-ended depreciation. But as far as the
- 6 recovery of the property that was retired early,
- 7 you don't go back and recover it until you take a
- 8 final look at what your depreciation reserve was
- 9 versus what the theoretical reserve should be, and
- 10 then you do a theoretical reserve adjustment and
- 11 add to or subtract that from your depreciation
- 12 rates. That's how you would recover that cost.
- 13 Conversely, on a cast iron main,
- 14 which has an 80-year life, right now we have,
- 15 quote, over-recovered on that because most of our
- 16 property that we have is 100 years or older.
- 17 Eventually when you go back and do a depreciation
- 18 study, you're going to look at that and say, your
- 19 depreciation reserve should have been X and it's
- 20 actually much higher than that. So you'll actually
- 21 have a negative theoretical reserve adjustment that
- 22 will sit there and, all else being equal, reduce
- 23 your depreciation rate.
- Q. So when you're -- through accounting
- 25 mechanisms or whatever you call them, you're able

- 1 to recognize the full value of that plant that was
- 2 retired?
- 3 A. Depreciation is supposed to be
- 4 self-reconciling, yes.
- 5 Q. And so when you retire plant that was
- 6 installed in 2010 with brand-new plant, you're
- 7 going to get to recover the full value of both of
- 8 those?
- 9 A. Anything that's under or retired
- 10 early or retired too late is all self-reconciling,
- 11 correct.
- 12 Q. So that gives the company incentive
- to replace as much as possible, wouldn't you agree?
- 14 A. No. I completely disagree.
- 15 Q. I mean, there's a profit incentive,
- 16 wouldn't you agree, you get to earn a profit on
- 17 each foot of plant you put in?
- 18 A. Whether I retire it early or late,
- 19 I'm still getting a profit or -- on the value of
- 20 the property in the ground. I guess maybe I'm,
- 21 Marc -- or Mr. Poston, I'm not positive I'm
- 22 following your question again.
- 23 MR. POSTON: I'm good. Thank you.
- 24 That's all I have.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Were

- 1 there any additional Commissioner questions at this
- 2 point? All right. Then, let's go ahead. Is there
- 3 redirect?
- 4 MR. ZUCKER: Yes, your Honor.
- 5 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. ZUCKER:
- 6 Q. Mr. Buck, do you know what the
- 7 purpose is of the cast iron replacement program?
- 8 A. To replace cast iron main, I assume.
- 9 Q. And does Laclede have a plastic main
- 10 replacement program?
- 11 A. Not that I'm aware, no.
- 12 Q. Would Laclede replace an entire line
- of plastic main with plastic main that didn't have
- 14 any cast iron in it?
- 15 A. Not in my experience, no.
- 16 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: This is
- 17 Commissioner Kenney. Are we getting ready to
- 18 start?
- JUDGE DIPPELL: I'm sorry,
- 20 Commissioner. We're already in progress here.
- 21 We're on redirect of Mr. Buck. Did you have any
- 22 additional questions?
- 23 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No. I'm good.
- 24 I'll let you know if I do.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Thank you.

1 I'm sorry. Continue. 2 MR. ZUCKER: Thank you, your Honor. 3 BY MR. ZUCKER: 4 Mr. Buck, in evidence in this case 0. are the nine work orders that we've been talking 5 6 about in Rebuttal Schedule GWB-1? 7 Α. Yes. It would appear to me, doing quick 0. 9 math, that the other retirement mains is less than 10 20 percent of the total. Does that look right to 11 you? 12 Α. Correct. 13 0. And why -- do you know why the 14 amounts are so low of plastic? 15 To some extent, I can defer to 16 Mr. Lauber on that, but it's also the case that 17 they will -- if you have a large project that's strictly related to plastic, it will go on its own 18 19 schedule. In fact, we meet with the construction 20 engineering group fairly often to discuss projects 2.1 to see whether they would take plastic out as part 22 of a larger project. And there's kind of a rule of

thumb as far as how much plastic you would have as

taking out that's still within the ISRS-eligible

project on its own.

23

24

- Q. Okay. So if it's mainly a project that takes out plastic, you're saying it would not
- 3 be in the ISRS?
- 4 A. I would ask them to sit there and do
- 5 that on a separate work order. And again, I'm not
- 6 sure we would be doing that anyway.
- 7 Q. Are you familiar with the ISRS
- 8 statute?
- 9 A. I am.
- 10 Q. Does the ISRS statute require the
- 11 company to remove plant in a prudent manner?
- 12 A. Absolutely.
- 13 Q. Or -- and install plant in a prudent
- 14 manner?
- 15 A. Yes. In fact, actually --
- MR. POSTON: Judge, I'm going to
- 17 object. He wasn't able to testify to the statute
- 18 when I was asking him questions.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Zucker, would you
- 20 repeat your question for me, please?
- 21 MR. ZUCKER: Yes. My question is, in
- the ISRS statute, is Laclede required to perform
- 23 its ISRS work in a prudent manner?
- 24 MR. POSTON: Asking him to interpret
- 25 the statute.

- 1 JUDGE DIPPELL: I agree that sounds
- 2 like it's calling for a legal opinion about what
- 3 the statute says.
- 4 BY MR. ZUCKER:
- 5 Q. Could you read Section 10 of the
- 6 statute to us, Section 393.1015.10?
- 7 A. Sure. No. 10, nothing contained in
- 8 Section 393.1009 to 393.1015 shall be construed to
- 9 impair in any way the authority of the Commission
- 10 to review the reasonableness of the rates or
- 11 charges of a gas corporation, including review of
- 12 the prudence of eligible infrastructure system
- 13 replacements made by a gas corporation, pursuant to
- 14 the provisions of Section 386.390.
- 15 Q. Thank you. In your experience in
- 16 rate cases, what would happen if Laclede came in
- for a rate case and had done ISRS work imprudently?
- 18 A. A party would propose to disallow
- 19 those costs, and I think actually under the ISRS
- 20 rules they could seek a refund of past ISRS
- 21 charges.
- 22 Q. Do you know how long Laclede has been
- doing work where we replace, I guess, patches of
- 24 cast iron with plastic?
- 25 A. For quite a while. I know it

- 1 predates, I think, most of the questions we have.
- 2 I think Mr. Poston even showed things. Certainly
- 3 it was prior to the ISRS statute themselves getting
- 4 passed.
- 5 O. And so at the time the ISRS statute
- 6 was passed, the cast iron lines already had plastic
- 7 in and amongst it?
- A. Absolutely. In fact, that's one of
- 9 the work orders that we went through 500947 -- or
- 10 547 showed some plastic that was in place in 1997
- 11 through 2000, which is all prior to the ISRS
- 12 statute, which is 2003.
- 13 Q. And so do you think that the ISRS
- 14 statute contemplated Laclede removing the cast iron
- in a manner which left that old plastic in?
- 16 MR. POSTON: Objection. He's asking
- 17 him to interpret the statute again.
- 18 JUDGE DIPPELL: There's been -- we've
- 19 been talking a lot about legal opinions here. I
- 20 will say that Mr. Buck testified as to what the
- 21 statute said and everything with regard to his
- 22 direct testimony. So I'm going to allow.
- 23 MR. POSTON: If I could respond.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: No. I'm talking,
- 25 Mr. Poston. Thank you. I'm going to allow him to

- 1 answer as to what he knows, but he has testified
- 2 that he's not an attorney, so we could save the
- 3 legal arguments for the brief.
- 4 MR. ZUCKER: Understood, your Honor.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.
- 6 BY MR. ZUCKER:
- 7 Q. Okay. So do you think that it
- 8 would be prudent for us to remove the cast iron
- 9 without -- and use the old plastic instead of the
- 10 way we're doing it?
- 11 A. No, it would be economically
- 12 infeasible.
- 13 Q. Mr. Buck, you testified in response
- 14 to Chairman Hall's question that the depreciation
- 15 expense in Laclede Gas's ISRS case would have been
- 1.3 million without deductions for retirement, and
- 17 after those deductions it was 1.1 million?
- 18 A. That sounds approximately correct,
- 19 yes.
- 20 Q. So Laclede was not asking for
- 21 \$200,000 in ISRS costs because they were eliminated
- 22 by the retirements?
- A. Correct.
- Q. How much do cast iron retirements
- 25 tend to be as a percentage of the installation?

- 1 A. You mean as compared to the total
- 2 installation cost of the pipe that's being put in
- 3 the ground now?
- 4 Q. Yes.
- 5 A. It's substantially smaller, if you
- 6 think about it. Some of the cast iron is well over
- 7 100 years old. So if you talk about weight scales
- 8 back then and even the cost of materials, the cost
- 9 of cast iron is de minimus in comparison to the
- 10 cost of the pipe being put in the ground today.
- 11 Q. How about the value of the
- 12 retirements of the plastic?
- 13 A. Certainly higher than the cast iron.
- 14 General inflation, if you're talking something that
- 15 was put in the ground in 2012, was one of the
- 16 examples that was given, it would be substantially
- 17 close to what the cost of plastic would probably be
- 18 today, and it may be more because I think we've
- 19 become a little more efficient in how we put the
- 20 plastic in the ground.
- 21 Q. You were asked by Mr. Poston if the
- 22 ISRS amounts that OPC was not objecting to was
- 23 basically a majority of the costs allowed, and you
- 24 said you did not know the answer. Do you recall
- 25 that?

1 Α. Yes. 2 Q. Why didn't you know whether or not it 3 was -- it would be a majority? 4 If I'm following your question, it's Α. because there hasn't been any quantification one 5 6 way or the other of what cost is which. 7 getting back to Mr. Poston's question from just a few moments ago, I'm not really sure how you'd go 9 about quantifying what that cost would be. 10 Do you have your Rebuttal Q. 11 Schedule GWB-1? 12 Α. T do. 13 0. If Laclede were to say that it would 14 just count the footage installed up to the amount 15 of cast iron retirement and not involve plastic at 16 all in the ISRS calculation, would Laclede be able 17 to recover all of its -- if these nine work orders 18 were the entire case, would Laclede be able to 19 recover all of its installation costs? 20 Α. For these nine work orders, yes. 2.1 Q. And that's because? 2.2 The footage installed was Α. 23 43,833 feet. The cast iron replacement or cast iron retired was 44,598 or about 800 feet more than 24 25 what was put in the ground.

- 1 Q. Okay. And then if you didn't count
- 2 plastic at all, you wouldn't include the retirement
- of the plastic in the ISRS, would you?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. And so that offset of the ISRS
- 6 wouldn't occur?
- 7 A. Yeah. And I think it was -- I forgot
- 8 how much it would be but, yes, it would not have
- 9 included the depreciation expense on the retirement
- 10 value.
- 11 Q. You've testified that Laclede is
- 12 performing its cast iron main replacement program
- in a prudent manner. Do you recall that?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Given the way Laclede is performing
- its program, would there be any different amount of
- 17 new plastic put in if the line that was retired was
- 18 all cast iron? In other words, let me give you a
- 19 hypothetical. Let's say in one case the line is
- 20 85 percent cast iron and 15 percent plastic.
- 21 A. Okay.
- 22 Q. In another case exactly the
- 23 same-length line is 100 percent cast iron. Would
- Laclede be doing anything different in its
- 25 replacement of those two lines?

No. We'd install the same amount of 1 Α. main, if that's your question. 2 3 Yes. That's my question. 0. 4 Okay. I'm glad I clarified, then. Α. 5 One moment, please. Let me check my Q. 6 notes a minute. 7 Mr. Poston asked you a couple of questions of what information was or was not in the 9 statute. Is there anything in the statute, to your 10 knowledge, that says that every inch of removed or 11 replaced facilities has to be worn out or 12. deteriorated? 13 Α. No. 14 Is there anything in the statute that 0. 15 requires Laclede to work around or not include any 16 segments of plastic? 17 MR. POSTON: Objection. It's asking for a legal conclusion. 18 19 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'll sustain that. 20 The statute speaks for itself. Let's put the legal 21 arguments in the briefs, please. 2.2 MR. ZUCKER: Okay. I think that's 2.3 all I have. Thank you, your Honor. 24 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

1 JUDGE DIPPELL: And Mr. Poston requested that you not be completely excused in 2 3 case some of those questions you deferred to 4 Mr. Lauber maybe comes back. 5 THE WITNESS: I'll be here. 6 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. If you 7 could remain. All right then. Laclede's next witness? 9 MR. ZUCKER: Laclede calls Mark D. Lauber. 10 11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Could you raise your 12 right hand. 13 (Witness sworn.) 14 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. MARK D. LAUBER testified as follows: 15 16 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. ZUCKER: 17 Good morning, Mr. Lauber. 0. 18 A. Good morning. 19 Q. Can you state and spell your name for 20 the record? 2.1 A. Yes. It's Mark Lauber, last name 2.2 L-a-u-b-e-r. 2.3 Q. And are you employed by Laclede Gas 24 Company? 25 A. Yes, I am.

1 0. Are you the same Mark D. Lauber who 2 filed rebuttal testimony in this case on 3 December 23rd, 2016? 4 Α. Yes. 5 0. Do you have a copy of that testimony 6 with you? 7 Α. Yes, I do. And that testimony has been marked 0. 9 Laclede Exhibit No. 3. And you have it in front of 10 you? 11 Α. Yes. 12 Okay. If I asked you the same Q. 13 questions posed in that testimony today, would your 14 answers be the same? 15 Α. Yes. 16 0. Do you have any changes to any part 17 of the testimony? 18 No, I don't. Α. 19 MR. ZUCKER: I move for admittance into evidence of Laclede Exhibit No. 3. 20 2.1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Are there any 2.2 objections to Laclede Exhibit No. 3? 23 (No response.) 24 JUDGE DIPPELL: Seeing none, then I will admit Laclede Exhibit No. 3. 25

1	(LACLEDE EXHIBIT 3 WAS RECEIVED INTO
2	EVIDENCE.)
3	MR. ZUCKER: Thank you, Mr. Lauber.
4	THE WITNESS: You're welcome.
5	JUDGE DIPPELL: Is there
6	cross-examination by Staff?
7	MR. THOMPSON: No, thank you, Judge.
8	JUDGE DIPPELL: Public Counsel?
9	MR. POSTON: Yes, thank you.
10	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON:
11	Q. Good morning, Mr. Lauber.
12	A. Good morning.
13	Q. I'll give you the same caveat I gave
14	Mr. Buck, that when I refer to Laclede, I'm
15	referring to Laclede Gas and MGE unless I designate
16	separately.
17	A. Understood.
18	Q. You're an engineer; is that correct?
19	A. That's correct.
20	Q. Are you a licensed professional
21	engineer or PE?
22	A. No, I'm not.
23	JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Lauber, could I
24	get you to be sure to speak into the microphone?
25	It's difficult. Mr. Poston is so close there.

1 THE WITNESS: Okay. BY MR. POSTON: 2. 3 And you've held several positions 0. 4 with Laclede in the area of corrosion control; is 5 that right? 6 Α. Among others, but that was a 7 responsibility of mine, yes. Would it be safe to say you're 0. 9 familiar with Laclede's practices of detecting 10 corrosive pipe? 11 Α. Yes. 12 And hydrostatic testing involves 0. 13 filling a segment of pipe with pressurized water, 14 and if it doesn't maintain the pressure, you know the pipe has a leak; is that correct? 15 16 Α. That's one of the things, yes, that 17 you identify. 18 Q. But the test makes no physical 19 changes to that pipe; is that correct? 20 You're actually applying a physical Α. 21 stress to the pipe, but no, it doesn't result in a 22 physical change after you walk away from it. 23 The test tells you the main or the 0. 24 pipe is still operating safely as expected or not,

correct?

- 1 A. Yeah, unless you have a failure, and
- then you're going out and making a repair or
- 3 replacement, rehabilitation of that pipe.
- 4 Q. I'd like to hand you an exhibit. I'm
- 5 not going to have it marked. It's just a copy of
- 6 393.1009 just to refer to. I'm not going to ask
- 7 him to interpret it. Commissioner and the Judge
- 8 want copies of this?
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes.
- 10 BY MR. POSTON:
- 11 Q. I'd like to ask you a few questions
- 12 **about 393.095B.**
- 13 A. All right.
- 14 O. And you quote from this subsection in
- your testimony supporting the eligibility of
- 16 hydrostatic testing; is that correct?
- 17 A. That's correct.
- 18 Q. And so if we look at B, it starts by
- 19 identifying three types of projects. Do you see
- 20 **that?**
- 21 A. Yes. It gives examples, yes.
- 22 Q. And it says it must be one of these
- 23 three or other similar projects, correct?
- A. That's not my engineering
- 25 interpretation of that, no.

1 0. Let me read that language. It says, 2 main relining projects -- well, let me back up. Gas utility plant project -- I'm up 3 4 on 5 -- may consist only of the following: Main 5 relining projects, service line insertion projects, 6 joint encapsulation projects and other similar 7 projects. Would you agree that that's an accurate reading of that statute, at least that portion? 9 Α. Yes. 10 So the first, main relining projects, Q. 11 this refers to relining the interior of a pipe, 12 correct? 13 Α. Yes. 14 Would you agree this involves more 0. 15 than just testing the line? 16 Α. It may involve a number of different 17 things, cleaning, similar to what you do with hydro 18 testing. 19 My question was, would you agree this 0. involves more than just testing? 20 2.1 Α. Yes. 2.2 So the second, service line insertion Q. 23 projects, this refers to inserting a new line into an old line; is that correct? 24 25 Α. Yes.

1 0. Would you agree this involves more 2 than just testing the line? 3 Α. Yes. 4 And the last project reference is a 0. 5 joint encapsulation project. And joint is where 6 two segments of pipe are joined; is that correct? 7 Α. Yes. How does Laclede encapsulate a joint? 0. 9 Well, there's several different 10 practices we use, but one of which is actually 11 putting a clamp on a joint. That would be cast 12 iron typically. Another one would be actually, I guess, putting a sealant around the joint, some 13 14 sort of mold or something like that. 15 Would you agree this refers to more 0. 16 than just testing the joint? 17 Α. Yes. 18 0. Does joint encapsulation extend the 19 useful life of a main? 20 Α. Yes. 2.1 You're familiar with the process of 0. 22 cathodic protection of steel pipe; is that correct? 23 That's correct. Α. 24 Q. Would you agree that a very simple 25 way to explain cathodic protection is that it

- 1 involves attaching anodes to a section of steel
- 2 pipe to change the flow of electrons, which slows
- 3 down the corrosion of the pipe?
- 4 A. That would be one very crude way of
- 5 describing that, yes.
- 6 Q. I'm an attorney, so put that out
- 7 there. Would you agree that slowing down the rate
- 8 of corrosion extends the useful life of the pipe?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Your testimony says hydrostatic
- 11 testing is performed on transmission lines, which
- 12 are the larger diameter steel lines; is that
- 13 correct?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 O. How does Laclede test cast iron
- distribution mains to determine whether a
- 17 particular segment is worn out or deteriorated?
- 18 A. We do a number of different things
- 19 that's primarily focused on reviewing the leakage
- 20 history of the pipe.
- 21 Q. Do you do any type of ultrasonic
- 22 testing?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. So there's no actual test being
- 25 performed on the mains themselves; it's just

- 1 through leakage reports?
- 2 A. Well, we find a leakage quite often
- 3 through leakage surveys, which you could consider
- 4 as a test. But to the extent that we're looking at
- 5 reports, that's accurate.
- 6 Q. So how do you do a leakage survey?
- 7 A. We go over the pipeline with leak
- 8 detection instrumentation on a periodic basis.
- 9 Q. So is it your position that the cost
- 10 for that type of leak survey is eligible for ISRS
- 11 recovery?
- 12 A. No, it's not.
- 13 O. So how does Laclede test steel
- 14 service lines to determine whether a particular
- 15 segment of service line is worn out or
- 16 deteriorated? Is it the same way, through the leak
- 17 surveys?
- 18 A. Overall, we do much the same thing,
- 19 yes. And then we also use our cathodic protection
- 20 monitoring program to identify issues with the
- 21 steel services. And again, we look at overall
- 22 leakage rate.
- 23 O. And each time Laclede were to test
- 24 the service line, is it your position the test is
- 25 **eligible for ISRS?**

1	A. No.
2	Q. If a customer calls and says they
3	smell gas and a Laclede service technician comes to
4	the home and tests around the meter, the service
5	line for leaks, discovers no leaks, does that
6	extend the use of the life of the meter service
7	line?
8	A. To my knowledge, no.
9	Q. Is it Laclede's position that the
10	costs of that leak test are eligible for ISRS?
11	A. It's my understanding, no.
12	Q. I'd like to change subjects and ask
13	you questions about the other issue before the
14	Commission, whether replacing plastic mains and
15	service lines that were not deteriorated are
16	eligible. And I want to be sure that you
17	understand our position because I was confused by
18	your testimony.
19	Is it your understanding that for the
20	work orders that replace both cast iron mains that
21	are old and plastic mains that are not old, that
22	OPC's position is the cost of replacing the cast
23	iron is eligible but the cost of replacing the
24	plastic is not eligible?
25	A. That's my understanding of your

- 1 position, yes.
- 2 Q. So OPC's not contesting the cost of
- 3 replacing the specific segments of old pipe that
- 4 are made of cast iron and steel, correct?
- 5 A. That's my understanding, yes.
- 6 Q. And the majority of the replacements
- 7 in these ISRS petitions are for cast iron and bare
- 8 steel pipe; is that correct?
- 9 A. Yes. That's my understanding.
- 10 Q. So OPC is not challenging the
- 11 majority of the replacements that you've included
- in your petition, then, correct?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 O. At some point a few years back, I
- 15 believe Mr. Buck referred to 2011, Laclede made a
- 16 strategic decision to replace more than just the
- 17 segment that was worn out or deteriorated; is that
- 18 correct?
- 19 A. Yeah. We determined that the cast
- 20 iron was part of a larger system --
- 21 Q. I'm sorry.
- 22 A. -- of our facilities, and that's why
- 23 we decided to replace the entire system.
- Q. Can you cite to any new safety laws
- 25 that required this change in strategy?

- 1 MR. ZUCKER: Is he asking for a legal
- 2 conclusion again?
- JUDGE DIPPELL: He just asked him if
- 4 he could cite to such a thing. If he cannot -- he
- 5 can or cannot.
- 6 THE WITNESS: Are you asking me about
- 7 laws or regulations or both?
- 8 BY MR. POSTON:
- 9 Q. Any new safety requirement. It could
- 10 be a state or federal safety requirement that
- 11 required this change in strategy.
- 12 A. It's my understanding -- or it's my
- 13 opinion, yes, there was.
- 14 Q. And what was that?
- 15 A. The distribution integrity management
- 16 regulations that came out in the mid-2000s required
- 17 all operators to do risk and threat analysis on
- 18 their distribution systems, and Laclede and MGE
- 19 performed those analysis and determined that cast
- 20 iron, in general, those systems were relatively
- 21 higher threat than the rest of the system. And so
- 22 we placed a greater emphasis on replacing those
- 23 systems.
- Q. Okay. So it's your -- then it's your
- 25 understanding that those safety laws mandated you

- 1 to replace plastic pipe?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Can you quote -- cite to what
- 4 regulations you're referring to?
- 5 A. In the state regulations, I believe
- 6 it's Section 16 under 4 CSR 40.030.
- 7 Q. So Section 16, would you agree that's
- 8 titled pipeline integrity management for
- 9 transmission lines?
- 10 A. I believe that's Section 17.
- 11 MR. POSTON: Can I approach?
- 12 THE WITNESS: I may have my section
- 13 numbers a little bit off. I apologize.
- 14 I'm sorry. Right. So 17. Yeah. So
- 15 Section 17 refers to the distribution integrity
- 16 management requirements in the state regulation.
- 17 Thank you for pointing that out.
- 18 BY MR. POSTON:
- 19 Q. Sure. You also spent a few pages of
- 20 your testimony explaining why Laclede made the
- 21 decision to replace entire areas rather than just
- 22 the worn out or deteriorated portion. And you
- 23 discuss whether that -- you talk about whether that
- 24 decision was a prudent decision to make; is that
- 25 correct?

1 Α. Yes, I spent some time talking about 2 that. 3 But whether or not that decision was 0. prudent is not an issue before the Commission in 4 5 this case; is that correct? No. That's correct. 6 Α. 7 The question of whether the decision 0. 8 to replace an entire, say, neighborhood rather than 9 just the worn out section of pipe is prudent, 10 that's a rate case issue, isn't it? 11 Α. That's what I've been told, yes. 12 So prudence of Laclede's strategy is Q. 13 not an issue here? 14 Is that a question? Α. 15 0. Yes. Sorry. 16 Α. Yeah. Correct. 17 Doesn't that make your testimony 0. 18 regarding prudence of Laclede's new strategy 19 entirely irrelevant? 20 I'm going to object to MR. ZUCKER: 2.1 that. Again, he's making a legal conclusion. 22 Legal relevance is not in Mr. Lauber's ken. 23 MR. POSTON: I'm just asking him whether his prudence argument is relevant or not 24

for the issues before the Commission.

- 1 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'll allow him to
- 2 answer.
- 3 THE WITNESS: Okay. From an
- 4 engineering standpoint, I believe the prudence
- 5 argument is relevant because, in my opinion, the
- 6 statute was set forth to incentivize operators to
- 7 accelerate their replacements of aging
- 8 infrastructure and expand them. So what I believe
- 9 OPC's trying to do is take that and diminish that
- 10 incentive.
- 11 BY MR. POSTON:
- 12 Q. So is plastic 500-foot main installed
- in 2011, is that an aging infrastructure?
- 14 A. If it's part of a cast iron system,
- 15 yes.
- 16 Q. That plastic segment, is that an
- 17 aging infrastructure?
- 18 A. If you cut out that piece of plastic
- 19 and hold it in your hands, no, that's not an aging
- 20 infrastructure. But when it's connected to the
- 21 cast iron system, it's part of the system and, yes,
- 22 it is.
- 23 Q. Isn't it accurate to say OPC is not
- 24 challenging whether Laclede should or shouldn't
- follow this new strategy, all we're saying is you

1 need to limit what you put into ISRS by those amounts that the ISRS statute's allowing? 2 3 MR. ZUCKER: I don't know why he's 4 asking him what OPC is saying. 5 JUDGE DIPPELL: Is that an objection, Mr. Zucker? 6 7 MR. ZUCKER: Yes, I'm sorry. JUDGE DIPPELL: Could you use your 9 microphone? 10 MR. POSTON: I'm not sure what the 11 objection is. 12 MR. ZUCKER: Apparently I can use it 13 sometimes. 14 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Would you 15 restate what your objection is? 16 MR. ZUCKER: Yeah. The objection is 17 he's asking him to speculate as to what OPC's 18 position is. 19 MR. POSTON: I'm asking him to give 20 me his understanding of our position. It's not 2.1 speculation. 22 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'm going to overrule 23 the objection. Again, the direct -- or the rebuttal testimony, the prefiled testimony of this 24 25 witness speculates about what OPC's position is

- 1 again and again. So I'll allow Mr. Poston to ask
- 2 him the question.
- 3 THE WITNESS: Could you repeat the
- 4 question?
- 5 BY MR. POSTON:
- 6 Q. Is it accurate to say that OPC is not
- 7 challenging at this time whether Laclede should or
- 8 should not follow its new replacement strategy?
- 9 Instead, our challenge is limited to just whether
- 10 the plastic segment replacement costs are eligible
- 11 for partial recovery through the ISRS?
- 12 A. I've read your position and that's my
- 13 understanding, yes.
- MR. POSTON: That's all I have.
- 15 Thank you.
- 16 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Are there
- 17 Commission questions, Mr. Chairman?
- 18 QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN HALL:
- 19 Q. Hello.
- A. Hello, sir.
- 21 Q. Could you pull up -- I believe it was
- 22 handed to you -- 393.1009?
- 23 A. Okay.
- Q. And look at 5B, and Mr. Poston asked
- you a couple of questions about main relining,

1 service line insertion and joint encapsulation 2 projects. I'm not going to duplicate those 3 questions, but I just want to make sure I 4 understand. Do all three of those types of 5 projects involve a physical improvement component? 6 Α. Of the pipeline, yes. Yes. 7 You're an engineer, correct? 0. That's correct. Α. 9 I assume -- without any engineering Q. 10 background whatsoever, I assume that a pipeline that is one continuous piece is safer than a 11 12. pipeline that has a couple of -- a couple of 13 connections? 14 In general, I would agree with you, Α. 15 yes. 16 0. So where -- where there's a patch, there is an inherent vulnerability? 17 18 Α. Yes. 19 And so it would be safer to have one Q. 20 continuous plastic pipeline than it would be to 21 have plastic connected to plastic connected to 22 plastic; is that correct? 23 Α. Yes. 24 Are --Q. 25 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Mr. Chairman,

1 can I interrupt here? 2 CHAIRMAN HALL: Is that an objection? 3 Certainly. 4 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No. No. Τ 5 think you've been misled, because these pipes don't 6 come in -- when you put in an eight-inch pipeline, they come in pieces, and they connect them. 7 think there may be 20 to 30 foot pieces; isn't that 9 correct? 10 THE WITNESS: Yes. 11 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: So, Chairman, 12 when they -- when they put them in, they'll connect 13 them above group. Makes it easier. It's a safer 14 process, versus leaving in the ground and then trying to connect it there. I think that's the 15 16 process. But it has to be put together, and I'm not sure the way they seal it, but that's the 17 18 process. I just wanted to clarify that. 19 JUDGE DIPPELL: Can I ask the witness 20 just to affirm or deny what the Commissioner was 2.1 saying? Is that your understanding? 22 THE WITNESS: Yeah. So any time you 23 make a connection to a pipe, you know, there's always a risk of human error. We call those 24 25 construction defects. It's one of our threats that

- 1 we assess on our pipelines. So for plastic,
- 2 there's any number of different types of
- 3 connections between couplings or butt fusion,
- 4 electro fusion-type connections that we make. But
- 5 the more you have of them, certainly, you know, the
- 6 higher risk of construction defect you have.
- 7 CHAIRMAN HALL: So --
- 8 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Excuse me.
- 9 Don't they come in joints of about 25 to 30 feet?
- 10 THE WITNESS: Sometimes they're as
- 11 long as -- they're on coils of 500 feet. That
- 12 would be our smaller sizes.
- COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Eight inch?
- 14 THE WITNESS: Eight-inch pipe could
- 15 come in 40-foot lengths.
- 16 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Yeah, they
- 17 aren't coils. That's your main lines, aren't they?
- 18 THE WITNESS: Actually, the majority
- 19 of the footage that we're talking about related to
- 20 this case replacing our cast iron system are two
- 21 inch.
- 22 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Okay. Thank
- 23 you. You corrected me then. Thank you.
- 24 BY CHAIRMAN HALL:
- 25 Q. So bottom line, the more connections,

- 1 the more vulnerability? 2 Α. Correct. 3 And if -- if Laclede were to take the 0. 4 approach assumed in OPC's position that it would 5 connect plastic to existing plastic, that would 6 increase vulnerability? 7 Α. Absolutely. Absolutely. And not only that, but the location of where we would have 9 to run that would increase vulnerability to 10 third-party damage going into the future because 11 you'd have these lines that would jump out into the street and then back out to the sidewalk area. 12 Very difficult to locate and not a standard 13 14 parallel run to the street that you normally have. 15 Having said that, I assume that there 0. 16 is some existing plastic that you continued to make 17 use of along these lines? 18 Α. Absolutely. 19 And what was the criteria that you 0. 20 used to determine that you should continue using 2.1 existing plastic?
- A. Generally --
- 23 Q. If that question makes sense.
- A. Yeah. Generally, the longer runs of
- 25 plastic or lengths, if it happens to be at or near

- 1 the curb that was easily accessible so we could get
- 2 to the service Ts, in some cases these are
- 3 connected to the higher pressure systems and made
- 4 it pretty readily reusable.
- 5 For the most part, it's our low
- 6 pressure system, but I would say in general the
- 7 location was conducive to reusing it and made it
- 8 more accessible, and also just the length of the
- 9 pipe.
- 10 Q. The longer the existing pipe, the
- 11 more likely you would be to try to connect to it as
- 12 opposed to replacing it?
- 13 A. To reuse it, yes.
- 14 Q. Is there a -- is that criteria set
- 15 forth in writing anywhere or is it just kind of a
- 16 rule of thumb?
- 17 A. It's more or less a rule of thumb.
- 18 Q. So it's length of the existing pipe,
- 19 the existing plastic and the location which affects
- 20 the ease of replacement?
- 21 A. Yeah. How it fits into the overall
- design of the area, the neighborhood that you're
- 23 redesigning. That would be correct.
- 24 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. I have no
- 25 further questions. Thank you.

1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Commissioner Kenney, did you have additional 2 3 questions? 4 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Т No. appreciate it, though. Thank you. 5 6 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Coleman? 7 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No, thank you. JUDGE DIPPELL: I just have one 9 question, and this is just kind of a basic thing. QUESTIONS BY JUDGE DIPPELL: 10 11 Q. But can you explain to me the 12 difference between the main line and the service 13 line? There's a distinction in the testimony, and 14 I just want to make sure I'm clear on that. 15 Yes. Absolutely. So the service 16 line runs from the main. It's an extension of the 17 main and an integral part of the system, but it connects the main to the individual customers. 18 19 it runs up to -- terminates at the outlet of the meter set. So it connects to the meter. 20 2.1 Typically our low pressure systems 22 where our cast iron resides has the main or the 2.3 main out in the street and the service line runs up 24 and through a customer's basement. Most of the 25 houses, the buildings in St. Louis have basements.

- 1 And then the meter terminates or is sitting inside
- 2 of a basement.
- 3 That was done because low pressure
- 4 has a lot of moisture in the gas. It's just
- 5 inherent to the system, and if you had meters
- 6 sitting outside subject to cold weather, you'd have
- 7 a lot of condensation in the meters and constantly
- 8 be getting water in the meters. So we typically
- 9 try to put everything inside where we could.
- 10 So now when we replace the systems we
- 11 try to move those meters outside. But that -- that
- 12 service line is really an integral part. You can't
- 13 replace the main without replacing the service line
- 14 in most cases.
- 15 Q. Now, when Mr. Zucker was giving his
- opening, he was talking about how the main and
- 17 the -- how the old and the new don't exactly lay on
- 18 top of each other with regard to the main. But
- 19 what about with regard to the service line? How
- 20 are they --
- 21 A. Right. So if you can picture the
- 22 service termination is just like a fitting on top
- of the old main, and now all of a sudden you have
- 24 replaced the main at a completely different
- 25 location. Now, you have to -- that service starts

- 1 at a different point then, and it may be at a very
- 2 different depth as well.
- 3 So it becomes -- when you compound
- 4 that with, okay, we're going to terminate in a
- 5 different spot because the houses in St. Louis, you
- 6 know, there's all kinds of different issues with
- 7 where you can put a meter on the outside, that --
- 8 that service line might be in a completely
- 9 different side of the house now than where it was
- in the basement, because you only have space on
- 11 maybe that one side of the house.
- So now you have a different starting
- 13 point and different ending point for the service
- 14 line, and it just makes it infeasible in most cases
- 15 to use that old service line that was there, even
- 16 if it was plastic. So that's why you have to run a
- 17 new service line.
- 18 Q. Now, what about -- so when it
- 19 actually comes to the customer's home, for
- instance, what about their connection inside? Is
- 21 that -- I mean, now it's terminating at a different
- 22 place. Do they have to --
- 23 A. Right. So Laclede works with the
- 24 customer. In most cases, you know, we'll help them
- 25 repipe to the existing fuel runs that they have

inside of their home from our new meter set 1 2. location. 3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Thank you. Is 4 there any further cross-examination from Staff? 5 MR. THOMPSON: No. Thank you, Judge. JUDGE DIPPELL: Public Counsel? 6 7 MR. POSTON: Yes. Thank you. RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON: 9 Are there safety rules to ensure that 0. 10 joints are safe? 11 Α. Yes. 12 Is Laclede in compliance with those 0. 13 joint safety rules? 14 Α. Yes. Now, Laclede submits mechanical 15 Q. 16 fitting failure reports annually to the Commission, 17 don't they? 18 Α. Yes. 19 And what are those? Q. 20 Those are reports of hazardous leaks Α. 2.1 that resulted from a failure of the fitting. 22 And do you have a part of those Q. 2.3 reports? Do you contribute to those reports? 24 No, I don't. I used to. Α. 25 Do you recall I requested copies of 0.

1	those reports in this case?
2	A. Yes. In the past week or so I
3	remember seeing that.
4	Q. And were those provided to me?
5	A. I don't know.
6	Q. Can you explain what a tie-over is?
7	A. Tie-over?
8	Q. Yeah.
9	A. So generally your tie-over or tie-in
10	is you're tying into or connecting to an existing
11	main that was live before you not part of your
12	current project. And your current project installs
13	new piping and now you're connecting to that
14	existing facility. So you're tying into the
15	existing system that was there. That's where you
16	get your gas feed from. So that tie-over.
17	Tie-in is that connection you're
18	making from the new facility to the existing
19	facility.
20	Q. Isn't that a way to connect an
21	existing service line to a new main that perhaps is
22	put in at a different elevation?
23	A. Yes.
24	MR. POSTON: Thank you. That's all.
25	JUDGE DIPPELL: Any additional

1 Commissioner questions? 2 Is there redirect from Laclede? 3 MR. ZUCKER: Yes, your Honor. 4 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. ZUCKER: 5 Good morning again, Mr. Lauber. Q. 6 Α. Good morning. 7 Mr. Poston asked you some questions 0. about hydrostatic testing to find leaks. 9 recall that? Α. 10 Yes. 11 Q. Do we do hydrostatic testing for the 12 purpose of finding leaks? 13 Yeah. That's one of the options that Α. 14 we do for new projects and older ones. It's one of 15 the objectives. 16 0. Okay. And is that part of the 17 maintenance program? 18 When it's done in conjunction with Α. 19 our integrity management program, yes, it is. 20 And is that put in ISRS? 0. No, it's not. 2.1 Α. 2.2 Okay. So what hydrostatic testing is Q. 23 Laclede, or MGE actually in this case, talking 24 about when they have put hydrostatic testing in the

ISRS?

- 1 A. Well, that would be a project that
- 2 would extend the useful life of the pipeline that
- 3 you're targeting, and that would be older
- 4 pipelines. The ones that we've recently done were
- 5 pipelines that were installed prior to 1970 that we
- 6 considered to be out of compliance with pipeline
- 7 safety regulations.
- 8 They did not have an established
- 9 maximum allowable operating pressure that will
- 10 allow the pipeline to continue to be operated. So
- 11 our only choice was then to perform the testing or
- 12 take the line out of service and abandon.
- 13 O. Okay. And is this a one-time test or
- is this part of a maintenance program?
- 15 A. Yes. It's just a one-time test for
- 16 the life of the pipeline that becomes part of the
- 17 asset record.
- 18 Q. And usually is that -- since 1970,
- 19 has that test been done at the time the -- a new
- 20 transmission line went into service or some other
- 21 time?
- 22 A. Yes, it's done at the time the
- 23 pipeline is put into service.
- Q. Okay. And is it capitalized with the
- 25 cost of the pipeline?

1 Α. Yes, it is. 2 0. Mr. Poston asked you some questions 3 about the Section 5B projects that extend the 4 useful life or enhance the integrity. Do you 5 recall that? Yes, I do. 6 Α. 7 When you were talking about main 0. relining, he asked whether there was some -- well, 9 I guess you were answering whether there was some 10 kind of a cleaning element due to hydrostatic 11 testing that gave it some similarity or improved 12. the line in some way, like a main reline. Do you 13 recall that? 14 Yes, that's correct. And it is Α. 15 similar to really all these projects in that you're 16 performing it on the pipeline and you're extending the useful life of the pipeline. But I expounded a 17 little bit on the fact that when you do a 18 19 hydrostatic test, you are required to ensure that the line is clean. 20 2.1 But that's not why you did the Q. 22 hydrostatic test in this case; is that right? 23 That's correct. Α. 24 Q. If you didn't need to establish the

MAOP on this line, would you have done a

- 1 hydrostatic test?
- 2 A. In these cases, no.
- 3 Q. Looking back at Section 5B, do you
- 4 have that in front of you still?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Do main relining projects enhance the
- 7 integrity of the pipeline?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Do they extend the useful life of the
- 10 pipeline?
- 11 A. Well, let me back up. So main
- 12 relining projects extend the useful life of the
- 13 pipeline. To the extent that the pipeline is still
- 14 part of the new lining, I would say, yeah, it is
- 15 enhancing the integrity.
- 16 O. Okay. Do service line insertion
- 17 projects enhance the integrity of the pipeline?
- 18 A. You're essentially putting in a new
- 19 pipeline when you insert, so the newer pipeline has
- 20 a higher integrity generally than the older
- 21 pipeline has.
- 22 Q. Does it extend the useful life of the
- 23 pipeline?
- A. Well, in my opinion, it's a new
- 25 pipeline, but to the extent that I believe the

- 1 Legislature probably wrote this, yes, it would
- 2 extend the useful life.
- 3 O. What about joint encapsulation
- 4 projects, do they enhance the integrity of the
- 5 pipeline?
- A. Yes, because it seals the joints and
- 7 keeps them from having hazardous leaks.
- 8 Q. And does it extend the useful life of
- 9 the pipeline?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. One moment, please. Is it Laclede's
- 12 goal to replace all of the cast iron main in its
- 13 system?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Do you consider any of the cast iron
- 16 main to not be worn out or deteriorated?
- 17 A. In general, I consider it worn out
- 18 and deteriorated.
- 19 Q. And in response to Judge Dippell's
- 20 question, a main runs along the street, is that
- 21 correct, in general?
- 22 A. Typically, yes. Yes.
- 23 O. And then the service lines run off
- 24 the main to the homes or businesses?
- 25 A. Correct.

1 0. Mr. Poston asked you some questions 2 about hydro testing. Do you recall that? 3 Α. Yes. 4 The hydrostatic testing. I'm sorry. 0. 5 Did MGE have verifiable records on the line that 6 was hydrostatically tested? 7 No, they did not. Α. Q. Is that why MGE tested the line? 9 Α. Yes. 10 And I think you answered to Q. 11 Mr. Poston that when Laclede tests a service line 12 that is being replaced, that that was not ISRS eligible; is that correct? 13 14 I don't recall saying that. Α. 15 Is it correct? 0. 16 Α. No. Oh, wait a second. I'm sorry. 17 So a service line that's being replaced under our replacement program? 18 19 Q. Yes. 20 Yes, it would be ISRS eligible. Α. 2.1 And is that a one-time test? Q. 22 Yes. Α. 23 0. When you install a new plastic main 24 as part of the cast iron main replacement program and the cast iron main has a joint encapsulation on 25

1	it already, does that joint encapsulation get
2	replaced also?
3	A. Yes, it does.
4	MR. ZUCKER: Your Honor, let me check
5	my notes for a moment.
6	JUDGE DIPPELL: Go ahead.
7	MR. ZUCKER: Thank you, Mr. Lauber.
8	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
9	JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Then that
10	concludes your testimony, Mr. Lauber. You may step
11	down.
12	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
13	JUDGE DIPPELL: Let me ask a quick
14	housekeeping question. Well, let me first ask,
15	does that conclude your witnesses, Mr. Zucker?
16	MR. ZUCKER: Yes.
17	JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. So next
18	up is Staff witnesses. Are all of Staff's
19	witnesses going to continue to testify even with
20	the
21	MR. THOMPSON: My understanding is
22	that there are no questions from the parties for
23	Caroline Newkirk or Dave Sommerer.
24	JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay.
25	MR. THOMPSON: So unless there are

1 Commission questions for those two witnesses, I would propose that we simply admit their testimony 2. 3 and dispense with their taking the stand. 4 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. And with regard to the other -- so that just leaves you with 5 the one witness then; am I correct? 6 7 MR. THOMPSON: Well, that would leave me Jennifer Grisham, Kim Bolin and Mark 9 Oligschlaeger. 10 JUDGE DIPPELL: Oh, I'm sorry. 11 right. Let me do a quick poll here. Would there 12. be Commission questions for witnesses Newkirk and 13 Sommerer? 14 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: I won't have 15 any. 16 CHAIRMAN HALL: I need just a minute. 17 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. What I'm 18 thinking is that we may take care of that 19 housekeeping matter and then break for lunch. CHAIRMAN HALL: No, I don't. 20 2.1 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Then 2.2 let's go ahead and, if that's all right with 23 everyone, to take those two bits of testimony, get

those entered into the record, and then we'll break

for lunch.

24

1 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge. that would be Staff Exhibit No. 1, which is the 2 3 direct testimony of Caroline Newkirk, Staff Exhibit 4 No. 3, the direct testimony of David Sommerer in 5 Case 0332, and Staff Exhibit No. 4, the direct 6 testimony of Mr. Sommerer in Case No. 0333. And I 7 would offer those three pieces of testimony at this 8 time. 9 JUDGE DIPPELL: Would there be any objection to Staff Exhibit No. 1, Staff Exhibit 10 No. 3 or Staff Exhibit No. 4? 11 12 (No response.) 13 Seeing none, I will admit those three 14 exhibits into the record. (STAFF EXHIBITS 1, 3 AND 4 WERE 15 16 RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.) 17 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge. 18 JUDGE DIPPELL: And so my -- the 19 computer time is 12:09. The newly working clock 20 is a few minutes behind that. But let's just take 21 a -- say an hour and a few minutes and come back in 2.2 here at 1:15. 23 (A BREAK WAS TAKEN.) 24 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. We're back on 25 the record, back from lunch. Staff, do you want to

1 call your first witness? 2 MR. THOMPSON: Staff would call 3 Jennifer K. Grisham. 4 (Witness sworn.) 5 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Would you 6 go ahead and spell your name for the court 7 reporter. THE WITNESS: It's J-e-n-n-i-f-e-r, 9 K, Grisham, G-r-i-s-h-a-m. 10 JUDGE DIPPELL: Now, it's my 11 understanding, we mentioned before, it turns out 12. that Public Counsel doesn't have any questions for 13 this witness and no one else does, except for me, 14 one little clarification. So if you want to do an 15 abbreviated getting the testimony in like we did 16 the others. 17 JENNIFER K. GRISHAM testified as follows: 18 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. THOMPSON: 19 Did you prepare or cause to be Q. prepared Staff Exhibit No. 2, Direct Testimony of 20 2.1 Jennifer K. Grisham? 22 Α. Yes. 23 0. And do you have any corrections or 24 changes to that testimony? 25 A. No, I do not.

1 0. If I was to ask you -- if I were to 2 ask you those questions here today, would your 3 answers be the same? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Are the contents of that testimony 6 true and correct to the best of your knowledge and 7 belief? Α. Yes. 9 MR. THOMPSON: At this time I would offer Staff Exhibit No. 2, the direct testimony of 10 Jennifer K. Grisham. 11 12 JUDGE DIPPELL: Would there be any 13 objection to Staff Exhibit No. 2? 14 MR. ZUCKER: No. 15 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Then I 16 will admit Staff Exhibit No. 2. 17 (STAFF EXHIBIT 2 WAS RECEIVED INTO 18 EVIDENCE.) 19 MR. THOMPSON: And I will tender the 20 witness, Judge. 2.1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. And is 2.2 there still no cross-examination? Commissioner 2.3 questions? 24 QUESTIONS BY JUDGE DIPPELL: 25 I just have one question, and that 0.

- 1 was -- and maybe I'm just not following it. On the
- 2 Staff Memorandum that's attached to your testimony,
- 3 on page 1, the very last number there at the end of
- 4 that paragraph, and it says, Laclede's estimated in
- 5 its application that it was entitled to an
- 6 incremental increase of ISRS revenues in this case
- of, and gives the number, is that supposed to be
- 8 the same number on page 4 in the paragraph right
- 9 under auditing summary and conclusions?
- 10 A. The difference between the number on
- 11 page 1 and the -- hang on a second. Oh, there is a
- 12 difference there.
- 13 Q. It looks like on page 1 you're
- 14 talking about updated through October 31st, and
- page 4 updated on November 10th, but that's still
- 16 updated through the 31st of October, correct?
- 17 A. Okay. The number on page 1, it was
- 18 the estimated dollars that included the estimated
- 19 costs for the update period. Whereas, on the
- 20 number on page 4, different than -- the sentence
- 21 that says, This is different than Laclede's
- 22 requested revenue requirement of the 4.5, that
- 23 would be their number that they requested after the
- 24 estimated costs were updated for the true costs.
- 25 O. Okay. I just needed that

1 clarification. 2 Α. Okay. 3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Is there 4 any cross-examination based on my question? MR. ZUCKER: No, your Honor. 5 6 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Thank you 7 very much, Ms. Grisham. You may step down. 8 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 9 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Then we can go 10 ahead with your next witness. 11 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge. Staff calls Kim Bolin. 12 13 (Witness sworn.) 14 KIM BOLIN testified as follows: DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. THOMPSON: 15 16 0. Ms. Bolin, could you spell your last 17 name for the reporter, please? 18 Yes. It's B-o-l-i-n. Α. 19 Thank you. And how are you employed? Q. I am an auditor with the Missouri 20 2.1 Public Service Commission. 22 And did you prepare or cause to be Q. 23 prepared the rebuttal testimony that's been marked 2.4 as Staff Exhibit No. 5? 25 A. I did.

