1 BEFORE THE ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION 2 3 4 BENCH SESSION 5 (PUBLIC UTILITY) 6 7 8 Springfield, Illinois Wednesday, March 24, 2010 9 10 Met, pursuant to notice, at 10:30 a.m. in 11 Hearing Room A, First Floor, Leland Building, 527 12 East Capitol Avenue, Springfield, Illinois. 13 14 PRESENT: 15 MR. MANUEL FLORES, Acting Chairman MS. LULA M. FORD, Commissioner 16 17 MS. ERIN M. O'CONNELL-DIAZ, Commissioner 18 MR. SHERMAN J. ELLIOTT, Commissioner 19 MR. JOHN COLGAN, Acting Commissioner 20 21 SULLIVAN REPORTING COMPANY, by Carla J. Boehl, Reporter 22 CSR #084-002710

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## PROCEEDINGS

| 2  | CHAIRMAN FLORES: Pursuant to the provisions of       |
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| 3  | the Illinois Open Meetings Act, I now convene a      |
| 4  | regularly scheduled bench session of the Illinois    |
| 5  | Commerce Commission. With me in Springfield are      |
| 6  | Commissioners Ford, Elliott and Acting Commissioner  |
| 7  | Colgan. We have Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz          |
| 8  | participating by phone from Chicago. I am Acting     |
| 9  | Chairman Flores and we have a quorum this morning.   |
| 10 | Before moving into the agenda,                       |
| 11 | according to Section 1700.10 of the Illinois         |
| 12 | Administrative Code, this is the time we allow the   |
| 13 | members of the public to address the Commission.     |
| 14 | Members of the public wishing to address the         |
| 15 | Commission must notify the Chief Clerk's office at   |
| 16 | least 24 hours prior to the bench session. According |
| 17 | to the Chief Clerk's office there are three requests |
| 18 | to speak. Speakers are permitted three minutes to    |
| 19 | address the Commission.                              |
| 20 | Please be advised that the Commission                |
| 21 | values the public's participation in the public      |

22 comment period, but according to ex parte laws and

1 other procedural rules, we are unable to respond. Ιf you have any questions or concerns, please follow up 2 with the Commission's Consumer Services Division. 3 4 For policy matters or questions you may also contact Peggy Snyder from the Commission's Office of 5 Governmental Affairs. 6 First we have Representative Elaine 7 8 Nekritz who represents the 57th District. 9 Representative Nekritz. Good morning, 10 Representative. 11 REPRESENTATIVE NEKRITZ: Just have a seat? 12 CHAIRMAN FLORES: Yes. 13 REPRESENTATIVE NEKRITZ: Thank you, Chairman 14 Flores and the members of the ICC. 15 I represent parts of Chicago's north 16 and northwest suburbs and I appreciate the 17 opportunity to be here today to give voice to 18 thousands, literally thousands, of constituents in 19 Des Plaines, Mt. Prospect and Prospect Heights, the 20 communities I represent, who would be forced to pay 21 more under the rate increase sought that's pending 22 before you now from Illinois-American Water.

I know you have already heard from many of these folks. They appeared at the hearing in Mt. Prospect that you had. They have submitted written testimony and e-mails, and some of them even took time out of their work schedule to participate in the formal hearings. That's how strongly they feel about it.

And I believe that these customers of Illinois-American are justifiably angry. In Mt. Prospect, Prospect Heights and Des Plaines those customers already pay double or triple or more what their neighbors do who receive municipal water. The rate increase being sought by Illinois-American Water will exacerbate that discrepancy.

According to some Mt. Prospect Village officials, with the requested rate increase Illinois-American Water customers will pay nearly 50 percent more for base water supply than they even currently pay, and that's before supply charges and the fire protection charges they are also looking to be increased.

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An example, an Illinois-American Water

1 customer in Mt. Prospect using 10,000 gallons per 2 month would currently pay 9.75 plus 37.10 for their 3 base water usage for a total of 46.85. Under the 4 proposed rate that would jump to \$67.48, about a 50 5 percent increase. Again, this is multiples of what 6 their neighbors do who receive municipal water in Mt. 7 Prospect.

The situation might be more tolerable 8 if the service and delivery were exceptional, but it 9 10 is not. At meeting after meeting I hear complaints 11 from constituents about poor infrastructure 12 maintenance, lack of responsiveness to calls for 13 repairs, whether it is a leaky fire hydrant or a 14 broken water main, and an inability to get questions 15 answered regarding billing.