1 0. Do you have any corrections or 2 additions to that? 3 Yes, I have a few corrections. Α. 4 Could you go through those, please? Q. 5 On page 5 of my rebuttal Α. Yes. 6 testimony, on the first line, it reads, Yes, my 7 review of these work orders indicated that Laclede has removed. It should read, Yes, my review of 9 these work order authorization sheets indicated that Laclede has removed. 10 11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Can you state that 12 location for me again? THE WITNESS: It's page 5, line 1. 13 14 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. 15 THE WITNESS: And then on page 7 of 16 the same piece of testimony, line 7, a graph starts and has various work order numbers and feet of 17 18 main. If you go to the second work order, which is 19 work order 900546, under steel and cast iron it should be 7,262, which would make the total in the 20 2.1 third column 7,788. 22 This would also impact the total 23 lines at the bottom. The total for steel and cast iron would be 44,678, and then the total would be 24 25 53,415. That's all my corrections.

1 BY MR. THOMPSON: 2 Q. Thank you very much. With those 3 corrections in mind, if I were to ask you those 4 questions again today, would your answers be the 5 same? 6 A. They would. And are the corrected contents of 7 0. your testimony true and correct to the best of your 9 knowledge and belief? 10 Α. Yes, they are. 11 MR. THOMPSON: At this time I move the admission of Staff Exhibit No. 5. 12 13 JUDGE DIPPELL: Would there be any 14 objection to Staff Exhibit No. 5? 15 MR. ZUCKER: No, your Honor. 16 JUDGE DIPPELL: Seeing no objection, 17 I will admit Staff Exhibit No. 5. 18 (STAFF EXHIBIT 5 WAS RECEIVED INTO 19 EVIDENCE.) 20 Thank you, Judge. MR. THOMPSON: Ι 2.1 would tender the witness. 22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Is there 23 cross-examination by Laclede? 24 MR. ZUCKER: No, your Honor. 25 JUDGE DIPPELL: Public Counsel?

- 1 MR. POSTON: Yes. Thank you.
- 2 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON:
- 3 Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Bolin.
- 4 A. Good afternoon.
- 5 Q. I'd kind of like to start off with
- 6 kind of where we left off before lunch. In your
- 7 testimony you discuss depreciable life of assets;
- 8 is that correct?
- 9 A. Could you refer to me which page?
- 10 Q. I do see it on the top of page 5, but
- 11 I don't know if there's other places.
- 12 A. Okay.
- 13 Q. Is depreciation expense built into
- 14 the revenue requirement in a rate case?
- 15 A. There is depreciation expense built
- 16 on rate base in rates.
- 17 Q. And what happens to the depreciation
- 18 expense that was built into the revenue requirement
- 19 for an asset that is retired between rate cases?
- 20 A. There is no depreciation expense
- 21 that's not in rate base.
- 22 Q. I'm not sure -- let me ask the
- 23 question again. I don't know if you understood my
- 24 question. I asked what happens to the depreciation
- 25 expense that was built into the revenue requirement

1 for an asset that is retired between rate cases? The depreciation remains the same 2 3 amount that was built into the rates regardless. 4 And I believe when you talk about the 0. 5 depreciable life, your discussion and your 6 testimony actually does it again on page 4, do you 7 know how the recording of short-lived assets as regular retirements would affect the average 9 service lives in future depreciation studies? 10 Α. Could you repeat that question? 11 Q. Do you know how the recording of 12 short-lived assets as regular retirements would 13 affect the average service lives in future 14 depreciation studies? 15 I've not conducted a depreciation 16 study, so I'm not sure exactly how that would work. 17 Do you know if inclusion of short-0. 18 lived assets designated as regular retirements 19 decrease the historical average service life 20 experienced by Laclede? 2.1 Α. I've not done any depreciation studies. 2.2 23 Just generally, do you know the 0. 24 answer to that question? 25 I've not done any depreciation Α.

- 1 studies, so I'm not --
- 2 Q. You've never done one is what you're
- 3 saying?
- 4 A. Right. Correct.
- 5 Q. I'll move on, then. I'm going back
- 6 to the questions I just asked. Just based on your
- 7 accounting knowledge, could you provide an answer
- 8 just based on your knowledge of accounting?
- 9 A. On what happens to depreciable lives?
- 10 Q. Yes.
- 11 A. The lives --
- MR. THOMPSON: I object, Judge.
- 13 She's already said she has never done a
- 14 depreciation study.
- 15 MR. POSTON: I'm asking her not to
- 16 base it on a depreciation study but just on her
- 17 understanding of accounting.
- 18 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'll allow the
- 19 question. If she doesn't know the answer, she can
- 20 say she doesn't know the answer.
- 21 MR. POSTON: Let me repeat the
- 22 question.
- 23 BY MR. POSTON:
- Q. I'll go to the first one. Do you
- 25 know how the recording of short-lived assets as

- 1 regular retirements would affect the average
- 2 service lives in future depreciation studies?
- 3 A. I've not done any depreciation
- 4 studies.
- 5 Q. Then the second question again, based
- on your accounting understanding, would inclusion
- 7 of short-lived assets designated as regular
- 8 retirements decrease the historical average service
- 9 life experienced by Laclede?
- 10 A. I'm not familiar with depreciation
- 11 studies enough to answer that.
- 12 Q. Okay. You've provided testimony on
- 13 the plastic replacement issue, correct?
- 14 A. Yes, I did.
- 15 Q. Can you point me to language in the
- 16 ISRS statute or rule that says replacements of pipe
- 17 that's not worn out or deteriorated is eligible if
- 18 it was a patch?
- 19 A. I do not think the word patch is
- 20 anywhere in the rules.
- 21 Q. How would you define a patch?
- 22 A. It would be a piece of pipe that they
- 23 had to fix a leak or a segment of it.
- Q. A small segment?
- 25 A. I don't know how you define a segment

- 1 exactly, but it's a piece of pipe that they've had
- 2 to use to fix a leak or a problem.
- 3 O. But generally you think of a patch as
- 4 a smaller segment?
- 5 A. It could be. I'm not sure what exact
- 6 size it would be.
- 7 Q. So if Laclede replaces a 1,000-foot
- 8 plastic service line with another 1,000-foot
- 9 plastic service line, are they simply making a
- 10 temporary patch permanent?
- 11 A. Could you repeat your question?
- 12 Q. If Laclede replaces a 1,000-foot
- 13 plastic service line with another 1,000-foot
- 14 plastic service line, are they simply making a
- 15 temporary patch permanent?
- 16 A. They're replacing that piece that was
- 17 put in place to fix a problem.
- 18 Q. Would you consider a 500-foot segment
- of gas main installed in 2011 to be only a small
- 20 patch?
- 21 A. I don't know what my definition of a
- 22 small patch, how many feet I would consider small
- 23 in the context of these items.
- Q. So when you refer to the word patch
- in your testimony, what are you referring to?

1 Α. Could you refer me to which page I said patch on? 2 3 0. Page 4, up at the top. 4 Α. Could you repeat your question? 5 I guess I asked, what is your 0. 6 definition of a patch? 7 It would be a piece of pipe they use Α. to fix a pipe that's already in the ground. 9 It could be of any length? 0. I don't have a definition on what I 10 Α. 11 would consider small or large in this case. 12 Did you make any site visits for any Q. 13 of these replacements? 14 Α. No, I did not. 15 Would you agree with me that the 0. 16 Commission's gas safety rules only require Laclede 17 to replace the segment of pipe that is unsafe and 18 not connected pipe that is safe? 19 I object. It calls MR. THOMPSON: for a legal conclusion. 20 2.1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Could you repeat your 22 question, Mr. Poston? 23 I'm asking her if she MR. POSTON: would agree with me that the Commission's gas 24 25 safety rules only require Laclede to replace the

- 1 segment of pipe that's unsafe and not the connected
- 2 pipe that is safe.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: I'm going to sustain
- 4 the objection.
- 5 BY MR. POSTON:
- 6 Q. You say your review of work orders,
- 7 which I guess you changed that to work order
- 8 authorization sheets, show Laclede replaced plastic
- 9 beyond its depreciable life. Will you agree that
- 10 the majority of the plastic replaced was not beyond
- 11 its depreciable life?
- 12 A. I would agree with that.
- 13 Q. And depreciable life is not the
- 14 standard under the ISRS; is that correct?
- 15 A. I do not believe I've seen
- 16 depreciable life as a standard in ISRS.
- 17 Q. Is it your understanding the standard
- 18 is worn out or deteriorated?
- 19 A. I don't know if that's the only one.
- 20 There are safety requirements, too, if I remember
- 21 right, in ISRS.
- Q. Would you expect the 500-foot segment
- of main installed five years ago to be worn out or
- 24 deteriorated?
- MR. THOMPSON: Objection. This

- 1 witness is not an engineer. I don't know how she
- 2 can be expected to answer a question about how
- 3 quickly plastic pipe might wear out.
- 4 MR. POSTON: Depreciation is an
- 5 accounting concept, and her testimony talks a lot
- 6 about these patches. I'm just asking her
- 7 understanding of -- based on her understanding, not
- 8 necessarily as an engineer, but her understanding
- 9 as an accountant.
- 10 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'll overrule the
- 11 objection as long as she's testifying with regard
- 12 to depreciation --
- 13 THE WITNESS: Could you repeat the
- 14 question?
- 15 JUDGE DIPPELL: -- or accounting
- 16 knowledge, whichever.
- 17 BY MR. POSTON:
- 18 Q. Would you expect a 500-foot segment
- 19 of main installed five years ago to have fully
- 20 **depreciated?**
- 21 A. Based on the depreciation lives, no,
- 22 it would not have been fully depreciated.
- 23 Q. You also say OPC's position would
- 24 encourage the company to avoid replacing segments
- with plastic pipe; is that correct?

- 1 Α. Is that also on page 5? 2 0. Let me try to find it. Yeah. 3 Page 5, towards the middle. You say, If OPC's 4 position on this issue is adopted of not allowing 5 any recovery of costs to replace plastic pipe embedded within older materials, would this provide 6 7 Laclede or MGE an incentive to replace pipe that may need to be replaced by contains sections of 9 plastic pipe? And you say no; is that correct? That is correct. 10 Α. 11 Q. Now, would you agree that Laclede is
- 14 A. I would agree that they would need to 15 replace pipe that is unsafe.

be in an unsafe condition?

required to replace pipe if it knows that pipe to

- Q. And so if it's a disincentive for
  Laclede to replace sections that have plastic pipe,
  wouldn't that also be then an incentive for them to
  focus on those segments with cast iron and steel?

  A. I think they are focusing on segments
- that have cast iron and steel but have plastic interspersed with them.
- Q. Let's say a work crew is replacing
  plastic main and service lines. Would you agree
  it's not possible for that same crew to be on the

12

1 other side of town replacing a cast iron main and steel service line that's corroded? 2. 3 Α. The same crew? 4 0. Yes. 5 It would not be possible. Α. 6 Is it your testimony that Laclede Q. 7 shouldn't have to be able to prove, if asked, that a particular segment of replaced pipe was worn out or deteriorated? 9 10 Α. Could you repeat the question? 11 Q. Is it your testimony that Laclede 12 shouldn't have to be able to prove, if asked, that 13 a particular segment of replaced pipe was worn out 14 or deteriorated? 15 I don't know that I said they'd Α. 16 have -- they needed to prove every time, did I? 17 Well, how about is it your position 0. 18 that Laclede shouldn't have to be able to prove, if 19 asked, a particular segment of replaced pipe was 20 worn out or deteriorated? I think if asked they would be able 2.1 Α. 22 to prove it. 23 MR. POSTON: That's all I have. 24 Thank you. 25 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Are there

1 questions from the Commission? 2 CHAIRMAN HALL: Yes. 3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. 4 QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN HALL: 5 Good afternoon. 0. 6 Α. Good afternoon. 7 Let's say hypothetically that the 0. Commission were to adopt OPC's position that 9 replacement of new plastic for old plastic is not 10 ISRS eligible. 11 Α. Okay. 12 0. Can you give me any process by 13 which -- or any methodology that would allow us to 14 back out the costs that we have determined are 15 ineligible from their application? 16 Α. That's been something we've been 17 thinking about since this issue came about, to come up with a number, and I don't know that there is a 18 19 good, exact method to use. 20 0. Can you explain why that is? 2.1 Α. Well, you've got -- they are actually 2.2 adding less plant than the total plant that they 23 are taking out, and some of that is cast iron. Some of that is plastic. It's -- I don't know how 24

you get to the actual cost of the plastic that is

- 1 being replaced.
- 2 Q. Any other impediments to a
- 3 calculation that would adopt that approach?
- 4 A. I can't think of any right now,
- 5 but...
- 6 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. No further
- 7 questions. Thank you.
- 8 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. I don't
- 9 believe there are any other Commission questions,
- 10 and I don't have any questions. Is there recross
- 11 based on the Chairman's questions?
- MR. POSTON: Yes.
- MR. ZUCKER: No for me.
- 14 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Public
- 15 Counsel.
- 16 RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON:
- 17 Q. The question you were asked by the
- 18 Chairman about how you back out ineligible costs,
- if you can't separate it out but the Commission
- 20 finds that those portions are ineligible, should
- 21 the Commission just reject it all?
- 22 A. That's up to the Commission.
- 23 Q. You don't have a position on that?
- A. Our position is not to exclude any of
- 25 the plastic pipe.

1 0. Well, I'm saying if your employer 2 says this portion is ineligible, I mean, I guess 3 the choices are either come up with some formula to 4 do it or it's all ineligible? 5 We could try to come up with some Α. 6 formula. I don't know that all the parties would 7 agree with it. Each party may have a separate formula to develop how to remove these costs. 9 If we were to be able to determine 0. 10 that a particular work order has, say, 10 percent 11 plastic replaced and 90 percent cast iron or steel, 12 couldn't we just take 10 percent of the entire work 13 order costs and just exclude that? Is that one 14 possible way to do it? 15 I don't know that it would be the 16 best possible way to do this. I don't know that it 17 would get you to the exact cost of the plastic that's being replaced. 18 19 Q. How would you get to the exact cost? 20 That I don't know. Α. 2.1 Do you have a better way to do it? Q. 2.2 Not right now. Α. 23 Are you familiar with the 0. Massachusetts Formula Allocation Factor? 24 25 Yes, I am. Α.

1	Q. And that's used by Staff, right?
2	A. To allocate certain corporate costs.
3	Q. Is that exact and accurate?
4	A. No, it is not, but it is an
5	allocator.
6	MR. POSTON: Thank you. That's all I
7	have.
8	JUDGE DIPPELL: Is there redirect
9	from Staff?
10	MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge.
11	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. THOMPSON:
12	Q. Mr. Poston asked you some questions
13	about segments. Let me ask you a question
14	following up on that. If there was a gas line that
15	ran from Fulton to Columbia, would you consider
16	that to be a segment?
17	A. I guess it could be defined as a
18	segment. I'm not
19	Q. Could be?
20	A. Could be.
21	Q. Okay. You were asked a question
22	about what you might expect plastic how quickly
23	you might expect plastic pipe to wear out or be
24	fully depreciated. Now, would you agree with me
25	that worn out and fully depreciated are not the

- 1 same thing, are they?
- 2 A. That is true, they are not the same
- 3 thing.
- 4 Q. Worn out, would you agree, refers to
- 5 the physical condition of the asset?
- 6 A. Correct.
- 7 Q. And fully depreciated refers to an
- 8 accounting convention?
- 9 A. Depreciable lives.
- 10 Q. Okay. And in your background, have
- 11 you had any particular experience with plastic
- 12 pipe? In other words, what I'm -- I'm not trying
- 13 to be humorous. I'm trying to get at whether or
- 14 not you have any special knowledge about how
- 15 quickly plastic pipe might wear out under various
- 16 conditions.
- 17 A. I'm not an engineer, and I don't have
- 18 any background in examining plastic pipe that's
- 19 been in the ground.
- 20 O. Okay. Now, the Chairman asked you a
- 21 question about if the Commission determined that
- the replacement of the plastic patches or segments
- or portions of segments was determined to be
- ineligible, how that cost would be backed out,
- 25 correct?

1	A. Correct.
2	Q. Am I correct in understanding your
3	testimony that Staff has not developed any
4	methodology for doing that?
5	A. We have not calculated or developed
6	any methodology.
7	Q. And who raised that issue?
8	A. Office of the Public Counsel.
9	Q. Would you expect them to suggest a
10	methodology?
11	A. Yes.
12	Q. Now, this case involves a certain
13	definite amount of money; isn't that correct?
14	A. Yes, there's a certain amount of
15	money in this case.
16	Q. And has Public Counsel identified a
17	definite adjustment or disallowance that they want?
18	A. They have not they have not
19	developed an exact dollar that I'm aware of.
20	Q. Have they given you a ballpark?
21	A. Not a dollar amount, no.
22	Q. Mr. Poston asked you whether, if we
23	can't back it out, the entire ISRS request should
24	simply be rejected. Do you recall that question?
25	A. That the entire

1 0. Right. That the entire amount then 2 should just be rejected if you can't back out the 3 ineligible plastic pipe. 4 I don't remember those exact words, Α. 5 but --6 Okay. Do you remember a question 0. 7 along those lines? Α. Similar to that, yes. 9 Would you consider that to be a fair Q. 10 result? 11 Α. No. 12 And as a layperson who works with the 0. 13 ISRS, do you think that's what the Legislature 14 intended? 15 No. I believe the legislation Α. 16 intended to incentivize the company to replace 17 mains. 18 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. No further 19 questions. 20 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. 2.1 Ms. Bolin, I believe that concludes your testimony, 22 and you may be dismissed. Next witness. 23 MR. THOMPSON: At this time, your 24 Honor, Staff calls Mark Oligschlaeger. 25 (Witness sworn.)

1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Could you please spell your last name for the court reporter? 2 3 WITNESS: O-l-i-q-s-c-h-l-a-e-q-e-r. 4 MARK OLIGSCHLAEGER testified as follows: 5 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. THOMPSON: 6 Mr. Oligschlaeger, how are you 0. 7 employed? I'm employed as the manager of the 9 auditing department for the Missouri Public Service Commission. 10 11 Q. And did you prepare or cause to be 12. prepared certain rebuttal testimony that's been 13 marked as Staff Exhibit No. 6? 14 Α. I did. 15 Do you have any changes or 0. 16 corrections to that? 17 Α. I do not. 18 0. If I were to ask you those questions 19 today, would your answers be the same? 20 Α. They would. 2.1 And to the best of your knowledge and 0. 2.2 belief, would those answers be true and correct? 23 They would. Α. 24 MR. THOMPSON: I offer Staff 25 Exhibit 6.

1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Any objections to 2. Staff Exhibit No. 6? 3 (No response.) 4 JUDGE DIPPELL: Seeing none, I will 5 admit Staff Exhibit 6. 6 (STAFF EXHIBIT 6 WAS RECEIVED INTO 7 EVIDENCE.) MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge. 9 tender the witness. JUDGE DIPPELL: Is there 10 11 cross-examination by Laclede? 12 MR. ZUCKER: No, your Honor. 13 JUDGE DIPPELL: Public Counsel? 14 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON: 15 Good afternoon. 0. 16 A. Good afternoon. 17 My first question is kind of where we 0. left off with Ms. Bolin. For OPC to calculate what 18 19 needs to be removed from this, this case, if the 20 Commission were to find that plastics are 2.1 ineligible, would you expect OPC to be able to 22 calculate that? 23 I would expect OPC to come up with a Α. proposed method or solution to at least get an 24 estimate of what that disallowance would be worth. 25

1 0. Okay. How about this: Is one method 2 or solution you determine the percentage of pipe in 3 a work order that's plastic and you multiply that 4 by the total cost for the work order and you remove 5 that cost; is that one method? 6 Α. That's one simple method. I think 7 there's some complications involving the facts present here that might make that somewhat suspect. 9 Do you have a better method? 0. 10 Α. T do not. 11 Q. And I want to ask you some of the 12 same questions I asked Ms. Bolin that she was not 13 able to answer. Is depreciation expense built into 14 the revenue requirement in a rate case? It is. 15 Α. 16 0. And what happens to the depreciation 17 expense that was built into the revenue requirement 18 for an asset that is retired between rate cases? 19 If you're talking about what happens Α. 20 to the rate levels, the rate levels don't change 2.1 and can be assumed to reflect the same level of 2.2 depreciation expense whether the asset is retired 23 or not. 24 If you're talking about accounting, 25 then depreciation would cease on that particular

- 1 asset for booking purposes once it's retired.
- 2 Q. Do you know how the recording of
- 3 short-lived assets as regular retirements would
- 4 affect the average service lives in future
- 5 depreciation studies?
- 6 A. Well, again, I have not personally
- 7 participated in any depreciation studies. From my
- 8 general knowledge of regulation, I would speculate
- 9 that a series of early retirements for a given
- 10 asset class may lead to a shortened asset life
- 11 for -- in the context of depreciation expense.
- 12 O. Would inclusion of shorter-lived
- 13 assets designated as regular retirements decrease
- 14 the historical average service life experienced by
- 15 Laclede?
- 16 A. Again, I would speculate that it
- 17 could.
- MR. THOMPSON: Judge, he's
- 19 speculating. He's even saying that he's
- 20 speculating.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: But you let him
- 22 answer.
- 23 MR. THOMPSON: Well, I move that we
- 24 strike that testimony.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Overruled. He's

- 1 already answered. The answer can stand.
- 2 BY MR. POSTON:
- 3 Q. Would you -- can you provide a
- 4 reasoned accounting viewpoint of the answer you
- 5 just provided?
- 6 MR. THOMPSON: Objection. Calls for
- 7 speculation.
- 8 JUDGE DIPPELL: He asked him if he
- 9 could. If he cannot, then he can say no. I'll
- 10 allow it.
- 11 THE WITNESS: Based on a high level
- of generality, if the estimated service life of an
- 13 asset class declines over time, I would expect over
- 14 time that that would be reflected in depreciation
- 15 rates.
- 16 BY MR. POSTON:
- 17 Q. Would the decrease in average service
- 18 life increase the depreciation rate in following
- 19 proceedings?
- 20 A. Can you repeat that, please?
- 21 Q. Would the decrease in average service
- 22 life increase the depreciation rate in following
- 23 proceedings?
- A. If you assume a decreased service
- 25 life, all other things being equal, if reflected in

- 1 depreciation study, that would increase the
- 2 depreciation expense.
- 3 Q. Okay. Moving on. Do you agree with
- 4 Laclede that replacing plastic mains and service
- 5 lines qualify for ISRS?
- 6 A. It would certainly depend upon the
- 7 context in which they're replaced.
- 8 Q. How about in the context where they
- 9 say the reason for replacing it is because it's
- 10 attached to a cast iron main that's deteriorated?
- 11 A. Staff's position is, yes, that would
- 12 be an eligible ISRS replacement.
- 13 Q. Do you agree with that position?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. So your rebuttal testimony addresses
- 16 hydrostatic testing with a few questions and
- 17 answers; is that right?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. And you summarize the Staff's
- 20 position in three sentences, the first being that
- 21 such costs have been allowed in past ISRS
- 22 petitions; is that correct?
- 23 A. That's correct.
- Q. Would you agree that past treatment
- does not make the costs legally eligible?

- 1 A. In and of itself, it does not.
- 2 Q. You also state that Federal Energy
- 3 Regulatory Commission, FERC, accounting guidelines
- 4 allow for capitalization of hydrostatic testing in
- 5 certain circumstances, correct?
- 6 A. That's correct.
- 7 Q. Why is it important that it be a cost
- 8 that is capitalized?
- 9 A. Well, my knowledge is, with the
- 10 exception of depreciation expense and property
- 11 taxes associated with ISRS-eligible capital
- 12 additions, expenses are not allowed recovery under
- 13 ISRS.
- 14 O. Assume for me if your testimony was
- incorrect and the FERC's Uniform System of Accounts
- 16 said testing is a maintenance expense. Would your
- opinion change on whether it is ISRS eligible?
- 18 A. Well, I don't believe your
- 19 hypothetical is correct, but yes, we would take
- 20 that into account.
- 21 MR. POSTON: I'd like to have an
- 22 exhibit marked. I think I'm at 4; is that right?
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes, OPC Exhibit
- 24 No. 4.
- 25 (OPC EXHIBIT 4 WAS MARKED FOR

1 IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) 2 MR. POSTON: May I approach the 3 witness? 4 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes. 5 BY MR. POSTON: 6 Okay. You have with you what's been 0. 7 marked OPC Exhibit No. 4; is that correct? Α. That is correct. 9 0. You're a certified public accountant; 10 is that correct? 11 A. That is correct. 12 Q. And I've actually handed you two 13 documents; is that correct? 14 Α. Yes. 15 One has not been marked as an 0. 16 exhibit. Can you first identify what that document 17 is? This document is entitled 18 Α. 19 Subchapter F, Accounts, National Gas Act. 20 Would you agree that that document is 0. 2.1 the FERC's Uniform System of Accounts for natural 22 gas companies? 23 Based on a quick review, it appears Α. 24 to be. 25 Q. And then looking at --

1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Excuse me, 2. Mr. Poston. 3 MR. POSTON: Yes. 4 JUDGE DIPPELL: Just one moment. T'm 5 confused. Is that the one that you just marked or is there two with that same title? 6 7 MR. POSTON: No. The exhibit is actually just an excerpt from that, two pages, 9 three pages from that exhibit. I didn't want to 10 have to put the whole thing in. 11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. I'm sorry. 12. didn't understand that you'd handed him the whole 13 thing. Proceed. BY MR. POSTON: 14 15 And so could you verify for me that 0. 16 what's been marked as OPC Exhibit No. 4 is the 17 cover page of the Uniform System of Accounts and 18 pages 632 and 633? 19 Α. They appear to match. 20 MR. POSTON: I offer OPC Exhibit No. 4. 2.1 22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Would there be any 23 objection to OPC Exhibit No. 4? 24 MR. THOMPSON: May I voir dire? 25 JUDGE DIPPELL: Sure.

- 1 VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION BY MR. THOMPSON:
- 2 Q. Mr. Oligschlaeger, are you familiar
- 3 with the FERC Chart of Accounts or Uniform System
- 4 of Accounts?
- 5 A. In general terms, yes.
- 6 Q. Is that something you consult or work
- 7 with regularly?
- 8 A. I would say so.
- 9 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. I have no
- 10 objection.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. I will
- 12 admit OPC Exhibit No. 4.
- 13 (OPC EXHIBIT 4 WAS RECEIVED INTO
- 14 EVIDENCE.)
- 15 BY MR. POSTON:
- 16 Q. Would you agree with me that the
- 17 Commission's accounting rules require Missouri gas
- 18 utilities to follow the Uniform System of Accounts?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. So you'll see on page 632, which is
- 21 the second page of OPC Exhibit No. 4, I've
- 22 underlined a few passages. Can you please read
- 23 that first underlined part?
- A. The part that's entitled No. 2,
- 25 maintenance?

1	Q. That's correct.
2	A. Okay. No. 2, maintenance, part A.
3	The cost of maintenance chargeable to the various
4	operating expense and clearing accounts includes
5	labor, materials, overheads and other expenses
6	incurred in maintenance work. A list of work
7	operations applicable generally to utility plant is
8	included hereunder.
9	Q. Okay. And thereunder I've also
10	underlined No. 2 under items; is that correct?
11	A. That's correct.
12	Q. Can you please read that?
13	A. Sure. No. 2, inspecting, testing and
14	reporting on condition of plant specifically to
15	determine the need for repairs, replacements,
16	rearrangements and changes and inspecting and
17	testing the adequacy of repairs which have been
18	made.
19	Q. Would you agree with me that,
20	according to this, gas utility companies are
21	required to treat testing to determine the need for
22	repairs as a maintenance expense?
23	MR. THOMPSON: I object. This is
24	only a portion of the FERC Uniform System of
25	Accounts. Mr. Poston clearly is trying to attack
i	

- 1 Mr. Oligschlaeger's testimony that the FERC allows
- 2 hydrostatic testing to be capitalized under some
- 3 circumstances, and the use of this small excerpt
- 4 from the total document I think is improper, an
- 5 improper attack on that.
- 6 JUDGE DIPPELL: Can you tell me your
- 7 objection exactly? Improper attack?
- 8 MR. THOMPSON: It's improper because
- 9 he's asked him to read these excerpts, and then
- 10 clearly the next question is, well, these excerpts
- 11 don't support what you said, do they? What I'm
- 12 saying is that Mr. Oligschlaeger should have the
- 13 ability to refer to the entire FERC Uniform System
- 14 of Accounts.
- 15 MR. POSTON: I'll respond that on
- 16 redirect he is certainly able to ask him. He's got
- 17 the entire copy sitting there with him.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: I'm going to overrule
- 19 the objection. You may answer.
- 20 THE WITNESS: And if you could repeat
- 21 your question.
- 22 BY MR. POSTON:
- Q. Would you agree with me that,
- 24 according to this, gas utility companies are
- 25 required to treat testing to determine the need for

- 1 repair as a maintenance expense?
- 2 A. In general, that is true. There are
- 3 exceptions to that rule.
- 4 Q. And what are those general
- 5 exceptions?
- 6 A. The exceptions that I'm aware of as
- 7 they apply to hydrostatic testing is there is an
- 8 accounting release from the FERC, I think they're
- 9 also called chief accountant letters, which specify
- 10 the circumstances in which hydrostatic testing can
- 11 be capitalized outside the context of it being
- 12 applied to items under construction.
- 13 Q. And what are those specific
- 14 circumstances?
- 15 A. In general, they apply to situations
- in which they are a one-time test, and as I recall,
- 17 applicable to situations where a test needs to be
- done to an item of plant for which the federal
- 19 requirements or the regulations requiring the test
- 20 weren't in place at the time the asset was first
- 21 placed in service.
- 22 Q. Is that -- is that -- and what is
- 23 that from?
- 24 A. That's from an accounting release or
- 25 I think they're sometimes known as chief accountant

- 1 letters from the FERC.
- 2 Q. So that wasn't actually the FERC
- 3 itself issued that?
- 4 A. I really don't know the authority. I
- 5 assume that came from the chief accountant, not
- from the five or three commissioners of FERC,
- 7 however many there are.
- 8 Q. Do you know the date of that?
- 9 A. 2004.
- 10 Q. Okay. So if FERC were to further
- 11 clarify this in regard to testing, in particular
- 12 hydrostatic testing, and conclude that such testing
- is an expense and should not be capitalized, would
- 14 that change your opinion on whether Laclede's
- 15 hydrostatic testing costs are eligible for ISRS?
- 16 A. We would take that into account.
- 17 Again, FERC's findings on any particular accounting
- 18 point I don't think are binding on the Missouri
- 19 Commission.
- 20 Q. Certainly when they interpret their
- 21 own rules, don't you think that's somewhat binding
- 22 on the Commission?
- 23 A. Well, I mean, their Uniform System of
- 24 Accounts is highly similar, in most instances
- 25 identical to our system of accounts. I don't think

that makes them the ultimate arbiter of what the 1 Missouri Commission finds reasonable or acceptable 2. 3 in the field of accounting. 4 MR. POSTON: I'd like to have another 5 exhibit marked. 6 JUDGE DIPPELL: Be OPC Exhibit No. 5. 7 (OPC EXHIBIT 5 WAS MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) 9 BY MR. POSTON: 10 Have you had a chance to look at --Q. 11 well, do you have a copy of OPC Exhibit No. 5? 12 Α. Yes. 13 0. Okay. Would you agree with me that 14 this appears to be a FERC order on accounting for 15 pipeline assessment costs issued June 30th, 2005? 16 Α. That is what the title indicates. 17 Would you agree that's what this 0. 18 appears to be? 19 Α. Yes. MR. POSTON: I offer OPC Exhibit 20 No. 5. 2.1 22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Would there be any 23 objection to OPC Exhibit No. 5? 24 MR. THOMPSON: No objection. 25 MR. ZUCKER: I'm going to assume that

- 1 it is what it purports to be. Obviously whatever
- 2 this order, the order on accounting for pipeline
- 3 assessment costs is speaks for itself.
- 4 JUDGE DIPPELL: So no objection?
- 5 MR. ZUCKER: Yeah, basically.
- 6 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Then I
- 7 will admit OPC Exhibit No. 5.
- 8 (OPC EXHIBIT 5 WAS RECEIVED INTO
- 9 EVIDENCE.)
- 10 BY MR. POSTON:
- 11 Q. If you turn to the second page of
- 12 that -- I'm sorry, page 4, do you see it asks the
- 13 question, Should the costs of pipeline assessment
- 14 activities be expensed or capitalized? Do you see
- 15 that?
- 16 A. I do.
- 17 Q. And then if you turn to page 6,
- 18 you'll see where the FERC begins its discussion.
- 19 Do you see that?
- 20 A. Well, it's not clear whether the
- 21 discussion pertains only to the question you cited
- 22 earlier, whether it's a broader discussion, but
- 23 there is a discussion called discussion on page 6,
- 24 yes.
- 25 Q. Okay. And then on page 7, do you see

1 in paragraph 21 I've underlined a few passages? Do 2 you see that? 3 Α. I do. 4 Can you please read the lines I've Q. 5 underlined? The first excerpt, The Commission's 6 Α. 7 accounting rules provide the costs incurred to inspect, test and report on the condition of plant 9 to determine the need for repairs or replacements 10 are to be charged to maintenance expense in the 11 period the costs are incurred, with a Footnote 6. 12 The second excerpt, several sentences 13 down, states, Broadly speaking, pipeline assessment 14 activities provide information about the condition 15 of existing facilities to ensure that operation of 16 the pipeline remains within established safety 17 parameters. The act of inspecting or assessing a 18 pipeline segment does not by itself increase the 19 useful life of a pipeline asset or improve its 20 efficiency. 2.1 So is it your position that Q. 22 hydrostatic testing by itself increases the useful 23 life of a pipeline asset? 24 In the circumstances where a failure Α. 25 to conduct the test or a failure to make repairs or

- 1 replacement means that the asset in question must
- 2 be taken out of service after failing the
- 3 hydrostatic test, I think an argument can be made
- 4 that it should be viewed as extending the useful
- 5 life of the asset.
- 6 Q. Only where it needs to come out and
- 7 replaced, you're saying?
- 8 A. Well, if the test is failed -- and
- 9 I'm not even sure whether that's an accurate
- 10 technical term -- it's my understanding that
- 11 something has to be done to the pipe for it to
- 12 continue to be included in service or used to
- 13 provide service to customers.
- 14 Q. Do you have a copy of the 2004
- document you referred to?
- 16 A. I don't have it with me, no.
- 17 O. Can you get a copy of it?
- 18 A. It's available. Do you want me to
- 19 leave the witness stand and get it?
- Q. Well, I mean, could it be something
- 21 we bring back later today and maybe have marked as
- 22 an exhibit? This is something that seems to be an
- 23 important document to have. It's contradicting
- 24 what this is saying right here.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: What is the exhibit

1 exactly or what is the document? 2 He referred to a 2004 --MR. POSTON: 3 could you refer to -- or explain what it was? 4 THE WITNESS: Again, I think the 5 official title is an accounting release from the 6 FERC chief accountant which specifies the limited 7 circumstances in which hydrostatic testing is allowed to be capitalized. 9 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'm trying to decide 10 if that's some sort of legal precedent or anything 11 that we could just take notice of and could be 12. provided with the briefs. 13 MR. POSTON: I'm going to argue it's 14 not a legal precedent. It's not a FERC -- it's not 15 the FERC decision itself. So that's why I was 16 wanting to get this in. He's already testified that it's not an official FERC document, so I 17 18 withdraw the request. 19 MR. THOMPSON: Judge, if we're going 20 to be arguing about what the legal status of this 2.1 document that isn't in here is going to be, I think that's a matter for the briefs and not a matter to 2.2 23 confront this witness with on the stand. 24 JUDGE DIPPELL: Well, I agree with 25 that. I just -- if we don't have the document in

- 1 the record, then -- and it turns out it's a fact
- 2 that we need to have instead of a law that we could
- 3 take notice of, I don't want to get away without
- 4 it.
- 5 At the same time, since this is
- 6 Staff's witness and not Public Counsel's witness,
- 7 I'm not inclined to go have him go find the
- 8 document to put in, and Mr. Poston has withdrawn
- 9 his request, so the matter's taken care of.
- 10 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge.
- 11 MR. POSTON: That's all I have.
- 12 Thank you.
- 13 JUDGE DIPPELL: Are there Commission
- 14 questions? Mr. Chairman.
- 15 CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you.
- 16 QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN HALL:
- 17 Q. Good afternoon.
- 18 A. Good afternoon.
- 19 Q. Do you know if hydrostatic testing
- 20 was an O&M expense item in the last rate case to
- 21 Laclede?
- 22 A. I don't know for sure. Some
- 23 hydrostatic testing even under the FERC guidelines
- 24 I mentioned earlier should still be charged to
- 25 expense. That includes hydrostatic testing that is

- 1 part of an ongoing pipeline integrity program. I'm
- 2 using terms I'm not totally familiar with, but
- 3 that's what I got from the document. So it is
- 4 possible, but I can't tell you for sure.
- 5 Q. If the Commission were to determine
- 6 that that is in -- that is not an ISRS-eligible
- 7 expense item, going forward the company could
- 8 include all hydrostatic testing in their O&M in
- 9 each rate case; is that correct?
- 10 A. That is correct.
- 11 Q. You testified that the OPC approach
- 12 to backing out potentially ineligible plastic
- 13 piping replacement would be, I believe you used the
- 14 term suspect. Why did you -- why did you say that
- 15 that would be suspect?
- 16 A. Well, broadly, I mean, there's no
- 17 objective right answer to how you value that
- 18 because you're taking -- I guess the replacement
- 19 pipe is entirely made out of plastic, but it's not
- 20 clear exactly how much of that is a direct
- 21 replacement for whatever the amount of plastic was
- 22 in the retired pipe.
- Now, just to use one ex-- one clear
- 24 example, there are situations that have been
- 25 alluded here today where they took out a piece of

- 1 pipe and the amount of cast iron pipe that was
- 2 replaced is greater than the entire amount of
- 3 plastic that came in as the replacement.
- 4 So a decision would have to be made,
- 5 how do you account for that? Do you just do the
- 6 10 percent ratio that Mr. Poston suggested or do
- 7 you take the fact that the entire amount of plastic
- 8 is less than the cast iron and say there is
- 9 effectively no cost to replace the plastic in the
- 10 original pipe?
- I mean, I'm not sure either way is a
- 12 definitive right or wrong answer, but still that
- 13 judgment would have to be made.
- 14 CHAIRMAN HALL: Okay. Thank you.
- 15 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. I don't
- 16 believe there are any other Commissioner questions.
- 17 Is there further cross-examination from Laclede?
- 18 MR. ZUCKER: Yes, your Honor. Thank
- 19 you.
- 20 RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. ZUCKER:
- Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Oligschlaeger.
- 22 A. Good afternoon.
- 23 Q. Did you hear Mr. Lauber testify this
- 24 morning that hydrostatic testing in connection with
- an integrity management program is expensed?

1	A. Yes.
2	Q. And that the hydrostatic testing that
3	is in this ISRS is of a different nature?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. And did you agree with that?
6	A. That appears to be generally
7	consistent with the accounting release from FERC
8	that I referenced earlier.
9	Q. Are you familiar with the testing of
10	a line before it's put into service?
11	A. In concept, yes.
12	Q. And is that does that is that
13	testing capitalized?
14	A. Because the testing is performed on
15	an item under construction, the accounting norm is
16	for it to be capitalized as part of the
17	construction work order.
18	Q. And if a utility did not have records
19	that that test was performed and was then required
20	to perform the test itself as a substitute, would
21	you say that that should be capitalized?
22	(Recording on telephone played.)
23	JUDGE DIPPELL: Sorry about that.
24	THE WITNESS: I can't say that that
25	exact scenario was referenced in the accounting

- 1 release, but it appears to be consistent with the
- 2 general scenario under which the accounting release
- 3 indicated that those costs, hydrostatic testing
- 4 costs could be capitalized.
- 5 BY MR. ZUCKER:
- 6 Q. And how would Staff feel about that?
- 7 A. We would not have a problem with that
- 8 accounting treatment.
- 9 Q. Are you familiar with, if you
- 10 capitalize an item, how much of that item the
- 11 customers pay each year?
- 12 A. In general terms, I'm familiar with
- 13 how capital items are treated for ratemaking
- 14 purposes.
- 15 Q. Would you say 10 percent is a normal
- amount for the customer to pay?
- 17 A. If you're talking about both return
- 18 and depreciation, I think somewhere between 10 and
- 19 say 12 and a half percent would be in the ballpark.
- 20 O. Okay. So if the company capitalized
- 21 the 1.8 million in hydro testing costs in this
- 22 case, the customers would be paying about \$200,000
- 23 a year for that. Does that sound like correct
- 24 math?
- 25 A. Again, in the ballpark.

1 0. And if customers paid the entire 2 amount as an expense, they would be paying 3 approximately 1.8 million; is that correct? 4 That's correct. Α. 5 MR. ZUCKER: That's all the questions 6 I have. Thank you. 7 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Public 8 Counsel? 9 MR. POSTON: Just a moment, please. 10 Yes, I do have a few questions. 11 RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON: 12 Okay. If the Commission were to find 0. 13 that the plastic portions were ineligible, would 14 you agree that it would certainly be helpful if the 15 Commission were to order Laclede in its next ISRS 16 to separate out the plastic from the eligible types 17 of pipe? If the -- if I understand your 18 Α. 19 question, if the Commission were to find in OPC's 20 favor on the particular issue involving replacement 2.1 of plastic pipe, I would say to the extent they 2.2 would intend that to be an ongoing treatment, that 23 it would not be unreasonable for them to order Laclede to in some way keep accounting records 24 25 consistent with that finding, if that answers your

- 1 question.
- 2 Q. And in response to one question, you
- 3 talked about how it's possible where the amount of
- 4 cast iron that was removed is similar to the amount
- 5 that's installed and so you don't even -- the
- 6 plastic is, I guess I'm not sure what word you
- 7 used, but the plastic doesn't really matter. Do
- 8 you recall that?
- 9 A. I think the scenario I suggested, and
- 10 I think it holds true in at least several of the
- 11 work orders that have been discussed in this case,
- is where the amount of cast iron in the replacement
- 13 pipe is less than the cast iron in the pipe that
- 14 was replaced even after taking into account the
- 15 plastic pipe that was also replaced.
- 16 Q. Now, for each work order we don't
- 17 know whether the new pipe that went in went
- 18 alongside cast iron or plastic or the pipe that was
- 19 abandoned where there's no line now going near it
- was cast iron or plastic. Would you agree with
- 21 that?
- 22 A. I would think the company would have
- 23 records for the pipe that's replaced, what the
- 24 components were, but I may not be understanding
- 25 your question.

1 Q. Let's say, for example, down a single 2 street they've got plas -- or a cast iron segment, 3 all right, and they replaced that with plastic. 4 And then say in another area there's a cast iron 5 main that they just abandoned, they've not put 6 another plastic piece under there for part of this 7 project. We don't know the makeup of any particular work order right here how -- which 9 portions were plastic, which portions were cast 10 iron to make the assumption that all of these 11 replacements you can just refer that they all 12 were -- replaced just the cast iron portion? 13 I guess I'm not familiar enough with Α. 14 the source documents you're referring to to be able 15 to comment on that. 16 MR. POSTON: That's all I have. 17 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right, then. Is there redirect from Staff? 18 19 MR. THOMPSON: Why, thank you, Judge. May I approach? 20 2.1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes. 2.2 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. THOMPSON: 23 0. I'm going to hand you a document. 24 Without losing your place there, I wonder if you 25 could take a look at the cover and tell me what

- 1 that is?
- 2 A. It is entitled Uniform System of
- 3 Accounts for Gas Utilities as of April 1st, 2004.
- 4 Q. Okay. And is that, as far as you
- 5 know, authoritative today?
- 6 A. I'm not aware that it has been
- 7 officially updated per the Commission rules, if
- 8 that's your question.
- 9 Q. Okay. Take a look at the page that's
- 10 marked, there's an underlined paragraph. Do you
- 11 see that?
- 12 A. I do.
- 13 Q. Could you read that?
- 14 A. Yes. Under the Section 22 studies,
- 15 the wording underlined is, Studies mandated by
- 16 regulatory bodies relative to facilities in service
- 17 shall be charged to Account 183.2, other
- 18 preliminary survey and investigation charges.
- 19 Q. If I suggested to you that that's
- applicable to the hydrostatic testing that we've
- 21 been discussing here today, would you have any
- 22 reason to disagree with me?
- 23 A. It could be applicable to some
- 24 hydrostatic testing. This section appears to
- 25 discuss accounting for projects under construction.

1 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. Т have no further redirect. 2 3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Do you 4 have any further witnesses, Mr. Thompson? 5 MR. THOMPSON: I have no further 6 witnesses, Judge. 7 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Our last within then is going to be with Public Counsel. 9 Let's take a really short ten-minute break here before and then we'll finish up with Mr. Hyneman 10 11 when we come back. It is 2:24, 2:20ish by that 12. clock back there. So ten minutes, come back at 13 2:34. Go off the record. 14 (A BREAK WAS TAKEN.) 15 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. We're back on 16 the record, and it is OPC's turn to call witnesses. 17 Mr. Poston? 18 MR. POSTON: Thank you. We call 19 Charles Hyneman. Would you please state and spell 20 your --2.1 JUDGE DIPPELL: Let me swear you in 2.2 first. 23 (Witness sworn.) 24 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. CHARLES HYNEMAN testified as follows: 25

1	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON:
2	Q. State and spell your name.
3	A. Charles Hyneman, H-y-n-e-m-a-n.
4	Q. Are you the same Charles Hyneman that
5	caused to be prepared and filed OPC Exhibit No. 1?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. If I were to ask you the same
8	questions in OPC Exhibit No. 1, would your answers
9	be the same or substantially the same?
10	A. Yes.
11	Q. Do you have any corrections to this
12	testimony?
13	A. No.
14	MR. POSTON: Your Honor, I offer OPC
15	Exhibit No. 1.
16	JUDGE DIPPELL: Would there be any
17	objection to OPC Exhibit No. 1?
18	MR. ZUCKER: No objection.
19	JUDGE DIPPELL: Then I will go ahead
20	and admit OPC Exhibit No. 1.
21	(OPC EXHIBIT 1 WAS RECEIVED INTO
22	EVIDENCE.)
23	MR. POSTON: I tender Mr. Hyneman for
24	cross-examination.
25	JUDGE DIPPELL: Is there

1 cross-examination by Staff? CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. THOMPSON: 2. 3 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Hyneman. 4 THE WITNESS: Judge... 5 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Get my technical stuff down here. Go ahead, Mr. Thompson. 6 7 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. BY MR. THOMPSON: 9 Mr. Hyneman, good afternoon. Q. Good afternoon. 10 Α. 11 Q. Did you not have any work papers? 12. No, I have none for this case. Α. 13 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. 14 That's all I have. Thank you, Judge. 15 JUDGE DIPPELL: Laclede? 16 MR. ZUCKER: Thank you, your Honor. 17 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. ZUCKER: 18 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Hyneman. 19 A. Good afternoon. 20 Do you have any professional or 0. 2.1 educational experience in the design, planning and 2.2 construction of distribution systems for gas 23 utilities? 24 A. I'm sorry. Could you repeat that

again?

25

1 0. I certainly can, it turns out. 2 you have any professional or educational experience 3 in the design, planning and construction of 4 distribution systems for gas utilities? 5 Α. No. 6 You do not have an engineering 0. 7 degree; is that correct? Α. That is correct. 9 Do you have any professional 0. 10 certifications or degrees of any other kind 11 relating to the installation, construction or 12 cathodic protection of natural gas distribution 13 facilities? 14 Α. No. 15 Do you have any professional 0. 16 certifications or experience in terms of complying 17 with federal, state and local safety regulations 18 relating to the construction and operation of 19 natural gas distribution facilities? 20 Again, I apologize. I tried to keep Α. 21 up with that. Could you repeat that question? 2.2 Again I can. Do you have any Q. 23 professional certification or experience in terms 24 of complying with federal, state and local safety 25 regulations relating to the construction and

1 operation of natural gas distribution facilities? 2 My experience would be the years and 3 years of working with pipeline safety requirements 4 prior to ISRS and subsequent to ISRS. So that's probably over a 22-year period. So that would be 5 6 my experience in that area. 7 Okay. No professional 0. certifications, though? 8 9 Α. No. 10 Have you ever supervised or Q. 11 participated in a project for replacing or 12 rehabilitating natural gas distribution facilities? 13 Α. No. 14 Are you aware that on November 30th 0. 15 the Office of the Public Counsel toured various 16 ISRS sites in the St. Louis area where Laclede Gas 17 was performing ISRS-related work? 18 Α. Yes. 19 And did you attend that? Q. 20 I was preparing direct testimony Α. No. 2.1 at the time for another rate case. My intention 2.2 was to, but I just couldn't spare the time. 23 0. Have you ever toured a Laclede Gas 2.4 ISRS site? 25 Α. No. Staff -- during my time with

- 1 Staff, I don't believe Staff has ever done that.
- Q. Okay. So I'm asking you if you've
- 3 done it.
- 4 A. With my time with OPC, I was not able
- 5 to attend that time OPC did.
- 6 Q. Okay. Have you visited an MGE ISRS
- 7 work site?
- 8 A. I think so. I think in years past I
- 9 have.
- 10 Q. Can you remember when?
- 11 A. No. It was -- I don't even know if
- 12 it was related to ISRS or the -- or MGE's service
- line replacement program, which was essentially the
- 14 same as ISRS. But I do have memories of going out
- 15 to the work site during that time.
- 16 Q. So you're not specifically familiar,
- 17 then, with how Laclede is replacing their cast iron
- 18 and steel main?
- 19 A. No. We have no concern with that in
- 20 this case.
- Q. Okay. By no concern, do you mean you
- 22 have no objection to it?
- 23 A. Currently, correct. I mean, there
- 24 were some issues that were raised during this about
- 25 the prudency of it, the process, are you changing

- 1 pipe out, going from low pressure to intermediate
- 2 pressure, is that the purpose why you're replacing
- 3 so many plastic mains?
- 4 Those are questions that came up that
- 5 will be looked at thoroughly in a rate case, but
- 6 OPC is not taking any position on how Laclede is
- 7 operationally replacing its service lines or its
- 8 mains.
- 9 The only position that OPC is taking
- 10 with respect to the plastic pipes is strictly, and
- 11 I mean strictly, a cost allocation issue. Should
- 12 the cost of non-ISRS plant be included in ISRS?
- 13 We're saying no, it should be allocated out.
- We have no questions, comments or
- 15 concerns with how Laclede operationally is
- 16 replacing its lines and mains.
- 17 Q. Okay. Thank you.
- 18 A. And I wanted to clear that up.
- 19 Q. Is it true that you believe that
- 20 hydro testing -- I'm sorry -- hydrostatic testing
- 21 is testing for leaks in pipes?
- 22 A. Water pressure in the pipes for an
- 23 extended period of time to determine the potential
- longevity of the pipe for leaks. That's the
- 25 general knowledge I have of that, yeah. And if I

- 1 could supplement that, I think --
- Q. I don't think you need to.
- 3 A. Okay.
- 4 Q. Do you have any basis for doubting
- 5 the validity of Mr. Lauber's testimony this morning
- 6 that it would have been operationally impractical
- 7 to try to incorporate the older patches of plastic
- 8 pipe in the new facilities being installed?
- 9 A. Again, I have a lot of respect for
- 10 Mr. Lauber, but that testimony to me is not
- 11 relevant to any issue in this case. We are not
- 12 taking issue with how Laclede --
- 13 Q. Okay. So once again -- well, you
- 14 know what, go ahead and finish that sentence.
- 15 A. We are not taking any issue with how
- 16 Laclede replaces its pipes under the ISRS. We are
- 17 just saying do not include non-ISRS costs in your
- 18 ISRS application.
- 19 Q. Okay. Thank you. When Laclede does
- an ISRS filing, the depreciation expense and
- 21 deferred taxes are updated to a point that's near
- the operation of law date. Are you familiar with
- 23 **that?**
- A. Yes. In fact, I initiated that while
- 25 I was on Staff.

1	Q. You initiated that idea?
2	A. Yes, with Missouri Gas Energy. I had
3	a lot of communications with Mr. Noack about that
4	in an MGE ISRS case.
5	Q. Okay. Let me ask you the next
6	question, then. Do you oppose the updating process
7	where Laclede tries to update its ISRS for two
8	months?
9	A. We're talking about two separate and
10	distinct and nonrelated items here.
11	Q. Okay. Just answer the question I
12	just asked.
13	A. Yeah, I do strongly oppose that.
14	Q. Okay. Do you oppose the ISRS itself?
15	A. No.
16	Q. Do you wish it didn't exist?
17	A. I wish it had more consumer
18	protections, significantly more, and the ones that
19	exist, I would hope they'd be enforced. So given
20	that, I think it could be improved a lot.
21	Q. And do you consider that the ISRS
22	surcharges are being forced on Missouri ratepayers?
23	A. Yes.
24	Q. Do you believe that the ISRS
25	legislation was proposed by the Missouri LDCs and

1 their lobbyists? 2 I do. Specifically my understanding Α. 3 is that --4 Okay. I think a yes, I do, answered 0. 5 the question for me. Let me ask you another 6 question. 7 Α. Okay. Is the purpose of the legislation to 0. 9 protect utility shareholders through the 10 elimination of regulatory lag related to plant and 11 plant costs? 12 Yes, I believe that's -- I cited that Α. 13 in a response to a Staff data request. I could --14 if you can allow me to refer to --15 No. You have answered the question 0. 16 perfectly, and I have no -- I'm looking at your 17 data request --18 Α. But I'm not --19 -- and I have no complaint with how Q. 20 you've answered. 2.1 Α. But I'm not sure that that answer was 22 complete, is how I responded in that data request. 23 0. Well, let me move on to another

question.

A. Okay.

24

25

- 1 Q. Would you agree that the ISRS statute
- 2 is fairly detailed on how to calculate ISRS
- 3 charges?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Okay. Does it not lay out the --
- 6 that the Commission will look at the return, the
- 7 depreciation, the property taxes and other costs of
- 8 capital rates?
- 9 A. On those basic components, yes. But
- 10 I think the legislation was very narrow in
- 11 describing the type of audit that needs to take
- 12 place.
- 13 Q. Okay. And you said you had no work
- 14 papers, right?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. So at the bottom of page 7 of your
- direct testimony, you have a chart there with
- 18 specific numbers. Did you just do all of those in
- 19 your head?
- 20 A. No. I think that was taken from data
- 21 provided by Laclede.
- 22 Q. So you did do some calculations?
- 23 A. Well, I mean, the calculations there
- 24 are the percent. I mean, I don't think you need a
- 25 work paper that says the same thing as what's

- 1 included in your testimony.
- 2 Q. So you're saying that if I looked at
- 3 the work order for 900836, I would find 5,168 feet
- 4 of plastic?
- 5 A. Yes. And the whole focus of this
- 6 chart is not to be detailed. It's to give an
- 7 example of the number of feet of plastic that's in
- 8 your current ISRS application. The detail, the
- 9 technically correct, it doesn't have to be. It
- 10 just is -- on these work orders, it shows this
- 11 many, many, many thousands of feet of almost new or
- 12 relatively new plant that's being removed and
- 13 charged to the ISRS.
- 14 Q. Okay. So you're saying the accuracy
- isn't important because you know that those numbers
- 16 are, in fact, inaccurate?
- 17 A. No. I know they're -- if they're not
- 18 exactly correct, which they may be, they're at
- 19 least substantially correct.
- 20 **Q.** Do you know --
- 21 A. The only requirement that I'm
- 22 concerned here is that they are substantially.
- 23 They show that there's thousands of feet. I mean,
- 24 if I had testimony saying that there's 28,000 feet
- 25 in these work orders, that's to give the -- let the

- 1 Commission know, hey, this is a substantial number.
- 2 This is not minimal patchwork, as I think Staff has
- 3 characterized.
- 4 Q. And are you aware that the
- 5 information you got these numbers from was from an
- 6 estimate, a work order estimate?
- 7 A. Well, that goes to the problem of you
- 8 doing estimates in our application and
- 9 supplementing with actual data. If you filed --
- 10 Q. Okay. Well, I'm not asking about the
- 11 update issue. My understanding is --
- 12 A. Well, it's directly related to the
- 13 update issue.
- Q. -- you've pulled that issue.
- 15 A. It's directly related to the update
- 16 issue because it --
- Q. Okay. Well, I'm not asking that
- 18 question.
- 19 A. Well, I'm answering that.
- Q. Well, I don't want you to answer it.
- 21 A. That's okay.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Hyneman, please
- 23 only answer the questions that are asked you.
- THE WITNESS: Okay.
- 25 BY MR. ZUCKER:

- 1 Let me give you a hypothetical, 0. 2 Mr. Hyneman. Let's say that Laclede Gas or MGE has 3 an ISRS project in which the utility installs 2,000 4 feet of new plastic main and replaces -- have you 5 got a paper there? 6 Α. I think so, yes. 7 -- and replaces 3,000 feet of cast 0. iron main. At the same time, another thousand feet 9 of plastic main comes out along with the cast iron 10 main or is abandoned along with the cast iron main. 11 The thousand feet is made up in part of patches 12. that were done to enhance the integrity of the old 13 cast iron main. 14 In this instance, you would agree 15 with me, simple math, that the cast iron main
- 17 A. Okay. And I tried to write as fast
- 18 as you spoke.
- 19 Q. Do you want me to give it to you

removed exceeded the plastic installed?

20 again?

- 21 A. Yes, please.
- 22 Q. 2,000 feet of new plastic main goes
- in, 3,000 feet of old cast iron main is abandoned,
- and 1,000 feet of plastic main is abandoned.
- 25 A. Okay.

- 1 Q. So would you agree with me that the
- 2 cast iron main removed exceeded the amount of
- 3 plastic installed?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And so just matching plastic in to
- 6 cast iron out, the project unquestionably qualifies
- 7 for ISRS treatment; would you agree with me?
- 8 A. The new plastic main to replace the
- 9 old cast iron main would qualify for ISRS
- 10 treatment. Any cost related to retirement of the
- 11 plastic main specifically would not be ISRS
- 12 eligible.
- 13 O. Okay. So in that case there was no
- 14 cost to retire the plastic main. That was just a
- 15 **bonus** --
- 16 A. I think I need to --
- 17 Q. -- as part of the --
- 18 A. I think I need to rephrase. The cost
- 19 to replace existing plastic main with plastic main
- 20 would not be ISRS eligible.
- 21 Q. Okay. But there was no replacement
- 22 of plastic main with other plastic main. There was
- 23 replacement of cast iron with plastic main.
- 24 A. Then that's fine.
- 25 Q. Let me give you another hypothetical.

- 1 Let's say 5,000 feet of plastic is installed, new
- 2 plastic main. 4,000 feet of cast iron is retired,
- and 1,500 feet of plastic is retired. Are you with
- 4 me?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. How would you determine the ISRS
- 7 eligibility in this situation?
- 8 A. I would determine that the plastic
- 9 plant, the plastic pipe that was installed to
- 10 replace the plastic would not qualify for ISRS
- 11 treatment because you have a cost to remove plant
- 12 that's not deteriorated or in a worn-out condition.
- 13 Q. Okay. So we have all this specific
- 14 information in the ISRS statute on what the
- 15 Commission is supposed to look at but nothing on
- 16 allocating between cast iron and plastic; is that
- 17 correct?
- 18 A. Yeah. I don't -- I understand that
- 19 point. I don't think the Legislature intended you
- 20 to replace plastic with plastic.
- 21 Q. Well, are you aware --
- 22 A. Otherwise --
- 23 Q. Are you aware that Laclede was --
- MR. POSTON: Judge, can he let him
- 25 finish his answers? Mr. Zucker keeps interrupting

- 1 him mid sentence.
- 2 MR. ZUCKER: I think he had finished
- 3 his point or made his point.
- 4 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'll ask both of you
- 5 to try not to talk over one another, but obviously
- 6 if Mr. Zucker believes that the witness has
- 7 answered the question, it's all right for him to
- 8 jump in there.
- 9 MR. POSTON: Before he's finished
- 10 with his sentence?
- JUDGE DIPPELL: I will allow you to
- 12 object to that.
- 13 BY MR. ZUCKER:
- 14 O. So are you aware that Laclede was
- doing plastic replacements of small amounts of cast
- iron prior to the ISRS legislation?
- 17 A. No. I had no experience with Laclede
- 18 prior to the ISRS legislation.
- 19 Q. Were you aware any utilities were --
- 20 A. Under --
- 21 Q. -- fixing cast iron?
- 22 A. Under MGE's service line replacement
- 23 program, I cannot recall, but I think that ended
- 24 with the ISRS in 2003. I can't recall that far
- 25 back if it did or not.

1	Q. Mr. Hyneman, you're aware that		
2	Laclede Gas acquired MGE in 2013, are you not?		
3	A. That sounds correct.		
4	Q. And as part of that acquisition, MGE		
5	agreed to make ISRS presentations or provide ISRS		
6	materials for its upcoming ISRS plans; are you		
7	aware of that?		
8	A. I was not involved in that case, that		
9	acquisition case.		
10	Q. Okay.		
11	A. So I don't doubt that that's true,		
12	but I don't have any direct knowledge of that.		
13	Q. Okay. So are you aware that each		
14	August for the last three years, 2014, 2015 and		
15	2016, MGE has provided its ISRS plans to Staff and		
16	OPC?		
17	A. Am I aware that that occurred?		
18	Q. Yes.		
19	A. No.		
20	Q. So my guess is you didn't go to any		
21	of those meetings?		
22	A. Not that I can recall.		
23	Q. Nor did you read the materials sent?		
24	A. Who was it sent to?		
25	Q. To Staff and OPC.		

1 Α. Do you know who at OPC you sent it 2. to? 3 0. Mr. Poston. 4 You know, in my performance of my Α. 5 duties, I review thousands of documents. I can't exactly say I haven't reviewed those. I don't 6 7 recall reviewing those. MR. ZUCKER: Okay. Permission to 9 approach the witness. 10 JUDGE DIPPELL: You may. MR. ZUCKER: I've handed the witness 11 what's been marked Laclede Exhibit No. 7. 12. 13 (LACLEDE EXHIBIT 7 WAS MARKED FOR 14 IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) 15 BY MR. ZUCKER: 16 0. Mr. Hyneman, can you tell me what 17 this document is? 18 The title is MGE ISRS Plan 2015 to Α. 19 2017. Q. And what is it dated? 20 2.1 Α. It's dated August 29, 2014. 22 Q. And do you know what it purports to 23 be? 24 I guess a high-level summary of MGE's Α. 25 service line replacement program and ISRS.

1 Q. Could you turn to page 11 for me? 2 Α. Yes. 3 And that page is titled Integrity Q. Verification of Transmission Lines; is that 4 5 correct? It is. 6 Α. 7 And does it say that those projects 0. would be performed through hydro testing to comply with state and federal safety requirements? 9 It does. 10 Α. 11 Q. And does it also say that this allows 12 the company to extend the useful life of 13 transmission lines in lieu of expensive replacement 14 of those lines to meet safety requirements? 15 I mean, it makes that Α. Yeah. The FERC specifically said that's not 16 statement. 17 They said hydro testing alone does not extend the life of the plant. MGE, Mr. Noack or 18 19 whoever at MGE may think it does, but the FERC does not consider that it does and it does not allow 20 2.1 hydrostatic testing, except in very limited 2.2 circumstances, to be capitalized as plant in 23 service. 24 0. Okay. So this document indicates 25 that in 2014 MGE communicated to Staff and OPC that

1	it was doing hydro testing projects?
2	A. Right. And
3	MR. POSTON: I'm going to object to
4	it. There's no he's assuming facts not in
5	evidence, that this document was provided to OPC
6	before.
7	JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Zucker, do you
8	have a response?
9	MR. ZUCKER: Well, it doesn't sound
10	like Mr. Hyneman is able to corroborate it, but let
11	me continue asking him a few questions. We can
12	find out.
13	JUDGE DIPPELL: I'll sustain the
14	objection to the your statement was that OPC had
15	provided or that Laclede had provided or MGE
16	had provided it to OPC, and I don't believe that
17	that fact is in evidence.
18	BY MR. ZUCKER:
19	Q. Okay. Assume with me, if you will,
20	that it was sent.
21	A. Okay. I was not
22	Q. That's an assumption.
23	A. I was not employed by OPC in 2014.
24	Q. Okay.
25	A. So I was on the Staff, and this

- 1 document, to my knowledge, was not shared with me
- 2 by Staff.
- O. Okay. So if I were to show you this
- 4 same document from the next year, 2015, with the
- 5 same page in it and the same document from the year
- 6 2016 with the same page in it, would you recognize
- 7 any of those?
- 8 A. No. I have no doubt that they were
- 9 likely provided. I'm not going to guibble with
- 10 that, but I just have not seen them, to my
- 11 knowledge.
- 12 Q. Okay. And do you know whether OPC
- 13 raised any concerns regarding the ISRS eligibility
- 14 of hydrostatic testing costs during this period,
- 15 since August 2014?
- 16 A. I was not an employee of OPC until
- 17 December 1st of 2015.
- 18 Q. Okay. Well, how about since then?
- 19 A. I think that may have been two or
- 20 three cases. No. It was an oversight. We just
- 21 didn't get that thorough. And I know you don't
- 22 want to, but that goes back to the issue of
- 23 supplementing your filing with the very limited
- 24 audit time that OPC would have.
- Q. You're right, I don't want to.

- 1 A. But I mean, that is the cause, likely
- 2 cause of not noting that you inappropriately
- 3 included hydrostatic testing.
- 4 Q. Okay. I didn't ask you why. I just
- 5 said, do you know of any.
- 6 A. I'm sorry. Do I know of any what?
- 7 Q. Do you know of any concerns that OPC
- 8 raised over the eligibility of hydrostatic testing
- 9 before Laclede did this work?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Thank you. One moment, please.
- 12 If MGE and Laclede Gas were to change
- their ISRS practices to attach new main to old
- 14 plastic main, would you consider that to be
- 15 imprudent?
- 16 A. I must not understand the question
- 17 because that's what you're doing currently, right,
- 18 you're replacing old main with --
- 19 Q. So currently we are putting in new
- 20 main at a different level and a different position
- 21 straight across. Now, if we were to change that
- 22 practice to incorporate the old plastic with the
- 23 new plastic, in other words new plastic to old
- 24 plastic, then back to new plastic, instead of just
- 25 going straight across and abandoning all of it --

1 Α. OPC is not suggesting that. -- would you consider that to be 2 Q. 3 imprudent? 4 Α. I can't answer that sitting here 5 today. That's a prudence issue. It would probably take a lot of discovery and meetings and 6 7 discussions on why all of a sudden do you need to retire all this plastic plant. Is it a pressure 9 issue? 10 Well, I'm sorry. I haven't given you Q. 11 a clear hypothetical, I think. We wouldn't be 12 retiring any plastic line. We would only be 13 retiring cast iron. We would be connecting --14 Α. Right. 15 -- into the old plastic. 0. 16 Α. Yeah. And my question goes to the 17 prudency. Right now I have no knowledge that Laclede is acting imprudent in the method it's 18 19 replacing. I do know that it is including 20 inappropriate costs in the ISRS. So --2.1 So if we were to do it the other Q. 2.2 way --23 I can't answer. Α. 24 Q. -- do you know? 25 I have no knowledge today that it is Α.

- 1 imprudent or that the new method -- or going back
- 2 to the old method would be imprudent.
- MR. ZUCKER: One moment, your Honor.
- 4 That's all I have, your Honor.
- 5 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Are there
- 6 questions from the Commissioners? Mr. Chairman?
- 7 CHAIRMAN HALL: Yes.
- 8 QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN HALL:
- 9 O. Good afternoon.
- 10 A. Good afternoon.
- 11 Q. If the Commission were to determine
- 12 that hydrostatic testing is not an ISRS-eligible
- item, would there be a way going forward for the
- 14 company to recover its costs related thereto?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 O. And what would that be?
- 17 A. Well, Laclede is not doing
- 18 hydrostatic testing. It's just Missouri Gas
- 19 Energy, and I'm seeing they do very few of it. But
- 20 what that would be included is in a normalized
- 21 level of maintenance that's recovered in base
- 22 rates. They would fully recover their costs in
- 23 base rates, just not in the ISRS surcharge.
- Q. Let me give you another hypothetical
- 25 because I'm not quite sure I understood all of your

- answers to the hypotheticals provided to you by
- 2 Mr. Zucker. Let's say that there's currently
- 3 100 feet of pipe in the ground, and 90 feet of that
- 4 is cast iron and 10 feet of that is plastic. With
- 5 me so far?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And the company replaces that entire
- 8 100 feet with 80 feet of plastic. Now, my
- 9 understanding of OPC's position is that ten feet of
- 10 plastic replaced is not ISRS eligible?
- 11 A. Yes. Any segment --
- 12 O. So how would OPC recommend that we
- determine the amount that is ISRS eligible in that
- 14 scenario?
- 15 A. Again, there are many ways.
- 16 Q. Give me one.
- 17 A. One is just simply what is the cost
- 18 of the main that's replaced, the plastic main
- 19 replaced, and they normally assign dollar amounts
- 20 to that, what is that cost to the total work order
- 21 cost.
- 22 Q. So 80 -- so we're putting in 80 feet
- 23 of plastic.
- 24 A. Okay.
- Q. What percent of that would you say is

- 1 recoverable?
- 2 A. If they put 80 feet of plastic that
- 3 replaces 10 feet of plastic?
- 4 Q. Well, 80 feet to replace 100 feet,
- 5 but of the 100 feet, 10 feet's plastic.
- 6 Q. Then I would say that 90 percent
- 7 would be ISRS eligible; 10 percent related to the
- 8 10 percent of the pipe that's removed, the plastic
- 9 that's removed would be.
- 10 Q. So you would say that the company
- 11 should retire 100 feet and only get credit for 72,
- 12 or is that --
- 13 A. No. I'm saying the portion of the
- 14 plastic that's installed that goes to replace the
- 15 plastic that's in the ground --
- 16 Q. But that's the problem is that -- I
- mean, because you're replacing the entire line.
- 18 It's difficult for me to figure out what plastic is
- 19 replacing what plastic because the entire line is
- 20 being replaced and it's being replaced with less
- 21 total footage.
- 22 A. And given -- I don't know how common
- 23 that scenario is, but when you come to cost
- 24 allocations, you can have levels of precision. I
- 25 think we illustrated earlier, there are some costs

- 1 that can't be directly allocated in an exact
- 2 manner. This could be one of them.
- In those situations, you come up with
- 4 reasonable allocation factors; for example, the
- 5 Massachusetts formula. When you need to allocate a
- 6 specific cost that you don't have a really close
- 7 allocation method, you do it under factors that are
- 8 general in nature. Here you could put amount of
- 9 time worked on a work order, total cost of
- 10 materials. There are -- there is some way that you
- 11 could do it to ensure that the piece -- that any
- 12 costs related to new plastic does not go in the
- 13 ISRS.
- 14 And it's important because it's --
- 15 that small piece, they're recovering that
- 16 currently. Especially Laclede with its current
- 17 earnings, it's recovering all of its costs. So the
- 18 big issue here is it's going to recover the costs,
- 19 just not in a separate surcharge.
- Q. Let me ask you this, then: Let's say
- 21 you had 100 feet of existing plastic line and there
- is a leak in one section of it. Would it be
- 23 possible to replace that entire 100 feet and have
- 24 that be ISRS eligible?
- 25 A. If that's a 100-foot segment that has

1	a leak?
2	Q. Uh-huh.
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. So you're replacing plastic with
5	plastic, and the entire 100 foot is ISRS eligible?
6	A. Because it's in a deteriorated
7	condition. It's leaking.
8	Q. One inch of the hundred feet.
9	A. Well, again, if you can go in and
10	repair that, if Laclede can do that, repair it and
11	charge it to expense. If it cannot be repaired and
12	it has to be replaced, then that would be ISRS
13	eligible, the 100 feet if that's the segment of the
14	pipe.
15	Q. So you would essentially give them
16	some discretion to define segment, then, in that
17	scenario?
18	A. Yes, I give them deference on
19	segment.
20	CHAIRMAN HALL: I have no further
21	questions. Thank you.
22	JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Coleman?
23	COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: No, thank you.
24	JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. I think
25	that's all the bench questions for you. Is there

1	further cross-examination from Staff?
2	MR. THOMPSON: No, thank you, Judge.
3	JUDGE DIPPELL: Laclede?
4	MR. ZUCKER: Thank you, your Honor.
5	RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. ZUCKER:
6	Q. The examples you just discussed with
7	Chairman Hall for allocating or yeah, I guess
8	allocating in some way costs, if I were to look at
9	the ISRS statute, could I find any of that?
10	A. No, because the ISRS statute does not
11	allow replacement of plastic pipe. Only pipe
12	that's in worn out and deteriorated condition.
13	Q. But when there is a mix of the two?
14	A. I don't think the statute assumes
15	there's a mix.
16	MR. ZUCKER: All right. Thank you.
17	JUDGE DIPPELL: Is there redirect
18	from Public Counsel?
19	MR. POSTON: Yes.
20	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. POSTON:
21	Q. I'm going to try to work backwards.
22	You had questions from the Chairman about giving
23	deference to Laclede on segments. I'm not sure
24	exactly what you meant by that. If in his scenario
25	the 100-foot segment had a leak and Laclede could

- just patch that leak and not replace the 100-foot
- 2 segment but they went ahead and replaced the
- 3 100-foot segment instead, would that be a prudence
- 4 issue?
- 5 A. It would. But when I said I'd give
- 6 the deference, I said if Laclede can fix it, can
- 7 repair it, then it goes to maintenance expense.
- 8 And the deference goes if they made a determination
- 9 that this can't be fixed, it has to be replaced,
- 10 they would have deference on that to make the
- 11 judgment of they're going to replace the pipe.
- 12 Q. So what do you think determines what
- 13 a segment of pipe is?
- 14 A. I don't -- I think it's used with
- 15 different definitions in different terms. I have
- 16 not seen one single definition of it.
- 17 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Hyneman, can I
- 18 get you to speak into your microphone, please?
- 19 THE WITNESS: Yes. Sorry.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.
- 21 BY MR. POSTON:
- 22 Q. Mr. Zucker asked you questions
- 23 **about --**
- 24 MR. ZUCKER: Can we pronounce it
- 25 Zucker just for --

1	MR. POSTON: Zucker?			
2	MR. ZUCKER: Zucker.			
3	MR. POSTON: Didn't I say Zucker?			
4	MR. ZUCKER: You said Zucker.			
5	MR. POSTON: Sorry. I've probably			
6	been doing that for ten years, haven't I?			
7	MR. ZUCKER: No. I think you just			
8	picked it up.			
9	MR. POSTON: Sorry.			
10	BY MR. POSTON:			
11	Q. Okay. Mr. Zucker			
12	MR. ZUCKER: Zucker.			
13	MR. POSTON: Zucker, like Tucker?			
14	MR. ZUCKER: No.			
15	MR. POSTON: No?			
16	MR. ZUCKER: Like hooker.			
17	MR. POSTON: Okay.			
18	BY MR. POSTON:			
19	Q. Okay. So Laclede counsel asked you			
20	if you change practices to attach the new main to			
21	the old main instead of doing the way they			
22	practice, would there be an objection. And do you			
23	think that's likely that Laclede would go back to			
24	their old method?			
25	A. I would hope that they would not put			

- 1 the safety of their customers in jeopardy by trying
- 2 to recover a few more dollars in the ISRS, so I
- 3 would hope they would not do that if the new method
- 4 is safer, more efficient.
- 5 Q. If it is, but do you know if it is or
- 6 not?
- 7 A. I don't know that it's not.
- 8 Q. Do you think the pressure of
- 9 Laclede's system might have something to do with
- whether they would go back to the old method?
- 11 A. Yeah. My -- and I just have a
- 12 general understanding of the reason why that so
- 13 much current plastic pipe is being replaced is that
- 14 they're going from a low pressure, which required
- more plastic pipe in the ground, to an intermediate
- 16 pressure pipe which requires less pipe, and that's
- 17 the reason why so much plastic pipe is being
- 18 replaced.
- 19 That's a general understanding that I
- 20 developed in this case, and it's going to take a
- 21 lot of discovery, discussions to find out more
- 22 about that.
- 23 Q. Laclede's counsel gave you a copy of
- the MGE ISRS plan 2015-2017 and he referred you to
- 25 page 11. Do you recall that?

1 Α. Yes. 2 Q. He was pointing you to the language 3 that talks about hydro testing. 4 Α. Correct. 5 And it says here that, performed 0. 6 through hydro testing to comply with state and 7 federal safety requirements. Do you think the way they are trying to recover the hydro testing costs 9 is in compliance with accounting requirements? I'm absolutely certain that 10 Α. No. 11 their -- the cost of the hydro testing needs to be 12 charged to expense. I've done a lot of research on 13 I've read a lot of FERC orders and that. 14 discussions. There's only one exception that FERC 15 says that you can capitalize hydro testing, and 16 that is if you're doing it in a major rehabilitation project, not in an ongoing service 17 line replacement program or ISRS that MGE is doing. 18 19 So there is no indication at all. In 20 fact, FERC has specifically prohibited this type of 2.1 hydro testing to be capitalized. I'm absolutely 2.2 convinced of that. I was curious of 23 Mr. Oligschlaeger, why he couldn't produce a document to support his testimony, and that's part 24 25 of the reason why I think we'd like to look at

- 1 that.
- 2 Q. And there was questions about whether
- 3 or not OPC had gotten a copy of this document.
- 4 Even if Laclede did provide it, does that make
- 5 hydro testing eligible for ISRS?
- 6 A. This document here?
- 7 Q. Yes.
- 8 A. No. This --
- 9 Q. I'm saying if we had received that
- and were aware of it, does that make hydro testing
- 11 eligible?
- 12 A. No. In fact, this doesn't indicate
- 13 they were capitalizing the hydro testing to their
- 14 ISRS. It doesn't say anything like that. It just
- 15 says that they've done integrity verification
- 16 projects, hydro tests in 2012, '13, '15, '16 and
- 17 '17. That's all it says.
- 18 Q. And so these plans, at least ISRS
- 19 plan goes up through 2017. Have you seen a similar
- 20 MGE ISRS plan that goes beyond 2017?
- 21 A. Yes. I think I looked at a similar
- 22 document yesterday.
- 23 O. And what was that?
- 24 A. I can't recall the document. I'm
- 25 sorry.

1 Q. All right. It was like budgeted ISRS, I think, 2 Α. 3 costs. 4 Q. And what did that show? 5 Α. Again, my memory, I can't speak 6 specifically to what it showed. I could yesterday 7 but not today. Do you recall if it showed 0. 9 significant increases in ISRS expenditures? 10 MR. THOMPSON: Judge, I'm going to 11 object. He says he does not recall. 12 MR. POSTON: I'm asking him if he 13 recalls specifics. If he doesn't remember that, he 14 can say so. 15 THE WITNESS: In general, I do. 16 MR. ZUCKER: That's also a leading 17 question. 18 MR. POSTON: I'm asking him to recall 19 the specific part of it. I'm not leading him in 20 any way. Either he recalls that or he doesn't. 2.1 I'm able to try to refresh his memory. 22 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'll overrule the 23 objections and let him answer.

does show significant increases, and I think that's

THE WITNESS: My memory is that it

24

- 1 consistent with what this document shows.
- 2 BY MR. POSTON:
- 3 Q. If a company has ended some of their
- 4 pipeline replacement programs, does it give you
- 5 concern if their ISRS expenditures are increasing?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 O. And why is that?
- 8 A. Because the lower number of mains and
- 9 service lines to replace, you have a -- you'd
- 10 expect a lower number of projects to be completed.
- 11 Q. Does the company have an incentive to
- 12 increase their ISRS expenditures --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 O. -- beyond reasons for safety?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 O. Or financial reason?
- 17 A. Absolutely. It's part of Laclede's
- 18 strategy is --
- 19 MR. ZUCKER: I'm going to object.
- 20 Can we tie this to something that was talked about
- in cross or from the Bench?
- MR. POSTON: He's entered this
- 23 exhibit into the record showing their expenditures.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Actually, he didn't
- 25 enter that into the record.

1 MR. POSTON: He's used this as a demonstrative exhibit during this case. 2 Commissioners have looked at it. Everybody's 3 4 looked at it. 5 MR. ZUCKER: I did not enter it into the record because when I was questioning him, 6 7 Mr. Hyneman said he wasn't familiar with it. 8 MR. POSTON: He still asked him 9 questions about it, and I'm asking him about things we see on here. It's the same thing. It's just 10 11 applying this beyond the dates beyond. That's all. 12 MR. ZUCKER: There's nothing on there 13 about having an incentive to do ISRS work. 14 MR. POSTON: Well, it's -- I don't 15 have to ask everything the same questions you have 16 asked. 17 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'm going to sustain the objection for the reasons that Mr. Zucker 18 19 discussed. However, I think that there was some 20 testimony about incentives. So I will let you ask 2.1 questions about his incentive. I'm sorry. 2.2 going to over -- I'm going to sustain his objection, 23 but I will let you ask questions about his concerns 2.4 for Laclede's incentives because I do believe there 25 was cross-examination or questions about that from

- 1 the Bench.
- 2 MR. POSTON: Okay. Thank you.
- 3 BY MR. POSTON:
- 4 O. Now I can't recall what my question
- 5 was. Do they have incentives --
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 O. -- and does that give you concerns?
- 8 A. And I was saying that Laclede has a
- 9 strategy of growth, and they've added, I think
- 10 since their new CEO two years ago took over the
- 11 company, and their growth is through acquisitions,
- we've seen they're out acquiring companies, and the
- 13 growth through rate base, because the higher the
- 14 rate base, the higher the profit for the company.
- 15 So ISRS is perfectly set up to boost
- 16 a rate base as high as they possibly can to boost
- 17 their earnings, and that is part of their overall
- 18 strategy.
- 19 O. And could what -- is what we're
- 20 seeing with them going through and replacing
- 21 plastic that was just replaced recently, replacing
- it again, could that be part of this strategy?
- 23 A. Could it? Yes. I have no knowledge
- 24 that it is.
- 25 MR. ZUCKER: Objection. Speculation.

1 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'll sustain. BY MR. POSTON: 2 3 And I believe Laclede's counsel 0. 4 walked you through some scenarios, some 5 hypotheticals --6 Α. Right. 7 -- using different footages. 0. believe the first hypothetical he gave you was 9 there's 2,000 feet of new main being put in. 10 says it replaces 3,000 foot of cast iron, and at 11 the same time 1,000 feet of plastic comes out. 12 he asked you if you agree that the cast iron 13 removed -- scratch that. 14 In that scenario, do you know whether 15 the 2,000-foot main is replacing the 3,000-foot 16 cast iron or the 1,000-foot plastic? 17 That would be information the Α. No. 18 company would have, and that would be part of their 19 allocation of the costs to non-ISRS/ISRS. 20 0. Okay. 2.1 The company with the data, they have Α. 2.2 the specifics, and we could -- I'm very comfortable

rational allocation method. That's not that hard

to do. We don't need precise because we don't work

that we could come up with a reasonable and

23

24

- 1 with precision in this type of work. So I'm
- 2 confident that, working with the company and the
- 3 Staff, we could come to a reasonable allocation
- 4 factor that we all could agree on.
- 5 O. If the Commission determines that the
- 6 plastic is ineligible, what are our options?
- 7 A. Well, the options are, then, if it's
- 8 not going to be allocated out, then you cannot
- 9 include in ISRS any of the costs of the plant.
- 10 Q. Any of those work orders?
- 11 A. Right.
- 12 Q. He gave you some hypotheticals. I
- would just like to look at some real examples, and
- 14 I'm going to hand you a copy of Laclede's Exhibit
- No. 2, the Revised Summary of OPC Work Orders that
- was part of Mr. Buck's testimony.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. I don't believe you have this.
- 19 A. I do have a copy.
- 20 Q. Oh, you've got a copy?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Okay. So if we look down on
- 23 services, do you see the Work Order 900547?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. In this instance, did the plastic

1 retirements exceed the footage installed? 2 Α. Yes. 3 And the work order below it, did the 0. plastic retirements exceed the footage installed? 4 5 Yes, by approximately 100 feet, Α. 120 feet. 6 7 So in some cases, then, it's the 0. plastic retirements that are more is coming out 9 than the plastic that's going in? Correct. And that's the unusualness 10 Α. of this situation. 11 12 And you were asked questions about 0. 13 the chart on the bottom of page 7 of your 14 testimony. 15 Α. Yes. 16 What's the purpose of that chart? 0. 17 It's just to demonstrate the number Α. of work orders that we've seen, and there could be 18 19 many more, but the number of work orders that we've seen that has a substantial number of feet of 20 2.1 plastic mains, recent plastic mains -- we're 2.2 looking at 2013, '16, 2015 -- that's been replaced 23 that are non-ISRS-eligible. 24 0. You were asked questions about -- I

guess in one of your answers you were talking about

- 1 a Staff data request.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Do you recall that? What was that
- 4 data request?
- 5 A. Let me refer to that. The question
- 6 was related to what I thought the intent of the
- 7 legislation. There was quite a number of data
- 8 requests by Staff in this case, so it's hard to
- 9 track it down, but I believe I did answer it in my
- 10 testimony, if I can find it. And I can't. I don't
- 11 have the data request with me.
- But what it is, is the intent of the
- 13 legislation was spelled out by, I think, the court,
- 14 the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court said
- 15 basically it's to eliminate or mitigate the
- 16 regulatory lag rate recovery of the plant
- 17 replacements. That was the intent.
- 18 Q. Okay. And I think at the very
- 19 beginning of the cross-examination you were asked
- about whether OPC objected to Laclede's strategy
- 21 generally. And when you said no, were you
- 22 referring to just for purposes of this case?
- 23 A. Yes. I mean, this could be -- the
- 24 situation they're doing now, replacing a lot of new
- 25 pipe, may be addressed in the rate case that

- 1 they're going to be filing here in a few months.
- 2 That may be a scope where we determine the prudence
- 3 or the reasonableness of that policy in that case.
- 4 But the purpose of this ISRS case, we're not
- 5 questioning the reasonableness, prudency of their
- 6 operational requirements.
- 7 Q. Could we raise prudence issues in
- 8 this?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. What is the purpose of this case?
- 11 A. To determine that the costs that are
- 12 going to be charged in the surcharge are ISRS
- 13 eligible costs and it's calculated correctly.
- 14 Q. And that's the only issue?
- 15 A. That's the whole thing.
- MR. POSTON: Okay. That's all I
- 17 have. Thank you.
- JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Okay.
- 19 Mr. Hyneman, I believe that concludes your
- 20 testimony, and you may be excused. And all the
- 21 other witnesses may be excused if I didn't excuse
- 22 you already.
- 23 So that concludes the hearing in
- 24 the -- the evidentiary part of the hearing. I
- 25 believe all of the exhibits have been entered. We

1 did request that these transcripts be expedited until tomorrow and -- or for tomorrow, and briefs 2. 3 are due on Friday. 4 I would just ask that you include in your Briefs, Mr. Poston, if you'll remember to 5 include that Kansas citation. 6 7 MR. POSTON: Yes. Thank you. JUDGE DIPPELL: And if you can, I 9 would encourage you to maybe include what it is that the Commission can or can't do from a legal 10 11 standpoint in relation to a formula for 12 reallocation should they side with OPC, and also 13 any legal definitions of the term segment as it is 14 in the statute, any clarifications you could make 15 with regard to how depreciation is calculated, but 16 not a treatise, please, and also the interplay 17 perhaps of the FERC Order that we discussed with the Commission's authority and rules, statutes, so 18 19 forth. 20 Those items would help me. 2.1 going to order you to provide those things, but 2.2 just some things that I noticed as we were going 23 through the hearing that I think would be helpful. 24 So seeing nothing else, I think that 25 that will adjourn the hearing. We can go off the

## **EVIDENTIARY HEARING - Vol. I 1/3/2017**

Page 250

					1 agc 230
1					
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2	2 . 40	(WHEREUPON,	the hearing	concluded	at
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19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					

## **EVIDENTIARY HEARING - Vol. I 1/3/2017**

Page 251

		Page 231
1	INDEX	
2	LACLEDE'S EVIDENCE:	
3	GLENN BUCK	
4	Direct Examination by Mr. Zucker	53
5	Cross-Examination by Mr. Thompson	58
_	Cross-Examination by Mr. Poston	59
6	Questions by Chairman Hall Recross-Examination by Mr. Poston	92 98
7	Redirect Examination by Mr. Zucker	108
8	MARK LAUBER	
	Direct Examination by Mr. Zucker	118
9	Cross-Examination by Mr. Poston Questions by Chairman Hall	120 134
10	Questions by Chairman Hall Questions by Judge Dippell	140
	Recross-Examination by Mr. Poston	143
11	Redirect Examination by Mr. Zucker	145
12		
13	STAFF'S EVIDENCE:	
	JENNIFER GRISHAM	
14	Direct Examination by Mr. Thompson	154
15	Questions by Judge Dippell	155
	KIM BOLIN	
16	Direct Examination by Mr. Thompson	157
17	Cross-Examination by Mr. Poston Questions by Chairman Hall	160 170
1 /	Recross-Examination by Mr. Poston	171
18	Redirect Examination by Mr. Thompson	173
19	MARK OLIGSCHLAEGER	
20	Direct Examination by Mr. Thompson	177 170
20	Cross-Examination by Mr. Poston Questions by Chairman Hall	178 196
21	Recross-Examination by Mr. Zucker	198
22	Recross-Examination by Mr. Poston	201
22	Redirect Examination by Mr. Thompson	203
23		
24		
25		

## **EVIDENTIARY HEARING - Vol. I 1/3/2017**

Page 252

		1 agc 232
1	OPC'S EVIDENCE:	
2	CHARLES HYNEMAN	
3	Direct Examination by Mr. Poston	206
4 5	Cross-Examination by Mr. Thompson Cross-Examination by Mr. Zucker Questions by Chairman Hall	207 207 229
6	Recross-Examination by Mr. Zucker Redirect Examination by Mr. Poston	234
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

_		Page 233
1 2	LACLEDE'S EXHIBITS INDEX	RECEIVED
3		
4	EXHIBIT NO. 1	
5	Direct Testimony of Glenn W. Buck	54
6	EXHIBIT NO. 2	
7	Rebuttal Testimony of Glenn W. Buck	57
8	EXHIBIT NO. 3  Rebuttal Testimony of Mark D. Lauber	120
9	EXHIBIT NO. 4	
10	Verified Application and Petition of Laclede Gas Company to Change its	
11	Infrastructure System Replacement Surcharge in its Laclede Gas Service Territory	58
12	EXHIBIT NO. 5	30
13	Verified Application and Petition of Missouri Gas Energy, an Operating Unit	
14	of Laclede Gas Company, to Change its Infrastructure System Replacement	
15	Surcharge in its Missouri Gas Energy Service Territory	58
16		
17	EXHIBIT NO. 6 Graph - Laclede ISRS Cast Iron Replacement	*
18	repracement	
19	EXHIBIT NO. 7	*
20	MGE ISRS Plan (2015-2017) STAFF EXHIBITS INDEX	•
21	EXHIBIT NO. 1	
22	Direct Testimony of Caroline Newkirk	153
	EXHIBIT NO. 2	
23	Direct Testimony of Jennifer K. Grisha	m 155
24	EXHIBIT NO. 3  Direct Testimony of David M. Sommerer,	
25	Case No. GO-2016-332	153

Page 254

		Page 254
1	EXHIBIT NO. 4	
2	Direct Testimony of David M. Sommerer,	
3	Case GO-2016-0333	153
4	EXHIBIT NO. 5	
5	Rebuttal Testimony of Kimberly K. Bolin	159
6		
7	EXHIBIT NO. 6 Rebuttal Testimony of Mark L. Oligschlaeger	178
8	OPC'S EXHIBITS INDEX	
9		
10	EXHIBIT NO. 1  Direct Testimony of Charles R. Hyneman	206
11	EXHIBIT NO. 2 Legend for State or Federal Safety	
12	Requirements, 393.130.1	64
13	EXHIBIT NO. 3 900547 Retirements	92
15	EXHIBIT NO. 4 Subchapter F - Accounts, Natural Gas Act	186
16	EXHIBIT NO. 5	
17	FERC Order on Accounting for Pipeline Assessment Costs, Docket No. AI05-1-000	192
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1	CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF MISSOURI
	) ss.
3	COUNTY OF COLE )
4	I, Kellene K. Feddersen, Certified
5	Shorthand Reporter with the firm of Midwest
6	Litigation Services, do hereby certify that I was
7	personally present at the proceedings had in the
8	above-entitled cause at the time and place set
9	forth in the caption sheet thereof; that I then and
10	there took down in Stenotype the proceedings had;
11	and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct
12	transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at such
13	time and place.
14	Given at my office in the City of
15	Jefferson, County of Cole, State of Missouri.
16	1) 00 9
17	Leller Fedden
18	Kellene K. Feddersen, RPR, CSR, CCR
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24	
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	167:9 184:9	34:3 106:11	<b>affect</b> 161:8,13	202:20 215:1
$\frac{11}{\text{A's } 62:20}$	189:9,25 190:5	added 71:25	163:1 180:4	218:14 219:1,7
<b>a.m</b> 3:3	195:6	73:1 77:15	<b>affirm</b> 136:20	244:12 245:4
<b>abandon</b> 146:12	accounting 50:2	243:9	afternoon 160:3	<b>agreed</b> 58:6,9
abandoned	102:22 106:24	adding 170:22	160:4 170:5,6	222:5
94:22 202:19	162:7,8,17	addition 13:25	178:15,16	agreeing 11:23
203:5 218:10	163:6 167:5,15	26:15	196:17,18	agreement
218:23,24	174:8 179:24	additional 31:20	198:21,22	11:19 12:12,15
abandoning	181:4 183:3	31:21 108:1,22	207:3,9,10,18	17:20,22
25:1 227:25	186:17 189:8	140:2 144:25	207:19 229:9	agreements
abbreviated	189:24 190:17	additions 91:15	229:10	71:13
154:15	191:3,14 192:2	97:15,21 158:2	age 44:11,18	ahead 3:22 7:9
	193:7 195:5	183:12	91:2	7:11,18 19:2
ability 188:13	199:7,15,25	addressed 19:5	aging 132:7,13	27:1 35:20
<b>able</b> 21:10 31:25 99:10 106:25	200:2,8 201:24	43:5 79:1	132:17,19	50:11 53:5
110:17 115:16	204:25 238:9	247:25	ago 41:20 115:8	92:19 98:9,14
	254:17	addresses 65:15	166:23 167:19	108:2 151:6
115:18 169:7	accounts 183:15	182:15	243:10	152:22 154:6
169:12,18,21 172:9 178:21	184:19,21	adds 57:8	agree 6:17 38:15	157:10 206:19
	185:17 186:3,4	adequacy	41:12 47:9	207:6 212:14
179:13 188:16 203:14 210:4	186:18 187:4	187:17	60:3,15,24	235:2
205:14 210:4 225:10 240:21	187:25 188:14	adequate 65:6	61:8 62:22	AI05-1-000
	190:24,25	65:16 76:24	63:2,18 65:4	254:17
above-entitled 255:8	204:3 254:15	adjoining 70:16	65:17 69:5,10	aligned 36:3
absence 98:20	accuracy 216:14	adjourn 249:25	69:12 70:12	allocate 93:17
<b>absent</b> 44:9	accurate 84:2,7	adjustment	75:23 78:6,17	93:18 94:5
100:22	100:15 123:7	106:10,21	79:4 80:18	95:3 173:2
	126:5 132:23	175:17	81:2,9 86:9	232:5
<b>absolutely</b> 96:13 110:12 112:8	134:6 173:3	administration	87:5,12,15	allocated 211:13
138:7,7,18	194:9	11:24	88:2 91:15	232:1 245:8
140:15 238:10	acquired 222:2	admission 6:3	99:9 100:8	allocating
	acquiring	58:12 159:12	102:13 107:13	220:16 234:7,8
238:21 241:17 accelerate 132:7	243:12	admit 6:4 54:20	107:16 111:1	allocation
	acquisition	57:24 58:17	123:7,14,19	172:24 211:11
accept 80:3,23 acceptable	222:4,9	64:19 92:5	124:1,15,24	232:4,7 244:19
191:2	acquisitions	119:25 152:2	125:7 130:7	244:24 245:3
access 3:18	243:11	153:13 155:16	135:14 165:15	allocations
accessible 139:1	act 184:19	159:17 178:5	165:24 166:9	231:24
139:8	193:17 254:15	186:12 192:7	166:12 168:11	allocator 173:5
accomplish	acting 228:18	206:20	168:14,24	allow 8:17 17:24
20:12	activities 192:14	admittance	172:7 173:24	17:25 19:1
account 99:23	193:14	119:19	174:4 182:3,13	46:5 49:24
183:20 190:16	actual 44:19	adopt 51:20	182:24 184:20	88:13 112:22
198:5 202:14	87:6 99:18	170:8 171:3	186:16 187:19	112:25 132:1
204:17	125:24 170:25	adopted 46:11	188:23 191:13	134:1 146:10
accountant	217:9	168:4	191:17 195:24	162:18 170:13
102:19 103:2	add 5:21,24 21:5	advised 17:8	199:5 201:14	181:10 183:4
102.19 103.2				