I would just like to spend another second on one other component of the rate increase request, the management fees. This is a service company that Illinois-American Water utilizes to collect a fee and then use that company to provide the services. And it appears to me that it is just another way of boosting their revenue without

providing any additional service. This fee for their service company has increased over 22 percent in just two years and this is at a time when we are in a recession. Other private companies are reducing head count and cutting back on administrative expenses. IAW has chosen simply to ask for more from the ratepayers.

8 In the summer of 2008 I joined with hundreds of my constituents in opposing a rate 9 10 increase being sought by Illinois-American Water. Ιt 11 is really unimaginable to me that less than 24 months 12 later I am back doing it again, fighting the same 13 exact battle. And I don't think that this will be 14 the end of it. As soon as they get an end to this 15 one, they will be back for more. I am asking you to 16 put a stop to it.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN FLORES: Thank you, Representative.

19 Next we have Representative Sandra20 Pihos who represents the 42nd District.

21 Representative Pihos, good morning.
 22 REPRESENTATIVE PIHOS: Good morning, Chairman

Flores and members of the Commission. I do represent 1 the 42nd District which is in Dupage County. 2 3 Illinois-American Water Company, as we 4 know, is the state's largest privately-owned water utility. It is seeking a proposed \$44,702,000 rate 5 increase. The average rate increase in my district 6 then would be 28.08 percent. Many of my constituents 7 have their water needs provided by the communities, 8 9 but Illinois-American customers are being held 10 hostage by a private investor-owned utility which is 11 charging them double or more over what municipal 12 customers pay.

13 My people are outraged by the request. 14 I have heard from many of them by e-mail, phone calls 15 and letters, and as you know more than 609 citizens across the state have made public comments online. 16 17 Combine that with the letters, the phone calls and 18 the large attendance at the five open meetings that 19 were held by the ICC, 175 which were residents from 20 my district who attended.

21 Peoples Gas has one million plus
22 customers in the state. And when they filed for a

rate increase, only 210 people filed concerns and complaints. Illinois-American Water serves just 317,000 customers by comparison, and the complaints filed in this case were about 450 percent higher. The customers in my area know the difference between a company which is covering its costs and those which are lining their pockets.

What has changed, that's what I need 8 to know, in the provision of water which would 9 10 necessitate such an astronomical increase. Why 44.2 11 percent in 2003, 5.28 percent in 2008 and now just 12 less than two years later 24.62 percent, with the 13 provision for up to a five percent surcharge into the 14 future without the ICC's approval? Does anyone know 15 that we are in a recession? People are out of work; 16 they are struggling for survival; and we are going to 17 tell them that the state, a company in this state, cannot even offer them water at a reasonable rate. 18 19 My public finds the increase very 20 high, very unreasonable. I have heard the people's 21 anger and it is my commitment to make sure that the

22 Commission understands. In my area Illinois-American

Water Company doesn't even provide the water, just the pipes that the water flows through. They know what their neighbors are paying. Within a mile of my own home they are paying double for the same service that I receive. These customers are getting slammed with no relief in sight.

The best part is for those who care 7 about the environment and they attempt to preserve 8 9 the water for the future, the fixed charges are so 10 high, because they are front loaded, that they are 11 actually penalized. They are paying as much as \$70 12 every month and that's before they even turn their 13 water on. Someone needs to please explain the 14 inherent unfairness in that to me.

According to the ICC's own mission statement, you are obligated to pursue an appropriate balance between the interests of customers and existing and emergent service providers to insure the provision of adequate, efficient, reliable, safe and least-cost public utility services.

Fresh clean water, as we all know, isan essential commodity to human survival. The reason

we have agencies like the ICC is to protect the people's rights to these basic necessities. Your mission is not to approve rate increases, but it is to look carefully at the associated costs and reject rate increases when they are unjustified.

We don't want to be known as the state 6 that allows everything. We want, as we tell our 7 children, to just say no. Here we are asking you to 8 9 say no to this astronomical increase that this 10 company is asking for, and maybe they will look for 11 some efficiencies and be more careful next time 12 before they assume that in Illinois anything goes. 13 I am just looking at the layers of 14 their management. How many layers does one company 15 need to run their operations efficiently? I know that your commitment is to 16 17 protect the residents of Illinois. You are the 18 appointed public officials and I appeal to your sense 19 of right and wrong for all the people of Illinois to 20 resolve this issue in the very best interests of these people. 21

Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN FLORES: Thank you, Representative. Next we have Representative Renee 2 Kosel representing the 81st District. 3 4 Representative Kosel. REPRESENTATIVE KOSEL: Thank you, Chairman, 5 Commissioners. I appreciate the fact that you have 6 comments and I appreciate the ability to bring the 7 voice of my constituents to you. I represent both 8 9 Will and Cook County and the constituency in both of 10 those counties have Illinois-American Water. 11 Under Public Act Chapter 111.2/3, 12 paragraph 8-1 states the duties of a public utility 13 includes that all rules and regulations made by a 14 public utility affecting or pertaining to charges and 15 services to the public shall be just and reasonable. I have printed out over 609 complaints 16 17 that were filed, and in reading those complaints I 18 have yet to find one that says that this is anywhere 19 near just or reasonable. There were 59 different 20 towns from across the state, so it wasn't just in the 21 Chicago area, it was across the state. Although the 22 representatives that are here just represent the

Chicago area, there is Alton, there is Champaign,
 Urbana. All the different towns are represented
 within those comments and no one believes that it is
 just and reasonable.

5 I also have carried the voices of over 6 300 people that attended the Commerce Commission 7 hearing in my office or, excuse me, in my district, 8 and you will see in some of the news clippings that I 9 have provided you the anger in the faces of those 10 people when they talk about this. They do not feel 11 that this is either just or reasonable.

12 Quoting Illinois-American's own 13 website, some of my constituents will have increases 14 of 58 percent under this proposal. So the proposal 15 is not across the board. This is neither just nor 16 reasonable. Under the proposal Homer Glen, smallest 17 users, will pay \$42.60 for 2,000 gallons of gold. 18 Across the street in Orland Park, they will pay 19 \$9.82. And down the road in a town that is probably 20 more apt because they have a new pipeline coming in and new facilities, they will pay a whopping \$17.12 21 for the same 2,000 gallons of water. This is not 22

1 just or reasonable.

| 2  | The Company wants to recover \$2.3                  |
|----|---|
| 3  | million in rate expenses. Illinois-American Water   |
| 4  | itself says that these are fees that they have paid |
| 5  | to answer the rate complaints of consumers. Is it   |
| 6  | fair that the rate complainers should pay for their |
| 7  | complaints as well? It doesn't sound just or        |
| 8  | reasonable to me.                                   |
| 9  | The Company says that they should pay               |
| 10 | increases between 19 and 59 percent in a flat       |
| 11 | economy. That doesn't sound just and reasonable.    |
| 12 | The typical water user in Homer Glen, the typical   |
| 13 | small water user, will go from \$85 a month to 130, |
| 14 | and there are very few people that I know that see  |
| 15 | even \$130 now, so I don't want to think what it is |
| 16 | going to be. Not just and reasonable.               |
| 17 | Illinois-American Water just received               |
| 18 | a true-up that raised the rates 20 percent in the   |
| 19 | water. Then there was an approval just this week of |
| 20 | the QIP of five percent a year going on. And now    |
| 21 | they want on some of my consumers a 58 percent      |
| 22 | increase. This is not just or reasonable.           |

| 1  | I am disappointed that                              |
|----|---|
| 2  | Illinois-American Water has come to you again for   |
| 3  | another increase. I am disappointed that I have to  |
| 4  | appear here to make sure that the voices are heard. |
| 5  | I want to make sure that my constituents receive    |
| 6  | "just and reasonable" addressing of this issue.     |
| 7  | Enough is enough. Please listen to the law. Make    |
| 8  | this just and reasonable.                           |
| 9  | Thank you.  |
| 10 | CHAIRMAN FLORES: Thank you, Representative.         |
| 11 | Those are all the speakers that we                  |
| 12 | have.   |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER FORD: Nice seeing you again,           |
| 14 | Representative Nekritz.                             |
| 15 | CHAIRMAN FLORES: Wanted to thank all the            |
| 16 | representatives for taking time out of their busy   |
| 17 | schedules to appear before the Commission. Thank    |
| 18 | you.  |
| 19 | Moving on to the Public Utility                     |
| 20 | agenda, there are minutes to approve from the       |
| 21 | February 24, 2010, pre-bench session. I understand  |
| 22 | that amendments have been forwarded. Is there a     |

1 motion to amend the minutes?