214:14 221:11	32:1 68:12	3:23	4:15 31:14	114:21 117:7
224:20 234:11	73:24 76:8	APPEARAN	approved 11:20	119:12 129:3
allowable 20:3	88:14 89:7,23	2:1	12:12 75:9	134:24 145:7
20:12 21:11	90:16 104:9,11	appearing 4:6	approximately	147:2,8 150:1
23:15,23 146:9	113:1 114:24	appears 44:15	65:22 94:20,24	160:24 162:6
allowed 9:21	132:2 161:24	87:9 184:23	113:18 201:3	165:5 169:7,12
10:7,16 12:4,6	162:7,19,20	191:14,18	246:5	169:19,21
18:19 49:23	163:11 167:2	199:6 200:1	<b>April</b> 15:13,17	171:17 173:12
114:23 182:21	179:13 180:22	204:24	204:3	173:21 174:20
183:12 195:8	181:1,4 188:19	appendix 62:10	arbiter 191:1	175:22 179:12
allowing 133:2	197:17 198:12	62:20 96:19,22	area 27:17 103:1	181:8 188:9
168:4	213:11 214:21	96:25 97:1,3,9	121:4 138:12	213:12 217:23
<b>allows</b> 51:13	217:20,23	97:14,16,20	139:22 203:4	235:22 236:19
188:1 224:11	228:4,23	applicable 187:7	209:6,16	242:8,16
<b>alluded</b> 197:25	240:23 247:9	189:17 204:20	areas 130:21	244:12 246:12
alongside	answered 17:7	204:23	<b>argue</b> 7:7 10:5	246:24 247:19
202:18	88:12 150:10	application 1:10	11:8 19:15	asking 18:5 22:7
alternative 4:21	181:1 214:4,15	1:15 9:17 58:7	66:6 195:13	51:10,15 66:4
amount 11:22	214:20 221:7	58:8 95:12	argued 5:1,7	66:13,19,23
31:1,2,10 57:5	answering 16:15	96:14,16,23	8:20 9:2 16:6	67:2,18 88:19
71:9 93:1 94:7	53:2 67:16	97:13,14 156:5	argues 15:10	101:13 110:18
99:5,8 100:8	147:9 217:19	170:15 212:18	arguing 5:18	110:24 112:16
100:20,20	answers 17:5	216:8 217:8	7:25 8:14	113:20 117:17
105:7,19	32:21 54:9	253:9,13	195:20	129:1,6 131:23
115:14 116:16	55:4 57:15	<b>applied</b> 9:7,14	argument 7:18	133:4,17,19
117:1 161:3	86:10 119:14	42:20 189:12	8:12 10:15	162:15 165:23
175:13,14,21	155:3 159:4	applies 8:6	15:7 16:5 31:3	167:6 210:2
176:1 197:21	177:19,22	13:14 72:7,19	131:24 132:5	217:10,17
198:1,2,7	182:17 201:25	<b>apply</b> 9:9 16:7	194:3	225:11 240:12
200:16 201:2	206:8 220:25	39:22 43:8	arguments 7:8	240:18 242:9
202:3,4,12	230:1 246:25	71:21,24 72:9	9:3 15:16 19:3	asks 192:12
219:2 230:13	antsy 18:21	73:1 100:12	19:8,9 113:3	Assembly 13:21
232:8	anybody's 48:21	189:7,15	117:21	42:16
amounts 11:25	93:4	applying 121:20	<b>arises</b> 19:20	assess 33:16
83:10 93:13	anymore 104:8	242:11	arms 28:13	137:1
109:14 114:22	104:16,17	appreciate 6:14	arrangement	assesses 33:21
133:2 221:15	anyway 102:23	140:5	32:6	assessing 193:17
230:19	110:6	approach 6:3	<b>arrows</b> 34:19	assessment
analogous 44:21	apologize 97:4	8:23 28:2	<b>asked</b> 16:2 17:9	191:15 192:3
analysis 50:19	130:13 208:20	55:18 86:5	33:25 46:7	192:13 193:13
129:17,19	Apparently	130:11 138:4	54:8 55:3	254:17
<b>angle</b> 28:20	133:12	171:3 184:2	57:14 60:23	<b>asset</b> 21:16
<b>annual</b> 97:24	appeal 11:1	197:11 203:20	66:20 72:6	23:13,19
annually 143:16	Appeals 9:5	223:9	85:22 86:15,21	146:17 160:19
anodes 125:1	appear 46:1	approaching	90:13,14 91:11	161:1 174:5
answer 16:24	109:8 185:19	68:11	99:3,7,14	179:18,22
26:20 27:7	appearance	appropriate	100:6 102:23	180:1,10,10
	l		l	

181:13 189:20	authority 17:15	102:8 106:7,17	<b>basic</b> 140:9	159:8 172:16
193:19,23	68:18,20 72:16	114:8 115:7	215:9	177:21
194:1,5	78:23 111:9	118:4 123:2	basically 4:20	better 6:13
assets 104:19	190:4 249:18	128:14 138:12	10:11 21:18	17:18 31:25
160:7 161:7,12	authorization	148:3,11	34:20 114:23	53:2 64:24
161:18 162:25	83:13,18 84:7	153:21,24,25	192:5 247:15	68:6 73:5 74:2
163:7 180:3,13	84:22 158:9	162:5 170:14	<b>basis</b> 87:16	74:13 78:5
assign 230:19	166:8	171:18 175:23	126:8 212:4	81:1 172:21
assigned 3:11	available 99:20	176:2 194:21	began 3:2	179:9
associated 45:20	99:25 194:18	205:11,12,12	beginning	<b>beyond</b> 166:9,10
183:11	average 16:16	205:15 221:25	247:19	239:20 241:14
<b>assume</b> 78:19	81:24,25	226:22 227:24	begins 192:18	242:11,11
80:23 85:8	101:25 105:13	229:1 236:23	<b>behalf</b> 4:10 7:22	big 232:18
88:6 97:8	161:8,13,19	237:10	belief 155:7	<b>bigger</b> 93:17
108:8 135:9,10	163:1,8 180:4	<b>backed</b> 174:24	159:9 177:22	<b>binding</b> 190:18
138:15 181:24	180:14 181:17	background	believe 3:21	190:21
183:14 190:5	181:21	135:10 174:10	4:21 30:6 34:5	bit 61:25 85:17
191:25 225:19	avoid 167:24	174:18	35:5 36:17	130:13 147:18
assumed 138:4	aware 13:22	backing 197:12	56:10 57:11	bits 152:23
179:21	15:25 24:16,16	backwards	62:7 63:7	<b>blame</b> 16:12
assumes 234:14	24:17 46:10	234:21	64:25 65:18	block 27:21
assuming 46:2	77:7 89:18	balance 93:14	74:1 75:6,11	<b>board</b> 32:19
225:4	108:11 175:19	ballpark 175:20	88:20 98:7	<b>bodies</b> 204:16
assumption	189:6 204:6	200:19,25	128:15 130:5	<b>Bolin</b> 152:8
81:15 203:10	209:14 217:4	ban 15:15	130:10 132:4,8	157:12,14,16
225:22	220:21,23	<b>band</b> 51:12	134:21 148:25	160:3 176:21
attach 227:13	221:14,19	bare 60:12	161:4 166:15	178:18 179:12
236:20	222:1,7,13,17	65:21 76:11	171:9 176:15	251:15 254:5
attached 65:4	239:10	128:7	176:21 183:18	<b>bonus</b> 219:15
156:2 182:10		bargain 12:8	197:13 198:16	booking 180:1
attaching 125:1	B	base 83:10 89:21	210:1 211:19	<b>books</b> 90:10
attack 187:25	<b>B</b> 62:24 64:6	89:25 90:15	213:24 214:12	103:1,13,14,20
188:5,7	68:19 71:19	160:16,21	225:16 242:24	104:6,16
attend 209:19	78:11 96:19	162:16 229:21	244:3,8 245:18	boost 243:15,16
210:5	97:1,3,16,20	229:23 243:13	247:9 248:19	<b>bore</b> 27:20
attorney 2:3,4	122:18	243:14,16	248:25	<b>bottom</b> 28:7,19
66:6 72:21	<b>B-o-l-i-n</b> 157:18	<b>based</b> 39:19	believes 33:19	57:2 69:1
113:2 125:6	<b>B-u-c-k</b> 53:13	83:18 88:6	38:17 221:6	87:19 137:25
<b>audit</b> 8:19	back 3:13 7:23	157:4 162:6,8	<b>belong</b> 5:1 50:3	158:23 215:16
215:11 226:24	8:20 9:20 14:2	163:5 167:7,21	<b>bench</b> 3:14 7:24	246:13
auditing 156:9	25:3 28:25	171:11 181:11	8:24 28:2	<b>Box</b> 2:9,14 4:1
177:9	32:18 39:3	184:23	233:25 241:21	<b>brand</b> 45:11
auditor 157:20	54:6 56:17,22	basement	243:1	brand-new 45:9
<b>August</b> 222:14	76:23 79:22	140:24 141:2	benefit 12:8	107:6
223:21 226:15	83:5 84:24	142:10	22:6 50:15	<b>break</b> 86:18
authoritative	92:11 94:11	basements	<b>best</b> 8:11 19:11	92:16,20 98:14
204:5	96:21 98:16,18	140:25	27:9 155:6	98:17,19
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>

152:19,24	70:19,21,22	195:8 199:13	212:11 213:4	127:22 128:4,7
153:23 205:9	73:12 74:3	199:16,21	219:13 222:8,9	128:19 129:19
205:14	78:11 96:25	200:4,20	237:20 242:2	132:14,21
breaks 80:1	255:1,1	224:22 238:21	247:8,22,25	137:20 140:22
<b>brief</b> 6:10 7:8,18	calculate 93:21	capitalizing	248:3,4,10	149:12,15
47:16,19 66:6	100:7 178:18	239:13	253:25 254:3	150:24,25
98:19 113:3	178:22 215:2	<b>caption</b> 255:9	cases 4:14 10:14	158:19,23
briefly 58:23	calculated 48:21	care 25:2 152:18	10:16 11:24	168:19,21
briefs 117:21	48:22 175:5	196:9	12:15,22 14:18	169:1 170:23
195:12,22	248:13 249:15	Caroline 151:23	16:1,7 18:25	172:11 182:10
249:2,5	calculation 57:4	153:3 253:21	111:16 139:2	198:1,8 202:4
bring 8:9 12:3	93:5,7,24 95:8	case 1:11,16 3:5	141:14 142:14	202:12,13,18
194:21	95:11 99:4	5:2,7,25 7:10	142:24 148:2	202:20 203:2,4
<b>bringing</b> 6:14	105:22 115:16	7:12 8:2,3,14	160:19 161:1	203:9,12
broader 192:22	171:3	9:3,19 10:18	179:18 226:20	210:17 218:7,9
broadly 38:9	calculations	10:19 11:3,18	246:7	218:10,13,15
193:13 197:16	59:4 60:20	11:25 12:9,12	cast 5:14 19:18	218:23 219:2,6
	97:17 215:22	12:13,21 14:17		· ·
<b>brought</b> 46:24 <b>Bruno</b> 19:21,24	215:23	14:19,22,24	24:5,10,13,17 24:22,25 25:1	219:9,23 220:2 220:16 221:15
· ·	calculator 87:17	15:4 18:23	,	
Buck 53:8,13,13			25:2,6,17	221:21 228:13
53:17,19,23	call 19:16 22:18	19:15 21:2	26:10 27:25	230:4 244:10
54:3,25 55:24	34:23 106:25	22:2 24:4	28:4,11,14,22	244:12,16
58:3 59:14	136:24 154:1,2	29:19,19,19	30:2,16 31:1	253:17
66:5,8 72:11	205:16,18	30:4 38:22	32:11 33:8,9	category 84:19
91:19,21 108:6	called 20:3 21:3	40:19 42:24	33:12,18 34:4	cathodic 75:19
108:21 109:4	46:12 189:9	43:4,5 44:21	34:7,10,21	76:4,6,10
112:20 113:13	192:23	45:4,17,22,24	35:3,16 36:6	124:22,25
120:14 128:15	<b>calling</b> 3:16 89:6	47:3 48:24,25	36:24 37:7	126:19 208:12
251:3 253:5,6	111:2	51:2,8 53:24	46:1 47:2	cathodically
Buck's 245:16	calls 53:7 72:3	54:4 59:24	48:17 60:8	76:12
budgeted 240:2	118:9 127:2	61:4 91:21	65:20 67:19	cause 91:13,15
buildings	157:12 165:19	97:22 106:4	68:9 69:13,16	154:19 157:22
140:25	176:24 181:6	109:4,16	69:24 71:9	177:11 227:1,2
built 20:1	capital 22:25	111:17 113:15	74:17 75:1,5,7	255:8
104:21 160:13	23:1,2,6,8	115:18 116:19	76:14 82:3	caused 206:5
160:15,18,25	51:24 105:14	116:22 118:3	84:18 85:2,12	causeway 83:24
161:3 179:13	183:11 200:13	119:2 131:5,10	89:19,24 94:6	caveat 80:22
179:17	215:8	137:20 144:1	94:23,24	120:13
business 16:18	capitalization	145:23 147:22	106:13 108:7,8	CCR 1:25
16:20	183:4	153:5,6 156:6	108:14 111:24	255:17
businesses	capitalize 23:12	160:14 165:11	112:6,14 113:8	<b>cease</b> 179:25
149:24	200:10 238:15	175:12,15	113:24 114:6,9	<b>CEO</b> 243:10
<b>butt</b> 137:3	capitalized	178:19 179:14	114:13 115:15	certain 28:10
	23:18 50:1	196:20 197:9	115:23,23	80:25 173:2
<u>C</u>	146:24 183:8	200:22 202:11	116:12,18,20	175:12,14
C 2:3 3:1 4:10	188:2 189:11	207:12 209:21	116:23 124:11	177:12 183:5
62:24 64:6	190:13 192:14	210:20 211:5	125:15 127:20	238:10
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

	1	1	1	
certainly 8:6,22	252:5	Charles 205:19	<b>clamp</b> 124:11	<b>column</b> 56:10,25
13:22 16:3,23	Chairman's	205:25 206:3,4	clarification	57:1 62:14,17
18:7 20:23	171:11	252:2 254:10	154:14 157:1	94:18 158:21
75:10 112:2	challenge 134:9	<b>chart</b> 186:3	clarifications	<b>columns</b> 56:19
114:13 136:3	challenged 15:5	215:17 216:6	249:14	56:23
137:5 182:6	challenging	246:13,16	clarified 117:4	combination
188:16 190:20	45:17,24	<b>check</b> 56:17	<b>clarify</b> 136:18	69:25 74:8
201:14 208:1	128:10 132:24	117:5 151:4	190:11	come 9:8 25:3
certification	134:7	cherry 34:2	<b>class</b> 180:10	28:23,24 38:14
208:23	chance 86:3	<b>chief</b> 2:13 189:9	181:13	48:15 98:16
certifications	191:10	189:25 190:5	classified 99:24	100:3,19 102:6
208:10,16	<b>change</b> 1:11,16	195:6	<b>clean</b> 147:20	136:6,7 137:9
209:8	3:8 18:7 32:5,8	choice 20:21	cleaner 11:6	137:15 153:21
certified 102:19	46:14,19 49:12	146:11	cleaning 123:17	170:17 172:3,5
103:1 184:9	51:11,16 55:20	choices 172:3	147:10	178:23 194:6
255:4	56:6 57:2,13	choose 74:5	<b>clear</b> 13:15	205:11,12
certify 255:6	90:11 121:22	<b>chose</b> 13:23	42:18 43:1,10	231:23 232:3
cetera 83:25	125:2 127:12	35:14 74:12	43:12,25	244:23 245:3
97:15	128:25 129:11	chosen 21:1	140:14 192:20	<b>comes</b> 51:25
Chairman 1:21	179:20 183:17	<b>chunks</b> 48:17	197:20,23	90:8 95:17
13:6 18:11	190:14 227:12	circle 64:9	211:18 228:11	99:19 118:4
22:10,25 23:5	227:21 236:20	circumstances	clearing 187:4	127:3 142:19
24:2 26:16	253:10,14	183:5 188:3	clearly 17:22	218:9 244:11
29:2,7,16 30:3	changed 56:12	189:10,14	44:21 187:25	comfortable
30:17 31:3,13	65:19,23 90:18	193:24 195:7	188:10	244:22
31:17,20 32:2	90:20,22 166:7	224:22	<b>clock</b> 98:14,15	coming 6:21
37:13,15 38:2	changes 49:8	citation 78:22	98:19 153:19	11:11,12 34:4
38:11,18 39:9	54:11 56:9	249:6	205:12	52:19 93:14
39:14,17,23	119:16 121:19	citations 17:14	clockwork	100:17 246:8
41:4,19,25	154:24 177:15	17:15	11:12	comment 6:12
46:7 51:19	187:16	<b>cite</b> 6:9 47:15	<b>close</b> 11:17	203:15
52:3,9,16,24	changing 24:21	64:6 68:19,20	92:15 114:17	comments 41:20
92:17,20,22,23	44:17 52:22	72:16 128:24	120:25 232:6	211:14
98:4 99:3	210:25	129:4 130:3	closely 81:14	Commission 1:2
103:9 113:14	characterized	cited 62:23 63:3	84:2	2:14,17 4:1 8:8
134:17,18	217:3	77:9 192:21	coated 76:7,11	8:17 9:4,13
135:25 136:2	<b>charge</b> 233:11	214:12	codes 62:18,19	10:7,22 11:20
136:11 137:7	chargeable	cites 65:2	62:24 63:8	12:9 13:11,17
137:24 139:24	187:3	<b>citing</b> 66:19	coils 137:11,17	14:1,7,18 15:7
152:16,20	<b>charged</b> 90:21	75:14	<b>cold</b> 141:6	15:10,18,19
170:2,4 171:6	99:22 193:10	City 1:7 2:10,15	Cole 255:3,15	16:2 18:5,22
171:18 174:20	196:24 204:17	4:2 21:4	Coleman 1:22	30:6,17 36:2
196:14,15,16	216:13 238:12	255:14	140:6,7 152:14	42:17,19 43:6
198:14 229:6,7	248:12	<b>claim</b> 49:16	233:22,23	43:9,12,25
229:8 233:20	charges 111:11	72:15	collected 104:24	44:13 46:20
234:7,22 251:6	111:21 204:18	claimed 46:6	Columbia	51:20,22 60:15
251:9,17,20	215:3	<b>claims</b> 66:9	173:15	74:6,7 75:9
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	1

77:4 101:6	<b>common</b> 231:22	141:24 142:8	156:9	140:18,20
102:11 111:9	communicated	compliance	condensation	consequence
127:14 131:4	224:25	43:14 83:20	141:7	33:14,16
131:25 134:17	communicatio	143:12 146:6	condition 22:20	consider 93:10
143:16 152:1	213:3	238:9	40:14 41:1,11	101:13 126:3
152:12 157:21	companies	complications	42:23 44:4,8	149:15,17
170:1,8 171:9	184:22 187:20	179:7	44:11 79:6,12	164:18,22
171:19,21,22	188:24 243:12	<b>comply</b> 40:12	79:15,17 81:19	165:11 173:15
174:21 177:10	company 1:11	43:17 61:10	87:14 88:4,8	176:9 213:21
178:20 183:3	1:16 2:4,7 3:7	79:2 224:8	168:13 174:5	224:20 227:14
190:19,22	3:7 4:11,14	238:6	187:14 193:8	228:2
191:2 196:13	7:22 20:13	complying	193:14 220:12	considered
197:5 201:12	36:3 38:25	208:16,24	233:7 234:12	67:22 101:12
201:15,19	39:6 46:16	component	conditions 80:10	102:17 146:6
204:7 215:6	50:15,18 51:11	135:5	174:16	considering
217:1 220:15	51:23 53:22	components	conducive 139:7	80:6
229:11 245:5	58:7 71:13	37:19 43:17	<b>conduct</b> 193:25	consist 123:4
249:10	75:17 104:18	202:24 215:9	conducted	consisted 24:19
Commission's	107:12 110:11	compound	161:15	consistent 44:25
14:14 15:12	118:24 167:24	142:3	conference 3:16	199:7 200:1
18:2 38:21	176:16 197:7	computer 29:25	confident 245:2	201:25 241:1
43:7 50:2 64:1	200:20 202:22	153:19	confront 195:23	constantly 141:7
68:21 69:2	224:12 229:14	concept 167:5	confused 127:17	constructed
76:21 77:14	230:7 231:10	199:11	185:5	23:17
165:16,24	241:3,11	concern 51:7	conjunction	construction
186:17 193:6	243:11,14	95:17 99:15	145:18	83:20 99:23
249:18	244:18,21	210:19,21	<b>connect</b> 31:8,22	109:19 136:25
Commissioner	245:2 253:10	241:5	33:5 136:7,12	137:6 189:12
3:15,16 47:20	253:14	concerned	136:15 138:5	199:15,17
48:14,23 49:3	company's 30:3	216:22	139:11 144:20	204:25 207:22
50:9,10,12,13	compared 91:3	concerning	connected 80:2	208:3,11,18,25
50:21 51:5,17	114:1	37:16 51:22	132:20 135:21	construed 111:8
92:19 98:7	comparing	concerns 211:15	135:21 139:3	consult 186:6
108:1,16,17,20	100:18	226:13 227:7	165:18 166:1	consumer
108:23 122:7	comparison	242:23 243:7	connecting	213:17
135:25 136:4	114:9	conclude 151:15	67:21 68:10	contained 78:23
136:11,20	compensation	190:12	144:10,13	111:7
137:8,13,16,22	5:12	concluded 250:2	228:13	contains 168:8
140:2,4,6,7	complaint	concludes 53:4	connection	contemplated
145:1 152:14	214:19	151:10 176:21	136:23 142:20	26:9 100:5
155:22 198:16	complete 25:19	248:19,23	144:17 198:24	101:5 112:14
233:22,23	77:1 99:17	conclusion	connections	contemplates
commissioners	214:22	12:24 50:5	135:13 137:3,4	25:9
1:23 3:18	completed	66:5 72:3 89:6	137:25	contents 155:5
35:21 64:24	241:10	117:18 129:2	connective 66:3	159:7
92:14 190:6	completely	131:21 165:20	67:13	contesting 128:2
229:6 242:3	107:14 118:2	conclusions	connects 73:18	<b>context</b> 164:23
			l	

180:11 182:7,8	56:1,22 59:4,5	182:18,22,23	179:4,5 183:7	120:8 143:6
189:11	60:2,9,10,19	183:5,6,19	187:3 198:9	154:12 159:25
continue 23:24	61:6,7,14,19	184:7,8,10,11	211:11,12	171:15 175:8
27:6 29:8 31:4	62:15,16,18,25	184:13 187:1	219:10,14,18	175:16 178:13
51:24 106:3	63:9,10,21	187:10,11	220:11 230:17	201:8 205:8
109:1 138:20	64:2,7 68:22	197:9,10	230:20,21	209:15 234:18
146:10 151:19	68:23 69:2	200:23 201:3,4	231:23 232:6,9	236:19 237:23
194:12 225:11	70:14,16,17	208:7,8 210:23	238:11	244:3
continued	71:1 72:1	215:15 216:9	cost/benefit	Counsel's 196:6
138:16	73:10,19,20	216:18,19	50:19	Counselor 60:22
continuing	74:18,19,23,24	220:17 222:3	costs 9:22 10:3	count 115:14
52:10	75:16,21,22	224:5 238:4	17:10 24:7	116:1
continuous	76:2,17,19	246:10 255:11	31:6 33:7 42:5	County 255:3,15
69:23 79:25	77:11,12,17	corrected	45:3 46:1,6	couple 11:12
80:2 135:11,20	78:10,25 82:2	137:23 159:7	47:12 49:4,24	22:11 37:13
contradicting	82:3,6 83:1,3,8	correction 55:5	49:25 50:5	117:7 134:25
194:23	83:9,13,14	55:6,7	51:6,12 52:23	135:12,12
contribute	85:4 86:17	corrections	59:23 60:1,4,5	couplings 137:3
143:23	87:10,21,22,25	154:23 158:1,3	60:7,11,16,18	course 25:6
control 121:4	88:1,23,24	158:25 159:3	60:24,25 66:10	<b>court</b> 3:21 9:4,6
convention	89:21 90:1,12	177:16 206:11	66:18 100:23	9:18 42:19,20
174:8	90:19 91:1,17	correctly 248:13	111:19 113:21	43:1,11 53:11
converse 91:10	107:11 109:12	corroborate	114:23 115:19	62:7 63:19
Conversely	113:18,23	225:10	127:10 134:10	64:10 92:16
106:13	116:4 120:18	corroded 169:2	156:19,24,24	154:6 177:2
convinced	120:19 121:15	corrosion 43:23	168:5 170:14	247:13,14,14
238:22	121:19,25	121:4 125:3,8	171:18 172:8	Court's 43:10
<b>cop</b> 95:2	122:16,17,23	corrosive	172:13 173:2	43:11 45:1
copies 35:20,21	123:12,24	121:10	182:21,25	cover 185:17
122:8 143:25	124:6,22,23	<b>cost</b> 21:6,15	190:15 191:15	203:25
<b>copper</b> 56:12,20	125:13 128:4,8	22:8 32:23	192:3,13 193:7	<b>CPA</b> 102:20
56:23 81:23	128:12,13,18	33:2 34:21	193:11 200:3,4	103:5
86:1	130:25 131:5,6	35:9 39:10	200:21 212:17	<b>credit</b> 34:14,15
<b>copy</b> 62:4 63:22	131:16 135:7,8	45:20 46:4	214:11 215:7	35:2,4 91:7
63:23 64:10	135:22 136:9	50:22 51:6	226:14 228:20	98:2 231:11
86:2 119:5	138:2 139:23	93:18 95:4,23	229:14,22	crew 168:23,25
122:5 188:17	147:14,23	95:24 100:13	231:25 232:12	169:3
191:11 194:14	149:21,25	101:2,21,25	232:17,18	crews 42:7
194:17 237:23	150:13,15	102:2,3,8,15	234:8 238:8	criteria 138:19
239:3 245:14	152:6 155:6	105:5,13	240:3 244:19	139:14
245:19,20	156:16 159:8	106:12 114:2,8	245:9 248:11	cross 58:22
corporate 173:2	160:8 162:4	114:8,10,17	248:13 254:17	241:21
corporation	163:13 166:14	115:6,9 126:9	<b>counsel</b> 2:8,8,11	cross-examina
111:11,13	167:25 168:9	127:22,23	2:13,13 4:4,6	58:25 59:11,13
correct 29:7	168:10 174:6	128:2 146:25	10:1 40:3	120:6,10 143:4
39:13,16 51:9	174:25 175:1,2	170:25 172:17	50:14 59:11	155:22 157:4
54:1 55:25	175:13 177:22	172:19 174:24	95:19 98:23	159:23 160:2
			l	

178:11,14	DANIEL 1:21	198:4	26:24 242:2	182:1,2 183:10
198:17 206:24	data 16:14 85:20	declines 181:13	denied 9:25	200:18 212:20
207:1,2,17	86:2,10,14,20	decrease 161:19	deny 14:20	215:7 249:15
234:1 242:25	214:13,17,22	163:8 180:13	15:18 79:8	depth 28:10
247:19 251:5,5	215:20 217:9	181:17,21	80:7,12 136:20	142:2
251:9,16,20	244:21 247:1,4	decreased	department	Deputy 2:8
252:4,4	247:7,11	181:24	83:21 177:9	describe 36:9
<b>crude</b> 125:4	date 72:10 190:8	deductions	<b>depend</b> 182:6	78:20 101:14
<b>CSR</b> 1:25 15:20	212:22	113:16,17	depends 91:2	describing
70:22 130:6	dated 223:20,21	deeper 28:12	depreciable	125:5 215:11
255:17	dates 242:11	32:25	160:7 161:5	description
<b>curb</b> 27:16,17	<b>Dave</b> 151:23	<b>defect</b> 137:6	162:9 166:9,11	78:19
28:6,7 139:1	<b>David</b> 153:4	<b>defects</b> 136:25	166:13,16	design 139:22
curious 238:22	253:24 254:2	<b>defer</b> 71:16	174:9	207:21 208:3
current 75:4	day 8:2 14:7	73:11 75:2	depreciate	designate 71:7
93:11 144:12	16:24 17:4,5	78:4 91:21	81:24	120:15
144:12 216:8	days 8:8,9 9:23	109:15	depreciated	designated
232:16 237:13	12:5 13:13,13	deference	167:20,22	37:24 38:5
currently 48:16	13:18 14:1,21	233:18 234:23	173:24,25	78:15,18
210:23 227:17	14:23,25 15:3	235:6,8,10	174:7	161:18 163:7
227:19 230:2	15:6,12,21	deferred 118:3	depreciation	180:13
232:16	16:3,7,15,16	212:21	34:17,23 81:22	designed 22:13
customer 34:13	16:18,20,20	<b>define</b> 79:23,24	90:8,9,20 91:3	destiny 49:10
34:15 35:2,3	18:6	163:21,25	95:24 96:2,3,7	destroyed 42:25
51:7 73:19	<b>de</b> 114:9	233:16	96:8,10 97:21	<b>detail</b> 17:14,16
127:2 142:24	<b>dead</b> 98:16	defined 69:20	97:24,25 98:2	105:23 216:8
200:16	<b>deadline</b> 8:2,4,5	70:5 78:3	103:11,13,14	detailed 215:2
customer's	8:13,19 9:7,9	173:17	103:18,20,22	216:6
140:24 142:19	9:10,14 10:17	definite 175:13	103:23,25	details 31:14
customers 24:24	10:20 14:13	175:17	104:4,6,13,14	detecting 121:9
27:23 90:22	dealt 48:1	definitely 31:11	104:15,21	detection 126:8
91:7 98:2	decades 24:11	<b>definition</b> 69:21	105:2,6,9,22	deteriorated
140:18 194:13	<b>December</b> 14:10	70:6,10 164:21	105:24 106:3,5	22:14,20 29:22
200:11,22	14:12 17:7,8	165:6,10	106:8,11,17,19	30:8 36:25
201:1 237:1	17:10,13 53:25	235:16	106:23 107:3	40:8,14,19
customers' 22:6	54:4 71:22,25	definitions	113:14 116:9	41:3,11,14,15
cut 32:7 42:5	72:8 73:2,23	235:15 249:13	160:13,15,17	41:17,21 42:13
51:6 132:18	119:3 226:17	definitive	160:20,24	42:23 44:8
D	<b>decide</b> 7:12	198:12	161:2,9,14,15	46:3 60:9,13
	195:9	degree 208:7	161:21,25	65:10,14 66:1
<b>D</b> 2:8 3:1 74:16	decided 128:23	degrees 208:10	162:14,16	67:11 79:5,11
74:20 78:12	<b>decision</b> 29:18	demonstrate	163:2,3,10	79:14,17,21
118:9,15 119:1	38:21 39:22	44:7 47:10	167:4,12,21	80:10 81:18
251:1 253:8	43:10,12	246:17	179:13,16,22	87:14 88:3,8
damage 43:1 138:10	128:16 130:21	demonstration	179:25 180:5,7	89:3,16 117:12
	130:24,24	46:25	180:11 181:14	125:17 126:16
danger 74:23	131:3,7 195:15	demonstrative	181:18,22	127:15 128:17
	I		ı	

130:22 149:16	116:24 123:16	98:18 107:25	217:22 221:4	discuss 109:20
149:18 163:17	124:9 125:18	108:19,25	221:11 223:10	130:23 160:7
166:18,24	137:2 141:24	110:19 111:1	225:7,13 229:5	204:25
169:9,14,20	142:1,2,5,6,9	112:18,24	233:22,24	discussed 4:18
182:10 220:12	142:12,13,21	113:5 117:19	234:3,17	202:11 234:6
233:6 234:12	144:22 156:20	117:24 118:1,6	235:17,20	242:19 249:17
deterioration	156:21 199:3	118:11,14	240:22 241:24	discusses 69:15
43:22	227:20,20	119:21,24	242:17 244:1	discussing
determination	235:15,15	120:5,8,23	248:18 249:8	204:21
235:8	244:7	122:9 129:3	251:10,14	discussion 103:9
determine 22:13	differential	132:1 133:5,8	<b>Dippell's</b> 149:19	161:5 192:18
30:18,20 46:8	50:22	133:14,22	dire 185:24	192:21,22,23
99:4,10 100:8	differently 48:1	134:16 136:19	186:1	192:23
100:9 102:8,15	difficult 10:24	140:1,6,8,10	direct 16:2	discussions
125:16 126:14	29:13 120:25	143:3,6 144:25	17:17 53:18,24	228:7 237:21
138:20 172:9	138:13 231:18	151:6,9,13,17	54:6 90:4	238:14
179:2 187:15	dig 27:19,21	151:24 152:4	112:22 118:16	dishonored
187:21 188:25	28:19 31:7	152:10,17,21	133:23 153:3,4	12:19
193:9 197:5	35:10 37:6	153:9,18,24	153:5 154:18	disincentive
211:23 220:6,8	38:25	154:5,10	154:20 155:10	168:16
229:11 230:13	diminish 132:9	155:12,15,21	157:15 177:5	disingenuous
248:2,11	<b>Dippell</b> 1:19 3:4	155:24 157:3,6	197:20 206:1	16:6
determined	3:10 4:3,8,13	157:9 158:11	209:20 215:17	dismiss 4:20
29:21 30:7	5:3,8,16,20 6:1	158:14 159:13	222:12 251:4,8	7:19
39:4 128:19	6:11,17,25	159:16,22,25	251:14,16,19	dismissed 4:23
129:19 170:14	7:17,23 8:22	162:18 165:21	252:3 253:5,21	12:25 176:22
174:21,23	8:25 12:11	166:3 167:10	253:23,24	dispense 152:3
determines	13:4,8 18:10	167:15 169:25	254:2,10	dispute 11:21
235:12 245:5	18:13,16,20	170:3 171:8,14	directed 13:25	40:10
determining	26:23 27:1	173:8 176:20	directing 14:2	dissenting 49:3
84:1	28:3 35:18	177:1 178:1,4	direction 26:4,5	distinct 213:10
develop 172:8	39:25 40:3	178:10,13	directly 217:12	distinction
developed 175:3	47:13,18 50:7	180:21,25	217:15 232:1	140:13
175:5,19	50:11 53:3,10	181:8 183:23	directs 14:4,9,11	distinguish
237:20	53:14 54:16,19	184:4 185:1,4	disagree 107:14	29:16 30:9,14
diameter 125:12	55:19 57:19,23	185:11,22,25	204:22	38:20
difference 57:3	58:11,16,21	186:11 188:6	disallow 60:16	distinguishing
140:12 156:10	59:10 61:23	188:18 191:6	111:18	41:8
156:12	62:2 63:13	191:22 192:4,6	disallowance	distractions
differences	64:15,18 66:12	194:25 195:9	175:17 178:25	42:9
55:13	66:20,25 67:6	195:24 196:13	discovers 127:5	distribution
different 16:9	72:4,17,22	198:15 199:23	discovery 17:24	44:2 77:16
19:22 21:5	82:14,18 86:6	201:7 203:17	17:25 228:6	125:16 129:15
22:17 33:1	86:25 88:13	203:21 205:3,7	237:21	129:18 130:15
67:7 68:12	89:7 91:22	205:15,21,24	discrete 81:20	207:22 208:4
83:12,15 90:13	92:1,4,9,13,18	206:16,19,25	discretion	208:12,19
101:3 116:16	97:11 98:6,13	207:5,15	233:16	209:1,12
			<u> </u>	l

		•		
District 9:5	drawing 27:8	44:24 193:20	239:11 248:13	49:7,18 147:4
disturbance	31:7 32:18	efficient 84:4	eliminate 74:21	148:6,17 149:4
27:22	drawn 35:9	114:19 237:4	247:15	218:12
disturbing	<b>DRs</b> 16:15,16,17	<b>Eight</b> 137:13	eliminated	enhancing
24:24	16:25 17:1,2	eight-inch 136:6	74:25 113:21	148:15
<b>Docket</b> 254:17	due 16:22 17:3	137:14	elimination	<b>ensure</b> 43:14
document 55:24	44:7,24 147:10	either 11:8	214:10	143:9 147:19
96:18 184:16	249:3	15:14 20:19	embedded 168:6	193:15 232:11
184:18,20	duplicate 135:2	28:15 29:18	emphasis	ensuring 44:2
188:4 194:15	duplicated	68:14 76:9	129:22	enter 241:25
194:23 195:1	56:25	83:24 85:3	employed	242:5
195:17,21,25	<b>duties</b> 223:5	93:22 95:9	118:23 157:19	entered 7:2
196:8 197:3	dynamics 51:8	103:5 172:3	177:7,8 225:23	152:24 241:22
203:23 223:17		198:11 240:20	employee	248:25
224:24 225:5	E	electro 137:4	226:16	entire 24:22
226:1,4,5	<b>E</b> 3:1,1 75:19	electrons 125:2	employer 53:21	36:18,19,25
238:24 239:3,6	78:12 251:1	<b>element</b> 147:10	53:22 172:1	37:7 38:25
239:22,24	255:1,1	elevation 144:22	encapsulate	39:4,6,12
241:1	earlier 15:23	eligibility 40:6	124:8	50:24 100:10
documents 9:22	19:8 95:18	43:13 44:7	encapsulation	108:12 115:18
184:13 203:14	192:22 196:24	51:4 66:10	37:21 123:6	128:23 130:21
223:5	199:8 231:25	72:15 122:15	124:5,18 135:1	131:8 172:12
<b>doing</b> 12:16	<b>early</b> 91:12	220:7 226:13	149:3 150:25	175:23,25
24:20,23 27:12	105:17 106:1,6	227:8	151:1	176:1 188:13
33:3 35:9,15	107:10,18	eligible 21:22	encourage 32:13	188:17 198:2,7
41:15 42:8	180:9	22:2 24:7,9	61:23 167:24	201:1 230:7
46:16,17 51:16	<b>earn</b> 107:16	29:22 30:9,19	249:9	231:17,19
87:15 102:1	earning 90:25	32:7 34:8	<b>ended</b> 9:24 22:4	232:23 233:5
109:8 110:6	earnings 232:17	38:13,17 40:10	56:18 75:25	entirely 46:11
111:23 113:10	243:17	41:24 43:2	221:23 241:3	131:19 197:19
116:24 175:4	ease 139:20	44:23 46:22	Energy 1:12	entitled 77:18
217:8 221:15	easier 55:12	49:15 51:13,15	4:11 58:9	156:5 184:18
225:1 227:17	82:12 136:13	52:5 61:9	183:2 213:2	186:24 204:2
229:17 236:6	<b>easily</b> 139:1	66:18 70:20	229:19 253:13	entries 3:22
236:21 238:16	easy 93:6 99:3	79:4 89:3,16	253:15	entry 57:17
238:18 247:24	100:6	111:12 126:10	enforced 213:19	environment
dollar 175:19,21	economical	126:25 127:10	engineer 83:19	36:10
230:19	20:23	127:16,23,24	83:20 120:18	<b>equal</b> 105:9
dollars 45:14	economically	134:10 150:13	120:21 135:7	106:22 181:25
104:24 156:18	29:12 30:4	150:20 163:17	167:1,8 174:17	equipment
237:2	113:11	170:10 182:12	engineering	29:17 30:5
<b>double</b> 52:13	educational	182:25 183:17	81:1 83:20	38:21 39:18
95:19	207:21 208:2	190:15 201:16	109:20 122:24	43:6,16 44:1
doubled 57:5	<b>effect</b> 38:10 96:8	219:12,20	132:4 135:9	44:14,18
doubt 222:11	effectively 12:9	230:10,13	208:6	error 57:4
226:8	17:6 198:9	231:7 232:24	enhance 22:1	136:24
doubting 212:4	efficiency 44:17	233:5,13 239:5	25:13 41:16	especially 93:9
	<u> </u>		l	l

232:16	<b>ex</b> 197:23	62:21 189:3,5	192:7,8 194:22	34:17 95:24
essence 98:1	exact 12:7 44:20	189:6	194:25 206:5,8	96:3,7,8,10
essentially 43:4	164:5 170:19	excerpt 185:8	206:15,17,20	97:21,25 98:3
90:4 105:23	172:17,19	188:3 193:6,12	206:21 223:12	103:22 104:14
148:18 210:13	173:3 175:19	excerpts 188:9	223:13 241:23	104:15 105:3,6
233:15	176:4 199:25	188:10	242:2 245:14	113:15 116:9
establish 21:10	232:1	exchange 12:2	253:4,6,7,9,12	160:13,15,18
147:24	exactly 26:13	12:22	253:16,18,21	160:20,25
established 9:23	72:22 84:25	exclude 171:24	253:22,24	179:13,17,22
16:1 42:15	93:16 100:23	172:13	254:1,4,6,9,11	180:11 182:2
64:5 146:8	116:22 141:17	<b>excuse</b> 37:19	254:13,14,16	183:10,16
193:16	161:16 164:1	61:15 137:8	<b>exhibits</b> 3:20,21	187:4,22 189:1
establishing	188:7 195:1	185:1 248:21	58:18 153:14	190:13 193:10
14:8	197:20 216:18	excused 91:20	153:15 248:25	196:20,25
estimate 178:25	223:6 234:24	118:2 248:20	253:1,20 254:8	197:7 201:2
217:6,6	examination	248:21	exist 213:16,19	212:20 233:11
estimated 156:4	13:17 53:18	exhibit 26:24	existed 71:21	235:7 238:12
156:18,18,24	108:5 118:16	27:2,3,4 35:21	72:8 73:23	expensed 23:11
181:12	145:4 154:18	54:7,15,17,17	existing 40:13	192:14 198:25
estimates 83:18	157:15 173:11	54:20,21,25	42:12 81:3	expenses 50:1,3
217:8	177:5 186:1	57:18,20,24	138:5,16,21	104:21 105:9
et 83:25 97:15	203:22 206:1	58:1,6,8,12,13	139:10,18,19	106:4 183:12
evaluate 43:13	234:20 251:4,7	58:17,17 62:8	142:25 144:10	187:5
evaluating	251:8,11,14,16	63:12,14,15,20	144:14,15,18	expensive 29:3
43:15	251:18,19,22	63:22 64:14,14	144:21 193:15	35:12,15,16
Eventually	252:3,6	64:16,19,20	219:19 232:21	224:13
106:17	examine 37:8	68:20,24 70:24	<b>expand</b> 132:8	experience
everybody 7:24	39:7	82:13,15,16,18	expect 18:6	108:15 111:15
Everybody's	examining	86:24 87:1,2,6	166:22 167:18	174:11 207:21
242:3	174:18	91:23 92:2,6,8	173:22,23	208:2,16,23
evidence 6:16	example 28:13	96:24 99:9	175:9 178:21	209:2,6 221:17
15:16 17:15	33:23 71:6	119:9,20,22,25	178:23 181:13	experienced
43:18 45:4	83:2,4,19,23	120:1 122:4	241:10	161:20 163:9
47:3 49:22	93:10 99:20	153:2,3,5,10	expected 121:24	180:14
50:4 54:15,22	197:24 203:1	153:10,11	167:2	explain 56:6
57:18 58:2,19	216:7 232:4	154:20 155:10	expedient 30:5	90:2 95:10
64:21 81:16	examples 38:15	155:13,16,17	expedite 11:24	124:25 140:11
92:7 109:4	114:16 122:21	157:24 159:12	12:7 17:23	144:6 170:20
119:20 120:2	234:6 245:13	159:14,17,18	expedited 249:1	195:3
153:16 155:18	excavator 42:25	177:13,25	expediting	explained 17:14
159:19 178:7	exceed 89:4,17	178:2,5,6	12:22 17:21	explaining
186:14 192:9	246:1,4	183:22,23,25	expenditure	130:20
206:22 225:5	exceeded 218:16	184:7,16 185:7	51:24	explanation
225:17 251:2	219:2	185:9,16,20,23	expenditures	17:18
251:12 252:1	exception	186:12,13,21	240:9 241:5,12	explored 51:2
evidentiary 1:5	183:10 238:14	191:5,6,7,11	241:23	expounded
15:14 248:24	exceptions	191:20,23	expense 23:3	147:17
	I	I	I	I

<b>extend</b> 21:21,25	212:24 216:16	feel 200:6	97:14	158:6 162:24
25:15 49:7,17	225:17 238:20	feet 28:11,12	<b>filed</b> 5:22 9:18	178:17 182:20
124:18 127:6	239:12	34:3,9 36:20	13:18 14:6,21	184:16 186:23
146:2 147:3	factor 172:24	36:20 47:5,22	15:12 17:12	189:20 193:6
148:9,12,22	245:4	47:25 48:18	53:24 54:3	205:22 244:8
149:2,8 224:12	<b>factors</b> 232:4,7	57:9 67:20	61:17 119:2	fits 139:21
224:18	facts 40:19	85:10 94:13,20	206:5 217:9	<b>fitting</b> 141:22
extended 211:23	179:7 225:4	94:24,25,25	<b>files</b> 61:12	143:16,21
extending 38:3	<b>failed</b> 44:3 194:8	95:4,21,22	<b>filing</b> 13:2 14:3	<b>five</b> 16:16 28:12
147:16 194:4	failing 194:2	96:4 100:17,18	15:21 97:19	36:20 166:23
extends 22:4	failure 122:1	115:23,24	212:20 226:23	167:19 190:6
36:13 38:1,12	143:16,21	137:9,11	248:1	fix 25:25 26:1,3
125:8	193:24,25	158:17 164:22	filling 49:5	49:20 163:23
extension	fair 176:9	216:3,7,11,23	121:13	164:2,17 165:8
140:16	fairly 109:20	216:24 218:4,7	<b>final</b> 35:7 106:8	235:6
extent 17:23	215:2	218:8,11,22,23	<b>finance</b> 103:1	<b>fixed</b> 102:2
21:23 33:12	familiar 64:2	218:24 220:1,2	financial 241:16	235:9
78:7 89:5	70:25 110:7	220:3 230:3,3	<b>find</b> 13:19 16:5	fixes 24:18
109:15 126:4	121:9 124:21	230:4,8,8,9,22	23:11 55:7	25:12,17,23
148:13,25	163:10 172:23	231:2,3,4,4,5	100:22 126:2	26:6
201:21	186:2 197:2	231:11 232:21	145:8 168:2	<b>fixing</b> 32:10
extra 35:10,11	199:9 200:9,12	232:23 233:8	178:20 196:7	221:21
extreme 37:6	203:13 210:16	233:13 244:9	201:12,19	Floor 2:5
eyeball 87:15,16	212:22 242:7	244:11 246:5,6	216:3 225:12	flow 125:2
	far 5:25 34:20	246:20	234:9 237:21	focus 37:20
<b>F</b>	42:6 87:12	feet's 231:5	247:10	42:14 168:19
<b>F</b> 78:12 184:19	106:5 109:23	FERC 183:3	<b>finding</b> 145:12	216:5
254:15 255:1	204:4 221:24	186:3 187:24	201:25	<b>focused</b> 125:19
<b>faces</b> 3:12	230:5	188:1,13 189:8	<b>findings</b> 190:17	focusing 168:20
facilities 22:19	fashion 12:4	190:1,2,6,10	finds 171:20	<b>follow</b> 18:7
40:13 117:11	24:21 30:13	191:14 192:18	191:2	19:11 47:20
128:22 193:15	fast 218:17	195:6,14,15,17	fine 6:9,24 40:25	132:25 134:8
204:16 208:13	favor 201:20	196:23 199:7	97:5,8 219:24	186:18
208:19 209:1	feasible 30:12	224:16,19	finish 205:10	followed 14:17
209:12 212:8	Feddersen 1:25	238:13,14,20	212:14 220:25	14:18 18:1,2,3
facility 41:10	255:4,17	249:17 254:17	<b>finished</b> 221:2,9	67:25
65:5 144:14,18	federal 40:12,22	FERC's 183:15	firm 255:5	<b>following</b> 40:23
144:19	43:18 61:10	184:21 190:17	<b>first</b> 19:16 22:11	74:5 90:23
fact 8:12 10:18	62:14 63:24	field 83:22 84:4	22:17 24:9	107:22 115:4
11:6 26:12	79:3 129:10	191:3	25:22 33:2	123:4 156:1
31:8,21 33:21	183:2 189:18	figure 31:2	40:16 53:5,6	173:14 181:18
37:1 38:1	208:17,24	100:2 231:18	65:2 74:4,21	181:22
46:13 72:12	224:9 238:7	<b>figured</b> 50:14	83:17 87:11	<b>follows</b> 53:17
93:10 98:1	254:11	figures 95:11	94:17,18 95:7	118:15 154:17
109:19 110:15	<b>feed</b> 144:16	<b>file</b> 9:9 11:11	95:14 99:2,7	157:14 177:4
112:8 147:18	feeder 74:17	13:14 14:4,10	102:3 123:10	205:25
196:1 198:7	75:21	16:8 18:4	151:14 154:1	<b>foot</b> 34:10,10