| 2  | COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: So moved.                      |
|----|--|
| 3  | CHAIRMAN FLORES: Is there a second?                  |
| 4  | COMMISSIONER COLGAN: Second.                         |
| 5  | CHAIRMAN FLORES: It's been moved and seconded.       |
| 6  | All in favor say aye.                                |
| 7  | COMMISSIONERS: Aye.                                  |
| 8  | CHAIRMAN FLORES: Any opposed?                        |
| 9  | The vote is 5-0 approving the minutes                |
| 10 | as amended.  |
| 11 | We will begin with the Electric                      |
| 12 | agenda. Item E-1 (08-0044) involves a ComEd petition |
| 13 | to determine the applicability of Section 16-125e    |
| 14 | liability to events caused by the December 23, 2007, |
| 15 | storm. Administrative Law Judge Dolan recommends     |
| 16 | entering the Order dismissing the matter without     |
| 17 | prejudice. Is there a motion to enter the Order?     |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: So moved.                      |
| 19 | CHAIRMAN FLORES: Is there a second?                  |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER FORD: Second.                           |
| 21 | CHAIRMAN FLORES: It's been moved and seconded.       |
| 22 | All in favor say aye.                                |

1 COMMISSIONERS: Aye. CHAIRMAN FLORES: Any opposed? 2 3 Hearing none, the vote is 5-0. The 4 Order is entered. We will use this 5-0 vote for the 5 remainder of the agenda unless otherwise noted. 6 7 Item E-2, Docket Number 08-0264, will be held. 8 Item E-3, Docket Number 08-0532, will 9 10 be held. 11 Items E-4 through E-6 (09-0109, 12 09-0110, 09-0112) will be taken together. These 13 items concern the reconciliation of revenues under 14 coal tar riders by Ameren affiliates. Staff 15 recommends approving the proposed reconciliation 16 Orders. 17 Is there any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, the Orders are entered. 18 19 Item E-7 is a request for oral 20 argument in Docket Numbers 09-0306 through 09-0311. 21 This case concerns Ameren affiliates' proposed 22 general increase in electric delivery service and gas

delivery service rates. The Commission is prepared 1 to schedule oral argument for April 13 in 2 Springfield. We do have a tentative time of 1:30 3 4 p.m. If for one reason or another that time does not work, we will inform Judge Wallace and the 5 appropriate notice will be made. But we do have 6 April 13 as the date. 7 Is there any discussion? Any 8 objections? Hearing none, oral argument is scheduled 9 10 for April 13 in Springfield at 1:30 p.m. 11 Item E-8 (09-0320) is a joint motion 12 to dismiss brought by the Village of Burr Ridge and 13 Commonwealth Edison Company. Administrative Law 14 Judge Kimbrel recommends that the docket be dismissed without prejudice. 15 Is there any discussion? Any 16 17 objections? Hearing none, the motion is granted and the docket is dismissed. 18 19 Item E-9 through E-10 (09-0577, 20 09-0598) will be taken together. These concern the applications for licensure of agents, brokers and 21 22 consultants under Section 16-115C of the Public

1 Utilities Act.

JUDGE WALLACE: Mr. Chairman, just to bring it to your attention, there were two requests for oral argument, one from Ameren and a second one from the Attorney General. Did you want to delineate that you were granting both?

7 CHAIRMAN FLORES: That's fine. If we can just 8 go back to --

9 JUDGE WALLACE: E-7.

10 CHAIRMAN FLORES: Let the record reflect that 11 Ameren affiliates and the Attorney General's office 12 have requested oral argument. So that the record is 13 clear, oral argument is granted per the requests made 14 by both petitioners.

15 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Chairman Flores, 16 may I inquire with regard to the AG request, was it 17 timely filed?

JUDGE ALBERS: This is ALJ Albers. It was received after the statutory provision that would require the Commission to hear oral arguments, but it is certainly within the Commission's discretion, I believe, if they wanted to hear oral argument on

1 those issues, to grant the petition.

| 2  | COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Just so I                |
|----|---|
| 3  | understand, the Attorney General did not file within  |
| 4  | the statutory deadline for oral argument, is that     |
| 5  | what you are telling me?                              |
| 6  | JUDGE ALBERS: Yes.                                    |
| 7  | JUDGE WALLACE: It would be for the mandatory,         |
| 8  | statutorily required oral argument that the Attorney  |
| 9  | General would have missed that deadline. So what it   |
| 10 | turns into is it reverts back, we think, to our       |
| 11 | current rules which would be discretionary with the   |
| 12 | Commission to grant oral argument or not.             |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Thank you.               |
| 14 | CHAIRMAN FLORES: Thank you, Commissioner              |
| 15 | O'Connell-Diaz. Any other questions or further        |
| 16 | discussion on this matter?                            |
| 17 | I would just like to, again, just so                  |
| 18 | the record is clear, given that there were two        |
| 19 | petitioners who have requested we move forward on     |
| 20 | this request for oral argument, so that the record is |
| 21 | clear, are there any objections to this request for   |
| 22 | oral argument? Hearing none, oral argument is         |

1 scheduled for April 13 in Springfield at 1:30 p.m. on motions made by both -- requests made both by Ameren 2 3 affiliates and the Attorney General's office. 4 Going back to where we left off, this 5 would be item E-9 through E-10 taken together. These concern the applications for licensure of agents and 6 brokers and consultants under Section 16-115C of the 7 Public Utilities Act. In each docket the 8 Administrative Law Judge recommends approving the 9 10 Order granting the requested Certificate for Service 11 Authority. 12 Is there any discussion? Any 13 objections? Hearing none, the Orders are entered. 14 Item E-11 (09-0609) involves a 15 customer billing complaint against ComEd. The parties have filed a joint motion to dismiss this 16 17 docket and Administrative Law Judge Sainsot 18 recommends dismissal with prejudice. 19 Is there any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, the matter is dismissed. 20 E-12 through E-13 (09-0613, 09-0615) 21 22 will be taken together. These items concern the

1 applications for licensure of agents, brokers and consultants under Section 16-115C of the Public 2 3 Utilities Act. In each docket the Administrative Law 4 Judge recommends approving the Order granting the requested Certificate of Service Authority. 5 6 Is there any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, the Orders are granted. 7 Item E-14 (09-0620) involves a 8 petition for relief by Champion Energy to protect 9 10 confidential and/or proprietary information. The 11 Administrative Law Judge recommends entering an Order 12 approving the petition. 13 Is there any discussion? Any 14 objections? Hearing none, the Order is entered and 15 the petition is approved. COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Mr. Chairman, if 16 17 I might just point out that, unlike what has become 18 our practice, it appears in this proceeding that the 19 Applicant has responded to the ALJ's request for 20 explanation for the five-year treatment that is requested and has shown that there is certain 21 22 financial information that bears confidential

1 treatment for the longer period of time. And I would like to thank Judge Albers for making that inquiry 2 and for making it clear for the record. 3 4 CHAIRMAN FLORES: Thank you, Commissioner. Any further discussion? 5 Items E-15 through E-17 (09-0622, 6 10-0001, 10-0010) will be taken together. These 7 items concern the application for licensure of 8 agents, brokers and consultants under Section 16-115C 9 10 of the Public Utilities Act. In each docket the 11 Administrative Law Judge recommends approving the 12 Order granting the requested Certificate of Service 13 Authority. 14 Is there any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, the Orders are entered. 15 Items E-18 through E-23 (10-0064, 16 10-0065, 10-0071, 10-0077, 10-0089, 10-0124) will be 17 18 taken together. These items each involve petitions 19 for relief to protect confidential and/or proprietary information. In each instance the Administrative Law 20 21 Judge recommends entering an Order approving the 22 petition.

Is there any discussion? Any 1 objections? Hearing none, the Orders are entered and 2 3 the petitions are approved. 4 E-24 through E-26 (10-0141, 10-0142, 5 10-0143) will be taken together. These items concern petitions surrounding Commonwealth Edison Company's 6 authority to enter into financial transactions with 7 affiliated interests. In each item the 8 9 Administrative Law Judges recommend that the 10 Commission enter an Order approving the petition. 11 Is there any discussion? Any 12 objections? Hearing none, the Orders are entered and 13 the petitions are approved. 14 Item E-27 (10-0147) involves a 15 petition for relief to protect confidential and/or proprietary information by Champion Energy as well as 16 17 a motion to appear pro hoc vice. Administrative Law 18 Judge Albers recommends entering an Order granting 19 the petition. 20 Is there any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, the Order is entered. 21 22 E-28 (10-0166) concerns a petition for