	ī	1	1	
48:5,11 102:9	fully 81:23	187:20 188:24	216:25 218:1	GO-2014-0006
102:16 107:17	167:19,22	204:3 207:22	218:19 219:25	14:19
136:8 233:5	173:24,25	208:4,12,19	229:24 230:16	GO-2014-0179
244:10	174:7 229:22	209:1,12,16,23	233:15,18	14:22
footage 57:3,7	<b>Fulton</b> 173:15	213:2 218:2	235:5 241:4	GO-2014-0212
83:10 84:17	function 39:10	222:2 227:12	243:7	14:24
85:22 87:8,20	39:11 103:24	229:18 253:10	given 3:20 27:8	GO-2016-0196
94:13,19	functioning	253:11,13,14	114:16 116:15	15:2
115:14,22	45:19	253:15 254:15	175:20 180:9	GO-2016-0332
137:19 231:21	further 18:17	<b>Gas'</b> 63:9	213:19 228:10	1:12 3:6
246:1,4	59:8 98:4	Gas's 113:15	231:22 255:14	GO-2016-0333
footages 244:7	139:25 143:4	gather 73:24	gives 107:12	1:17 3:6 254:3
<b>Footnote</b> 193:11	171:6 176:18	general 13:21	122:21 156:7	GO-2016-332
<b>forced</b> 213:22	190:10 198:17	42:15 52:12,21	giving 11:22	253:25
forcing 20:8	205:2,4,5	65:5 90:11	16:20 26:21	<b>goal</b> 149:12
Forck 2:13 3:25	233:20 234:1	102:10 114:14	32:14 98:2	goes 21:16 23:19
foregoing	<b>fusion</b> 137:3	129:20 135:14	141:15 234:22	34:17 44:9
255:11	fusion-type	139:6 149:17	<b>glad</b> 117:4	83:22 217:7
<b>forgot</b> 116:7	137:4	149:21 180:8	<b>Glenn</b> 53:8,12	218:22 226:22
formal 75:7	future 18:3	186:5 189:2,4	53:17,23 54:2	228:16 231:14
<b>formula</b> 172:3,6	138:10 161:9	189:15 200:2	251:3 253:5,6	235:7,8 239:19
172:8,24 232:5	161:13 163:2	200:12 211:25	<b>go</b> 3:22 7:11,18	239:20
249:11	180:4	232:8 237:12	8:20 13:1	going 3:17 6:4,4
<b>forth</b> 96:15		237:19 240:15	15:19 19:2	6:20 7:7,8,9,10
132:6 139:15	G	generality	20:2 21:23	7:11 18:22
249:19 255:9	<b>G</b> 3:1	181:12	23:3,12 26:3,5	19:2 24:20,24
forward 13:2	<b>G-l-e-n-n</b> 53:13	generally 63:1	27:1 28:20,25	27:1 28:10
197:7 229:13	G-r-i-s-h-a-m	71:2 84:11	32:18 35:20	32:8,9,10,17
<b>found</b> 15:7 63:8	154:9	138:22,24	39:7 42:6	34:4,8 47:4
<b>four</b> 8:1 11:4	gas 1:10,12,15	144:9 148:20	50:11 53:4	54:6 71:7 72:2
49:3 62:23	1:17 2:4,7 3:7	161:23 164:3	56:9,17,22	80:20 82:12
78:6	4:10,11 7:22	187:7 199:6	58:9 76:23	83:5 88:9,13
<b>frame</b> 10:25	9:21 11:18,19	247:21	84:24 92:18,19	91:22 93:20,20
frames 7:13	36:7 43:13	gentlemen 61:24	94:10 96:19	98:8,10 99:1,1
frankly 68:5	44:3,12 53:22	<b>getting</b> 35:2,4	98:8,13 102:8	102:22 105:5
free 9:10 11:14	58:7,8 59:19	103:16 104:14	102:14 105:22	106:18 107:7
Friday 17:6	64:1 68:21	105:10,21	106:7,17 108:2	110:16 112:22
249:3	71:1,14 74:12	107:19 108:17	109:18 115:8	112:25 122:2,5
friendly 3:12	76:21,25 77:14	112:3 115:7	126:7 151:6	122:6 131:20
<b>front</b> 85:7 119:9	77:16 111:11	141:8 154:15	152:22 154:6	133:22 135:2
148:4	111:13 118:23	give 8:8,18 27:2	157:9 158:4,18	138:10 142:4
frustrate 32:9	120:15 123:3	34:13 35:20,20	162:24 196:7,7	151:19 162:5
fuel 142:25	127:3 141:4	54:9 55:4	205:13 206:19	166:3 188:18
<b>full</b> 16:14,19	144:16 164:19	66:23 88:24	207:6 212:14	191:25 195:13
17:7 27:18	165:16,24	101:10 116:18	222:20 232:12	195:19,21
104:18 105:19	173:14 184:19	120:13 133:19	233:9 236:23	197:7 202:19
107:1,7 255:11	184:22 186:17	170:12 216:6	237:10 249:25	203:23 205:8
	l			

	•	1		
210:14 211:1	gross 90:5,7	H-y-n-e-m-a-n	160:24 162:9	56:16
225:3 226:9	103:22 105:7	206:3	179:16,19	highly 190:24
227:25 229:1	105:15	half 11:22,25	<b>Happy</b> 7:24	historical
229:13 232:18	ground 33:1,22	200:19	59:16	161:19 163:8
234:21 235:11	35:17 52:15	<b>Hall</b> 1:21 13:6	hard 244:24	180:14
237:14,20	68:4 71:10	18:11 22:10,25	247:8	<b>history</b> 125:20
240:10 241:19	76:12 80:21	23:5 24:2	hazardous	hit 86:18
242:17,22,22	82:5 88:16	26:16 29:2,7	143:20 149:7	hold 103:4
243:20 245:8	94:4,6,21,22	29:16 30:3,17	head 215:19	132:19
245:14 246:9	94:24 95:4,17	31:3,13,17,20	header 78:20	holding 55:14
248:1,12	100:18,19	32:2 37:13,15	hear 35:24 42:2	holds 20:10
249:21,22	102:1 107:20	38:2,11,18	93:22 198:23	202:10
<b>good</b> 3:4,13 4:5	114:3,10,15,20	39:9,14,17,23	heard 36:9 42:1	home 127:4
13:10 27:7	115:25 136:14	41:4,19,25	67:1	142:19 143:1
53:19,20 59:14	165:8 174:19	51:19 52:3,9	<b>hearing</b> 1:5 3:2	homes 149:24
59:15 84:9	230:3 231:15	52:16,24 92:17	3:11 4:18 7:11	Honestly 6:7
92:24,25	237:15	92:20,22,23	14:16,21,23,25	<b>Honor</b> 5:5 7:15
107:23 108:23	<b>group</b> 71:14	98:4 134:18	15:3,6,14,23	7:21 13:3
118:17,18	109:20 136:13	136:2 137:7,24	17:13 19:3,6	19:14 53:16
120:11,12	growth 243:9,11	139:24 152:16	98:15 248:23	58:5,20,24
145:5,6 160:3	243:13	152:20 170:2,4	248:24 249:23	64:17 108:4
160:4 170:5,6	<b>GSRS</b> 46:12	171:6 196:15	249:25 250:2	109:2 113:4
170:19 178:15	guess 7:20 8:11	196:16 198:14	height 28:15	117:23 145:3
178:16 196:17	19:23 30:11,14	229:7,8 233:20	<b>held</b> 121:3	151:4 157:5
196:18 198:21	32:18 52:21	234:7 251:6,9	<b>Hello</b> 134:19,20	159:15,24
198:22 207:3,9	74:3 84:25	251:17,20	<b>help</b> 69:20	176:24 178:12
207:10,18,19	94:2 101:22	252:5	102:25 142:24	198:18 206:14
229:9,10	107:20 111:23	Hall's 113:14	249:20	207:16 229:3,4
<b>gotten</b> 239:3	124:13 147:9	<b>hand</b> 55:14	<b>helpful</b> 201:14	234:4
GR-2013-0171	165:5 166:7	118:12 122:4	249:23	honored 12:17
12:14	172:2 173:17	203:23 245:14	helping 42:5	hook 28:21,25
<b>Grain</b> 21:3	197:18 202:6	<b>handed</b> 63:19	hereunder	hooker 236:16
grants 15:20	203:13 222:20	134:22 184:12	187:8	hope 213:19
<b>graph</b> 158:16	223:24 234:7	185:12 223:11	hesitant 84:9	236:25 237:3
253:17	246:25	<b>handout</b> 9:1,20	hey 50:9 217:1	hour 153:21
grass 27:13	guidance 42:18	26:21,22 32:21	<b>hide</b> 46:13	house 142:9,11
grassy 27:17	guidelines 183:3	35:8	<b>high</b> 19:25 20:9	housekeeping
28:21	196:23	hands 132:19	74:25 181:11	151:14 152:19
<b>gray</b> 28:8	gunked 6:18	hang 156:11	243:16	houses 140:25
greater 129:22	<b>guys</b> 50:14	happen 26:1	high-level	142:5
198:2	<b>GWB</b> 90:4	111:16	223:24	<b>human</b> 136:24
greatest 74:22	<b>GWB-1</b> 55:9,25	happened 66:14	higher 31:6	humorous
<b>green</b> 27:13	56:3 57:25	66:21	106:20 114:13	174:13
Grisham 152:8	83:6 94:11	happening	129:21 137:6	hundred 233:8
154:3,9,17,21	109:6 115:11	33:24 56:19	139:3 148:20	hydraulic 22:12
155:11 157:7		happens 104:24	243:13,14	23:5 37:16,23
251:13 253:23	H	138:25 160:17	highlighted	<b>hydro</b> 5:9 22:8
			l	l

	•	•	ī	-
123:17 150:2	hypothetically	improved	101:17 116:9	44:22 45:2,20
200:21 211:20	170:7	147:11 213:20	128:11 156:18	46:22 52:6
224:8,17 225:1	hypotheticals	improvement	187:8 194:12	59:24 60:17
238:3,6,8,11	230:1 244:5	135:5	211:12 216:1	170:15 171:18
238:15,21	245:12	imprudent	227:3 229:20	171:20 172:2,4
239:5,10,13,16		227:15 228:3	includes 61:20	174:24 176:3
hydrostatic 5:13	I	228:18 229:1,2	61:21 84:23	178:21 197:12
19:16,19 20:8	idea 213:1	imprudently	85:1 87:6	201:13 245:6
20:20 21:2,12	identical 190:25	111:17	187:4 196:25	infeasible 29:12
23:7,9,14 36:4	IDENTIFICA	inaccurate	including 88:21	113:12 142:14
36:8 38:16	27:5 63:16	216:16	111:11 228:19	inflation 114:14
47:11 49:4,5	87:3 184:1	inappropriate	inclusion 44:11	informal 75:7
59:25 121:12	191:8 223:14	228:20	161:17 163:6	information
122:16 125:10	identified 11:13	inappropriately	180:12	34:2 99:18,19
145:8,11,22,24	33:25 83:7	227:2	incorporate	117:8 193:14
147:10,19,22	175:16	incentive 5:12	212:7 227:22	217:5 220:14
148:1 150:4	identify 85:25	32:4,8 107:12	incorrect 183:15	244:17
182:16 183:4	99:8 121:17	107:15 132:10	increase 91:13	infrastructure
188:2 189:7,10	126:20 184:16	168:7,18	91:16 97:25	1:11,16 3:8
190:12,15	identifying	241:11 242:13	138:6,9 156:6	111:12 132:8
193:22 194:3	122:19	242:21	181:18,22	132:13,17,20
195:7 196:19	illegal 66:21	incentives	182:1 193:18	253:10,14
196:23,25	67:3,23	242:20,24	241:12	inherent 135:17
197:8 198:24	illustrated	243:5	increases 31:9,9	141:5
199:2 200:3	231:25	incentivize	193:22 240:9	initial 105:8,20
204:20,24	<b>impact</b> 158:22	132:6 176:16	240:25	initially 87:24
211:20 224:21	impair 111:9	inch 117:10	increasing 241:5	initiated 212:24
226:14 227:3,8	impaired 44:4	137:13,21	incremental	213:1
229:12,18	impairment	233:8	102:2 156:6	<b>insert</b> 148:19
hydrostatically	44:10,19	incident 19:21	incurred 60:11	inserting 123:23
150:6	impediments	incidental 35:4	187:6 193:7,11	insertion 37:21
Hyneman 9:3	171:2	incidentally	INDEX 253:1	123:5,22 135:1
59:2 205:10,19	implement 71:4	94:9	253:20 254:8	148:16
205:25 206:3,4	implication	inclined 196:7	indicate 239:12	<b>inside</b> 141:1,9
206:23 207:3,9	71:24 72:7,9	include 40:20	indicated 158:7	142:20 143:1
207:18 217:22	72:24	46:4 47:18	158:9 200:3	inspect 193:8
218:2 222:1	implying 32:24	60:17 61:5	indicates 49:12	inspecting
223:16 225:10	important 183:7	63:4 79:9,13	191:16 224:24	187:13,16
235:17 242:7	194:23 216:15	79:19 80:8	indicating 28:8	193:17
248:19 252:2	232:14	84:19 116:2	indication	install 110:13
254:10	impossible	117:15 197:8	238:19	117:1 150:23
Hyneman's 83:7	26:17	212:17 245:9	indicative 84:12	installation
hypothetical	impractical	249:4,6,9	individual 37:2	113:25 114:2
80:5,11 116:19	212:6	included 60:18	39:8 140:18	115:19 208:11
183:19 218:1	improper 188:4	61:13,18 63:23	ineligible 17:10	installations
219:25 228:11	188:5,7,8	79:9 80:7	26:12 30:21	89:4,17
229:24 244:8	<b>improve</b> 193:19	82:14 101:17	39:19 40:20	installed 40:12
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

40:24 43:17	176:16 220:19	28:14,22 30:2	244:12,16	163:16 166:14
45:6,12 57:4,7	<b>intent</b> 43:15	30:16 31:1	253:17	166:16,21
57:10 61:9	247:6,12,17	32:11 33:8,9	iron's 27:25	170:10 175:23
72:10 73:7,9	intention 209:21	33:12,18 34:4	irrelevant	176:13 182:5
77:21 78:1	interested 93:22	34:7,10,21	131:19	182:12,21
80:13 81:4,10	93:25	35:3,16 36:6	<b>ISRS</b> 5:2,7 8:3	183:13,17
82:4 83:11	interior 123:11	36:24 37:7	10:14,18 11:10	190:15 199:3
84:18 85:24	intermediate	46:1 47:2	11:15,22,24	201:15 209:4,4
87:24 94:12,19	211:1 237:15	48:17 60:8	14:14,18 16:6	209:16,24
107:6 115:14	Internet 3:17	65:21 67:19	18:25 21:22,24	210:6,12,14
115:22 132:12	interplay 249:16	68:9 69:13,16	22:1,9,17 23:2	211:12 212:16
146:5 164:19	interpret 110:24	69:24 71:9	23:4,12 24:7,8	212:18,20
166:23 167:19	112:17 122:7	74:17 75:1,5,7	24:12 25:7,8	213:4,7,14,21
202:5 212:8	190:20	76:14 82:3	26:12,14 29:18	213:24 215:1,2
218:16 219:3	interpretation	84:18 85:2,12	29:19,22 30:8	216:8,13 218:3
220:1,9 231:14	19:22 39:19	85:25 89:19,24	30:19,20 32:4	219:7,9,11,20
246:1,4	41:8 42:21	94:6,23,24	32:7,13 33:5	220:6,10,14
installing 45:9	122:25	106:13 108:7,8	33:19,20 34:8	221:16,18,24
88:23	interpreted 8:7	108:14 111:24	34:13,18,21	222:5,5,6,15
installs 144:12	interpreting	112:6,14 113:8	35:1,6 36:15	223:18,25
218:3	39:11	113:24 114:6,9	37:11 38:13	226:13 227:13
instance 43:1	interrupt 41:5	114:13 115:15	40:5,10,20	228:20 229:23
142:20 218:14	47:14 136:1	115:23,24	42:10,21 44:7	230:10,13
245:25	interrupting	116:12,18,20	45:3,7,14	231:7 232:13
instances 80:19	220:25	116:23 124:12	46:11,12 49:15	232:24 233:5
80:22 88:21	interspersed	125:15 127:20	49:23,24 50:3	233:12 234:9
91:4,6,8	19:18 33:17	127:23 128:4,7	51:4,13,13,14	234:10 237:2
190:24	168:22	128:20 129:20	52:5,8,18 60:4	237:24 238:18
instrumentation	investigation	132:14,21	60:18,25 61:9	239:5,14,18,20
126:8	204:18	137:20 140:22	62:4 89:1,14	240:2,9 241:5
integral 140:17	investment	149:12,15	91:13,14,15	241:12 242:13
141:12	105:8,16,20	150:24,25	93:4,10,11,15	243:15 245:9
integrated 30:2	involve 115:15	158:19,24	95:11,14 96:12	248:4,12
36:6,23	123:16 135:5	168:19,21	97:17,19 99:21	253:17,19
integrity 21:13	involved 25:10	169:1 170:23	103:12,19	ISRS-eligible
22:1 23:10,22	27:9 222:8	172:11 182:10	104:5 110:3,7	109:24 183:11
25:13 49:8,18	involves 49:5	198:1,8 202:4	110:10,22,23	197:6 229:12
77:17 129:15	121:12 123:14	202:12,13,18	111:17,19,20	ISRS-related
130:8,15	123:20 124:1	202:20 203:2,4	112:3,5,11,13	209:17
145:19 147:4	125:1 175:12	203:10,12	113:15,21	issue 5:6,9,11,12
148:7,15,17,20	involving 179:7 201:20	210:17 218:8,9	114:22 115:16 116:3,5 126:10	5:14,15,17 8:9
149:4 197:1		218:10,13,15	,	10:19,24 11:22
198:25 218:12 224:3 239:15	<b>iron</b> 5:14 19:18 24:5,10,13,17	218:23 219:2,6 219:9,23 220:2	126:25 127:10 128:7 133:1,2	11:23 14:16 18:24 19:17,17
intend 6:9 56:2	24:3,10,13,17	220:16 221:16	134:11 145:20	19:20,20 22:11
201:22	25:2,6,18	221:21 228:13	145:25 150:12	24:4 36:4,5
intended 176:14	26:10 28:4,11	230:4 244:10	150:20 156:6	40:5 41:7
michaeu 1/0.14	20.10 20.4,11	430.4 4 <del>11</del> .10	130.20 130.0	+U.J +1./
L	- "		-	-

42:10,10,18	Jefferson 1:7	97:11 98:6,13	198:15 199:23	108:17,23
43:19,24 44:20	2:10,15 4:1	98:18 107:25	201:7 203:17	135:25 136:4
45:22 48:7,12	255:15	108:19,25	203:19,21	136:11 137:8
51:3,3 93:17	Jennifer 152:8	110:16,19	205:3,6,7,15	137:13,16,22
99:16 127:13	154:3,17,21	111:1 112:18	205:21,24	140:2,4
131:4,10,13	155:11 251:13	112:24 113:5	206:16,19,25	kept 48:24
163:13 168:4	253:23	117:19,24	207:4,5,14,15	<b>Kevin</b> 2:13 3:24
170:17 175:7	jeopardy 237:1	118:1,6,11,14	217:22 220:24	Kim 152:8
201:20 211:11	<b>job</b> 53:2 84:13	119:21,24	221:4,11	157:12,14
212:11,12,15	102:3	120:5,7,8,23	223:10 225:7	251:15
217:11,13,14	joined 124:6	122:7,9 129:3	225:13 229:5	Kimberly 254:5
217:16 226:22	<b>joins</b> 70:2	132:1 133:5,8	233:22,24	kind 10:22
228:5,9 232:18	<b>joint</b> 37:21 80:2	133:14,22	234:2,3,17	27:16 30:13
235:4 248:14	123:6 124:5,5	134:16 136:19	235:17,20	32:21 95:18
issued 14:7	124:8,11,13,16	140:1,6,8,10	240:10,22	109:22 139:15
19:21 190:3	124:18 135:1	143:3,5,6	241:24 242:17	140:9 147:10
191:15	143:13 149:3	144:25 149:19	244:1 248:18	160:5,6 178:17
issues 4:21,22	150:25 151:1	151:6,9,13,17	249:8 251:10	208:10
4:25 5:6,22 6:5	<b>joints</b> 80:1 137:9	151:24 152:4	251:14	kinds 142:6
6:15 7:4 8:1,1	143:10 149:6	152:10,17,21	judgment	know 5:25 10:25
8:3 9:10 10:10	judge 1:20 3:4	153:1,9,17,18	198:13 235:11	12:18 25:12
10:11,12,17	3:11 4:3,8,13	153:24 154:5	<b>jump</b> 138:11	48:9,20 50:17
11:4,4,7,14	5:3,8,16,20 6:1	154:10 155:12	221:8	52:20 68:15,16
12:3,20,24	6:11,17,23,25	155:15,20,21	<b>June</b> 191:15	68:17 72:11
13:13 14:1	7:17,23 8:22	155:24 157:3,6	<b>justify</b> 44:11	74:2,11 75:4
16:3 17:9 18:5	8:25 11:2	157:9,11		75:10 77:2
19:15 29:4,6	12:11 13:4,8	158:11,14	K	80:24 82:17
29:13 36:4	18:10,13,15,16	159:13,16,20	<b>K</b> 1:25 62:25	85:18 93:21
40:5 81:1	18:20 26:23	159:22,25	64:6 77:11	95:3,9 100:4
126:20 131:25	27:1 28:3	162:12,18	78:12 154:3,9	108:6,24
142:6 210:24	35:18 39:25	165:21 166:3	154:17,21	109:13 111:22
248:7	40:3 47:13,18	167:10,15	155:11 253:23	111:25 114:24
item 23:3,3,6,8	50:7,9,11 53:3	169:25 170:3	254:5 255:4,17	115:2 121:14
189:18 196:20	53:10,14 54:16	171:8,14 173:8	Kansas 21:4	133:3 136:23
197:7 199:15	54:19 55:19	173:10 176:20	46:10,17 47:15	137:5 142:6,24
200:10,10	57:19,23 58:11	177:1 178:1,4	249:6	144:5 160:11
229:13	58:16,21 59:10	178:8,10,13	keep 20:24	160:23 161:7
items 164:23	61:23 62:2	180:18,21,25	201:24 208:20	161:11,17,23
187:10 189:12	63:13 64:13,15	181:8 183:23	keeps 149:7	162:19,20,25
200:13 213:10	64:18 66:12,17	184:4 185:1,4	220:25	163:25 164:21
249:20	66:20,25 67:6	185:11,22,25	Kellene 1:25	166:19 167:1
	72:4,17,22	186:11 188:6	255:4,17	169:15 170:18
J	82:14,17,18	188:18 191:6	ken 131:22	170:24 172:6
J 1:22	86:6,25 88:10	191:22 192:4,6	Kenney 1:21	172:15,16,20
J-e-n-n-i-f-e-r	88:13 89:7	194:25 195:9	3:15 50:9,10	180:2 190:4,8
154:8	91:22,24 92:1	195:19,24	50:13,21 51:5	196:19,22
January 1:6	92:4,9,13,18	196:10,13	51:17 108:16	202:17 203:7
			I	_

204:5 210:11	54:17,20,21,25	213:7 215:21	107:10,18	learned 19:24
212:14 216:15	57:18,20,24	218:2 220:23	<b>Lauber</b> 31:24	leave 12:25
216:17,20	58:1,6,7,7,12	221:14,17	68:5 71:16	76:14 152:7
217:1 223:1,4	58:13,17,18	222:2 223:12	73:6,11 74:2	194:19
223:22 226:12	59:19,19 60:17	223:13 225:15	74:14 75:2	leaves 5:13
226:21 227:5,6	61:12,17 62:8	227:9,12	78:4 80:25	152:5
227:7 228:19	63:9 65:19	228:18 229:17	91:20 109:16	<b>leaving</b> 136:14
228:24 231:22	68:14 71:3,7	232:16 233:10	118:4,10,15,17	<b>left</b> 19:15 112:15
237:5,7 244:14	71:12 73:21	234:3,23,25	118:21 119:1	160:6 178:18
knowing 16:1	74:12,25 75:4	235:6 236:19	120:3,11,23	legal 2:13 13:12
knowledge	75:11 76:1,3	236:23 239:4	145:5 151:7,10	42:14 66:5,13
117:10 127:8	76:18 77:5	243:8 253:10	198:23 212:10	66:23 72:3,13
155:6 159:9	82:18 96:24	253:11,14,17	251:8 253:8	72:16 89:6
162:7,8 167:16	97:13 108:9,12	Laclede's 7:8	<b>Lauber's</b> 131:22	111:2 112:19
174:14 177:21	110:22 111:16	9:24 15:18	212:5	113:3 117:18
180:8 183:9	111:22 112:14	16:5 40:20	law 1:20 2:3,4	117:20 129:1
211:25 222:12	113:15,20	41:7 45:18	3:11 40:17	131:21,22
226:1,11	115:13,16,18	52:17 63:23,24	42:11 66:2	165:20 195:10
228:17,25	116:11,15,24	65:24,25 66:22	67:12 196:2	195:14,20
243:23	117:15 118:9	67:9,10,24	212:22	249:10,13
known 189:25	118:23 119:9	68:2,8 70:25	lawful 15:8,24	<b>legally</b> 11:8 12:4
knows 89:8	119:20,22,25	75:24 77:19,24	lawfulness 15:5	12:4,5 182:25
113:1 168:12	120:1,14,15	81:22 86:10	laws 61:13,18	<b>legend</b> 63:8,23
	121:4 124:8	89:20,25 97:6	64:25 78:6	63:24 77:10
<u>L</u>	125:15 126:13	118:7 121:9	128:24 129:7	254:11
L 254:7	126:23 127:3	127:9 131:12	129:25	legislation 25:8
L-a-u-b-e-r	128:15 129:18	131:18 149:11	lay 141:17 215:5	32:4,13 176:15
118:22	130:20 132:24	156:4,21	laying 24:25,25	213:25 214:8
labeled 62:24	134:7 138:3	190:14 237:9	layperson	215:10 221:16
labor 187:5	142:23 143:12	237:23 241:17	176:12	221:18 247:7
<b>Laclede</b> 1:10,15	143:15 145:2	242:24 244:3	<b>LDCs</b> 213:25	247:13
1:17 2:4,7 3:7	145:23 150:11	245:14 247:20	<b>lead</b> 180:10	Legislature
4:8,10,15,20	158:7,10	251:2 253:1	leading 240:16	24:15 25:20
7:20,22 9:21	159:23 161:20	lag 214:10	240:19	26:9,13 32:9
11:18,19 14:10	163:9 164:7,12	247:16	leak 121:15	37:4,10 149:1
14:24 15:4,10	165:16,25	language 13:15	126:7,10,16	176:13 220:19
15:14,25 16:2	166:8 168:7,11	17:21 123:1	127:10 163:23	Legislature's
16:6,12,17,19	168:17 169:6	163:15 238:2	164:2 232:22	43:15
19:13 20:17,22	169:11,18	<b>large</b> 109:17	233:1 234:25	<b>length</b> 37:7 39:1
21:1,8 26:16	178:11 180:15	165:11	235:1	50:24 139:8,18
27:2,4,12,14	182:4 196:21	largely 95:1	leakage 125:19	165:9
33:19 36:18	198:17 201:15	larger 48:17	126:1,2,3,6,22	lengths 47:4
37:6 40:23	201:24 207:15	109:22 125:12	leaking 233:7	137:15 138:25
41:20 43:16	209:16,23	128:20	leaks 49:6 127:5	lesson 19:23
44:3,22 45:5	210:17 211:6	<b>Lastly</b> 44:13	127:5 143:20	<b>let's</b> 4:22 7:18
46:4,5,8 53:6,7	211:15 212:12	late 9:24 10:21	145:8,12 149:7	61:22 67:20
53:22 54:7,14				
	212:16,19	11:8,16 17:7	211:21,24	68:18 70:18

73:12 79:24	21:22 22:3,5,7	74:17 75:21,21	167:11	209:16
92:18 95:21	23:16,17,19,24	77:6,21 78:1,9	longer 44:6 52:1	love 18:18
96:1,5 98:13	23:25 24:5,13	79:11 80:13,15	82:1 104:12	low 109:14
105:4,18 108:2	24:17,19 25:5	81:3,18,23	138:24 139:10	139:5 140:21
116:19 117:20	25:13,15,20,23	87:13 112:6	longevity 211:24	141:3 211:1
152:22 153:20	26:2,7,10,11	116:25 125:11	look 9:17 11:5	237:14
168:23 170:7	26:18 27:18,20	125:12 126:14	14:2 17:21	lower 33:4 241:8
203:1 205:9	27:21 28:20,23	127:15 130:9	29:14 32:20	241:10
218:2 220:1	30:16 33:18	137:17 138:11	38:4 46:25	lunch 152:19,25
230:2 232:20	36:11,13,18,19	138:17 149:23	47:3 48:8 49:2	153:25 160:6
<b>letter</b> 62:17,19	36:22 37:20	158:23 168:24	61:22 68:25	
65:2 70:19	38:24 39:4,6	176:7 182:5	71:17 88:5	M
77:9,11	39:12,15,20	193:4 211:7,16	96:4 97:17	<b>M</b> 253:24 254:2
letters 64:9	40:11 41:16	224:4,13,14	102:5 106:8,18	<b>Madison</b> 2:9,15
189:9 190:1	66:3 67:13	241:9	109:10 122:18	magic 47:24
level 179:21	73:18,19 80:9	<b>lining</b> 148:14	126:21 134:24	<b>MAIDA</b> 1:22
181:11 227:20	80:19 83:3	<b>list</b> 40:5 187:6	191:10 203:25	main 19:18 25:5
229:21	85:23 94:17	<b>listed</b> 70:19	204:9 215:6	29:1 36:24
levels 179:20,20	108:12 116:17	84:21	220:15 234:8	37:2,7,20 38:1
231:24	116:19,23	Litigation 1:25	238:25 245:13	40:11 60:8
Liberty 14:19	123:5,15,22,23	255:6	245:22	66:1,3 67:11
licensed 120:20	123:24 124:2	<b>little</b> 11:6 21:24	looked 6:12	67:13,19 68:10
lieu 224:13	126:15,24	27:8 33:13	18:21 20:22	73:19 75:24
life 21:21,24,25	127:5,7 135:1	47:1,7 48:13	50:21 81:13	80:9,19,20
22:3,5 25:15	137:25 140:12	61:25 85:17	211:5 216:2	85:23 88:7
36:13 38:1,3	140:13,16,23	114:19 130:13	239:21 242:3,4	93:19 94:4,6,7
38:13 39:5	141:12,13,19	147:18 154:14	looking 25:20	94:19,25 95:4
49:7,18 106:14	142:8,14,15,17	live 144:11	28:12 37:15	95:5,21,23,24
124:19 125:8	144:21 146:12	lived 161:18	48:4 84:14	95:25 96:4,9,9
127:6 146:2,16	146:20 147:12	<b>lives</b> 161:9,13	85:6,19 87:11	106:13 108:8,9
147:4,17 148:9	147:20,25	162:9,11 163:2	126:4 148:3	108:13,13
148:12,22	148:16 150:5,8	167:21 174:9	184:25 214:16	116:12 117:2
149:2,8 160:7	150:11,17	180:4	246:22	121:23 123:2,4
161:5,19 163:9	158:6,13,16	lobbyists 214:1	looks 27:25 64:3	123:10 124:19
166:9,11,13,16	164:8,9,13,14	local 208:17,24	86:18 97:1	132:12 134:25
180:10,14	169:2 173:14	<b>locate</b> 138:13	156:13	137:17 140:12
181:12,18,22	199:10 202:19	located 29:25	losing 203:24	140:16,17,18
181:25 193:19	210:13 221:22	location 33:1	<b>lot</b> 20:1,23 30:23	140:22,23
193:23 194:5	223:25 228:12	138:8 139:7,19	34:1 42:2 47:9	141:13,16,18
224:12,18	231:17,19	141:25 143:2	99:22 101:3	141:23,24
<b>limit</b> 4:21,22	232:21 238:18	158:12	112:19 141:4,7	144:11,21
133:1	lines 19:25,25	logical 95:8	167:5 212:9	147:7,12 148:6
limited 134:9	32:11,11 35:8	100:21 101:9	213:3,20 228:6	148:11 149:12
195:6 224:21	37:17 44:23,24	102:4 104:10	237:21 238:12	149:16,20,24
226:23	59:25 63:5	long 3:13 89:3	238:13 247:24	150:23,24,25
line 20:6,6,21,24	65:1 73:15,15	89:17 96:18	<b>Louis</b> 2:5 4:12	158:18 164:19
20:25 21:3,8,9	73:22,22 74:17	111:22 137:11	140:25 142:5	166:23 167:19
			<u> </u>	

168:24 169:1	137:18 166:10	Massachusetts	106:25	<b>MGE's</b> 97:4
182:10 203:5	<b>makeup</b> 203:7	172:24 232:5	meet 21:20	210:12 221:22
210:18 218:4,8	making 122:2	<b>match</b> 34:9	40:21 109:19	223:24
218:9,10,10,13	131:21 144:18	185:19	224:14	Michael 2:3
218:15,22,23	164:9,14	matching 219:5	meetings 222:21	4:10
218:24 219:2,8	management	material 25:17	228:6	microphone 5:4
219:9,11,14,19	21:13 23:10,22	materials 114:8	Memorandum	61:24 89:9
219:19,22,22	77:17 129:15	168:6 187:5	156:2	120:24 133:9
219:23 220:2	130:8,16	222:6,23	memories	235:18
227:13,14,18	145:19 198:25	232:10	210:14	mid 221:1
227:20 230:18	manager 177:8	math 82:7 109:9	memory 48:25	mid-2000s
230:18 236:20	mandated 20:15	200:24 218:15	240:5,21,24	129:16
236:21 244:9	71:9 129:25	mathematical	<b>mention</b> 13:19	<b>middle</b> 68:25
244:15	204:15	30:21	14:5	168:3
mains 36:7,16	mandates 77:20	matter 1:10,15	mentioned	Midwest 1:25
37:17 44:22,24	77:25	3:6 4:19 6:8,10	154:11 196:24	255:5
59:25 63:5	maneuver 7:14	11:2,6 47:15	meter 127:4,6	mileage 31:9
65:1 74:18	manner 23:8	84:1 152:19	140:20,20	<b>Miles</b> 45:6
75:21 76:5,7	110:11,14,23	195:22,22	141:1 142:7	million 9:22
77:6,20,25	112:15 116:13	202:7	143:1	21:6 98:1
78:9 79:10	232:2	<b>matter's</b> 196:9	meters 141:5,7,8	113:16,17
80:13,14,16	manufacturer	matters 19:5	141:11	200:21 201:3
81:3,17 84:15	44:6	maximum 20:3	<b>method</b> 32:23	millions 45:13
84:20 87:20,23	<b>MAOP</b> 147:25	20:12 21:11	170:19 178:24	45:14
88:3,16 91:13	Marc 2:8 4:5	23:15,23 146:9	179:1,5,6,9	<b>mind</b> 37:4,10
94:15 109:9	60:21 107:21	mean 4:16 19:9	228:18 229:1,2	61:3 159:3
125:16,25	Marcella 2:13	33:25 34:6	232:7 236:24	mine 121:7
127:14,20,21	3:25	48:4 70:6	237:3,10	minimal 31:1
176:17 182:4	mark 26:23 27:3	72:25 76:3	244:24	217:2
211:3,8,16	68:5 118:9,15	100:7 107:15	methodology	<b>minimum</b> 27:22
241:8 246:21	118:21 119:1	114:1 142:21	105:24 170:13	31:1
246:21	152:8 176:24	172:2 190:23	175:4,6,10	<b>minimus</b> 114:9
maintain 121:14	177:4 251:8,19	194:20 197:16	<b>MGE</b> 3:7 4:16	<b>minor</b> 56:9
maintenance	253:8 254:7	198:11 210:21	7:23 11:19	minus 34:22
50:1 70:7,23	marked 27:4	210:23 211:11	14:22 20:17	minute 12:21,21
145:17 146:14	54:7,25 55:24	215:23,24	21:8 59:20	117:6 152:16
183:16 186:25	63:12,13,15,19	216:23 224:15	71:7,8 74:12	minutes 98:16
187:2,3,6,22	82:13 86:24	227:1 231:17	75:11 120:15	153:20,21
189:1 193:10	87:2,6 119:8	247:23	129:18 145:23	205:12
229:21 235:7	122:5 157:23	meaning 17:3,6	150:5,8 168:7	miraculously
<b>major</b> 238:16	177:13 183:22	means 82:1	210:6 213:4	98:20
majority 45:25	183:25 184:7	194:1	218:2 222:2,4	misled 136:5
46:6 60:4,18	184:15 185:5	meant 234:24	222:15 223:18	Missouri 1:1,7
60:24 62:22	185:16 191:5,7	measure 34:9	224:18,19,25	1:12 2:14,17
63:3 80:24	194:21 204:10	mechanical	225:15 227:12	3:25 4:2,11,12
87:12 114:23	223:12,13	143:15	237:24 238:18	9:4,6 42:19,20
115:3 128:6,11	<b>Market</b> 2:5 4:11	mechanisms	239:20 253:19	58:8 65:3
	l	l	l	l

	_	_		_
157:20 177:9	moving 24:3	45:20 178:19	42:4 80:14	56:21 83:16
186:17 190:18	47:11 54:24	189:17 194:6	148:19	85:20,21 100:3
191:2 213:2,22	74:15 182:3	215:11 238:11	<b>Newkirk</b> 151:23	123:16 125:18
213:25 229:18	multiple 61:21	negative 34:22	152:12 153:3	137:2 156:3,7
253:13,15	multiply 179:3	93:13 97:24	253:21	156:8,10,17,20
255:2,15		106:21	newly 153:19	156:23 170:18
mitigate 247:15	N	neighborhood	nine 14:25 33:24	216:7 217:1
mix 234:13,15	N 3:1 251:1	24:25 25:3	34:2 85:9	241:8,10
<b>MO</b> 2:5,10,15	name 53:11,12	131:8 139:22	109:5 115:17	246:17,19,20
moisture 141:4	118:19,21	neighborhoods	115:20	247:7
<b>mold</b> 124:14	154:6 157:17	24:22	ninety-eight	numbers 30:24
<b>moment</b> 27:10	177:2 206:2	neither 40:21	98:1	86:12 130:13
41:5,20 88:24	<b>Nancy</b> 1:19 3:10	net 50:15 96:11	Noack 213:3	158:17 215:18
103:4 117:5	narrow 42:21	97:25 105:13	224:18	216:15 217:5
149:11 151:5	51:12 215:10	106:4	non-attorney	
185:4 201:9	narrowly 43:14	never 25:24,25	72:24	0
227:11 229:3	National 184:19	26:1 61:3	non-ISRS	<b>O</b> 3:1
moments 115:8	natural 184:21	100:4 162:2,13	211:12 212:17	O-l-i-g-s-c-h-l
money 175:13	208:12,19	new 7:24 10:11	non-ISRS-elig	177:3
175:15	209:1,12	15:16 19:22	246:23	O&M 23:3
monitoring 44:2	254:15	22:7 25:5	non-ISRS/ISRS	196:20 197:8
126:20	<b>nature</b> 199:3	27:14 28:13,25	244:19	<b>object</b> 6:20 72:2
<b>months</b> 11:13	232:8	33:7 34:20	nonrelated	88:9 89:6
213:8 248:1	near 80:20	42:3 45:11,19	213:10	110:17 131:20
<b>morning</b> 3:4 4:5	138:25 202:19	52:4 59:16	norm 199:15	162:12 165:19
13:10 53:19,20	212:21	71:25 73:1,8	normal 200:15	187:23 221:12
59:14,15 92:24	necessarily	80:19 90:24,25	normalized	225:3 240:11
92:25 98:16	41:16 99:25	95:23 96:9,11	229:20	241:19
118:17,18	101:24 167:8	116:17 123:23	normally 20:7	objected 247:20
120:11,12	necessary 18:21	128:24 129:9	94:23 138:14	objecting
145:5,6 198:24	31:22	131:18 132:25	230:19	114:22
212:5	need 19:5 25:25	134:8 141:17	Nos 3:5	<b>objection</b> 6:20
motion 4:19,20	35:22 41:18	142:17 143:1	note 28:9	7:1 54:17
7:3,7,9,10,19	42:14 49:19	144:13,18,21	notes 117:6	57:20 58:10,12
7:19 14:20,23	133:1 147:24	145:14 146:19	151:5 255:12	58:14 64:16
15:23 18:23	152:16 168:8 168:14 187:15	148:14,18,24	notice 195:11	66:4,13 67:1 92:2 112:16
motioned 14:25	187:21 188:25	150:23 170:9	196:3	117:17 133:5
15:2	193:9 196:2	202:17 212:8	noticed 249:22	133:11,15,16
motivated 32:19	212:2 215:24	216:11,12	notify 74:7	133:11,15,16
44:17	212:2 213:24 219:16,18	218:4,22 219:8	noting 227:2	153:25 156:2
move 57:17 61:3	228:7 232:5	220:1 227:13	<b>November</b> 9:19	159:14,16
66:16 68:18	244:25	227:19,23,23	14:5 16:18	166:4,25
70:18 82:8	needed 24:11	227:24 229:1	17:3,3 156:15	167:11 181:6
119:19 141:11	156:25 169:16	232:12 236:20	209:14	185:23 186:10
159:11 162:5	needing 92:15	237:3 243:10	number 11:7	188:7,19
180:23 214:23	needs 38:5 39:15	244:9 247:24	12:16 27:2	191:23,24
moved 12:17	110003 30.3 37.13	newer 40:24	47:24 56:16,18	171.23,27
	•	•	1	1

192:4 206:17   206:18 210:22   206:13   206:15   217:17,21,24   206:18 210:22   256:16 57:3,8   218:17,25   218:17,25   226:12,13   220:13 222:10   221:19 146:13   245:15 247:20   242:18,22   243:25   64:12 66:15   222:13 223:8   146:15 150:21   249:12   249:12   249:12   70:18 73:12,14   225:21,24   226:3,12,18   227:4 230:24   213:18   236:16   236:19 92:18   227:4 230:24   213:18   236:16   236:19 92:18   227:4 230:24   236:11,17,19   245:15   247:20   248:12   248:10   206:247:18   206:24					
206:18 210:22         56:16 57:3.8         218:17,25         180:1 212:13         227:7 228:1           225:14 236:22         57:13,17 59:20         219:13,21         one-time 21:13         230:12 239:3           242:18.22         59:21 62:12,13         229:13 222:10         121:19 146:13         230:12 239:3           242:18.22         64:12 66:15         622:213 223:8         146:15 150:21         0PC's 14:20,22           19:22 178:1         70:18 73:12,14         225:21,24         189:16         OPC's 14:20,22           19:22 178:1         70:18 73:12,14         225:21,24         48:23 99:24         15:8,16,23           objective 197:17         86:19 92:18         227:4 230:24         213:18         16:15 37:5           dobjective 197:17         97:12 98:20         243:2 244:20         0PC 7:25 89:12         39:23:25           doberving 3:17         100:1 101:13         245:22 247:18         0PC 7:25 89:12         39:23:9 133:17           6:20,25 22:6         103:7,17 104:3         od2:84:1,417         113:30:23         170:8 20:19           occurred 44:14         119:12 121:1         213:7 13:21         212:15 13:3         13:14 134:23         12:215 13:3         170:8 20:19           occurs 36:10         133:14 134:23         12:15 13:2         13:25 14:5,16,24	192:4 206:17	55:10,17 56:6	217:17,21,24	81:14 105:25	226:12,16,24
225:14 236:22	206:18 210:22	The state of the s	, ,		
242:18,22   59:21 62:12,13   220:13 222:10   21:19 146:13   245:15 247:20   243:25   64:12 66:15   222:13 223:8   146:15 150:21   249:22   70:18 73:12,14   225:21,24   225:21,24   240:23   79:1,24 85:16   226:3,12,18   145:14 146:4   16:15 37:5   245:15   94:15,16 97:5   236:11,17,19   248:16,18   97:12 98:20   248:22 247:18   200:22 238:17   248:22 247:18   200:22 238:17   248:22 247:18   200:22 238:17   248:22 247:18   200:22 238:17   248:22 247:18   200:22 238:17   248:22 247:18   200:22 238:17   248:22 247:18   201:22 238:17   248:22 247:18   201:22 248:10:41   257: 93:8   108:25 110:1   248:16,18   213:18   228: 133:14 104:25   103:7,17 104:3   248: 16.18   229:13 23:1   248: 16.18   229:13 23:1   248: 22 247: 18   201:22 248: 103:7,17 104:3   248: 16.18   228: 113:29   248: 22 247: 18   201:22 248: 103:7,17 104:3   248: 16.18   228: 128: 103: 108: 22 247: 18   248: 16.18   228: 128: 109: 19: 13   248: 16.18   228: 128: 109: 19: 13   248: 16.18   228: 128: 109: 19: 10   248: 16.18   229: 128: 109: 19: 13   249: 248: 14: 16: 14: 14: 16: 14: 14: 14: 14: 14: 14: 14: 14: 14: 14	225:14 236:22	57:13,17 59:20	,	<b>one-time</b> 21:13	230:12 239:3
243:25		,	220:13 222:10	21:19 146:13	245:15 247:20
objections         67:18 69:7         224:24 225:19         189:16 ches 4:23 99:24         OPC's 14:20,22         15:8,16,22         15:8,16,23         23:22,122         13:18         09:0ping 197:1         47:22,51:20         93:23,25         127:22,2128:2         20:22,223:17         17:22,2128:2         20:22,224:13         20:21:22,23:17         17:22,213:31         17:22,213:31         17:22,2128:2         17:22,213:31         17:22,2128:2         17:22,213:31         17:22,213:31         17:22,213:31         17:22,213:31         17:22,213:31         17:22,213:31         17:22,212         17:22,213:31         17:22,212         17:22,212         17:22,212         17:22,213:31         17:22,21,21         17:22,211         17:22,211         17:22,211         17:22,211         17:22,211         17:22,211         17:22,211         17:22,211         17:22,211	*		222:13 223:8	146:15 150:21	249:12
Times	objections				<b>OPC's</b> 14:20,22
240:23         79:1,24 85:16 boljective         226:3,12,18 gettive         145:14 146:4 conjective         16:15 37:5 deficite           objectives objectives objectives 145:16 97:5 145:15         94:15,16 97:5 236:11,17,19 ongoing 197:1 conjung 197:1 201:22 238:17         93:23,25 conjung 197:1 201:22 238:17 conjung 197:1 201:22 238:17 conjung 197:1 201:22 238:17 conjung 197:1 201:22 238:17 conjung 197:1 248:16,18 conjung 197:1 212:22 248:16,18 conjung 197:1 212:22 248:16,18 conjung 197:1 212:22 248:16,18 conjung 197:1 212:22 248:16,18 conjung 197:1 212:29,19,25 conjung 197:1 212:29,19,12,22 conjung 197:1 212:29,19,25 conjung 197:1 212:29,19,12,22 conjung 197:1 212:29,19,12,22 conjung 197:1 212:29,11,12,12 conjung 197:1 212:29,11,12,12 conjung 197:1 212:29,12,12,12 conjung 197:1 212:29,12,12,12 conjung 197:1 212:29,12,12 conjung 197:1 212:29,12,12,12 conjung 197:1	· ·	70:18 73:12,14	225:21,24	ones 4:23 99:24	, and the second
objective 197:17 objectives         86:19 92:18 94:15,16 97:5 97:12 98:20 243:2 244:20 201:22 238:17 127:22 128:2 201:22 238:17 100:1 101:13 245:22 247:18 0PC 7:25 8:9,12 23:9 133:17 100:1 101:13 245:22 247:18 9:2,18 10:4,15 133:25 138:4 108:25 110:1 33:5 34:12,14 11:3,20,23 167:23 168:3 17:19:21 121:1 34:21 35:10 13:12,19,22,24 205:16 230:9 20:11 17:4,22 44:5 52:4 13:25 14:5,13 25:1 25:1 25:1 25:1 25:1 25:1 25:1 25:1	240:23		,	145:14 146:4	' '
objectives         94:15,16 97:5         236:11,17,19 ongoing 197:1         93:23,25 (21:25:5)         97:12 98:20 243:2 244:20 243:2 244:20 243:2 247:18         90:000 197:1 (20:2 238:17)         93:23,25 (23:6 10:1 10:1)         248:16,18 (22:2 247:18 (24:20)         90:72:5 8:9,12 (24:25)         137:22 138:4 (24:20)         92:18 10:4,15 (25:3 18:4 (24:20)         133:25 138:4 (24:20)         133:25 138:4 (24:20)         133:25 138:4 (24:20)         133:25 138:4 (24:20)         133:25 138:4 (24:20)         133:25 138:4 (24:20)         143:29 133:17 (25:3 168:3 (24:24)         11:3,20,23 (25:3 167:23 168:3 (25:3 168:3 (25:3 16))         170:8 201:19 (25:3 168:3 (25:3 16))         170:8 201:19 (25:16 230:9 (25:16 23:16 230:9 (25:16 230:9 (25:16 23:16 230:9 (25:16 23:16 23:16 23:16 (25:16 23:16 23:16 (25:16 23:16 23:16 23:16 (25:16 23:16 23:1	objective 197:17	,	, ,	213:18	47:22 51:20
145:15 observing 3:17 obviously 5:17 covours 3:17 obviously 5:17 ft. 245:22 247:18 over 3:17 to 10:14.19 covour 3:18 to 248:16.18 decovor 3:18 to 248:14.17 decovor 3:18 to 248:14.18 decovor 3:18 to 248:14 decovor 3:18 to 248:16.18 decovor 3:18 to 248:16.18 decovor 3:18 to 3:18 decovor 3:18 to 2:18 to 3:18 decovor 3:18 3:18 deco	-	94:15,16 97:5	236:11,17,19	ongoing 197:1	93:23,25
obviously 5:17         101:14,19         248:16,18         9:2,18 10:4,15         133:25 138:4           6:20,25 22:6         103:7,17 104:3         old 28:4,14,17         11:3,20,23         167:23 168:3           57:1 93:8         108:25 110:1         33:5 34:12,14         12:2,9,19,25         170:8 201:19           occur 8:17 116:6         117:4,22         44:5 52:4         13:12,19,22,24         205:16 230:9           occurs 36:10         133:14 134:23         112:15 113:9         16:7 18:5         32:21 15:11 16:2           october 14:2         137:22 139:24         114:7 123:24         32:24 33:15,21         32:5 41:7         53:4 14:16           offer 54:14         145:16,22         148:16 151:24         129:12 12:1         33:25 41:7         53:4 14:16           offer 54:14         145:16,22         128:3 141:17         59:22 60:5,7         60:16,25 63:14         60:16,25 63:14           offer 54:14         145:16,22         128:3 141:17         69:22 60:5,7         68:19,24 82:20         68:19,24 82:20         76:18 97:13           191:20 206:14         155:17,25         152:17 153:24         227:23,18,18,22         68:14,16,20         68:19,24 82:20         76:18 97:13           office 2:8,11 4:1         170:11 171:6         236:24 237:10         95:18 99:9         187:4 25:	· ·	,	, ,		*
obviously 5:17         101:14,19         248:16,18         9:2,18 10:4,15         133:25 138:4           6:20,25 22:6         103:7,17 104:3         old 28:4,14,17         11:3,20,23         167:23 168:3           57:1 93:8         108:25 110:1         33:5 34:12,14         12:2,9,19,25         170:8 201:19           occur 8:17 116:6         117:4,22         44:5 52:4         13:12,19,22,24         205:16 230:9           occurs 36:10         133:14 134:23         112:15 113:9         16:7 18:5         32:21 15:11 16:2           october 14:2         137:22 139:24         114:7 123:24         32:24 33:15,21         32:5 41:7         53:4 14:16           offer 54:14         145:16,22         148:16 151:24         129:12 12:1         33:25 41:7         53:4 14:16           offer 54:14         145:16,22         128:3 141:17         59:22 60:5,7         60:16,25 63:14         60:16,25 63:14           offer 54:14         145:16,22         128:3 141:17         69:22 60:5,7         68:19,24 82:20         68:19,24 82:20         76:18 97:13           191:20 206:14         155:17,25         152:17 153:24         227:23,18,18,22         68:14,16,20         68:19,24 82:20         76:18 97:13           office 2:8,11 4:1         170:11 171:6         236:24 237:10         95:18 99:9         187:4 25:	observing 3:17	100:1 101:13	245:22 247:18	<b>OPC</b> 7:25 8:9,12	132:9 133:17
6:20,25 22:6	$\cup$	101:14,19	248:16,18	,	133:25 138:4
57:1 93:8         108:25 110:1         33:5 34:12,14         12:2,9,19,25         170:8 201:19           192:1 221:5         113:7 116:1,21         34:21 35:10         13:12,19,22,24         205:16 230:9           occurred 44:14         119:12 121:1         89:19,24 90:25         13:25 14:5,13         252:1 254:8           occurs 36:10         133:14 134:23         112:15 113:9         16:7 18:5         open-ended           October 14:2         137:22 139:24         114:7 123:24         32:24 33:15,21         19:12 42:2           156:14,16         142:4 143:3         127:21,21         33:25 41:7         59:22 60:5,7         operable 43:21           offer 54:14         145:16,22         128:3 141:17         59:22 60:5,7         operable 43:21         operable 43:21           92:8 97:10         148:16 151:24         170:9 218:12         63:15,20,22         operable 43:21         operable 43:21           191:20 206:14         157:2,9 158:14         227:23 228:15         68:19,24 82:20         20:4,13 21:11           office 2:8,11 4:1         160:12 163:12         229:2 236:21         91:23 92:2,6         76:18 97:13           official 64:10         179:1 182:3         52:18,18         134:6 178:18         209:1 212:22           officially 204:7         186:6 185:11         106:1		*	<b>old</b> 28:4,14,17	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	167:23 168:3
192:1 221:5   113:7 116:1,21   34:21 35:10   13:12,19,22,24   205:16 230:9     106:17:4,22   44:5 52:4   13:25 14:5,13     107:4   122:17   129:24 132:3   93:1 96:9   15:2,5,11 16:2     108:5   109:10   13:14 134:23   112:15 113:9   16:7 18:5     108:6   14:1   14:1   14:1   16:1   17:1	,	,	, ,	12:2,9,19,25	170:8 201:19
occur 8:17 116:6         117:4,22         44:5 52:4         13:25 14:5,13         252:1 254:8           occurred 44:14         129:12 121:1         89:19,24 90:25         14:15,16,24         106:5           occurs 36:10         133:14 134:23         112:15 113:9         16:7 18:5         opening 19:10           October 14:2         137:22 139:24         114:7 123:24         32:24 33:15,21         19:12 42:2           156:14,16         142:4 143:3         127:21,21         33:25 41:7         59:22 60:5,7         opening 19:10           offer 54:14         145:16,22         128:3 141:17         59:22 60:5,7         operable 43:21         operable 43:21           64:13 91:23,25         146:13,24         141:23 142:15         60:16,25 63:14         operable 43:21         operable 43:21           92:8 97:10         148:16 151:24         170:9 218:12         63:15,20,22         64:14,16,20         operable 43:21         oper			,	, , ,	
occurred 44:14         119:12 121:1         89:19,24 90:25         14:15,16,24         open-ended           222:17         129:24 132:3         93:1 96:9         15:2,5,11 16:2         opening 19:10           October 14:2         137:22 139:24         112:15 113:9         16:7 18:5         opening 19:10           156:14,16         142:1 443:3         127:21,21         33:224 33:15,21         33:25 41:7         53:4 141:16           offer 54:14         145:16,22         128:3 141:17         59:22 60:5,7         operable 43:21           64:13 91:23,25         146:13,24         141:23 142:15         60:16,25 63:14         operable 43:21           92:8 97:10         148:16 151:24         170:9 218:12         63:15,20,22         operable 43:21           177:24 185:20         156:17,25         227:13,18,22         68:19,24 82:20         20:4,13 21:11           177:24 185:20         156:17,25         227:13,18,22         68:19,24 82:20         20:4,13 21:11           office 2:8,11 4:1         160:12 163:12         229:2 236:21         91:23 92:2,6         76:18 97:13           4:3,6 10:1         177:11 171:6         236:24 237:10         95:18 99:9         187:4 253:13           officially 204:7         184:6 185:11         106:16 145:14         178:21,3         178:21 174:10					
222:17         129:24 132:3         93:1 96:9         15:2,5,11 16:2         106:5           occurs 36:10         133:14 134:23         112:15 113:9         16:7 18:5         opening 19:10           October 14:2         137:22 139:24         114:7 123:24         32:24 33:15,21         19:12 42:2           156:14,16         142:4 143:3         127:21,21         33:25 41:7         59:26 60:5,7         operable 43:21           offer 54:14         145:16,22         128:3 141:17         59:22 60:5,7         operable 43:21         operab		,	89:19,24 90:25	,	
occurs 36:10         133:14 134:23         112:15 113:9         16:7 18:5         opening 19:10           October 14:2         137:22 139:24         114:7 123:24         32:24 33:15,21         19:12 42:2           156:14,16         142:4 143:3         127:21,21         33:25 41:7         53:4 141:16           offer 54:14         145:16,22         128:3 141:17         59:22 60:5,7         operable 43:21         operable 43:21         operating 3:7           64:13 91:23,25         146:13,24         170:9 218:12         63:15,20,22         operating 3:7         operating 3:7           153:7 155:10         152:17 153:24         227:13,18,22         68:19,24 82:20         20:4,13 21:11           177:24 185:20         156:17,25         227:13,18,22         68:19,24 82:20         23:15,23 76:1         operating 3:7           191:20 206:14         157:2,9 158:14         227:23 228:15         86:25 87:2,6         76:18 97:13           office 2:8,11 4:1         160:12 163:12         229:2 236:21         91:23 92:2,6         121:24 146:9           4:3,6 10:1         170:11 171:6         51:22 52:5,7         132:23 133:4         19:12 218:3         19:13 29:13           official 64:10         179:1 182:3         52:18,18         134:6 178:18         134:6 178:18         209:1 212:22         209:	222:17	129:24 132:3	93:1 96:9	15:2,5,11 16:2	_
October 14:2         137:22 139:24         114:7 123:24         32:24 33:15,21         19:12 42:2         53:4 141:16           offer 54:14         145:16,22         128:3 141:17         59:22 60:5,7         59:22 60:5,7         operable 43:21           92:8 97:10         148:16 151:24         170:9 218:12         63:15,20,22         operating 3:7           153:7 155:10         152:17 153:24         218:23 219:9         64:14,16,20         operating 3:7           177:24 185:20         156:17,25         227:13,18,22         68:19,24 82:20         23:15,23 76:1           191:20 206:14         157:2,9 158:14         227:23 228:15         86:25 87:2,6         76:18 97:13           office 2:8,11 4:1         160:12 163:12         229:2 236:21         91:23 92:2,6         121:24 146:9           4:3,6 10:1         170:11 171:6         236:24 237:10         95:18 99:9         187:4 253:13           official 64:10         174:20 176:6         51:22 52:5,7         132:23 133:4         193:15 208:18           officially 204:7         184:6 185:11         106:16 145:14         178:21,23         193:15 208:18           officially 204:7         186:9 187:2,9         168:6 212:7         184:7 185:16         0perationally           oh 9:8 97:4         190:10 191:13         168:6 212:7 <th< td=""><td>occurs 36:10</td><td>133:14 134:23</td><td>112:15 113:9</td><td>, ,</td><td>opening 19:10</td></th<>	occurs 36:10	133:14 134:23	112:15 113:9	, ,	opening 19:10
156:14,16         142:4 143:3         127:21,21         33:25 41:7         59:22 60:5,7         60:16,25 63:14	October 14:2	137:22 139:24	114:7 123:24	32:24 33:15,21	
offer 54:14         145:16,22         128:3 141:17         59:22 60:5,7         operable 43:21           64:13 91:23,25         146:13,24         141:23 142:15         60:16,25 63:14         operated 146:10           92:8 97:10         148:16 151:24         170:9 218:12         63:15,20,22         operating 3:7           153:7 155:10         152:17 153:24         218:23 219:9         64:14,16,20         20:4,13 21:11           177:24 185:20         156:17,25         227:13,18,22         68:19,24 82:20         20:4,13 21:11           191:20 206:14         157:29, 158:14         227:23 228:15         86:25 87:2,6         76:18 97:13           office 2:8,11 4:1         160:12 163:12         229:2 236:21         91:23 92:2,6         121:24 146:9           4:3,6 10:1         170:11 171:6         236:24 237:10         95:18 99:9         187:4 253:13           official 64:10         179:1 182:3         52:18,18         134:6 178:18         209:1 212:22           officially 204:7         186:9 187:2,9         146:3 148:20         183:23,25         184:6 185:16           office 116:5         190:10 191:13         168:6 212:7         184:7 185:16         0perational           office 1 245:20         204:4,9 205:1         177:4,6 186:2         191:6,7,11,20         29:12 211:7,15	156:14,16	142:4 143:3	127:21,21	,	53:4 141:16
64:13 91:23,25         146:13,24         141:23 142:15         60:16,25 63:14         operated 146:10           92:8 97:10         148:16 151:24         170:9 218:12         63:15,20,22         operating 3:7           153:7 155:10         152:17 153:24         218:23 219:9         64:14,16,20         20:4,13 21:11           177:24 185:20         156:17,25         227:13,18,22         68:19,24 82:20         20:4,13 21:11           191:20 206:14         157:2,9 158:14         227:23 228:15         86:25 87:2,6         76:18 97:13           office 2:8,11 4:1         160:12 163:12         229:2 236:21         91:23 92:2,6         121:24 146:9           4:3,6 10:1         170:11 171:6         236:24 237:10         95:18 99:9         187:4 253:13           175:8 209:15         173:21 174:10         older 34:24         114:22 128:10         190:10           255:14         179:1 182:3         52:18,18         134:6 178:18         209:1 212:22           officially 204:7         186:9 187:2,9         146:3 148:20         183:23,25         31:16 248:6           offset 116:5         190:10 191:13         168:6 212:7         184:7 185:16         0perationall           obay 3:4 4:17         200:20 201:12         152:9 176:24         186:12,13,21         29:12 211:7,15		145:16,22	,	59:22 60:5,7	operable 43:21
92:8 97:10         148:16 151:24         170:9 218:12         63:15,20,22         operating 3:7           153:7 155:10         152:17 153:24         218:23 219:9         64:14,16,20         20:4,13 21:11           177:24 185:20         156:17,25         227:13,18,22         68:19,24 82:20         23:15,23 76:1           191:20 206:14         157:2,9 158:14         227:23 228:15         86:25 87:2,6         76:18 97:13           office 2:8,11 4:1         160:12 163:12         229:2 236:21         91:23 92:2,6         121:24 146:9           4:3,6 10:1         170:11 171:6         236:24 237:10         95:18 99:9         187:4 253:13           175:8 209:15         173:21 174:10         236:24 237:10         95:18 99:9         187:4 253:13           175:8 209:15         173:21 174:10         51:22 52:5,7         132:23 133:4         193:15 208:18           official 64:10         179:1 182:3         52:18,18         134:6 178:18         209:1 212:22           offset 116:5         190:10 191:13         166:16 145:14         178:21,23         operational           offset 12:5         190:10 191:13         168:6 212:7         184:7 13,21         29:12 211:7,15           okay 3:4 4:17         205:15 207:13         188:12 198:21         191:6,7,11,20         0perations		*	141:23 142:15	60:16,25 63:14	_
153:7 155:10         152:17 153:24         218:23 219:9         64:14,16,20         20:4,13 21:11           177:24 185:20         156:17,25         227:13,18,22         68:19,24 82:20         23:15,23 76:1           191:20 206:14         157:2,9 158:14         227:23 228:15         86:25 87:2,6         76:18 97:13           office 2:8,11 4:1         160:12 163:12         229:2 236:21         91:23 92:2,6         121:24 146:9           4:3,6 10:1         170:11 171:6         236:24 237:10         95:18 99:9         187:4 253:13           175:8 209:15         173:21 174:10         older 34:24         114:22 128:10         operation           255:14         179:1 182:3         52:18,18         134:6 178:18         209:1 212:22           official 64:10         179:1 182:3         52:18,18         134:6 178:18         209:1 212:22           offset 116:5         190:10 191:13         168:6 212:7         184:7 185:16         operational           offset 1245:20         204:4,9 205:1         152:9 176:24         186:12,13,21         212:6           okay 3:4 4:17         205:15 207:13         188:12 198:21         191:23 192:7,8         187:7           5:8 6:1,25 7:5         209:7 210:2,6         238:23 251:19         197:11 206:5,8         74:21           26:21 32:2<	,	*	170:9 218:12	· ·	_
177:24 185:20       156:17,25       227:13,18,22       68:19,24 82:20       23:15,23 76:1         191:20 206:14       157:2,9 158:14       227:23 228:15       86:25 87:2,6       76:18 97:13         office 2:8,11 4:1       160:12 163:12       229:2 236:21       91:23 92:2,6       121:24 146:9         4:3,6 10:1       170:11 171:6       236:24 237:10       95:18 99:9       187:4 253:13         175:8 209:15       173:21 174:10       older 34:24       114:22 128:10       193:15 208:18         255:14       174:20 176:6       51:22 52:5,7       132:23 133:4       193:15 208:18         official 64:10       179:1 182:3       52:18,18       134:6 178:18       209:1 212:22         195:5,17       184:6 185:11       106:16 145:14       178:21,23       31:16 248:6         offset 116:5       190:10 191:13       168:6 212:7       184:7 185:16       operational         offset 152:10       200:20 201:12       152:9 176:24       186:12,13,21       212:6         156:11 245:20       204:4,9 205:1       177:4,6 186:2       191:6,7,11,20       187:7         0kay 3:4 4:17       205:15 207:13       188:12 198:21       191:23 192:7,8       187:7         5:8 6:1,25 7:5       209:7 210:2,6       238:23 251:19       197:11 206:5,8       74:21<	153:7 155:10	152:17 153:24	218:23 219:9		
191:20 206:14         157:2,9 158:14         227:23 228:15         86:25 87:2,6         76:18 97:13           office 2:8,11 4:1         160:12 163:12         229:2 236:21         91:23 92:2,6         121:24 146:9           4:3,6 10:1         170:11 171:6         236:24 237:10         95:18 99:9         187:4 253:13           175:8 209:15         173:21 174:10         older 34:24         114:22 128:10         operation           255:14         179:1 182:3         52:18,18         134:6 178:18         209:1 212:22           official 64:10         179:1 182:3         52:18,18         134:6 178:18         209:1 212:22           officially 204:7         184:6 185:11         106:16 145:14         178:21,23         operational           offset 116:5         190:10 191:13         168:6 212:7         184:7 185:16         operationally           oh 9:8 97:4         192:25 198:14         Oligschlaeger         185:20,23         29:12 211:7,15           156:11 245:20         204:4,9 205:1         177:4,6 186:2         191:6,7,11,20         operations           okay 3:4 4:17         205:15 207:13         188:12 198:21         197:11 206:5,8         74:21           5:8 6:1,25 7:5         209:7 210:2,6         238:23 251:19         197:11 206:5,8         74:21           26:2	177:24 185:20	156:17,25	227:13,18,22		,
office 2:8,11 4:1         160:12 163:12         229:2 236:21         91:23 92:2,6         121:24 146:9           4:3,6 10:1         170:11 171:6         236:24 237:10         95:18 99:9         187:4 253:13           175:8 209:15         173:21 174:10         older 34:24         114:22 128:10         operation           255:14         174:20 176:6         51:22 52:5,7         132:23 133:4         193:15 208:18           official 64:10         179:1 182:3         52:18,18         134:6 178:18         209:1 212:22           officially 204:7         184:6 185:11         106:16 145:14         178:21,23         operational           offset 116:5         190:10 191:13         168:6 212:7         184:7 185:16         operationally           oh 9:8 97:4         192:25 198:14         Oligschlaeger         185:20,23         29:12 211:7,15           150:16 152:10         200:20 201:12         152:9 176:24         186:12,13,21         212:6           okay 3:4 4:17         205:15 207:13         188:12 198:21         191:67,11,20         operations           11:1,2 24:3         210:21 211:17         254:7         206:14,17,20         operator 74:5,8           11:1,2 24:3         212:3,13,19         213:5,11,14         188:1         211:6,9 222:16         opinion 36:14 <t< td=""><td>191:20 206:14</td><td>,</td><td>, ,</td><td>,</td><td>'</td></t<>	191:20 206:14	,	, ,	,	'
4:3,6 10:1       170:11 171:6       236:24 237:10       95:18 99:9       187:4 253:13         175:8 209:15       173:21 174:10       older 34:24       114:22 128:10       operation         255:14       174:20 176:6       51:22 52:5,7       132:23 133:4       193:15 208:18         official 64:10       179:1 182:3       52:18,18       134:6 178:18       209:1 212:22         195:5,17       184:6 185:11       106:16 145:14       178:21,23       operational         officially 204:7       186:9 187:2,9       146:3 148:20       183:23,25       31:16 248:6         offset 116:5       190:10 191:13       168:6 212:7       184:7 185:16       operationally         150:16 152:10       200:20 201:12       152:9 176:24       186:12,13,21       29:12 211:7,15         156:11 245:20       204:4,9 205:1       177:4,6 186:2       191:6,7,11,20       operations         okay 3:4 4:17       205:15 207:13       188:12 198:21       197:11 206:5,8       187:7         5:8 6:1,25 7:5       209:7 210:2,6       238:23 251:19       206:14,17,20       74:21         26:21 32:2       212:3,13,19       206:21 210:4,5       206:21 210:4,5       74:21         38:18 39:23       213:5,11,14       3188:1       222:25 223:1       221:6,9       222	office 2:8,11 4:1	,	229:2 236:21	· ·	121:24 146:9
175:8 209:15         173:21 174:10         older 34:24         114:22 128:10         operation           255:14         174:20 176:6         51:22 52:5,7         132:23 133:4         193:15 208:18           official 64:10         179:1 182:3         52:18,18         134:6 178:18         209:1 212:22           195:5,17         184:6 185:11         106:16 145:14         178:21,23         operational           officially 204:7         186:9 187:2,9         146:3 148:20         183:23,25         31:16 248:6           offset 116:5         190:10 191:13         168:6 212:7         184:7 185:16         operational           oh 9:8 97:4         192:25 198:14         Oligschlaeger         185:20,23         29:12 211:7,15           150:16 152:10         200:20 201:12         152:9 176:24         186:12,13,21         21:6           okay 3:4 4:17         205:15 207:13         188:12 198:21         191:6,7,11,20         operations           5:8 6:1,25 7:5         209:7 210:2,6         238:23 251:19         197:11 206:5,8         74:21           26:21 32:2         212:3,13,19         254:7         206:14,17,20         74:21           38:18 39:23         213:5,11,14         188:1         211:6,9 222:16         129:17 132:6           41:19,25 51:5         214:4,7,25	,	170:11 171:6	236:24 237:10	· ·	187:4 253:13
official 64:10         179:1 182:3         52:18,18         134:6 178:18         209:1 212:22           officially 204:7         186:9 187:2,9         146:3 148:20         183:23,25         31:16 248:6           offset 116:5         190:10 191:13         168:6 212:7         184:7 185:16         operational           oh 9:8 97:4         192:25 198:14         Oligschlaeger         185:20,23         29:12 211:7,15           150:16 152:10         200:20 201:12         152:9 176:24         186:12,13,21         212:6           okay 3:4 4:17         205:15 207:13         188:12 198:21         191:6,7,11,20         operations           5:8 6:1,25 7:5         209:7 210:2,6         238:23 251:19         197:11 206:5,8         74:21           26:21 32:2         212:3,13,19         Oligschlaeger's         206:21 210:4,5         74:21           38:18 39:23         213:5,11,14         188:1         222:25 223:1         222:16         29:17 132:6           41:19,25 51:5         214:4,7,25         once 14:6 51:25         222:25 223:1         opinion 36:14           51:17 52:24         215:5,13         71:15 73:5         224:25 225:5         45:1 65:8,12	*	173:21 174:10	<b>older</b> 34:24		operation
official 64:10         179:1 182:3         52:18,18         134:6 178:18         209:1 212:22           officially 204:7         186:9 187:2,9         146:3 148:20         183:23,25         31:16 248:6           offset 116:5         190:10 191:13         168:6 212:7         184:7 185:16         operational           oh 9:8 97:4         192:25 198:14         Oligschlaeger         185:20,23         29:12 211:7,15           150:16 152:10         200:20 201:12         152:9 176:24         186:12,13,21         212:6           okay 3:4 4:17         205:15 207:13         188:12 198:21         191:6,7,11,20         operations           5:8 6:1,25 7:5         209:7 210:2,6         238:23 251:19         197:11 206:5,8         74:21           26:21 32:2         212:3,13,19         Oligschlaeger's         206:21 210:4,5         74:21           38:18 39:23         213:5,11,14         188:1         222:25 223:1         222:16         29:17 132:6           41:19,25 51:5         214:4,7,25         once 14:6 51:25         222:25 223:1         opinion 36:14           51:17 52:24         215:5,13         71:15 73:5         224:25 225:5         45:1 65:8,12	255:14	174:20 176:6	51:22 52:5,7	132:23 133:4	193:15 208:18
195:5,17         184:6 185:11         106:16 145:14         178:21,23         operational           officially 204:7         186:9 187:2,9         146:3 148:20         183:23,25         31:16 248:6           offset 116:5         190:10 191:13         168:6 212:7         184:7 185:16         operationally           oh 9:8 97:4         192:25 198:14         Oligschlaeger         185:20,23         29:12 211:7,15           150:16 152:10         200:20 201:12         152:9 176:24         186:12,13,21         212:6           okay 3:4 4:17         205:15 207:13         188:12 198:21         191:6,7,11,20         operations           5:8 6:1,25 7:5         209:7 210:2,6         238:23 251:19         197:11 206:5,8         187:7           5:8 6:1,25 7:5         210:21 211:17         254:7         206:14,17,20         74:21           26:21 32:2         212:3,13,19         213:5,11,14         206:21 210:4,5         211:6,9 222:16         129:17 132:6           38:18 39:23         213:5,11,14         188:1         211:6,9 222:16         221:17 132:6           41:19,25 51:5         214:4,7,25         214:6 51:25         222:25 223:1         24:1 65:8,12           51:17 52:24         215:5,13         71:15 73:5         224:25 225:5         45:1 65:8,12			· ·		209:1 212:22
officially 204:7         186:9 187:2,9         146:3 148:20         183:23,25         31:16 248:6           offset 116:5         190:10 191:13         168:6 212:7         184:7 185:16         operationally           oh 9:8 97:4         192:25 198:14         Oligschlaeger         185:20,23         29:12 211:7,15           150:16 152:10         200:20 201:12         152:9 176:24         186:12,13,21         212:6           okay 3:4 4:17         205:15 207:13         188:12 198:21         191:6,7,11,20         operations           5:8 6:1,25 7:5         209:7 210:2,6         238:23 251:19         197:11 206:5,8         0perator 74:5,8           11:1,2 24:3         210:21 211:17         254:7         206:14,17,20         74:21           26:21 32:2         212:3,13,19         Oligschlaeger's         206:21 210:4,5         188:1         211:6,9 222:16         129:17 132:6           38:18 39:23         213:5,11,14         188:1         211:6,9 222:16         222:25 223:1         0pinion 36:14           41:19,25 51:5         214:4,7,25         once 14:6 51:25         222:25 225:5         45:1 65:8,12	195:5,17	184:6 185:11	· ·	178:21,23	operational
offset 116:5         190:10 191:13         168:6 212:7         184:7 185:16         operationally           oh 9:8 97:4         192:25 198:14         Oligschlaeger         185:20,23         29:12 211:7,15           150:16 152:10         200:20 201:12         152:9 176:24         186:12,13,21         212:6           156:11 245:20         204:4,9 205:1         177:4,6 186:2         191:6,7,11,20         operations           0kay 3:4 4:17         205:15 207:13         188:12 198:21         191:23 192:7,8         187:7           5:8 6:1,25 7:5         209:7 210:2,6         238:23 251:19         197:11 206:5,8         0perations           11:1,2 24:3         210:21 211:17         254:7         206:14,17,20         74:21           26:21 32:2         212:3,13,19         20igschlaeger's         206:21 210:4,5         21:6,9 222:16           38:18 39:23         213:5,11,14         188:1         211:6,9 222:16         0perators           41:19,25 51:5         214:4,7,25         once 14:6 51:25         222:25 223:1         0pinion 36:14           51:17 52:24         215:5,13         71:15 73:5         224:25 225:5         45:1 65:8,12	officially 204:7	186:9 187:2,9	146:3 148:20	,	31:16 248:6
oh 9:8 97:4         192:25 198:14         Oligschlaeger         185:20,23         29:12 211:7,15           150:16 152:10         200:20 201:12         152:9 176:24         186:12,13,21         212:6           156:11 245:20         204:4,9 205:1         177:4,6 186:2         191:6,7,11,20         operations           0kay 3:4 4:17         205:15 207:13         188:12 198:21         191:23 192:7,8         187:7           5:8 6:1,25 7:5         209:7 210:2,6         238:23 251:19         197:11 206:5,8         0perator 74:5,8           11:1,2 24:3         210:21 211:17         254:7         206:14,17,20         74:21           26:21 32:2         212:3,13,19         Oligschlaeger's         206:21 210:4,5         0perators           38:18 39:23         213:5,11,14         188:1         211:6,9 222:16         0pinion 36:14           41:19,25 51:5         214:4,7,25         once 14:6 51:25         222:25 223:1         0pinion 36:14           51:17 52:24         215:5,13         71:15 73:5         224:25 225:5         45:1 65:8,12		190:10 191:13	168:6 212:7	,	operationally
150:16 152:10       200:20 201:12       152:9 176:24       186:12,13,21       212:6         156:11 245:20       204:4,9 205:1       177:4,6 186:2       191:6,7,11,20       operations         0kay 3:4 4:17       205:15 207:13       188:12 198:21       191:23 192:7,8       187:7         5:8 6:1,25 7:5       209:7 210:2,6       238:23 251:19       197:11 206:5,8       0perator 74:5,8         11:1,2 24:3       210:21 211:17       254:7       206:14,17,20       74:21         26:21 32:2       212:3,13,19       Oligschlaeger's       206:21 210:4,5       0perators         38:18 39:23       213:5,11,14       188:1       211:6,9 222:16       0perators         41:19,25 51:5       214:4,7,25       once 14:6 51:25       222:25 223:1       opinion 36:14         51:17 52:24       215:5,13       71:15 73:5       224:25 225:5       45:1 65:8,12	<b>oh</b> 9:8 97:4				
156:11 245:20       204:4,9 205:1       177:4,6 186:2       191:6,7,11,20       operations         0kay 3:4 4:17       205:15 207:13       188:12 198:21       191:23 192:7,8       187:7         5:8 6:1,25 7:5       209:7 210:2,6       238:23 251:19       197:11 206:5,8       operator 74:5,8         11:1,2 24:3       210:21 211:17       254:7       206:14,17,20       74:21         26:21 32:2       212:3,13,19       Oligschlaeger's       206:21 210:4,5       operators         38:18 39:23       213:5,11,14       188:1       211:6,9 222:16       129:17 132:6         41:19,25 51:5       214:4,7,25       once 14:6 51:25       222:25 223:1       opinion 36:14         51:17 52:24       215:5,13       71:15 73:5       224:25 225:5       45:1 65:8,12	150:16 152:10	200:20 201:12	$\circ$	,	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
okay 3:4 4:17         205:15 207:13         188:12 198:21         191:23 192:7,8         187:7           5:8 6:1,25 7:5         209:7 210:2,6         238:23 251:19         197:11 206:5,8         operator 74:5,8           11:1,2 24:3         210:21 211:17         254:7         206:14,17,20         74:21           26:21 32:2         212:3,13,19         Oligschlaeger's         206:21 210:4,5         operators           38:18 39:23         213:5,11,14         188:1         211:6,9 222:16         129:17 132:6           41:19,25 51:5         214:4,7,25         once 14:6 51:25         222:25 223:1         opinion 36:14           51:17 52:24         215:5,13         71:15 73:5         224:25 225:5         45:1 65:8,12			177:4,6 186:2		operations
5:8 6:1,25 7:5       209:7 210:2,6       238:23 251:19       197:11 206:5,8       operator 74:5,8         11:1,2 24:3       210:21 211:17       254:7       206:14,17,20       74:21         26:21 32:2       212:3,13,19       Oligschlaeger's       206:21 210:4,5       operators         38:18 39:23       213:5,11,14       188:1       211:6,9 222:16       129:17 132:6         41:19,25 51:5       214:4,7,25       once 14:6 51:25       222:25 223:1       opinion 36:14         51:17 52:24       215:5,13       71:15 73:5       224:25 225:5       45:1 65:8,12		,	· ·		_
11:1,2 24:3       210:21 211:17       254:7       206:14,17,20       74:21         26:21 32:2       212:3,13,19       Oligschlaeger's       206:21 210:4,5       operators         38:18 39:23       213:5,11,14       188:1       211:6,9 222:16       129:17 132:6         41:19,25 51:5       214:4,7,25       once 14:6 51:25       222:25 223:1       opinion 36:14         51:17 52:24       215:5,13       71:15 73:5       224:25 225:5       45:1 65:8,12	•			,	operator 74:5,8
26:21 32:2       212:3,13,19       Oligschlaeger's       206:21 210:4,5       operators         38:18 39:23       213:5,11,14       188:1       211:6,9 222:16       129:17 132:6         41:19,25 51:5       214:4,7,25       once 14:6 51:25       222:25 223:1       opinion 36:14         51:17 52:24       215:5,13       71:15 73:5       224:25 225:5       45:1 65:8,12	*		254:7		_
38:18 39:23       213:5,11,14       188:1       211:6,9 222:16       129:17 132:6         41:19,25 51:5       214:4,7,25       once 14:6 51:25       222:25 223:1       opinion 36:14         51:17 52:24       215:5,13       71:15 73:5       224:25 225:5       45:1 65:8,12	′		Oligschlaeger's	, ,	operators
41:19,25 51:5       214:4,7,25       once 14:6 51:25       222:25 223:1       opinion 36:14         51:17 52:24       215:5,13       71:15 73:5       224:25 225:5       45:1 65:8,12		, ,	0 0	,	_
51:17 52:24 215:5,13 71:15 73:5 224:25 225:5 45:1 65:8,12		, ,	once 14:6 51:25	· ·	
	, and the second	, ,			_
		,			'

111:2 129:13	232:9 245:23	<b>P</b> 3:1	28:19 30:1,15	164:3,10,15,20
132:5 148:24	246:3 249:17	<b>p.m</b> 17:5 250:3	33:8 34:7	164:22,24
183:17 190:14	249:21 254:17	<b>P.O</b> 2:9,14	39:20 84:6	165:2,6 235:1
opinions 72:13	ordered 14:3,9	page 9:20 27:11	85:5 97:14	patches 26:19
112:19	14:11 74:6	32:20 64:11	101:24 109:21	30:18 31:5,23
opportunity 7:6	75:8	65:3 68:19,25	119:16 128:20	38:22 45:15
10:2 61:4	orders 18:2	69:1,2 70:24	132:14,21	51:21 95:11
oppose 8:14	33:24 34:1	77:15 82:11,15	139:5 140:17	111:23 167:6
60:16 213:6,13	43:20,20 62:23	82:25 86:18	141:12 143:22	174:22 212:7
213:14	63:4 71:12	87:11,18,19	144:11 145:16	218:11
opposed 10:20	79:8 80:7 83:6	96:19 97:1,18	146:14,16	patchwork
139:12	85:9,22 93:11	97:18,20 156:3	148:14 150:24	217:2
opposing 59:23	99:13 109:5	156:8,11,13,15	186:23,24	<b>pay</b> 22:7 200:11
60:5,7,11 61:1	112:9 115:17	156:17,20	187:2 197:1	200:16
opposite 12:7	115:20 127:20	158:5,13,15	199:16 203:6	<b>paying</b> 34:16
option 74:8	158:7 166:6	160:9,10 161:6	218:11 219:17	200:22 201:2
<b>options</b> 74:5,8	202:11 216:10	165:1,3 168:1	222:4 238:24	<b>PE</b> 120:21
74:11 145:13	216:25 238:13	168:3 185:17	240:19 241:17	<b>penalty</b> 33:16,21
245:6,7	245:10,15	186:20,21	243:17,22	Pendergast 2:3
<b>oral</b> 19:8	246:18,19	192:11,12,17	244:18 245:16	4:10
<b>order</b> 7:6 8:9	original 56:11	192:23,25	248:24	pending 4:19
12:10 14:2,8	56:16,21 97:19	204:9 215:16	partial 134:11	percent 96:2,5
15:9 18:5,24	198:10	224:1,3 226:5	participated	100:25 101:1
19:9 21:21	originally 81:10	226:6 237:25	180:7 209:11	101:16,17,19
25:21 29:20	99:22 105:3	246:13	particular 49:10	101:20 109:10
31:22 39:3	<b>outlet</b> 140:19	<b>pages</b> 64:3 96:20	125:17 126:14	116:20,20,23
41:21 43:7,14	outside 21:4	130:19 185:8,9	169:8,13,19	172:10,11,12
45:1,25 56:15	141:6,11 142:7	185:18	172:10 174:11	198:6 200:15
59:23 61:14,19	189:11	<b>paid</b> 201:1	179:25 190:11	200:19 215:24
71:11 77:5	over 242:22	painstaking	190:17 201:20	230:25 231:6,7
78:20 82:25	over-recovered	93:9	203:8	231:8
83:13,17 84:21	106:15	<b>paper</b> 215:25	parties 10:24	percentage
86:16,21 87:7	<b>overall</b> 126:18	218:5	19:8 55:20	30:20 46:9
93:14 94:12,18	126:21 139:21	<b>papers</b> 8:21 59:2	151:22 172:6	48:16,18 100:7
99:10,12,20,21	243:17	207:11 215:14	partly 16:12	100:10,12,13
100:11,12,13	overarching	paragraph 14:3	45:7	102:10 113:25
100:24 101:2	75:12	14:9,11 74:4	parts 40:16 44:3	179:2
101:16,19,21	overheads 187:5	156:4,8 193:1	44:6 50:16	perfectly 6:23
110:5 158:9,17	overrule 133:22	204:10	party 14:11,12	214:16 243:15
158:18,19	167:10 188:18	parallel 80:20	15:20 111:18	perform 20:19
166:7 172:10	240:22	138:14	172:7	93:6,24 94:1
172:13 179:3,4	Overruled	parameters	passages 186:22	110:22 146:11
191:14 192:2,2	180:25	193:17	193:1	199:20
199:17 201:15	oversight	part 5:7 21:12	passed 24:12	performance
201:23 202:16	226:20	21:15 23:10,13	95:14 112:4,6	223:4
203:8 216:3	P	23:19,22 25:6	patch 135:16	performed
217:6 230:20	<u> </u>	25:7 26:13	163:18,19,21	36:11 125:11
	l	l	l	I

			-	
125:25 129:19	135:5 174:5	89:2,15,19,20	136:6 146:2,6	104:11,16,25
199:14,19	physically 26:17	89:24 90:24,25	146:10,16,23	105:1,13,17
224:8 238:5	29:3,8	90:25 91:2	146:25 147:16	107:1,5,6,17
performing	picked 34:2	94:5 100:10	147:17 148:7	110:11,13
36:13 116:12	236:8	101:25 102:1	148:10,13,13	123:3 170:22
116:15 147:16	picking 56:23	105:18 114:2	148:17,19,19	170:22 187:7
209:17	picture 27:11	114:10 121:10	148:21,23,25	187:14 189:18
<b>period</b> 9:24 10:6	28:7 141:21	121:13,15,19	149:5,9 191:15	193:8 211:12
11:15 28:21	piece 28:22,23	121:21,24	192:2,13	214:10,11
156:19 193:11	28:25 37:8	122:3 123:11	193:13,16,18	216:12 220:9
209:5 211:23	47:23 48:2	124:6,22 125:2	193:19,23	220:11 224:18
226:14	51:6 66:1	125:3,8,20	197:1 209:3	224:22 228:8
periodic 126:8	67:10,20 105:4	128:3,8 130:1	241:4 254:17	245:9 247:16
periods 93:13	105:4 132:18	131:9 136:23	pipelines 71:21	<b>plas</b> 203:2
permanent 26:1	135:11 158:16	137:14 139:9	72:8,10 73:7,9	plastic 5:14
61:6 164:10,15	163:22 164:1	139:10,18	74:22 137:1	19:17 24:6,11
permissible	164:16 165:7	163:16,22	146:4,5	24:19 25:1,5
36:15	197:25 203:6	164:1 165:7,8	<b>pipes</b> 22:18	25:10,23 26:11
Permission	232:11,15	165:17,18	72:10 136:5	26:18 28:1,10
55:17 223:8	piecemeal 24:23	166:1,2 167:3	211:10,21,22	28:13,18,22,23
<b>person</b> 68:6 78:5	<b>pieces</b> 24:13,19	167:25 168:5,7	212:16	28:25 29:9
personally 77:7	32:18,25 36:23	168:9,12,12,15	<b>piping</b> 31:10,21	30:18,25 31:5
88:5 94:2	37:2,2 39:1	168:17 169:8	31:22 144:13	31:8,23 32:6
180:6 255:7	47:7 81:20	169:13,19	197:13	32:12 33:3,5
perspective 42:6	136:7,8 153:7	171:25 173:23	<b>place</b> 13:24	33:10,11,13,17
pertains 192:21	<b>pipe</b> 20:9,14	174:12,15,18	89:18 94:22	33:22 34:4,11
petition 13:18	21:15,16,17	176:3 179:2	95:7 102:4	34:12,14,20,23
14:20 42:10	22:14,21 27:14	194:11 197:19	112:10 142:22	34:24,24 35:4
61:22 63:9	29:9 30:6,13	197:22 198:1,1	164:17 189:20	35:10 36:5,16
66:9 78:8,17	31:18 32:25	198:10 201:17	203:24 215:12	36:23 38:22
78:24 100:11	33:7 36:6 37:2	201:21 202:13	255:8,13	40:6,24,25
128:12 253:9	39:1,8 40:7,18	202:13,15,17	<b>placed</b> 129:22	41:1,23 42:3,4
253:13	40:24,25,25	202:18,23	189:21	42:12 44:22
petitions 13:23	41:1,23 42:12	211:1,24 212:8	<b>places</b> 40:23	45:2,5,5,6,11
16:19 17:9	42:22,24 45:5	220:9 230:3	160:11	46:4,9,21 47:1
18:4 40:20	45:6,6,9,11,12	231:8 233:14	<b>plan</b> 223:18	47:4,8 48:16
45:8 47:6 48:5	45:19,19,20	234:11,11	237:24 239:19	48:19 51:21,23
60:4,19,25	46:22 47:4,22	235:11,13	239:20 253:19	52:4,4,6,7,19
61:12,17 62:5	47:23,25 49:5	237:13,15,16	<b>planned</b> 84:5,13	56:13,20,24
79:9 80:8	49:7,9,10,13	237:16,17	planning 6:2	59:25 61:5
128:7 182:22	49:17,19,20	247:25	207:21 208:3	63:5 65:1,1,9
phases 21:5	50:16,24 65:9	<b>pipeline</b> 37:18	plans 222:6,15	65:13,20 66:3
PHMSA 19:21	65:13 68:4	38:13 43:17	239:18	67:13,21 68:1
20:17 21:10,20	69:18,23 70:3	69:8,15,17	plant 43:13	68:10 69:24
<b>phone</b> 3:16	70:10 71:14	71:25 77:16	88:22 90:6,8	75:15 76:22
physical 121:18	79:5,14 80:1,1	126:7 130:8	103:12,19,23	77:6,10,20,25
121:20,22	80:2,3 83:23	135:6,10,12,20	103:24 104:5,7	78:9,13,15
L	1	I	I	