1 relief to protect Spark Energy's annual kilowatt hour report from disclosure. Administrative Law Judge 2 Tapia recommends entering an Order granting the 3 4 requested relief. Is there any discussion? Any 5 objections? Hearing none, the Order is entered. 6 7 That concludes the Electric portion of today's agenda. 8 Turning to Natural Gas, Item G-1 9 10 (09-0191) concerns a petition by Atmos Gas Company to 11 protect confidential information. Administrative Law 12 Judge Wallace recommends entering an Order granting 13 the requested relief. 14 Is there any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, the Order is entered. 15 G-2 (09-0193) involves a billing 16 17 complaint by Paula Johnson against AmerenIP. 18 Administrative Law Judge Tapia recommends the 19 Commission enter an Order granting AmerenIP's motion 20 to dismiss with prejudice for want of prosecution. Is there any discussion? Any 21 objections? Hearing none, the Order is entered and 22

1 the motion to dismiss is granted.

Item G-3 is Docket 09-0312, 2 3 MidAmerican Company's proposed general increase in 4 natural gas rates. Administrative Law Judge Gilbert recommends that the Commission enter an Order 5 approving new tariffs and rates for MidAmerican 6 7 Energy Company. Is there any discussion on this matter 8 by any members of the Commission? Okay. 9 Any 10 objections? Hearing none, the Order is entered. G-4 and G-5 (09-0390, 09-0569) will be 11 12 taken together. These items are motions to dismiss 13 customer complaints against Peoples Gas. The parties 14 have settled and the Administrative Law Judges 15 recommend dismissal with prejudice. Is there any discussion? Any 16 17 objections? Hearing none, the dockets are dismissed. G-6 through G-9 (10-0076, 10-0078, 18 19 10-0128, 10-0165) will be taken together. These 20 items involve petitions for relief to protect 21 confidential and/or proprietary information. In each 22 instance the Administrative Law Judge recommends

entering an Order approving protection for at least
 two years time.

3 Is there any discussion? Any 4 objections? Hearing none, the Administrative Law 5 Judges' Orders granting relief are entered.

6 That concludes the Natural Gas portion 7 of today's agenda.

8 Starting with the Telecommunications 9 agenda, Item T-1 (TRM#53, TRM#54) concerns filings to 10 remove the termination liability section from 11 Illinois Bell's business local calling assurance 12 product. Staff recommends not suspending or 13 investigating the filings. 14 Is there any discussion? Any

15 objections? Hearing none, the filings will not be 16 suspended or investigated.

17 Item T-2 (TRM#63) involves Gallatin 18 River Communications, LLC, d/b/a CenturyLink adding 19 the option of a priority restoration service called 20 Telecommunications Service Priority System. Staff 21 recommends not suspending or investigating the 22 filings.

Is there any discussion? Any 1 objections? Hearing none, the filings will not be 2 3 suspended or investigated. 4 Items T-3 through T-5 (10-0029, 10-0040, 10-0099) involve applications for 5 Certificates of Authority to operate as resellers 6 throughout Illinois. In each instance the 7 Administrative Law Judge recommends entering an Order 8 granting the requested applications. 9 10 Is there any discussion? Any 11 objections? Hearing none, the Orders are entered. Item T-6 (10-0052) involves a customer 12 13 complaint against Illinois Bell. The parties have 14 settled and the Administrative Law Judge recommends 15 dismissing the case with prejudice. Is there any discussion? Any 16 17 objections? Hearing none, the matter is dismissed. Item T-7 (09-0381) concerns entering a 18 19 First Notice Order surrounding the revision of 83 Illinois Administrative Code 730. Administrative Law 20 Judge Hilliard recommends entering the Interim Order. 21 22 Is there any discussion? Any

objections? Hearing none, the Order is entered. 1 Item T-8 (09-0511) involves a petition 2 to initiate rulemaking under Illinois Administrative 3 4 Code Part 200 concerning interlocutory review. Both 5 the petition and the proposed rule changes are the product of negotiations among many parties, including 6 Staff of the Commission, the utilities, consumer 7 advocates and various other stakeholders. 8 9 Administrative Law Judge Dolan recommends entering 10 the First Notice Order. 11 Is there any discussion? Any 12 objections? Hearing none, the Order is entered. 13 T-9 (09-0605) involves YourTel 14 America's application for designation as an eligible telecommunication carrier for the purpose of 15 receiving Federal Universal Service support. 16 17 Administrative Law Judge Riley recommends entering an 18 Order granting the application. 19 Is there any discussion? Any 20 objections? Hearing none, the Order is entered. Items T-10 through T-13 (10-0003, 21 10-0122, 10-0145, 10-0170) will be taken together. 22