Post					_
80:8,9,12,14         202:20 203:3,6         point 6:19 11:18         16:7:23 168:4         129:8 130:11           80:19,20 81:3         203:9 211:3,10         16:11 18:21         16:9:17 170:8         130:18 131:23           84:20 85:3,15         218:49,16,22         25:7 41:17         182:11,13,20         133:19 134:1,5           86:1 87:13,20         218:824 219:3,5         47:21 48:8         193:21 211:6,9         133:19 134:1,5           99:12 93:2         219:19,22,22         77:4 88:11,20         positions 121:3         134:14,24           99:2,10 99:5,8         203,8,9,10         93:5 102:18         107:21         160:21 16:20         160:21 16:20           100:10 101:1         220:16,20,20         104:15 105:11         106:21 18:2         29:3,8 30:9         166:21,23           105:18 108:9         227:24,24         142:13,13         107:13 168:25         166:21,23           109:23 110:2         230:23 23:12,3         211:13 10:17         238:2         20:33 23:23         17:16 197:4         17:16 177:4           113:19 114:12         232:12,21         133:19 144:12         133:19 144:12         106:21 18:2           109:23 110:2         233:14,5 234:11         163:15 190:18         169:5 172:14         160:21 62:15         160:21 62:15           109:23 16:16:20	79:2.10.10	202:6.7.15.18	plus 95:24	134:12 138:4	121:2 122:10
80:19,20 81:3 81:9,17,23 81:9,17,23 212:7 2164.7 28:9 32:3,13 81:9,17,23 88:89:19 219:8,11,14,19 55:13 76:20 94:8,8,19,23 91:19,22,22 94:8,8,19,23 219:23 220:1,2 94:28,8,19,23 219:23 220:1,2 95:2,10 99:5,8 120:16,20,20 101:17,20,24 101:17,20,24 101:17,20,24 101:17,20,24 101:17,20,24 101:17,20,24 101:21,916 227:22,23,23 128:14 142:1 108:13,13 109:14,18,21 109:21,110:2 109:23 110:2 109:23 110:2 111:24 112:6 113:9 114:12 113:9 114:12 113:9 114:12 113:9 114:12 113:9 114:12 113:9 114:12 115:15 116:2,3 116:17,20 114:17,20 123:16,18 134:10 135:20 135:12,1,22 135:13,15 136:13 136:23 137:13 185:5,138:16,21,25 139:19 142:16 139:13 138:5,5 138:16,21,25 139:19 142:16 130:13 138:5,5 138:16,21,25 139:19 142:16 130:13 138:5,5 136:13 66:16;2,16 64:8,9,13,14 166:8,10 167:3 167:25 168:5,9 168:17,21,24 170:29,9,24,25 101:14 103:4 168:17,21,24 170:19,9,24,25 101:14 103:4 171:23,24 171:23,24 171:23,24 171:26 171:26 171:26,47 171:27 171:28,120 171:28,120 172:21 187:24 172:21 172:21 172:21 173:22 173:23 174:11 172:17 173:22 173:23 174:11 172:17 173:22 174:15,18,22 174:21 157:17 158:4 174:15,18,22 174:21 179:24 174:15,18,22 175:23 176:24 177:172:1 110:07 175:17 178:24 174:15,18,22 175:23 176:24 177:25 177:25 176:24 197:19,24 177:17 173:22 174:11 157:17 158:4 174:15,18,22 175:20 179:24 174:15,18,22 175:23 176:12 174:15,18,22 175:23 176:24 176:29,124 176:29,124 176:29,124 176:29,124 176:29,124 176:29,124 176:29,124 176:29,124 176:29,124 177:21,124 177:21,124 177:21,24 177:21,24 177:21,24 177:21,24 177:21,24 177:21,24 177:21,24 177:21,24 177:21,24 177:21,24 177:21,24 177:21,24 177:21,24 177:22,24 177:22,24 177:23 186:20 177:23 186:20 177:24 177:25 187:24 177:25 187:24 177:25 187:24 177:25 187:24 177:25 187:24 177:24 187:24 177:25 187:24 177:24 197:14 177:16 179:24 177:16 197:4 177:16 179:24 177:16 179:24 177:16 179:24 177:16 179:24 177:16 17	' '		-		
88:7 89:19 91:12 93:2 91:12 93:2 91:12 93:2 91:12 93:2 191:12 93:3 191:12 93:3			-		
84:20 85:3,15         218:49,16,22         218:24 219:3,5         35:7 41:17         182:11,13,20         133:19 134:1,5           86:1 87:13,20         219:8,11,14,19         55:13 76:20         277:2 3230:9         134:14,24           91:12 93:2         219:19,22,22         77:4 88:11,20         positions 121:3         145:7 147:2           94:8,8,19,23         219:23 220:1,2         88:25 89:14         positions 121:3         145:7 147:2           95:2,10 99:5,8         220:3,89,10         93:5 102:18         positions 121:3         150:1,11 160:1           100:10 101:1         220:16,20,20         104:15 105:11         positive 67:14         150:1,11 160:1           101:17,02,4         221:15 227:14         106:2 108:2         29:3,8 30:19         165:22,23           105:18 108:9         227:24,24         142:13,13         107:13 168:25         166:23 17:12           109:14,18,21         230:23 23:2,3         12:21 220:19         172:16 197:4         173:12 175:22           109:21 112:0,15         231:18,19         231:5,8,14.15         231:18,19         231:2,21         113:11 123:1         166:2,13         171:16 197:4         171:16 173:6         184:2,13         100:11 243:16         184:2,13         100:11 243:16         184:2,12         184:1,5         184:1,5         185:3,7,14;20		,			
86:1 87:13,20         218:24 219:3,5         47:21 48:8         193:21 211:6,9         134:14,24           88:7 89:19         219:8,11,14,19         277:20 230:9         143:7,8 144:24           99:12 93:2         219:19,22,22         77:4 88:11,20         positions 121:3         145:7 147:2           94:8,8,19,23         219:23 220:1,2         88:25 89:14         positioe 67:14         150:1,11 160:1           100:10 10:1         220:16,20,20         104:15 105:11         107:21         160:2 162:15           101:17,20,24         227:22,32,3         128:14 142:1         102:9,12         166:5 167:4,17           105:18 108:9         227:24,24         142:13,13         107:13 168:25         166:5 167:4,17           109:14,18,21         230:48,10,18         212:21 220:19         172:16 197:4         173:12 175:22           109:23 110:2         231:5,8,14,15         231:18,19         223:13,3         203:23 23:12         173:11 124:16         172:16 197:4         173:12 175:22           113:11 12(2)         233:18,19         233:18,19         224:19         224:18         200:3 23:12         100:11 243:16         184:2,5 185:2           113:11 212         232:12,21         policy 248:3         policy 248:3         postion 24:4         19:49,20           113:11 22:1		,	,	,	
88:7 89:19         219:8,11,14,19         55:13 76:20         227:20 230:9         143:7,8 144:24           91:12 93:2         219:19,22,22         77:4 88:11,20         positions 121:3         145:7 147:2           95:2,10 99:5,8         220:3,8,9,10         38:25 89:14         positive 67:14         160:2 162:15           100:10 101:1         220:16,20,20         104:15 105:11         possible 12:18         166:2 162:1.23           101:17,20,24         221:22,23,23         108:14 142:1         106:2 108:2         29:3,8 30:19         165:22,23           105:18 108:9         227:22,23,23         128:14 142:1         107:13 168:25         169:23 17:12         166:2 162:15           109:14,18,21         230:4,8,10,18         212:21 220:19         221:33         107:13 168:25         169:23 17:12         172:16 197:4         173:12 175:22           109:23 110:2         231:5,8,14,15         231:8,19         221:33         pointing 130:17         238:2         poiling 248:3         possibl 93:2         18:16 183:21           113:91 14:12         232:12,21         241:11         244:16 245:6         245:25 246:4,8         245:25 246:4,8         251:12 36:7         188:15,22           113:16 13:212         246:9,21,21         plastics 178:20         played 199:22         plastics 178:20         p				, ,	,
91:12 93:2 94:88,19,23 95:2,10 99:5,8 100:10 101:1 220:16,20,20 101:17,20,24 102:2,9,16 227:22,23,23 102:2,9,16 227:24,24 105:18 108:9 227:24,24 105:18 108:9 109:23 110:2 109:31 10:3 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:31 109:31 10:31 10:		,			′
94:8,8,19,23 95:2,10 99:5,8 200:3,8,9,10 100:10 101:1 101:17,20,24 221:15 227:14 106:2 108:2 102:2,9,16 227:22,23,23 128:14 142:1 102:9,12 106:16,5 167:4,17 105:18 108:9 227:24,24 142:13,13 107:13 168:25 169:3 171:12 108:13,13 228:8,12,15 163:15 190:18 169:14,18,21 230:24,8,10,18 212:21 220:19 109:23 110:2 230:23 231:2,3 231:5,8,14,15 231:18,19 231:19 231:18,19 231:19 231:18,19 231:19 231					,
95:2,10 99:5,8   220:3,8,9,10   220:16,20,20   104:15 105:11   101:17,20,24   221:15 227:14   106:2 108:2   102:9,16   227:22,23,23   128:14 142:1   102:9,12   106:5 167:4,17   105:18 108:9   227:24,24   142:13,13   107:13 168:25   169:23 171:12   108:13,13   228:8,12,15   163:15 190:18   169:5 172:14   171:16 173:6   173:12 173:22   109:23 110:2   230:4,8,10,18   212:21 220:19   172:16 197:4   173:12 173:6   173:16 173:6   173:16 173:6   231:18,19   231:18,19   231:14:12   232:12,21   114:17,20   233:4,5 234:11   115:15 116:2,3   237:13,15,17   243:21 244:11   40:7 77:6   139:10 40:4   191:49,20   115:11   115:15 116:27:14   244:16 245:6   246:9,21,21   246:9,21,21   246:9,21,21   213:13,21   226:9,21,21   246:9,21,21   213:13,22   213:13,21   226:9,21,21   246:9,21,21   213:13,25   138:16,21,25   138:19   138:21   138:3   174:23 201:13   174:23 2			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	_	
100:10 101:1		,		_	,
101:17,20,24   221:15 227:14   106:2 108:2   29:3,8 30:19   165:22,23   102:2,9,16   227:24,24   142:13,13   107:13 168:25   169:23 171:12   109:14,18,21   230:4,8,10,18   212:21 220:19   109:23 110:2   230:23 231:2,3   221:3,3   202:3 232:23   178:14 181:2   112:4 112:6   231:5,8,14,15   231:18,19   232:12,21   232:12,21   233:4,5 234:11   237:13,15,17   237:13,15,17   237:13,15,17   244:16 245:6   244:16 245:6   246:9,21,21   246:9,21,21   221:21 221:3   221:23   231:14,12   246:9,21,21   232:16,18   133:10 135:20   133:10 135:20   133:10 135:20   133:10 135:20   133:11 28:3   133:11 28:3   133:14 28:3   233:13,31   246:9,21,21   246:9,21,21   233:13,30:22   133:11,17   244:16 245:6   246:9,21,21   246:9,21,21   246:9,21,21   246:9,21,21   246:9,21,21   233:13,30:22   233:23   206:14,23   233:16,21,25   133:11 28:3   233:13   13:11 28:3   233:13   13:11 28:3   233:13   13:11 28:3   233:13   13:11 28:3   233:13   13:11 28:3   233:22   243:22,23   38:12 47:22   245:25 246:4,8   77:25 52:7   203:16 205:17	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				
102:2,9,16   227:24,24   142:13,13   107:13 168:25   169:23 171:12   108:13,13   228:8,12,15   163:15 190:18   109:14,18,21   230:4,8,10,18   212:21 220:19   172:16 197:4   173:12 175:22   109:23 110:2   230:23 231:2,3   221:3,3   202:3 232:23   178:14 181:2   112:10,15   231:18,19   232:12,21   232:12,21   232:12,21   232:12,21   232:12,21   237:13,15,17   243:21 244:11   177:16 127:14   177:12   177:13 130:17   181:12 128:3   100:13 130:17   181:12 128:3   181:16 183:21   181:12 183:15   181:12 183:15   181:12 183:15   181:12 183:15   181:12 183:15   181:12 183:15   181:12 183:13 124:1   177:12 177:13 126:18 126:14   177:13 177:17 178:12   177:12 181:20   177:12 181:20   177:17 178:1   177:17 181				-	
105:18 108:9   227:24,24   142:13,13   107:13 168:25   169:23 171:12   108:13,13   228:8,12,15   230:4,8,10,18   212:21 220:19   220:23 230:23 231:23   111:24 112:6   230:23 231:2,3   202:3 232:23   178:14 181:2   112:10,15   231:18,19   232:12,21   231:18,19   232:12,21   231:15,117   233:45,234:11   115:15 116:2,3   237:13,15,17   243:21 244:11   244:16 245:6   245:25 246:4,8   130:1 132:12   246:9,21,21   246:9,21,21   233:13:13   246:9,21,21   233:11:28:3   203:12 231:13   233:13   246:9,21,21   246:8,9,13,14   64:9 65:11   248:23   13:11 28:3   13:11 28:3   13:11 28:3   13:11 28:3   13:11 28:3   13:11 28:3   13:11 28:3   16:23 168:55   169:23 171:12   177:16 173:6   177:16 173:6   177:16 173:6   177:13 168:25   177:12 109:30:30:17   13:10:25 168:59   10:11 243:16   184:2,5 185:2   185:3,7,14,20   191:4,9,2				,	
108:13,13	, ,	, ,		,	· ·
109:14,18,21		,	,		
109:23 110:2					
111:24 112:6					
112:10,15   231:18,19   232:12,21   233:4,5 234:11   237:13,15,17   243:21 244:11   243:16   245:6   245:6   245:25 246:4,8   130:1 132:12   246:9,21,21   233:16,21,22   233:14,522   246:9,21,21   233:16,21,22   246:9,21,21   233:16,21,25   233:13   233:13,15,17   243:16   245:6   246:9,21,21   233:16,21,25   246:9,21,21   233:16,21,25   246:9,21,21   233:16,21,25   246:9,21,21   233:16,21,25   246:9,21,21   233:13   233:12   233:12   233:13   233:12   233:13   233:14,22   243:22		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	,		
113:9 114:12   232:12,21   233:4,5 234:11   15:15 116:2,3   237:13,15,17   243:21 244:11   244:16 245:6   127:21,24   245:25 246:4,8   130:1 132:12   246:9,21,21   132:16,18   134:10 135:20   135:21,21,22   137:1 138:5,5   138:16,21,25   139:19 142:16   150:23 163:13   166:8,9 136:13   167:25 168:5,9   86:19 87:17   168:17,21,24   89:8,12,22,23   167:25 168:5,9   86:19 87:17   168:17,2124   172:1 149:11   172:1 149:11   172:1 149:11   172:1 149:11   172:1 182:1   172:18 126:9   172:2 187:24   172:18,24   172:2 187:24   172:18,24   172:19,24   172:18,24   172:19,24   172:18,		, , ,	•		
114:17,20         233:4,5 234:11         poll 152:11         Poston 2:8 4:5,6         186:15 187:25           115:15 116:2,3         237:13,15,17         243:21 244:11         247:77:6         5:21,23 6:7         188:15,22           117:16 127:14         244:16 245:6         portion 48:11         40:7 77:6         41:4,12,22         192:10 195:2           127:21,24         245:25 246:4,8         246:9,21,21         79:25 95:1         42:1 47:13,17         195:13 196:8           130:1 132:12         plastics 178:20         plastics 178:20         172:2 187:24         50:8,17,25         201:9,11           134:10 135:20         played 199:22         203:12 231:13         51:10,25 52:7         203:16 205:17           135:21,21,22         playe 44:1         portions 71:25         52:11,20,25         205:18 206:1           139:19 142:16         13:11 28:3         203:9,9         59:21,13 62:3         206:14,23           150:23 163:13         164:8,9,13,14         64:9 65:11         67:6 77:23         24:8 26:17         72:17,20,23         236:5,9,10,13           167:25 168:5,9         86:19 87:17         28:16 30:4         82:16,19,21,23         236:5,9,10,13           172:17 173:22         117:21 149:11         10:20 117:5         52:5,17 65:24         91:18,24 92:8         242:8,14 243:2		,			,
115:15 116:2,3         237:13,15,17         polyethylene         5:21,23 6:7         188:15,22           116:17,20         243:21 244:11         40:7 77:6         13:9,10 40:4         191:4,9,20           117:16 127:14         244:16 245:6         portion 48:11         41:4,12,22         192:10 195:2           127:21,24         245:25 246:4,8         79:25 95:1         42:1 47:13,17         195:13 196:8           130:1 132:12         plastics 178:20         played 199:22         50:8,17,25         201:9,11           134:10 135:20         played 199:22         played 44:1         portions 71:25         52:11,20,25         203:16 205:17           137:1 138:5,5         pleading 15:22         playes 44:1         portions 71:25         59:12,13 62:3         206:14,23           139:19 142:16         13:11 28:3         203:9,9         64:22 66:8,15         223:3 225:3           150:23 163:13         36:1 61:2,16         posed 119:13         66:22 67:4,8         234:19,20           168:17,21,24         89:8,12,22,23         38:12 47:22         24:8 26:17         72:17,20,23         236:5,9,10,13           168:17,21,24         89:8,12,22,23         38:12 47:22         86:5,8,23 87:4         240:12,18           170:29,9,24,25         101:14 103:4         48:4 51:21         88:		,	1 2		' ' '
116:17,20         243:21 244:11         40:7 77:6         13:9,10 40:4         191:4,9,20           117:16 127:14         244:16 245:6         portion 48:11         41:4,12,22         192:10 195:2           127:21,24         245:25 246:4,8         79:25 95:1         42:1 47:13,17         195:13 196:8           130:1 132:12         246:9,21,21         123:8 130:22         48:3,20 49:2         196:11 198:6           132:16,18         plastics 178:20         played 199:22         203:12 231:13         51:10,25 52:7         203:16 205:17           135:21,21,22         played 199:22         portions 71:25         52:11,20,25         205:18 206:1           137:1 138:5,5         pleading 15:22         73:1 171:20         59:12,13 62:3         206:14,23           139:19 142:16         13:11 28:3         203:9,9         64:22 66:8,15         220:24 221:9           150:23 163:13         36:1 61:2,16         posed 119:13         66:22 67:4,8         234:19,20           164:8,9,13,14         64:9 65:11         position 22:12         72:5,6,13,14         235:21 236:1,3           167:25 168:5,9         86:19 87:17         28:16 30:4         82:16,19,21,23         236:5,9,10,13           168:17,21,24         89:8,12,22,23         38:12 47:22         86:5,8,23 87:4         240:12,18			-		
117:16 127:14         244:16 245:6         portion 48:11         41:4,12,22         192:10 195:2           127:21,24         245:25 246:4,8         79:25 95:1         42:1 47:13,17         195:13 196:8           130:1 132:12         plastics 178:20         plastics 178:20         172:2 187:24         50:8,17,25         201:9,11           134:10 135:20         played 199:22         plays 44:1         portions 71:25         52:11,20,25         203:16 205:17           137:1 138:5,5         pleading 15:22         please 3:23         174:23 201:13         63:11,17 64:13         220:24 221:9           139:19 142:16         13:11 28:3         203:9,9         64:22 66:8,15         223:3 225:3           150:23 163:13         36:1 61:2,16         posed 119:13         66:22 67:4,8         234:19,20           166:8,10 167:3         67:6 77:23         24:8 26:17         72:17,20,23         236:5,9,10,13           167:25 168:5,9         86:19 87:17         28:16 30:4         82:16,19,21,23         236:5,9,10,13           171:25 172:11         110:20 117:5         52:5,17 65:24         91:18,24 92:8         242:8,14 243:2           173:23 174:11         157:17 158:4         68:2,8,15         92:10,12 98:12         248:16 249:5,7           174:15,18,22         177:2 181:20         77:19,24 9	,	, ,		,	*
127:21,24         245:25 246:4,8         79:25 95:1         42:1 47:13,17         195:13 196:8           130:1 132:12         246:9,21,21         123:8 130:22         48:3,20 49:2         196:11 198:6           132:16,18         plastics 178:20         played 199:22         203:12 231:13         51:10,25 52:7         203:16 205:17           135:21,21,22         played 199:22         portions 71:25         52:11,20,25         205:18 206:1           137:1 138:5,5         pleading 15:22         please 3:23         174:23 201:13         63:11,17 64:13         220:24 221:9           139:19 142:16         13:11 28:3         203:9,9         64:22 66:8,15         223:3 225:3           150:23 163:13         36:1 61:2,16         postion 22:12         72:5,6,13,14         235:21 236:1,3           164:8,9,13,14         64:9 65:11         postion 22:12         72:7,20,23         236:5,9,10,13           167:25 168:5,9         86:19 87:17         28:16 30:4         82:16,19,21,23         236:5,9,10,13           170:99,24,25         101:14 103:4         48:4 51:21         88:12,15 89:13         241:2,22 242:1           17:27 173:22         17:21 149:11         66:23 67:9,24         92:10,12 98:12         243:3 244:2           174:15,18,22         177:2 181:20         77:19,24 93:23         1				,	′ ′
130:1 132:12         246:9,21,21         123:8 130:22         48:3,20 49:2         196:11 198:6           132:16,18         plastics 178:20         172:2 187:24         50:8,17,25         201:9,11           134:10 135:20         played 199:22         203:12 231:13         51:10,25 52:7         203:16 205:17           135:21,21,22         plays 44:1         portions 71:25         52:11,20,25         205:18 206:1           137:1 138:5,5         pleading 15:22         73:1 171:20         59:12,13 62:3         206:14,23           139:19 142:16         13:11 28:3         203:9,9         64:22 66:8,15         223:3 225:3           150:23 163:13         36:1 61:2,16         posed 119:13         66:22 67:4,8         234:19,20           164:8,9,13,14         64:9 65:11         position 22:12         72:5,6,13,14         235:21 236:1,3           167:25 168:5,9         86:19 87:17         28:16 30:4         82:16,19,21,23         236:15,17,18           170:9,9,24,25         101:14 103:4         48:4 51:21         88:12,15 89:13         241:2,22 242:1           171:25 172:11         110:20 117:5         52:5,17 65:24         91:18,24 92:8         242:8,14 243:2           174:15,18,22         177:2 181:20         77:19,24 93:23         107:21,23         251:5,6,9,10			-	, , , ,	
132:16,18         plastics 178:20         172:2 187:24         50:8,17,25         201:9,11           134:10 135:20         played 199:22         203:12 231:13         51:10,25 52:7         203:16 205:17           135:21,21,22         plays 44:1         portions 71:25         52:11,20,25         205:18 206:1           138:16,21,25         please 3:23         174:23 201:13         63:11,17 64:13         220:24 221:9           139:19 142:16         13:11 28:3         203:9,9         64:22 66:8,15         223:3 225:3           150:23 163:13         36:1 61:2,16         posed 119:13         66:22 67:4,8         234:19,20           164:8,9,13,14         64:9 65:11         position 22:12         72:5,6,13,14         235:21 236:1,3           166:8,10 167:3         67:6 77:23         24:8 26:17         72:17,20,23         236:5,9,10,13           168:17,21,24         89:8,12,22,23         38:12 47:22         86:5,8,23 87:4         240:12,18           170:9,9,24,25         101:14 103:4         48:4 51:21         88:12,15 89:13         241:2,22 242:1           171:25 172:11         110:20 117:5         52:5,17 65:24         91:18,24 92:8         242:8,14 243:2           174:15,18,22         177:2 181:20         77:19,24 93:23         107:21,23         251:5,6,9,10		,		· ·	
134:10 135:20         played 199:22         203:12 231:13         51:10,25 52:7         203:16 205:17           135:21,21,22         plays 44:1         portions 71:25         52:11,20,25         205:18 206:1           138:16,21,25         pleading 15:22         please 3:23         174:23 201:13         63:11,17 64:13         220:24 221:9           139:19 142:16         13:11 28:3         203:9,9         64:22 66:8,15         223:3 225:3           150:23 163:13         36:1 61:2,16         posed 119:13         66:22 67:4,8         234:19,20           164:8,9,13,14         64:9 65:11         position 22:12         72:5,6,13,14         235:21 236:1,3           166:8,10 167:3         67:6 77:23         28:16 30:4         82:16,19,21,23         236:5,9,10,13           168:17,21,24         89:8,12,22,23         38:12 47:22         86:5,8,23 87:4         240:12,18           170:9,9,24,25         101:14 103:4         48:4 51:21         88:12,15 89:13         241:2,22 242:1           172:17 173:22         117:21 149:11         66:23 67:9,24         92:10,12 98:12         24:3:3 244:2           174:15,18,22         177:2 181:20         77:19,24 93:23         107:21,23         251:5,6,9,10           176:3 179:3         186:22 187:12         102:18 126:9         110:16,24         251:16,				,	
Table 1				, ,	,
137:1 138:5,5         pleading 15:22         73:1 171:20         59:12,13 62:3         206:14,23           138:16,21,25         please 3:23         174:23 201:13         63:11,17 64:13         220:24 221:9           139:19 142:16         13:11 28:3         203:9,9         64:22 66:8,15         223:3 225:3           150:23 163:13         36:1 61:2,16         posed 119:13         66:22 67:4,8         234:19,20           164:8,9,13,14         64:9 65:11         position 22:12         72:5,6,13,14         235:21 236:1,3           166:8,10 167:3         67:6 77:23         24:8 26:17         72:17,20,23         236:5,9,10,13           168:17,21,24         89:8,12,22,23         38:12 47:22         86:5,8,23 87:4         240:12,18           170:9,9,24,25         101:14 103:4         48:4 51:21         88:12,15 89:13         241:2,22 242:1           171:25 172:11         110:20 117:5         52:5,17 65:24         91:18,24 92:8         242:8,14 243:2           172:17 173:22         117:21 149:11         66:23 67:9,24         92:10,12 98:12         248:16 249:5,7           174:15,18,22         177:2 181:20         77:19,24 93:23         107:21,23         251:5,69,10           176:3 179:3         186:22 187:12         102:18 126:9         110:16,24         251:16,17,20		1 0		,	
138:16,21,25         please 3:23         174:23 201:13         63:11,17 64:13         220:24 221:9           139:19 142:16         13:11 28:3         203:9,9         64:22 66:8,15         223:3 225:3           150:23 163:13         36:1 61:2,16         posed 119:13         66:22 67:4,8         234:19,20           164:8,9,13,14         64:9 65:11         position 22:12         72:5,6,13,14         235:21 236:1,3           166:8,10 167:3         86:19 87:17         28:16 30:4         82:16,19,21,23         236:5,9,10,13           168:17,21,24         89:8,12,22,23         38:12 47:22         86:5,8,23 87:4         240:12,18           170:9,9,24,25         101:14 103:4         48:4 51:21         88:12,15 89:13         241:2,22 242:1           172:17 173:22         117:21 149:11         66:23 67:9,24         91:18,24 92:8         242:8,14 243:2           173:23 174:11         157:17 158:4         68:2,8,15         98:24,25         248:16 249:5,7           174:15,18,22         177:2 181:20         77:19,24 93:23         107:21,23         251:5,6,9,10           176:3 179:3         186:22 187:12         102:18 126:9         110:16,24         251:16,17,20           182:4 197:12         193:4 201:9         126:24 127:9         112:2,16,23,25         251:21 252:3,6		1 0	-		
139:19 142:16       13:11 28:3       203:9,9       64:22 66:8,15       223:3 225:3         150:23 163:13       36:1 61:2,16       posed 119:13       66:22 67:4,8       234:19,20         164:8,9,13,14       64:9 65:11       position 22:12       72:5,6,13,14       235:21 236:1,3         166:8,10 167:3       67:6 77:23       24:8 26:17       72:17,20,23       236:5,9,10,13         167:25 168:5,9       86:19 87:17       28:16 30:4       82:16,19,21,23       236:15,17,18         168:17,21,24       89:8,12,22,23       38:12 47:22       86:5,8,23 87:4       240:12,18         170:9,9,24,25       101:14 103:4       48:4 51:21       88:12,15 89:13       241:2,22 242:1         171:25 172:11       110:20 117:5       52:5,17 65:24       91:18,24 92:8       242:8,14 243:2         172:17 173:22       117:21 149:11       66:23 67:9,24       92:10,12 98:12       243:3 244:2         173:23 174:11       157:17 158:4       68:2,8,15       98:24,25       248:16 249:5,7         174:15,18,22       177:2 181:20       77:19,24 93:23       107:21,23       251:5,6,9,10         182:4 197:12       193:4 201:9       126:24 127:9       112:2,16,23,25       251:21 252:3,6         197:19,21       205:19 217:22       127:17,22       114:21 117:7       <	,			,	
150:23 163:13         36:1 61:2,16         posed 119:13         66:22 67:4,8         234:19,20           164:8,9,13,14         64:9 65:11         position 22:12         72:5,6,13,14         235:21 236:1,3           166:8,10 167:3         67:6 77:23         24:8 26:17         72:17,20,23         236:5,9,10,13           167:25 168:5,9         86:19 87:17         28:16 30:4         82:16,19,21,23         236:15,17,18           168:17,21,24         89:8,12,22,23         38:12 47:22         86:5,8,23 87:4         240:12,18           170:9,9,24,25         101:14 103:4         48:4 51:21         88:12,15 89:13         241:2,22 242:1           172:17 173:22         117:21 149:11         52:5,17 65:24         91:18,24 92:8         242:8,14 243:2           173:23 174:11         157:17 158:4         68:2,8,15         98:24,25         248:16 249:5,7           174:15,18,22         177:2 181:20         77:19,24 93:23         107:21,23         251:5,6,9,10           182:4 197:12         193:4 201:9         126:24 127:9         112:2,16,23,25         251:21 252:3,6           197:19,21         205:19 217:22         127:17,22         114:21 117:7         Poston's 115:7           198:3,7,9         218:21 227:11         128:1 133:18         117:17 118:1         potential 74:22	, ,	-		,	
164:8,9,13,14         64:9 65:11         position 22:12         72:5,6,13,14         235:21 236:1,3           166:8,10 167:3         67:6 77:23         24:8 26:17         72:17,20,23         236:5,9,10,13           167:25 168:5,9         86:19 87:17         28:16 30:4         82:16,19,21,23         236:15,17,18           168:17,21,24         89:8,12,22,23         38:12 47:22         86:5,8,23 87:4         240:12,18           170:9,9,24,25         101:14 103:4         48:4 51:21         88:12,15 89:13         241:2,22 242:1           171:25 172:11         110:20 117:5         52:5,17 65:24         91:18,24 92:8         242:8,14 243:2           172:17 173:22         117:21 149:11         66:23 67:9,24         92:10,12 98:12         243:3 244:2           173:23 174:11         157:17 158:4         68:2,8,15         98:24,25         248:16 249:5,7           174:15,18,22         177:2 181:20         77:19,24 93:23         107:21,23         251:5,6,9,10           176:3 179:3         186:22 187:12         102:18 126:9         110:16,24         251:21 252:3,6           197:19,21         205:19 217:22         127:17,22         114:21 117:7         Poston's 115:7           198:3,7,9         218:21 227:11         128:1 133:18         117:17 118:1         potential 74:22	150:23 163:13		,	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	234:19.20
166:8,10 167:3       67:6 77:23       24:8 26:17       72:17,20,23       236:5,9,10,13         167:25 168:5,9       86:19 87:17       28:16 30:4       82:16,19,21,23       236:15,17,18         168:17,21,24       89:8,12,22,23       38:12 47:22       86:5,8,23 87:4       240:12,18         170:9,9,24,25       101:14 103:4       48:4 51:21       88:12,15 89:13       241:2,22 242:1         171:25 172:11       110:20 117:5       52:5,17 65:24       91:18,24 92:8       242:8,14 243:2         172:17 173:22       117:21 149:11       66:23 67:9,24       92:10,12 98:12       243:3 244:2         173:23 174:11       157:17 158:4       68:2,8,15       98:24,25       248:16 249:5,7         174:15,18,22       177:2 181:20       77:19,24 93:23       107:21,23       251:5,6,9,10         176:3 179:3       186:22 187:12       102:18 126:9       110:16,24       251:16,17,20         182:4 197:12       193:4 201:9       126:24 127:9       112:2,16,23,25       251:21 252:3,6         197:19,21       205:19 217:22       127:17,22       114:21 117:7       Poston's 115:7         198:3,7,9       218:21 227:11       128:1 133:18       117:17 118:1       potential 74:22		,	-	· ·	*
167:25 168:5,9       86:19 87:17       28:16 30:4       82:16,19,21,23       236:15,17,18         168:17,21,24       89:8,12,22,23       38:12 47:22       86:5,8,23 87:4       240:12,18         170:9,9,24,25       101:14 103:4       48:4 51:21       88:12,15 89:13       241:2,22 242:1         171:25 172:11       110:20 117:5       52:5,17 65:24       91:18,24 92:8       242:8,14 243:2         172:17 173:22       117:21 149:11       66:23 67:9,24       92:10,12 98:12       243:3 244:2         173:23 174:11       157:17 158:4       68:2,8,15       98:24,25       248:16 249:5,7         174:15,18,22       177:2 181:20       77:19,24 93:23       107:21,23       251:5,6,9,10         176:3 179:3       186:22 187:12       102:18 126:9       110:16,24       251:16,17,20         182:4 197:12       193:4 201:9       126:24 127:9       112:2,16,23,25       251:21 252:3,6         197:19,21       205:19 217:22       127:17,22       114:21 117:7       Poston's 115:7         198:3,7,9       218:21 227:11       128:1 133:18       117:17 118:1       potential 74:22			-	, , ,	
168:17,21,24       89:8,12,22,23       38:12 47:22       86:5,8,23 87:4       240:12,18         170:9,9,24,25       101:14 103:4       48:4 51:21       88:12,15 89:13       241:2,22 242:1         171:25 172:11       110:20 117:5       52:5,17 65:24       91:18,24 92:8       242:8,14 243:2         172:17 173:22       117:21 149:11       66:23 67:9,24       92:10,12 98:12       243:3 244:2         173:23 174:11       157:17 158:4       68:2,8,15       98:24,25       248:16 249:5,7         174:15,18,22       177:2 181:20       77:19,24 93:23       107:21,23       251:5,6,9,10         176:3 179:3       186:22 187:12       102:18 126:9       110:16,24       251:16,17,20         182:4 197:12       193:4 201:9       126:24 127:9       112:2,16,23,25       251:21 252:3,6         197:19,21       205:19 217:22       127:17,22       114:21 117:7       Poston's 115:7         198:3,7,9       218:21 227:11       128:1 133:18       117:17 118:1       potential 74:22	,				
170:9,9,24,25       101:14 103:4       48:4 51:21       88:12,15 89:13       241:2,22 242:1         171:25 172:11       110:20 117:5       52:5,17 65:24       91:18,24 92:8       242:8,14 243:2         172:17 173:22       117:21 149:11       66:23 67:9,24       92:10,12 98:12       243:3 244:2         173:23 174:11       157:17 158:4       68:2,8,15       98:24,25       248:16 249:5,7         174:15,18,22       177:2 181:20       77:19,24 93:23       107:21,23       251:5,6,9,10         176:3 179:3       186:22 187:12       102:18 126:9       110:16,24       251:16,17,20         182:4 197:12       193:4 201:9       126:24 127:9       112:2,16,23,25       251:21 252:3,6         197:19,21       205:19 217:22       127:17,22       114:21 117:7       Poston's 115:7         198:3,7,9       218:21 227:11       128:1 133:18       117:17 118:1       potential 74:22	,				
171:25 172:11       110:20 117:5       52:5,17 65:24       91:18,24 92:8       242:8,14 243:2         172:17 173:22       117:21 149:11       66:23 67:9,24       92:10,12 98:12       243:3 244:2         173:23 174:11       157:17 158:4       68:2,8,15       98:24,25       248:16 249:5,7         174:15,18,22       177:2 181:20       77:19,24 93:23       107:21,23       251:5,6,9,10         176:3 179:3       186:22 187:12       102:18 126:9       110:16,24       251:16,17,20         182:4 197:12       193:4 201:9       126:24 127:9       112:2,16,23,25       251:21 252:3,6         197:19,21       205:19 217:22       127:17,22       114:21 117:7       Poston's 115:7         198:3,7,9       218:21 227:11       128:1 133:18       117:17 118:1       potential 74:22	, ,			, ,	′
172:17 173:22     117:21 149:11     66:23 67:9,24     92:10,12 98:12     243:3 244:2       173:23 174:11     157:17 158:4     68:2,8,15     98:24,25     248:16 249:5,7       174:15,18,22     177:2 181:20     77:19,24 93:23     107:21,23     251:5,6,9,10       176:3 179:3     186:22 187:12     102:18 126:9     110:16,24     251:16,17,20       182:4 197:12     193:4 201:9     126:24 127:9     112:2,16,23,25     251:21 252:3,6       197:19,21     205:19 217:22     127:17,22     114:21 117:7     Poston's 115:7       198:3,7,9     218:21 227:11     128:1 133:18     117:17 118:1     potential 74:22				, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	,
173:23 174:11     157:17 158:4     68:2,8,15     98:24,25     248:16 249:5,7       174:15,18,22     177:2 181:20     77:19,24 93:23     107:21,23     251:5,6,9,10       176:3 179:3     186:22 187:12     102:18 126:9     110:16,24     251:16,17,20       182:4 197:12     193:4 201:9     126:24 127:9     112:2,16,23,25     251:21 252:3,6       197:19,21     205:19 217:22     127:17,22     114:21 117:7     Poston's 115:7       198:3,7,9     218:21 227:11     128:1 133:18     117:17 118:1     potential 74:22			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	*	,
174:15,18,22       177:2 181:20       77:19,24 93:23       107:21,23       251:5,6,9,10         176:3 179:3       186:22 187:12       102:18 126:9       110:16,24       251:16,17,20         182:4 197:12       193:4 201:9       126:24 127:9       112:2,16,23,25       251:21 252:3,6         197:19,21       205:19 217:22       127:17,22       114:21 117:7       Poston's 115:7         198:3,7,9       218:21 227:11       128:1 133:18       117:17 118:1       potential 74:22			,		
176:3 179:3       186:22 187:12       102:18 126:9       110:16,24       251:16,17,20         182:4 197:12       193:4 201:9       126:24 127:9       112:2,16,23,25       251:21 252:3,6         197:19,21       205:19 217:22       127:17,22       114:21 117:7       Poston's 115:7         198:3,7,9       218:21 227:11       128:1 133:18       117:17 118:1       potential 74:22	174:15,18,22		, ,	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
182:4 197:12     193:4 201:9     126:24 127:9     112:2,16,23,25     251:21 252:3,6       197:19,21     205:19 217:22     127:17,22     114:21 117:7     Poston's 115:7       198:3,7,9     218:21 227:11     128:1 133:18     117:17 118:1     potential 74:22	, ,	186:22 187:12		,	
197:19,21       205:19 217:22       127:17,22       114:21 117:7       Poston's 115:7         198:3,7,9       218:21 227:11       128:1 133:18       117:17 118:1       potential 74:22				,	
198:3,7,9 218:21 227:11 128:1 133:18 117:17 118:1 <b>potential</b> 74:22					*
′ ′	· ·		,		
	201:13,16,21	235:18 249:16	133:20,25	120:9,10,25	-
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	

		_	_	
potentially	211:22 228:8	process 11:8	projects 21:25	17:5 34:1 44:6
197:12	237:8,14,16	15:23 16:21,24	22:8,24,25	81:16 86:9
practical 11:2	pressurized	18:7 93:9	23:1 37:20,21	99:19 144:4
practically 11:9	49:6 121:13	124:21 136:14	37:21,22,24	163:12 181:5
practice 16:1	<b>pretty</b> 46:10	136:16,18	38:3,5 40:21	195:12 215:21
18:3 67:10,25	139:4	170:12 210:25	42:8 43:14	222:15 225:5
68:17 227:22	prevent 29:13	213:6	93:4 109:20	225:15,15,16
236:22	previous 7:6	<b>produce</b> 238:23	122:19,23	226:9 230:1
practices 65:25	10:16 12:15	professional	123:2,5,5,6,7	provides 8:4
121:9 124:10	previously	120:20 207:20	123:10,23	providing 17:15
227:13 236:20	34:16	208:2,9,15,23	135:2,5 145:14	69:23
precedent	<b>price</b> 33:4	209:7	147:3,15 148:6	provisions
195:10,14	primarily	<b>profit</b> 107:15,16	148:12,17	111:14
precise 244:25	125:19	107:19 243:14	149:4 204:25	<b>proxy</b> 21:19
precision 231:24	prior 15:17,25	program 21:13	224:7 225:1	prudence 45:18
245:1	16:6 17:20	23:10 25:6	239:16 241:10	45:22 51:3
predates 112:1	39:19,22 93:13	26:14 33:9,10	pronounce	111:12 131:12
prefer 6:21	112:3,11 146:5	34:7 71:8,15	235:24	131:18,24
32:10 102:14	209:4 221:16	74:16 75:5,18	property 27:23	132:4 228:5
prefiled 6:6	221:18	75:25 76:15,16	90:6,7 95:16	235:3 248:2,7
133:24	prioritize 74:21	76:22 108:7,10	98:3 105:4,5,7	prudency
preliminary 7:4	priority 75:1	116:12,16	105:11,12	210:25 228:17
19:4 204:18	probably 4:14	126:20 145:17	106:6,16	248:5
premarked 3:21	29:4 48:6,12	145:19 146:14	107:20 183:10	prudent 29:15
<b>prepare</b> 154:19	52:8,11 53:1	150:18,24	215:7	35:13 110:11
157:22 177:11	68:6 71:16	197:1 198:25	<b>propose</b> 111:18	110:13,23
prepared	73:5 75:6	210:13 221:23	152:2	113:8 116:13
154:20 157:23	76:23 78:3	223:25 238:18	proposed	130:24 131:4,9
177:12 206:5	85:14,15 88:8	programs 70:23	178:24 213:25	<b>PSC</b> 7:23 9:20
preparing	93:17 96:20	71:1,4,18	protect 214:9	9:25,25
209:20	103:2 114:17	73:13 75:7,8	protected 76:13	<b>public</b> 1:2 2:8,8
prescribed 10:2	149:1 209:5	241:4	protection 75:20	2:11,12,14,17
present 3:18	228:5 236:5	progress 108:20	76:4,6,10	3:25 4:4,6,7
35:22 49:22	problem 164:2	prohibited	124:22,25	10:1 40:3
50:4 74:22	164:17 200:7	238:20	126:19 208:12	59:11 98:23
179:8 255:7	217:7 231:16	project 38:12	protections	102:19 120:8
presentations	procedural	39:11,12 44:12	213:18	143:6 154:12
222:5	15:15	51:3 61:9	<b>prove</b> 169:7,12	157:21 159:25
presents 29:13	procedurally	70:20 93:19	169:16,18,22	171:14 175:8
Presiding 1:19	7:14	99:9,17 109:17	provide 9:21	175:16 177:9
pressure 19:25	procedure 14:16	109:22,25	32:4 47:16,17	178:13 184:9
20:2,4,7,8,9,13	14:17	110:1 123:3	50:20 72:13	196:6 201:7
20:20 21:11	proceed 53:15	124:4,5 144:12	162:7 168:6	205:8 209:15
23:16,24	185:13	144:12 146:1	181:3 193:7,14	234:18
121:14 139:3,6	proceedings 1:4	203:7 209:11	194:13 222:5	public's 9:25
140:21 141:3	19:2 181:19,23	218:3 219:6	239:4 249:21	<b>pull</b> 27:21
146:9 211:1,2	255:7,10	238:17	provided 16:13	134:21
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

<b>pulled</b> 217:14	219:9 220:10	213:11 214:5,6	242:25 246:12	111:17 125:7
purports 192:1	quality 44:10	214:15,24	246:24 251:6,9	126:22 131:10
223:22	quantification	217:18 221:7	251:10,14,17	160:14,16,19
purpose 36:15	115:5	227:16 228:16	251:20 252:5	160:21 161:1
38:10 108:7	quantifying	240:17 243:4	quibble 226:9	179:14,18,20
145:12 211:2	115:9	247:5	quick 7:13 98:14	179:20 181:18
214:8 246:16	question 9:12	questioning	109:8 151:13	181:22 196:20
248:4,10	27:7 31:12	242:6 248:5	152:11 184:23	197:9 209:21
purposes 44:25	32:22 38:19	questions 13:5,6	quicker 16:25	211:5 243:13
59:18 79:24	41:6 42:11	18:11 22:11	quickly 12:18	243:14,16
80:4 180:1	46:7 50:10	32:1 35:17	167:3 173:22	247:16,25
200:14 247:22	51:20 53:1	37:13 54:8	174:15	ratemaking
pursuant 111:13	60:23 61:2,16	55:3 57:14	<b>quite</b> 111:25	200:13
<b>push</b> 37:5	65:11 67:1,2,5	59:9,18 64:23	126:2 229:25	ratepayers
<b>put</b> 20:5,6 21:14	67:7,15 68:13	66:18 68:7	247:7	213:22
23:18 28:19	72:5 73:6 74:2	80:4 83:5	<b>quote</b> 13:16,18	rates 22:9 52:12
34:11 39:3	77:22 78:5	91:19,21 92:14	15:9 40:11,15	52:22 61:6
52:15 83:23,24	79:22,25 81:8	92:19,21,23	43:9 78:11	81:23 90:11,15
90:24 94:4,8	84:9 86:19	98:5,7,8,10	106:15 122:14	90:18,21
94:19 95:6,21	89:11,22 90:13	99:2 102:23	130:3	106:12 111:10
100:18 105:18	91:12 95:15	108:1,22		160:16 161:3
107:17 114:2	103:8,15 104:1	110:18 112:1	<u>R</u>	181:15 215:8
114:10,15,19	104:10,20	117:8 118:3	<b>R</b> 3:1 254:10	229:22,23
115:25 116:17	107:22 110:20	119:13 122:11	255:1	<b>ratio</b> 100:19
117:20 125:6	110:21 113:14	127:13 134:17	raise 8:3 10:11	198:6
133:1 136:6,12	115:4,7 117:2	134:18,25	10:17 11:14	rational 244:24
136:16 141:9	117:3 123:19	135:3 139:25	13:13 14:1,15	reached 29:18
142:7 144:22	131:7,14 134:2	140:3,10 145:1	16:3 18:5 48:7	read 43:7 111:5
145:20,24	134:4 138:23	145:7 147:2	118:11 248:7	123:1 134:12
146:23 164:17	140:9 149:20	150:1 151:22	raised 8:1 10:10	158:8 186:22
185:10 196:8	151:14 155:25	152:1,12	10:12,18 11:3	187:12 188:9
199:10 203:5	157:4 160:23	154:12 155:2	11:7 12:5,25	193:4 204:13
231:2 232:8	160:24 161:10	155:23,24	15:17 38:19	222:23 238:13
236:25 244:9	161:24 162:19	159:4 162:6	46:24 48:12	readily 139:4
<b>putting</b> 27:14,15	162:22 163:5	170:1,4 171:7	175:7 210:24	reading 13:20
27:15,18 28:1	164:11 165:4	171:9,10,11	226:13 227:8	123:8
33:3,7 94:6	165:22 167:2	173:12 176:19	raising 12:20,20	reads 158:6
95:4,22 101:23	167:14 169:10	177:18 179:12	17:19	ready 53:15
101:25 102:1	171:17 173:13	182:16 196:14	ran 173:15	98:21 108:17
124:11,13	173:21 174:21	196:16 198:16	rate 11:18 12:15	real 27:7 42:9
148:18 227:19	175:24 176:6	201:5,10 206:8	45:22 51:2	42:10,11
230:22	178:17 188:10	211:4,14	61:4 89:20,25	245:13
Q	188:21 192:13	217:23 225:11	90:15,20,25	Reality 95:20
	192:21 194:1	229:6,8 233:21	91:3 96:2,5	reallocation
<b>qualifies</b> 49:16 219:6	201:19 202:1,2	233:25 234:22	103:23,25 104:13 106:4	249:12
	202:25 204:8	235:22 239:2	104:13 106:4	really 6:10 19:1
qualify 182:5	208:21 213:6	242:9,15,21,23	100.23 111:10	39:9 46:14
	I	I	I	

60:21 68:16	240:8,11,18	33:6 39:7	reduction 35:1	161:3
69:19 92:15	243:4 247:3	51:14,24 52:1	103:11,18	regular 161:8,12
96:17 100:5,14	recalls 240:13	52:10 105:1,19	104:4,13	161:18 163:1,7
101:4,12	240:20	106:7,12 107:7	refer 4:14 59:19	180:3,13
102:17,18	receive 6:21	115:17,19	69:17 82:12,25	regularly 186:7
105:14 115:8	12:8 59:2	229:14,22	120:14 122:6	regulation
141:12 147:15	104:18	232:18 237:2	160:9 164:24	130:16 180:8
190:4 202:7	received 16:19	238:8	165:1 188:13	regulations
205:9 232:6	54:21 58:1,19	recoverable	195:3 203:11	129:7,16 130:4
rearrangements	64:20 92:6	231:1	214:14 247:5	130:5 146:7
187:16	120:1 153:16	recovered 45:7	reference 61:20	189:19 208:17
reason 100:15	155:17 159:18	52:18 229:21	62:19 70:21	208:25
182:9 204:22	178:6 186:13	recovering 46:6	86:16 124:4	regulator 29:25
237:12,17	192:8 206:21	52:13,14 90:15	referenced	37:17 44:15
238:25 241:16	239:9 253:2	95:19 103:13	199:8,25	regulatory 1:20
reasonable	recognize 107:1	105:7,15 106:1	references 61:13	3:11 36:10
30:13 100:3	226:6	232:15,17	61:18	183:3 204:16
191:2 232:4	recommend	recovery 32:14	referencing	214:10 247:16
244:23 245:3	230:12	32:17 33:6,20	48:24 65:5	rehabilitating
reasonableness	recommendat	40:10 60:7	referred 95:18	209:12
111:10 248:3,5	10:6,14 13:1	61:21 104:19	95:19 128:15	rehabilitation
reasonably	14:4,7,9,22,24	106:6 126:11	194:15 195:2	122:3 238:17
12:18	15:1,4,13 17:4	134:11 168:5	237:24	reject 171:21
reasoned 181:4	recommended	183:12 247:16	referring 43:11	rejected 43:6
reasoning 37:5	13:2	recross 98:10,21	59:19 120:15	175:24 176:2
reasons 24:9	record 3:5 6:16	171:10	130:4 164:25	related 99:16
241:14 242:18	6:18 20:18	Recross-Exa	203:14 247:22	100:20,20
reattach 25:4	21:16 23:13	98:25 143:8	<b>refers</b> 77:13	104:25 109:18
rebuttal 54:3,24	58:10 85:7	171:16 198:20	123:11,23	137:19 210:12
55:8,25 56:3,4	92:5 118:20	201:11 234:5	124:15 130:15	214:10 217:12
57:25 82:8,24	146:17 152:24	251:6,10,17,21	174:4,7	217:15 219:10
109:6 115:10	153:14,25	251:21 252:5	reflect 179:21	229:14 231:7
119:2 133:24	196:1 205:13	redesigning	reflected 181:14	232:12 247:6
157:23 158:5	205:16 241:23	139:23	181:25	relating 208:11
177:12 182:15	241:25 242:6	redirect 108:3,5	refresh 48:25	208:18,25
253:6,8 254:5	250:1	108:21 145:2,4	240:21	relation 249:11
254:7	recording	173:8,11	<b>refund</b> 111:20	relative 204:16
rec 15:6 17:13	103:13,19	188:16 203:18	<b>regard</b> 17:19	relatively 56:8
recall 85:20 99:5	104:6 161:7,11	203:22 205:2	72:18 85:21	129:20 216:12
114:24 116:13	162:25 180:2	234:17,20	112:21 141:18	release 189:8,24
143:25 145:9	199:22	251:7,11,18,22	141:19 152:5	195:5 199:7
147:5,13 150:2	records 20:1	252:6	167:11 190:11	200:1,2
150:14 175:24	23:20 84:25	<b>reduce</b> 91:14	249:15	relevance
189:16 202:8	85:19 150:5	106:22	regarding 13:16	131:22
221:23,24	199:18 201:24	reduced 34:23	43:5 131:18	relevant 131:24
222:22 223:7	202:23	reduces 34:17	226:13	132:5 212:11
237:25 239:24	recover 22:8	93:15	regardless 70:10	reline 147:12
	l	l	l	l

	•	•	-	
relining 37:20	208:21	151:2 166:8,10	42:22 43:21	193:8
123:2,5,10,11	repeatedly 8:14	168:8 169:8,13	45:2 61:5 64:7	REPORTED
134:25 147:8	rephrase 67:4	169:19 171:1	75:16 77:11	1:24
148:6,12	67:15 219:18	172:11,18	78:15,23 79:2	reporter 3:21
remain 118:7	repipe 142:25	182:7 194:7	79:4,10 89:15	27:5 53:11
remaining 76:15	replace 20:25	198:2 202:14	111:13 128:6	62:7 63:16,19
remains 161:2	24:5 26:7,18	202:15,23	128:11 132:7	87:3 92:16
193:16	30:5 36:20	203:3,12	163:16 165:13	154:7 157:17
remember 41:6	39:6 45:16	230:10,18,19	187:15 193:9	177:2 184:1
49:1 144:3	49:20 50:15,23	231:20,20	203:11 221:15	191:8 223:14
166:20 176:4,6	65:1,9,13,20	233:12 235:2,9	247:17	255:5
210:10 240:13	66:3 67:12,21	237:13,18	replaces 36:18	reporter's 64:10
249:5	68:9 70:11,15	243:21 246:22	40:24 44:23	reporting
remove 17:10	75:15 77:5	replacement	164:7,12	187:14
25:14,16 33:11	78:9 80:12	1:12,17 3:8	212:16 218:4,7	reports 126:1,5
33:12 99:4	102:8,15	22:23 24:7	230:7 231:3	143:16,20,23
101:1,20	107:13 108:8	25:19,22 26:2	244:10	143:23 144:1
110:11 113:8	108:12 111:23	26:7,8 30:19	replacing 22:18	representative
172:8 179:4	127:20 128:16	33:9,9,10 36:5	22:20 24:10,13	10:1
220:11	128:23 130:1	36:22 37:1	26:18 30:6	request 14:16,20
removed 45:3	130:21 131:8	41:13 44:14,16	37:9 40:6	15:8,13,18
45:21 50:5	141:10,13	45:25 63:4	41:14 42:3,22	18:4 30:20
69:10 94:21,21	149:12 165:17	65:19 70:23	44:22 45:5,18	61:5 86:3,10
95:6 117:10	165:25 168:5,7	71:1,3,8,18	47:2 50:23	86:15,20 91:13
158:8,10	168:12,15,17	73:13 74:16	57:24 59:24	175:23 195:18
178:19 202:4	176:16 198:9	75:5,7,18,24	60:8,12 65:25	196:9 214:13
216:12 218:16	219:8,19	76:15,16 77:20	67:10,25 68:10	214:17,22
219:2 231:8,9	220:10,20	77:25 78:13	75:19 79:20	247:1,4,11
244:13	231:4,14	80:8 82:11	127:14,22,23	249:1
removing 71:14	232:23 235:1	89:2 108:7,10	128:3 129:22	requested 15:22
112:14	235:11 241:9	115:23 116:12	137:20 139:12	17:13 118:2
repair 44:6	replaced 24:18	116:25 122:3	141:13 164:16	143:25 156:22
122:2 189:1	26:10 30:25,25	134:8,10	167:24 168:23	156:23
233:10,10	35:3,5 36:12	139:20 150:18	169:1 182:4,9	requesting 15:5
235:7	39:15 40:11,18	150:24 163:13	209:11 210:17	requests 16:14
repaired 69:9	41:18 42:12	170:9 174:22	211:2,7,16	85:21 247:8
233:11	43:16 44:4	182:12 194:1	227:18 228:19	require 61:14
repairs 36:21	47:5 48:17,19	197:13,18,21	231:17,19	64:7,25 70:15
187:15,17,22	51:23 52:4	198:3 201:20	233:4 243:20	76:22 93:24
193:9,25	67:19 69:9,14	202:12 210:13	243:21 244:15	102:7 110:10
repeat 72:5	73:21 76:4,9	219:21,23	247:24	165:16,25
110:20 134:3	76:11 78:21	221:22 223:25	replicate 59:3	186:17
161:10 162:21	81:4,9,17,21	224:13 234:11	reply 13:9 18:17	required 17:16
164:11 165:4	85:25 87:13,20	238:18 241:4	18:18	17:18 34:6
165:21 167:13	87:23 93:2	253:10,14,17	report 8:8 13:14	38:25 40:17
169:10 181:20	117:11 141:24	replacements	13:16 16:8,22	42:11 61:19
188:20 207:24	150:12,17	40:13 41:22	18:24 46:20	110:22 128:25

	ī	ī	ī	
129:11,16	responded	219:10	16:23 19:7	rules 10:7 14:14
147:19 168:12	214:22	retirements	23:16 25:14,16	18:2 19:22,23
187:21 188:25	responding 10:5	56:12,20,24	29:23 34:20	20:17 21:10,20
199:19 237:14	16:12	84:18,19 87:7	35:22 44:21	64:1,6 66:19
requirement	response 10:9,9	89:3,17 91:14	48:23 52:14	68:21 69:3
12:1 13:12,24	10:11 14:10	97:15 100:25	56:15 57:13	72:25 76:16,22
14:15 21:7	17:12,24,25	103:10 113:22	74:13 81:24	77:14 78:7
40:13,21,22	18:14 54:18	113:24 114:12	86:11 96:19	89:15 111:20
41:2,9 65:5	57:22 92:3	161:8,12,18	98:13 99:14	143:9,13
70:11 75:13	113:13 119:23	163:1,8 180:3	106:14 108:2	163:20 165:16
79:3 97:20	149:19 153:12	180:9,13 246:1	109:10 118:7	165:25 186:17
104:22 129:9	178:3 202:2	246:4,8 254:13	118:12 121:5	190:21 193:7
129:10 156:22	214:13 225:8	retiring 52:20	122:13 130:14	204:7 249:18
160:14,18,25	responses 16:13	88:22 228:12	141:21 142:23	run 138:9,14
179:14,17	16:21	228:13	147:22 151:17	142:16 149:23
216:21	responsibility	return 91:1	152:4,11,21,22	runs 138:24
requirements	121:7	95:23 105:10	155:15 156:8	140:16,19,23
21:20 43:18	rest 129:21	105:12 200:17	157:6 162:4	142:25 149:20
61:10 62:15,24	restate 133:15	215:6	166:21 171:4,8	<b>Rupp</b> 1:22 47:20
63:3,25 71:4	result 121:21	returning 98:20	172:22 173:1	48:14,23 49:3
71:20 73:8	176:10	reusable 139:4	176:1,20	·
130:16 166:20	resulted 143:21	reuse 139:13	182:17 183:22	S
189:19 209:3	<b>retire</b> 105:17,19	reused 39:2	192:6 194:24	<b>S</b> 3:1
224:9,14 238:7	105:25 107:5	reusing 139:7	197:17 198:12	<b>safe</b> 44:2 65:6
238:9 248:6	107:18 219:14	revenue 12:1	198:15 203:3,8	65:15 76:23
254:12	228:8 231:11	21:7 97:19	203:17 205:7	121:8 143:10
requires 37:1,11	retired 34:15,22	104:22 156:22	215:14 221:7	165:18 166:2
65:9,13 69:13	34:25 52:1	160:14,18,25	225:2 226:25	<b>safely</b> 121:24
70:11 77:5,10	80:17 83:11	179:14,17	227:17 228:14	<b>safer</b> 42:4,7
78:8,23 117:15	85:6,10,23	revenues 156:6	228:17 233:24	135:11,19
237:16	89:20,24 98:3	review 9:24 10:2	234:16 240:1	136:13 237:4
requiring 75:15	103:12,18	111:10,11	244:6 245:11	<b>safety</b> 29:4,6,13
189:19	104:5,25 105:1	158:7,8 166:6	risk 68:5 129:17	32:5 40:12,17
research 238:12	106:6 107:2,9	184:23 223:5	136:24 137:6	40:22 43:18
<b>reserve</b> 90:8,9	107:10 115:24	reviewed 223:6	role 44:1	61:10,13,18
106:8,9,10,19	116:17 160:19	reviewing 13:22	<b>rolled</b> 52:12	62:14,23 63:3
106:21	161:1 179:18	125:19 223:7	room 98:15	63:24 64:1,6
resides 140:22	179:22 180:1	<b>Revised</b> 55:8,25	<b>RPR</b> 1:25	68:21 69:2
resources 17:23	197:22 220:2,3	57:25 94:11	255:17	71:1,14 73:8
respect 36:8,16	retirement	245:15	rudimentary	76:16,22,22,25
38:16 211:10	84:20,25 85:14	revision 56:18	27:8	77:14 79:3
212:9	90:5 91:12	revisions 55:15	rule 15:20 18:23	128:24 129:9
<b>respond</b> 10:8,10	95:10,16 97:24	<b>Rick</b> 2:4 4:9	69:13 75:14	129:10,25
14:8,12 15:21	101:17,18	7:22	77:20,25 89:1	143:9,13 146:7
16:15,20,25	103:11 105:14	<b>rid</b> 11:5	95:14 109:22	165:16,25
17:1 46:23	109:9 113:16	<b>right</b> 5:16,20 7:1	139:16,17	166:20 193:16
112:23 188:15	115:15 116:2,9	7:3,17 15:9	163:16 189:3	208:17,24
	l	l	l	l

	_	_		
209:3 224:9,14	234:24 244:14	17:22 27:12	166:22 167:18	40:11 44:23,24
237:1 238:7	scenarios 244:4	28:7 33:3 37:8	169:8,13,19	52:1 57:9
241:14 254:11	schedule 15:15	48:9 49:6	173:16,18	59:25 63:5
salvage 39:1	55:9,12,25	56:15,24 65:4	193:18 203:2	65:1,16 67:13
same-length	56:3 57:25	68:24 69:1	230:11 232:25	69:10,23 73:14
116:23	62:11,13,20	71:18,19,22	233:13,16,19	73:18,22 76:24
San 19:20,24	63:8 90:4	73:3 74:3,9,10	234:25 235:2,3	77:6,21 78:1,9
satisfy 41:2	94:11 103:16	77:15 83:22	235:13 249:13	79:10 80:9,13
save 113:2	109:6,19	86:14 87:19	segments 59:24	80:14,19 81:3
<b>saying</b> 9:15 10:8	115:11	94:12,18 97:23	60:8 79:13,19	81:18,23 85:23
22:2 30:14	scope 248:2	109:21 122:19	79:20 80:9	87:13 88:18
32:16 45:19	<b>SCOTT</b> 1:22	160:10 186:20	117:16 124:6	90:6,9,10 95:6
48:1 51:12,14	<b>scratch</b> 244:13	192:12,14,18	128:3 167:24	99:18 103:22
78:22 85:13,14	se 71:15	192:19,25	168:19,20	103:23,24
110:2 132:25	seal 136:17	193:2 204:11	173:13 174:22	104:8,11,17
133:4 136:21	sealant 124:13	242:10 245:23	174:23 234:23	123:5,22
150:14 162:3	<b>seals</b> 149:6	seeing 48:5	self-reconciling	126:14,15,24
172:1 180:19	seat 8:20	54:19 57:23	105:24 107:4	127:3,4,6,15
188:12 194:7	<b>second</b> 10:19	58:16 64:18	107:10	135:1 139:2
194:24 211:13	19:17 31:25	92:4 119:24	sense 42:5	140:12,15,23
212:17 216:2	32:20 33:18	144:3 153:13	138:23	141:12,13,19
216:14,24	38:18 40:17	159:16 178:4	sent 16:17 17:2	141:22,25
231:13 239:9	47:14 56:10	229:19 243:20	85:21 222:23	142:8,13,15,17
243:8	61:15 68:18,20	249:24	222:24 223:1	144:21 146:12
says 13:15 15:10	71:19 87:18	seek 111:20	225:20	146:20,23
17:22 21:24	123:22 150:16	seeks 15:14	sentence 71:20	148:16 149:23
37:17 44:13	156:11 158:18	seen 3:12 42:17	74:3 156:20	150:11,17
61:13,18 69:8	163:5 186:21	55:20 60:20	212:14 221:1	157:21 161:9
69:10 70:9	192:11 193:12	166:15 226:10	221:10	161:13,19
71:20 72:7	section 22:22	235:16 239:19	sentences	163:2,8 164:8
74:4,20 89:1	25:11 47:1	243:12 246:18	182:20 193:12	164:9,13,14
89:15 100:19	48:9 56:9,14	246:20	separate 19:1	168:24 169:2
111:3 117:10	65:2 67:19	segment 36:18	46:18 70:3	177:9 180:4,14
122:22 123:1	68:21 69:1	36:19,25 38:24	110:5 171:19	181:12,17,21
125:10 127:2	71:5,17,21	39:4,6,8 68:9	172:7 201:16	181:24 182:4
156:4,21	73:4 76:21,24	69:8,12,14,15	213:9 232:19	189:21 194:2
163:16 172:2 215:25 238:5	76:25 77:13,16	69:16,20,21,22	separately 120:16	194:12,13
238:15 239:15	111:5,6,8,14	70:2,3,4,9,10	separates 46:21	199:10 204:16 210:12 211:7
239:17 240:11	125:1 130:6,7 130:10,12,15	70:12,16 79:23 79:25 80:3	separates 40:21 series 83:5 180:9	221:22 223:25
244:10	130:10,12,13	85:23,24,25	service 1:2,12	224:23 238:17
scale 35:9	148:3 204:14	121:13 125:17	1:17 2:14,17	241:9 253:11
scales 114:7	204:24 232:22	126:15 128:17	4:1 20:6,21,24	253:15
scales 114.7 scenario 101:14	sections 48:6,13	132:16 134:10	20:25 21:15	services 1:25
199:25 200:2	50:22,23 168:8	163:23,24,25	23:18 24:1	56:9 126:21
202:9 230:14	168:17	164:4,18	25:5 36:12	245:23 255:6
231:23 233:17	see 3:12 4:22	165:17 166:1	37:17,20 39:3	set 23:15,23
		100.17 100.1	,20 07.0	23.20.10,20

33:2 69:23	33:23 43:19	95:20 96:2	72:4 94:14	speculate
77:1 96:15	87:19 97:15,18	105:3 106:22	96:22 103:15	133:17 180:8
132:6 139:14	97:20 98:15	110:4	108:19 109:1	180:16
140:20 143:1	216:10 241:1	site 165:12	128:21 130:14	speculates
243:15 255:8	side 27:20 28:6	209:24 210:7	131:15 133:7	133:25
setting 20:12	28:6,24,24	210:15	150:4,16	speculating
102:3	31:16 45:11	sites 209:16	152:10 185:11	88:10 180:19
settled 11:21	96:7 142:9,11	<b>sitting</b> 141:1,6	192:12 199:23	180:20
seven 96:20	169:1 249:12	188:17 228:4	207:24 211:20	speculation
<b>shared</b> 226:1	sidewalk 27:16	situation 29:17	227:6 228:10	133:21 181:7
shareholders	138:12	30:9,12 220:7	235:19 236:5,9	243:25
214:9	significant	246:11 247:24	239:25 242:21	speed 17:1
<b>sheet</b> 83:13	240:9,25	situations	sort 124:14	<b>spell</b> 53:11
84:22 255:9	significantly	189:15,17	195:10	118:19 154:6
sheets 78:20	31:5 213:18	197:24 232:3	<b>sound</b> 37:3,8	157:16 177:2
83:18 84:7	signs 43:22	six 14:21 28:12	39:2 200:23	205:19 206:2
158:9 166:8	similar 37:22,23	96:20	225:9	<b>spelled</b> 247:13
<b>short</b> 18:25 98:9	37:25 38:3,4,6	<b>six-inch</b> 47:23	sounds 111:1	spent 45:14
205:9	38:7,9,9,19	<b>size</b> 164:6	113:18 222:3	130:19 131:1
<b>short-</b> 161:17	64:3 97:8	<b>sizes</b> 137:12	<b>source</b> 203:14	spoke 218:18
short-lived	122:23 123:6	<b>slide</b> 10:23	<b>space</b> 142:10	<b>spot</b> 27:19 96:19
104:19 161:7	123:17 147:15	slightly 45:10	spare 209:22	142:5
161:12 162:25	176:8 190:24	slipped 45:8	speak 61:24	spots 24:11
163:7 180:3	202:4 239:19	<b>slowed</b> 12:23	78:18 120:24	squarely 36:14
shortened	239:21	slowing 125:7	235:18 240:5	ss 255:2
180:10	similarity	slows 125:2	speaking 193:13	<b>St</b> 2:5 4:12
shorter 82:2	147:11	<b>small</b> 47:7 48:6	speaks 117:20	140:25 142:5
shorter-lived	simple 11:4	163:24 164:19	192:3	209:16
180:12	45:21 82:7	164:22,22	special 174:14	<b>Staff</b> 2:13,17
Shorthand	102:7 124:24	165:11 188:3	specific 43:19	3:23,25 8:6,7
255:5	179:6 218:15	221:15 232:15	44:3 47:15	9:25 10:10,13
shortly 17:5	<b>simply</b> 13:21	smaller 114:5	62:23 85:22	11:20,23 12:17
<b>show</b> 34:19	32:10 44:4	137:12 164:4	128:3 189:13	13:3,15 14:4,6
40:19 41:21	46:3 49:12,18	smell 127:3	215:18 220:13	15:6,12 16:8
43:8 44:3 45:4	50:3 152:2	software 44:5	232:6 240:19	16:15 17:13
47:4 49:25	164:9,14	<b>solely</b> 23:23	specifically 15:8	18:13 35:25
83:6 84:17	175:24 230:17	solution 178:24	25:9 77:5	36:3 38:8,15
166:8 216:23	singing 16:9	179:2	187:14 210:16	38:17 39:11,22
226:3 240:4,25	<b>single</b> 203:1	somewhat 179:8	214:2 219:11	41:7 52:17
<b>showed</b> 45:10	235:16	190:21	224:16 238:20	58:15,22 98:11
112:2,10 240:6	sir 37:14 39:24	Sommerer	240:6	98:22 120:6
240:8	53:20 54:5,10	151:23 152:13	specifics 240:13	143:4 151:18
showing 49:23	54:13 55:16	153:4,6 253:24	244:22	153:2,3,5,10
57:6,11 241:23	59:7,15 78:16	254:2	specifies 8:5	153:10,11,15
shown 56:18	94:3 134:20	<b>sooner</b> 16:14	195:6	153:25 154:2
83:12	sit 83:25 84:2	<b>sorry</b> 19:10 25:1	specify 59:20	154:20 155:10
<b>shows</b> 9:1 33:18	90:3 94:5	41:5 60:22	189:9	155:13,16,17
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	l

156:2 157:12	44:5 53:10	steel 19:18 36:6	109:18 211:10	82:15
157:24 159:12	61:10 62:14	36:24 37:7	211:11	substitution
159:14,17,18	63:24 79:3	46:2 56:19,23	<b>strike</b> 6:5,8	57:21
173:1,9 175:3	118:19 129:10	60:12 65:21	180:24	subtract 106:11
176:24 177:13	130:5,16	69:25 71:9	striking 6:14	<b>sudden</b> 141:23
177:24 178:2,5	158:11 183:2	73:14,22 75:20	strongly 213:13	228:7
178:6 200:6	205:19 206:2	75:24 76:5,7	struggling 94:3	sufficient 44:7
203:18 207:1	208:17,24	76:11,12 85:3	<b>studies</b> 161:9,14	suggest 18:3
209:25 210:1,1	224:9 238:6	85:5,8,10,12	161:22 162:1	81:17 175:9
212:25 214:13	254:11 255:2	85:18 86:1	163:2,4,11	suggested 198:6
217:2 222:15	255:15	95:1 124:22	180:5,7 204:14	202:9 204:19
222:25 224:25	stated 78:8	125:1,12	204:15	suggesting
225:25 226:2	statement	126:13,21	<b>study</b> 106:18	32:24 228:1
234:1 245:3	224:16 225:14	128:4,8 158:19	161:16 162:14	Suite 2:9
247:1,8 253:20	statements	158:23 168:19	162:16 182:1	summarize
<b>Staff's</b> 10:5 13:1	19:10,12 53:4	168:21 169:2	<b>stuff</b> 52:14,15	182:19
13:14 14:8,21	<b>states</b> 193:13	172:11 210:18	101:25 207:6	summary 18:1
14:23,25 15:3	station 44:15	Stenotype	<b>sub</b> 15:20	83:6 156:9
16:21 17:1,4	stations 29:25	255:10,12	Subchapter	223:24 245:15
36:14 38:11	37:18	<b>step</b> 151:10	184:19 254:15	<b>summed</b> 56:19
71:13 151:18	statues 18:1	157:7	<b>subject</b> 73:8,9	supervised
182:11,19	status 195:20	<b>stole</b> 46:13	141:6	209:10
196:6 251:12	statute 8:3,6	<b>Stoll</b> 3:17	subjects 127:12	supplement
<b>stake</b> 44:10	13:20 21:24	<b>stood</b> 29:24 30:1	submission 9:24	212:1
stand 53:8 88:14	22:17 24:12	30:15	<b>submit</b> 13:16	supplementing
152:3 181:1	36:15 37:11,16	stop 28:20 106:1	55:11	217:9 226:23
194:19 195:23	41:8 42:21	straight 227:21	<b>submits</b> 143:15	support 8:12
standard 22:15	46:11 49:15	227:25	submitted 19:8	50:4 72:15
22:18 42:15	61:20 63:25	strategic 42:6	56:11	188:11 238:24
138:13 166:14	65:8,12 78:7	44:25 128:16	Subpart 71:19	supporting 9:22
166:16,17	110:8,10,17,22	strategy 45:18	subsection	66:9,9,11
standards 22:17	110:25 111:3,6	45:22 65:20,23	73:12 74:16,20	122:15
50:2	112:3,5,12,14	128:25 129:11	75:19 122:14	supports 52:17
standing 42:8	112:17,21	131:12,18	subsequent	supposed 107:3
standpoint	117:9,9,14,20	132:25 134:8	209:4	156:7 220:15
69:22 132:4	123:8 132:6	241:18 243:9	substantial	<b>Supreme</b> 9:6,18
249:11	163:16 215:1	243:18,22	92:14 217:1	42:19,20 43:11
start 3:23 7:8,20	220:14 234:9	247:20	246:20	45:1 247:14,14
19:7,10,12,19	234:10,14	street 2:5,9,15	substantially	surcharge 1:12
26:21 99:1	249:14	4:11 27:15	35:12 114:5,16	1:17 3:9
108:18 160:5	statute's 133:2	28:5,6,8,21	206:9 216:19	229:23 232:19
<b>starting</b> 20:5	statutes 65:3	42:8 83:25	216:22	248:12 253:11
142:12	89:1,15 249:18	138:12,14	substantive 11:7	253:15
starts 122:18	statutorily 9:23	140:23 149:20	55:22	surcharges
141:25 158:16	10:2	203:2	<b>substitute</b> 21:18	213:22
state 1:1 40:12	statutory 8:19	stress 121:21	56:3 199:20	sure 13:10 20:9
40:22 43:18	staying 94:11	strictly 78:15	substituted	26:25 38:6,14
L	1	1	1	1

41:6 56:8	132:14,21,21	196:9 205:14	24:18 25:12,17	147:19,22
60:21 62:1	137:20 139:6	215:20	25:22,25 26:3	148:1 150:21
67:17 69:19	140:17 141:5	takes 110:2	26:6 45:15	189:16,17,19
70:4 71:14	144:15 149:13	talk 5:3 42:3	164:10,15	193:8,25 194:3
75:12 77:1	183:15 184:21	114:7 130:23	ten 12:5 14:23	194:8 199:19
78:2,14 81:13	185:17 186:3	161:4 221:5	15:3,6,12,20	199:20
84:10,25 85:18	186:18 187:24	talked 25:11	36:20 49:11,14	tested 21:8,9
90:23 93:16,18	188:13 190:23	202:3 241:20	98:16 105:5	150:6,8
94:4 95:7,13	190:25 204:2	talking 23:21	205:12 230:9	testified 53:17
97:11 100:16	237:9 253:10	32:22 47:4,16	236:6	59:1 91:20
100:17 101:3	253:14	93:3 109:5	ten-day 10:6	112:20 113:1
110:6 111:7	systematic	112:19,24	ten-minute	113:13 116:11
115:8 120:24	24:21	114:14 131:1	98:14 205:9	118:15 154:17
127:16 130:19	systems 129:18	137:19 141:16	ten-year 105:6	157:14 177:4
133:10 135:3	129:20,23	145:23 147:7	tend 113:25	195:16 197:11
136:17 140:14	139:3 140:21	156:14 179:19	tender 155:19	205:25
160:22 161:16	141:10 207:22	179:24 200:17	159:21 178:9	<b>testify</b> 110:17
164:5 185:25	208:4	213:9 246:25	206:23	151:19 198:23
187:13 194:9		talks 167:5	term 67:23	testifying
196:22 197:4	T	238:3	69:19 78:2	167:11
198:11 202:6	<b>T</b> 1:22 255:1,1	targeting 146:3	194:10 197:14	testimony 6:3,5
214:21 229:25	table 84:14	tariff 14:3	249:13	6:6 7:2 9:2
234:23	take 18:23 20:3	tariffs 13:2	terminate 142:4	17:17 48:15
survey 126:6,10	20:20,24 23:25	tax 11:21,23	terminates	53:5,24 54:3,3
204:18	25:2 26:16	taxes 183:11	140:19 141:1	54:7,9,24 56:4
surveys 126:3	30:23 41:7	212:21 215:7	terminating	56:11,17 57:15
126:17	46:4 50:22	technical 194:10	142:21	82:9,24 83:1,7
suspect 179:8	92:19 94:23	207:6	termination	86:17 88:21
197:14,15	95:5,22 96:6	technically	141:22	91:11 112:22
suspending 14:3	98:9,14 100:16	76:24 216:9	terms 10:20	119:2,5,8,13
<b>sustain</b> 66:12	100:17 104:12	technician 127:3	20:2 32:19,22	119:17 122:15
117:19 166:3	106:7 109:21	telemetry 29:17	186:5 197:2	125:10 127:18
225:13 242:17	132:9 138:3	29:24 30:14	200:12 208:16	130:20 131:17
242:22 244:1	146:12 152:18	38:21 39:18	208:23 235:15	133:24,24
sustained 66:16	152:23 153:20	43:6,16 44:1	Territory 1:13	140:13 151:10
67:1	172:12 183:19	44:14 45:1	1:17 253:11,15	152:2,23 153:3
swear 205:21	190:16 195:11	48:24	test 20:7,8,14,19	153:4,6,7
sworn 53:9	196:3 198:7	telephone	20:20,20,23	154:15,20,24
118:13 154:4	203:25 204:9	199:22	21:14,19,20	155:5,10 156:2
157:13 176:25	205:9 215:11	tell 46:3 53:21	22:3,4 23:16	157:23 158:6
205:23	228:6 237:20	188:6 197:4	23:21,25 36:11	158:16 159:8
<b>system</b> 1:11,16	taken 7:10 34:9	203:25 223:16	36:13 49:11	160:7 161:6
3:8 22:1 33:9	36:12 47:24	<b>telling</b> 9:13,16	121:18,23	163:12 164:25
37:18 42:4	48:3 68:14	66:17	125:15,24	167:5 169:6,11
43:17 46:19,21	71:10 94:3	<b>tells</b> 49:19	126:4,13,23,24	175:3 176:21
111:12 128:20	98:17 105:25	121:23	127:10 146:13	177:12 180:24
128:23 129:21	153:23 194:2	temporary	146:15,19	182:15 183:14
	l	1	l	l

188:1 206:12	7:16,21 13:3,4	234:16 235:20	117:22 136:5,8	154:2,18 155:9
209:20 212:5	13:6,8 18:9,10	243:2 248:17	136:15 150:10	155:19 157:11
212:10 215:17	18:11,15,16	248:18 249:7	163:19 164:3	157:15 159:1
216:1,24	19:3,14 24:2	theoretical	168:20 169:21	159:11,20
238:24 242:20	32:2 35:18,24	106:9,10,21	171:4 176:13	162:12 165:19
245:16 246:14	37:11 39:23,24	thereof 255:9	179:6 183:22	166:25 173:10
247:10 248:20	39:25 40:2	thereto 229:14	188:4 189:8,25	173:11 176:18
253:5,6,8,21	47:19 50:6,7	thereunder	190:18,21,25	176:23 177:5
253:23,24	50:13 51:17	187:9	194:3 195:4,21	177:24 178:8
254:2,5,7,10	52:24 53:3,14	they'd 169:15	200:18 202:9	180:18,23
testing 5:10,14	53:16 58:3,4	213:19	202:10,22	181:6 185:24
19:16,20 21:3	58:20 59:8,10	thing 25:4 58:6	210:8,8 212:1	186:1,9 187:23
21:12 22:8,13	59:12 62:2,9	83:17 126:18	212:2 213:20	188:8 191:24
23:5,7,9,15	82:22 86:7	129:4 140:9	214:4 215:10	195:19 196:10
36:5,9 37:16	91:24 98:5,6	174:1,3 185:10	215:20,24	203:19,22
37:23 38:17	98:19,24 103:5	185:13 215:25	217:2 218:6	205:1,4,5
47:11 49:4,5	107:23,25	242:10 248:15	219:16,18	207:2,6,7,8,13
49:18,23,24	108:25 109:2	things 10:4	220:19 221:2	234:2 240:10
50:3 121:12	111:15 112:25	12:20 83:16	221:23 224:19	251:5,14,16,18
122:16 123:15	113:5 117:23	112:2 121:16	226:19 228:11	251:19,22
123:18,20	117:24,25	123:17 125:18	231:25 233:24	252:4
124:2,16	118:6,14 120:3	181:25 242:9	234:14 235:12	thorough
125:11,22	120:7,9 130:17	249:21,22	235:14 236:7	226:21
145:8,11,22,24	134:15,16	<b>think</b> 6:13,19	236:23 237:8	thoroughly
146:11 147:11	137:22,23	7:5 18:20,22	238:7,25	211:5
150:2,4 182:16	139:25 140:1,5	29:10,14 30:24	239:21 240:2	thought 103:17
183:4,16	140:7 143:3,5	35:7,9 36:17	240:25 242:19	247:6
187:13,17,21	143:7 144:24	36:17 37:3,9	243:9 247:13	thousand 218:8
188:2,25 189:7	151:7,8,9,12	37:11 38:25	247:18 249:23	218:11
189:10 190:11	153:1,17 154:5	39:3,5,21 40:9	249:24	thousands
190:12,12,15	155:21 157:3,6	46:25 48:10,21	thinking 38:23	216:11,23
193:22 195:7	157:8,11,19	51:1 65:15	152:18 170:17	223:5
196:19,23,25	159:2,20 160:1	67:18 68:4,5	third 33:23	threat 129:17,21
197:8 198:24	169:24,25	68:11 70:17	56:25 158:21	threats 136:25
199:2,9,13,14	170:3 171:7,14	73:4 74:13	third-party	three 17:2 28:11
200:3,21	173:6,10	76:6 78:11	42:25 138:10	35:22 47:25
204:20,24	176:18 177:1	84:11,23 85:8	Thompson 2:13	70:1 78:7
211:20,20,21	178:8 186:11	85:9 86:13	3:24,24 18:15	122:19,23
224:8,17,21	196:10,12,15	88:10 89:23	36:1 37:14,25	135:4 153:7,13
225:1 226:14	198:14,18	93:4,25 94:25	38:8,14,23	182:20 185:9
227:3,8 229:12	201:6,7 203:19	100:1,14 101:8	39:13,16,21,24	190:6 222:14
229:18 238:3,6	205:1,3,18,24	101:22,23	40:1,2 58:14	226:20
238:8,11,15,21	207:5,7,13,14	102:4 103:2	58:23,25 59:8	<b>thumb</b> 109:23
239:5,10,13	207:16 211:17	104:10 105:3	88:9 98:11	139:16,17
tests 127:4	212:19 227:11	111:19 112:1,2	120:7 143:5	tie 241:20
150:11 239:16	229:5 233:21	112:13 113:7	151:21,25	tie-in 144:9,17
thank 4:3 6:24	233:23 234:2,4	114:6,18 116:7	152:7 153:1,17	tie-over 144:6,7
		<u> </u>	I	I

144:9,16	50:4 54:8 55:3	125:11 130:9	192:17 205:16	187:10 193:1,5
tied 72:15	57:15 114:10	146:20 224:4	224:1	204:10,15
<b>till</b> 106:4	114:18 119:13	224:13	turns 35:11	underneath
time 3:13 4:15	155:2 159:4	treat 103:10	154:11 196:1	27:24 28:1
7:9,13,13 8:18	177:19 194:21	187:21 188:25	208:1	understand 38:8
9:15 10:19,25	197:25 204:5	treated 200:13	twice 11:11	64:25 67:14,16
12:5,6,19 14:8	204:21 228:5	treatise 249:16	42:18	103:6 104:20
18:24 19:3	228:25 240:7	treatment	two 4:13 5:22	127:17 135:4
21:14 27:9	<b>told</b> 46:18,18,19	182:24 200:8	8:1 10:14 11:5	185:12 201:18
30:25 36:19	65:18 131:11	201:22 219:7	16:20 19:1,15	220:18 227:16
43:3,21 44:15	tomorrow 249:2	219:10 220:11	21:4 40:16,25	understanding
44:18,23 50:23	249:2	trench 83:25	43:20 56:8	29:20 52:21
68:1 77:22	top 27:11,13	trenches 35:11	59:23 64:3	59:22 60:14
80:24 99:16	28:8 52:15	tribunals 9:14	80:1 116:25	72:20 93:23
104:2 106:2	63:23 64:10	<b>tried</b> 11:5	124:6 137:20	127:11,19,25
112:5 126:23	84:14 94:15	208:20 218:17	152:1,23	128:5,9 129:12
131:1 134:7	141:18,22	tries 213:7	184:12 185:6,8	129:25 133:20
136:22 146:19	160:10 165:3	true 30:7 60:21	213:7,9 226:19	134:13 136:21
146:21,22	total 21:6 31:2	91:5,9 155:6	234:13 243:10	151:21 154:11
153:8,19 155:9	31:10 56:20	156:24 159:8	two-page 26:22	162:17 163:6
159:11 169:16	57:7 83:12	174:2 177:22	<b>tying</b> 144:10,14	166:17 167:7,7
176:23 181:13	93:1 97:19	189:2 202:10	<b>type</b> 44:10 50:18	167:8 175:2
181:14 189:20	99:8 100:13	211:19 222:11	74:15 75:18	194:10 202:24
196:5 209:21	101:19,21	224:17 255:11	76:9 84:12	214:2 217:11
209:22,25	109:10 114:1	<b>truth</b> 9:16	85:11 87:8	230:9 237:12
210:4,5,15	158:20,22,23	<b>try</b> 6:5 17:23	125:21 126:10	237:19
211:23 218:8	158:24 170:22	31:4 59:21	215:11 238:20	understands
226:24 232:9	179:4 188:4	67:15 96:18	245:1	8:13
244:11 255:8	230:20 231:21	99:4 100:2	<b>types</b> 22:24 23:9	understating
255:13	232:9	104:1 139:11	37:24 59:23	52:16
timely 12:3	totally 197:2	141:9,11 168:2	60:5,25 61:21	understood 7:15
32:14,17	tour 65:19	172:5 212:7	69:17 93:19	113:4 120:17
times 84:10	toured 209:15	221:5 234:21	101:18 122:19	160:23 229:25
103:23 104:12	209:23	240:21	135:4 137:2	undertake 74:9
105:13	town 169:1	<b>trying</b> 46:13	201:16	unfair 15:11
<b>timing</b> 13:14	track 247:9	62:1 102:6	typical 21:12	Unfortunately
18:25 44:16	trade 103:3	132:9 136:15	typically 21:14	96:17
title 185:6	trailing 99:18	174:12,13	124:12 140:21	<b>Uniform</b> 183:15
191:16 195:5	transcript 1:4	187:25 195:9	141:8 149:22	184:21 185:17
223:18	255:12	237:1 238:8		186:3,18
titled 62:14	transcripts	Ts 35:11 139:2		187:24 188:13
77:16 84:15	249:1	<b>Tucker</b> 236:13	Uh-huh 233:2	190:23 204:2
130:8 224:3	transfer 9:18	tune 16:9	ultimate 191:1	unimpaired
today 3:19 5:19	translates 21:6	turn 62:10 65:3	ultrasonic 125:21	41:1
7:12,25 27:12	transmission	70:20 73:12	underlined	unit 76:1,18
42:3 44:21	19:25 21:22	77:14 87:18	186:22,23	97:13 253:13
45:23 49:13,22	74:17 75:20	94:10 192:11	100.22,23	<b>units</b> 43:19
	1	l 	1	1

unlawful 15:11	149:2,8 193:19	visits 165:12	35:15,16 36:17	64:5 71:12
48:10,11 68:2	193:22 194:4	<b>visual</b> 47:10	38:4 51:11,16	76:11 79:1
68:3,9,15,17	224:12	<b>vital</b> 44:1	68:12 84:4	109:5 112:18
unopposed 13:1	usually 23:16	voir 185:24	95:8 100:9,22	114:18 146:4
unprotected	28:5 146:18	186:1	100:24 101:2,6	170:16 204:20
60:12 73:14,22	utilities 186:18	Volume 1:8	102:4,7,9,12	243:12 246:18
75:20,24 76:5	204:3 207:23	vote 48:25 49:2	111:9 113:10	246:19
unquestionably	208:4 221:19	vulnerability	115:6 116:15	wear 49:11,13
219:6	utility 20:5	135:17 138:1,6	124:25 125:4	167:3 173:23
unreasonable	43:13 44:12	138:9	126:16 136:17	174:15
48:10 201:23	123:3 187:7,20		144:20 147:12	wears 69:13
unsafe 69:9	188:24 199:18	W	172:14,16,21	weather 141:6
70:12,16	214:9 218:3	<b>W</b> 53:8,23 54:2	198:11 201:24	week 17:7 144:2
165:17 166:1		253:5,6	228:22 229:13	<b>weight</b> 114:7
168:13,15	<b>V</b>	wait 9:21 150:16	232:10 234:8	weighted 105:13
unusualness	validity 212:5	waited 15:11	236:21 238:7	welcome 7:23
246:10	Valley 21:3	16:14,19 17:17	240:20	120:4
upcoming 61:4	<b>value</b> 90:7 95:16	walk 121:22	<b>ways</b> 16:10	went 4:18 43:25
222:6	105:14 107:1,7	walked 244:4	101:4 230:15	57:7 112:9
update 5:11	107:19 114:11	want 6:8,18 8:10	we'll 3:22 7:12	146:20 202:17
9:19 10:18	116:10 197:17	16:24 33:16	7:20 10:23	202:17 235:2
156:19 213:7	<b>valves</b> 37:17	41:6 122:8	19:11,11 35:24	weren't 189:20
217:11,13,15	varies 84:11	127:16 135:3	53:6 142:24	Western 9:5
<b>updated</b> 156:14	various 71:12	140:14 153:25	152:24 205:10	whatsoever
156:15,16,24	93:19 158:17	154:14 175:17	we're 7:7,11	135:10
204:7 212:21	174:15 187:3	179:11 185:9	19:2 22:2,7	whichever
<b>updates</b> 8:15,17	209:15	194:18 196:3	23:21 24:20,20	167:16
updating 213:6	vast 45:25 62:22	217:20 218:19	24:24 27:14,15	width 28:16
upgrades 44:15	<b>vaults</b> 37:18	226:22,25	27:17 28:1	William 1:21
use 15:16 20:13	verifiable 150:5	wanted 4:22	32:10,16,16,19	53:13
23:24 28:17,23	verification	34:3 37:19	33:3,3,11,11	wish 213:16,17
29:8 31:7 76:6	224:4 239:15	136:18 211:18	35:14 45:19	withdraw
83:1,4 87:16	Verified 253:9	<b>wanting</b> 195:16	46:2 47:4	195:18
89:8 113:9	253:13	wants 26:13	51:10,12,13,15	withdrawal 5:22
124:10 126:19	verify 185:15	32:9 33:15	60:11 68:11	15:15
127:6 133:8,12	versus 32:23	66:7	92:15 94:2	withdrawing
138:17 142:15	50:23 102:2	warn 7:9	98:2,18 108:20	5:24
164:2 165:7	106:9 136:14	wasn't 20:16	108:21 113:10	withdrawn 4:24
170:19 188:3	view 33:6 34:6	30:7,8 110:17	126:4 132:25	5:6,13 6:15
197:23	viewed 194:4	190:2 242:7	137:19 142:4	196:8
useful 21:21,24	viewpoint 181:4	water 20:8 49:6	153:24 195:19	witness 31:13,25
21:25 22:3,5	vintage 85:24	121:13 141:8	205:15 211:13	53:1,6,9,12
25:15 38:3,12	87:7,20 88:6	211:22	213:9 230:22	55:18 58:4
39:5 124:19	violated 12:9	way 17:16 20:22	243:19 246:21	62:1 66:11
125:8 146:2	<b>violation</b> 66:2	26:12 27:21	248:4	68:6 72:12
147:4,17 148:9	67:12	29:15 30:22	we've 32:22	82:19,22 86:7
148:12,22	visited 210:6	32:23 35:13,14	34:11 50:25	88:10 89:11
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	I

92:10,15 97:12	57:9 59:2,23	41:2,10,13,14	136:22 137:16	72:2,11 89:5,8
117:25 118:5,8	61:14,19 62:22	41:16,21 42:12	138:24 139:21	89:10 108:4,5
118:13 120:4	63:4 65:19	42:23 43:3	144:8 145:13	109:2,3 110:19
121:1 129:6	78:20 79:8	44:8 46:2	148:14 168:2	110:21 111:4
130:12 132:3	80:7 82:25	49:13 60:8,12	192:5 211:25	113:4,6 117:22
133:25 134:3	83:6,12,17	65:10,14 66:1	213:13 220:18	118:9,16
136:10,19,22	84:3,6,7,12,21	67:11 79:5,11	224:15 228:16	119:19 120:3
137:10,14,18	85:9,22 86:16	79:14,16,20	234:7 237:11	129:1 131:20
151:8,12 152:6	86:21 87:7	80:10 81:18	vear 7:24 11:11	133:3,6,7,12
154:1,4,8,13	93:11,12,14	87:14 88:3,8	59:16 85:24	133:16 141:15
155:20 157:8	94:12,17 99:10	89:2,16 117:11	105:8 200:11	145:3,4 151:4
157:10,13	99:12,13,20,21	125:17 126:15	200:23 226:4,5	151:7,15,16
157.10,15	100:1,11,12,13	128:17 130:22	years 12:16	155:14 157:5
159:21 167:1	100:1,11,12,13	131:9 149:16	24:14 45:15	159:15,24
167:13 176:22	101:16,19,21	149:17 163:17	49:11,14 81:24	171:13 178:12
176:25 177:3	101.10,19,21	166:18,23	82:5 103:2	191:25 192:5
178:9 181:11	111:17,23	169:8,13,20	105:5 106:16	198:18,20
184:3 188:20	111:17,25	173:25 174:4	114:7 128:14	200:5 201:5
194:19 195:4	115:20 117:15	234:12	166:23 167:19	206:18 207:16
195:23 196:6,6	127:20 158:7,9	= '	209:2,3 210:8	200.18 207.10
199:24 205:23	158:17,18,19	<b>worn-out</b> 220:12	209:2,3 210:8	220:25 221:2,6
	161:16 166:6,7		243:10	221:13 223:8
207:4 217:24	168:23 172:10	worth 96:6 178:25		
221:6 223:9,11			<b>yesterday</b> 5:22 239:22 240:6	223:11,15
235:19 240:15	172:12 179:3,4	wouldn't 25:24	239:22 240:0	225:7,9,18
240:24	186:6 187:6,6	26:3 38:15	$\overline{\mathbf{z}}$	229:3 230:2
witnesses 19:9	199:17 202:11	48:6,12 68:3	Zucker 2:4 4:9,9	234:4,5,16
93:25 151:15	202:16 203:8 207:11 209:17	85:2 102:12	4:25 5:4,5,11	235:22,24,25
151:18,19		107:13,16	5:17 6:11,13	236:1,2,2,3,4,4
152:1,12 205:4	210:7,15	116:2,6 168:18	6:23 7:15,21	236:7,11,12,12
205:6,16	215:13,25	228:11	7:22 8:23 9:1	236:13,14,16
248:21	216:3,10,25	write 218:17	12:11,13 17:19	240:16 241:19
wonder 203:24	217:6 227:9	writing 139:15	18:17,18 19:14	242:5,12,18
word 38:9 56:13	230:20 232:9	written 71:3	22:16 23:1,7	243:25 251:4,7
163:19 164:24	234:21 242:13	wrong 198:12	24:3 26:20,25	251:8,11,21
202:6	244:25 245:1	<b>wrote</b> 149:1	27:6 28:4 29:5	252:4,5
wording 204:15	245:10,15,23	X	29:10,23 30:11	Zucker's 42:2
words 23:9	246:3,18,19	X 100:20 106:19	30:23 31:11,16	0
24:23 27:19	worked 232:9	251:1	31:18,24 32:3	<b>0197</b> 15:2
29:2 34:14	working 41:1	<i>43</i> 1.1	35:19,19 36:9	<b>0332</b> 153:5
38:24 116:18	153:19 209:3		38:20 45:10	<b>0332</b> 153:5 <b>0333</b> 153:6
174:12 176:4	245:2	<b>Y</b> 1:21 100:21		133.0
227:23	works 142:23	yard 73:15,22	46:8,24 53:7	1
work 30:24 32:5	176:12	yeah 93:21	53:15,16,18	15:18 14:9
32:14 33:20,24	worn 22:14,19	116:7 122:1	54:14,23 55:17	27:11 54:8,15
34:1 35:6	22:21 29:21	128:19 130:14	55:21,23 57:17	54:17,17,20,21
43:19,20 45:25	30:7 36:25	131:16 133:16	58:3,5,20	86:12 153:2,10
49:20 56:15	40:7,14,18	131.10 133.10	64:17 66:4	00.12 133.2,10
	l		<u> </u>	

		_		
153:15 156:3	<b>118</b> 251:8	<b>1970s</b> 81:4	<b>2000</b> 112:11	<b>234</b> 252:5,6
156:11,13,17	<b>12</b> 45:15 200:19	<b>1972</b> 82:4	2000s 81:5	<b>23rd</b> 54:4 119:3
158:13 206:5,8	<b>12:09</b> 153:19	<b>198</b> 251:21	<b>2003</b> 112:12	<b>24</b> 17:6
206:15,17,20	<b>120</b> 8:8 246:6	<b>1980s</b> 81:4	221:24	<b>240-2.080</b> 15:20
206:21 253:4	251:9 253:8	<b>1989</b> 71:22 72:1	<b>2004</b> 24:12	240.40-30.15
253:21 254:9	<b>13</b> 15:20 68:21	72:8 73:2,7,9	95:15 190:9	70:22
<b>1,000</b> 47:5,21	69:1 70:22	73:23	194:14 195:2	<b>25</b> 103:2 137:9
95:21 96:1	239:16	<b>1990</b> 71:11 74:7	204:3	<b>28,000</b> 216:24
105:6,8 218:24	<b>134</b> 251:9	<b>1990s</b> 81:4	<b>2005</b> 191:15	<b>28th</b> 17:3
244:11	<b>13B2</b> 69:6	<b>1992</b> 71:11	<b>201</b> 251:21	<b>29</b> 223:21
<b>1,000-foot</b> 164:7	<b>14</b> 83:3	<b>1997</b> 87:24	<b>2010</b> 19:21	<b>29th</b> 14:5
164:8,12,13	<b>140</b> 251:10	112:10	81:10 107:6	
244:16	<b>143</b> 251:10	1st 15:13,17	<b>2010s</b> 81:6	3
<b>1,320,163</b> 97:22	<b>145</b> 251:11	74:7 204:3	<b>2011</b> 19:21	<b>3</b> 1:6 62:11 87:1
<b>1,500</b> 220:3	<b>15</b> 70:23 71:17	226:17	65:19,22,25	87:2,6 91:23
<b>1.1</b> 113:17	72:8 76:21		67:10 87:24	92:2,6 96:19
<b>1.3</b> 113:16	116:20 239:16	2	128:15 132:13	97:1,18,20
<b>1.8</b> 21:6 200:21	<b>15,624</b> 56:18	<b>2</b> 14:11 55:1	164:19	99:9 119:9,20
201:3	<b>153</b> 253:21,25	57:18,20,24	<b>2012</b> 114:15	119:22,25
<b>1:15</b> 153:22	254:3	58:1 63:14,15	239:16	120:1 153:4,11
<b>10</b> 82:25 86:15	<b>154</b> 251:14	63:20,22 64:14	<b>2013</b> 222:2	153:15 253:7
86:20 96:6,9	<b>155</b> 251:14	64:16,19,20	246:22	253:24 254:13
100:25 101:1	253:23	68:20,24 82:18	<b>2014</b> 81:12	<b>3,000</b> 218:7,23
101:16,19,20	<b>157</b> 251:16	82:20 90:4	222:14 223:21	244:10
111:5,7 172:10	<b>159</b> 254:5	92:8 96:2,5	224:25 225:23	3,000-foot
172:12 198:6	15th 71:22,25	154:20 155:10	226:15	244:15
200:15,18	73:2,23	155:13,16,17	<b>2015</b> 43:5	<b>3:42</b> 250:3
230:4 231:3,5	<b>16</b> 130:6,7	186:24 187:2	222:14 223:18	<b>30</b> 24:14 136:8
231:7,8	239:16 246:22	187:10,13	226:4,17	137:9
<b>10:43</b> 98:15	<b>160</b> 251:16	245:15 253:6	246:22	<b>30th</b> 191:15
<b>100</b> 47:5 48:18	16th 53:25	253:22 254:11	2015-2017	209:14
67:20 85:10	<b>17</b> 9:23 77:13	<b>2,000</b> 218:3,22	237:24 253:19	<b>31</b> 86:12
105:8 106:16	130:10,14,15	244:9	<b>2016</b> 53:25 54:4	314)342-0533
114:7 116:23	239:17	2,000-foot	119:3 222:15	2:6
230:3,8 231:4	<b>170</b> 251:17	244:15	226:6	<b>31st</b> 156:14,16
231:5,11	<b>171</b> 251:17	<b>2,125</b> 94:25	<b>2017</b> 1:6 223:19	<b>360</b> 2:14 4:1
232:21,23	<b>173</b> 251:18	<b>2:20ish</b> 205:11	239:19,20	<b>386.390</b> 111:14
233:5,13 246:5	<b>177</b> 251:19	<b>2:24</b> 205:11	<b>203</b> 251:22	<b>393.095B</b> 122:12
<b>100-foot</b> 48:9	<b>178</b> 251:20	<b>2:34</b> 205:13	<b>206</b> 252:3	<b>393.1009</b> 111:8
232:25 234:25	254:7	<b>20</b> 9:22 16:14,18	254:10	122:6 134:22
235:1,3	<b>180,000</b> 21:7	16:19,24 24:14	<b>207</b> 252:4,4	<b>393.1015</b> 111:8
<b>10600</b> 99:23	<b>183.2</b> 204:17	94:25 96:3,8	<b>21</b> 193:1	393.1015.10
<b>108</b> 251:7	<b>186</b> 254:15	109:10 136:8	<b>22</b> 204:14	111:6
<b>10th</b> 156:15	<b>192</b> 254:17	<b>200</b> 2:9,15 47:5	<b>22-year</b> 209:5	<b>393.130</b> 65:2
<b>11</b> 96:19 97:1,18	<b>196</b> 251:20	48:18 93:11	<b>221,919</b> 97:25	393.130.1
97:20 224:1	<b>1970</b> 20:1,5,14	<b>200,000</b> 113:21	<b>2230</b> 2:9	254:12
237:25	146:5,18	200:22	<b>229</b> 252:5	<b>3rd</b> 14:2 16:18
			l	l

	i	•	i	i
4	<b>52</b> 70:24	<b>64</b> 254:12	<b>92</b> 251:6 254:13	
<b>4</b> 14:3 15:20	<b>52,680</b> 57:12	<b>650</b> 2:9	<b>98</b> 251:6	
58:6,12,17,18	<b>53</b> 251:4	<b>65102</b> 2:15 4:2	<b>9th</b> 14:10,12	
62:8,20 63:8	<b>53,415</b> 158:25	<b>65102-2230</b> 2:10	17:13	
70:22 96:24	<b>54</b> 253:5	6th 2:5 17:8		
	<b>547</b> 112:10			
130:6 153:5,11 153:15 156:8	<b>57</b> 253:6	7		
	573)751-3234	<b>7</b> 158:15,16		
156:15,20 161:6 165:3	2:16	192:25 215:16		
	573)751-4857	223:12,13		
183:22,24,25	2:10	246:13 253:18		
184:7 185:16	<b>58</b> 251:5 253:11	<b>7,262</b> 158:20		
185:21,23	253:15	<b>7,788</b> 158:21		
186:12,13,21	<b>59</b> 251:5	<b>7,812</b> 56:16,24		
192:12 253:9	<b>5A</b> 22:18,18	<b>70</b> 8:2		
254:1,14	25:11,19 26:2	<b>700</b> 2:5 4:11		
<b>4,000</b> 220:2	26:7,8 37:16	<b>700,000</b> 11:25		
<b>4.5</b> 156:22	41:9,12,23,23	12:23		
<b>40-foot</b> 137:15	41:24 61:11	<b>70s</b> 81:7		
<b>40.030</b> 130:6	<b>5B</b> 22:22,22	<b>72</b> 231:11		
400 47:5	25:11,11 26:3	7th 17:8		
<b>43,833</b> 115:23	26:6 37:19			
<b>44</b> 81:24 82:5	41:9,9,15,24	8		
<b>44,598</b> 115:24	49:16 134:24	<b>8,000</b> 100:17		
<b>44,678</b> 158:24	147:3 148:3	<b>8:32</b> 3:3		
<b>44,868</b> 57:9	5th 17:7	<b>80</b> 93:12 230:8		
<b>46</b> 69:2	Sui 17.7	230:22,22		
5	6	231:2,4		
	<b>6</b> 27:3,4 177:13	<b>80-year</b> 106:14		
<b>5</b> 17:5 40:5 58:8	177:25 178:2,5	<b>800</b> 115:24		
58:13,17,18	178:6 192:17	<b>838</b> 1:25		
123:4 157:24	192:23 193:11	<b>85</b> 116:20		
158:5,13	253:16 254:6	<b>8th</b> 17:3,10		
159:12,14,17	<b>6,000</b> 100:18	·		
159:18 160:10	<b>6,300</b> 95:4	9		
168:1,3 191:6	<b>6,306</b> 94:13,20	<b>90</b> 101:17		
191:7,11,21,23	<b>6,896</b> 94:24	172:11 230:3		
192:7,8 253:12	<b>60</b> 8:8 13:13,13	231:6		
254:4,16	13:18 14:1	<b>900546</b> 158:19		
<b>5,000</b> 220:1	16:3,7 18:6	<b>900547</b> 82:25		
<b>5,168</b> 216:3	<b>60-day</b> 8:2,4,19	86:17,21 87:7		
<b>500</b> 95:22 96:4,6	9:6,9,10,14,23	94:12,18 99:9		
137:11	10:17,20 11:15	99:10 100:24		
<b>500-feet</b> 48:9	<b>63101</b> 2:5 4:12	101:16 245:23		
<b>500-foot</b> 132:12	<b>632</b> 185:18	254:13		
164:18 166:22	186:20	<b>900836</b> 216:3		
167:18	<b>633</b> 185:18	<b>900882</b> 56:15		
<b>500947</b> 112:9	033 103.10			
	1	1	ı	I