1 These items each involve petitions for relief to protect confidential and/or proprietary information. 2 In each instance the Administrative Law Judge 3 4 recommends entering an Order approving the petition. Is there any discussion? Any 5 objections? Hearing none, the Orders are entered and 6 the petitions are approved. 7 Items T-14 through T-19 (10-0060, 8 10-0061, 10-0062, 10-0063, 10-0082, 10-0083) will be 9 10 taken together. These items each involve joint 11 petitions for approval of interconnection agreements 12 involving Mediacom Telephony of Illinois. In each 13 instance Administrative Law Judge Riley recommends 14 granting the Order approving the agreement. 15 Is there any discussion? Any objections? Hearing none, the Orders are entered. 16 17 This concludes the Telecommunications 18 portion of the agenda. 19 We have one item on the Water and 20 Sewer portion of the agenda which is Docket Number 09-0319, Illinois-American Water rate case. 21 Oral 22 argument was heard on this matter yesterday and this

1 matter will be held for disposition at a future 2 hearing.

Miscellaneous, (10-0223) our first miscellaneous item is a resolution that declares April 2010 as National Safe Digging Month. I want to recognize Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz who brought this matter forward. Commissioner, would you like to say anything on the record concerning this resolution?

10 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Yes, Chairman. Just it is a good thing for all of us to remember as 11 12 we are moving into the construction phase of our yard 13 work and everything, with regard to our 14 responsibilities and contractor's responsibilities. 15 Because what you do in your own yard or what you have a contractor doing really will affect other people in 16 17 your area if you have not done the appropriate 18 calling to find out where those lines are buried. 19 So for the health and safety of not 20 just your family but all in communities, it is really an important thing for us to remember as the weather 21

warms up, and so I think that this resolution gives

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us the appropriate reminder, and I am glad that the
 Commission is supportive of it.

3 Thank you. 4 CHAIRMAN FLORES: Thank you, Commissioner. Ι 5 also want to recognize Commissioner Ford. She obviously heads our committee on gas and is 6 7 nationally recognized as an expert in this area. Commissioner, would you like to say a few remarks, 8 9 given the importance of this resolution? COMMISSIONER FORD: I would just simply like to 10 11 reiterate what Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz said, and 12 we are going to -- Tim did send a letter out and we 13 will be meeting with the City of Chicago to reinforce

14 some of the things that we want done with the

15 Pipeline Safety Committee. And I would like to

16

17 always insisting that people call before they try to 18 do things. And I see Marcy here with our 9-1-1 and 19 8-1-1. I think I see Marcy.

thank -- I don't see him here -- Darin Burk, for

20 But, anyway, I certainly thank you and 21 I thank Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz for bringing it 22 to our level on staff.

1 CHAIRMAN FLORES: Any further discussions by 2 other members of the Commission? Very well. Any 3 objections? Hearing none, the resolution is 4 approved.

Our second miscellaneous item is a 5 request for oral argument in Docket Number 09-0268. 6 This docket concerns a corporate reorganization 7 involving joint applicants Frontier Communications 8 9 Corporation, Verizon Communication Incorporated, 10 Verizon North Incorporated, Verizon South 11 Incorporated and New Communications of the Carolinas 12 Incorporated. Joint applicants have requested oral 13 argument in this case. However, Administrative Law 14 Judge Tapia indicates her belief that oral argument will not be useful in this case and believes the 15 issues have been thoroughly briefed by all the 16 17 parties.

18 Is there any discussion on this
19 matter? Any objections? Hearing none, the request
20 for oral argument is denied.

Judge Wallace, are there any other matters to come before the Commission today?

1 JUDGE WALLACE: No, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN FLORES: Very well. I know that we 2 3 have had some changes, some new additions, to the 4 Staff. I just wanted to acknowledge the new Staff members that have joined, various members of the 5 Commission, and also just wanted to thank all Staff 6 and everyone else in preparation for today's hearing. 7 Again, Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz, 8 our deep condolences to you and your family. 9 10 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Thank you, 11 Chairman. 12 CHAIRMAN FLORES: At this point the meeting 13 stands adjourned. I would just like to remind 14 everyone that we will take a 15-minute break and we 15 will then be moving on to the video conference room for an administrative meeting that has been scheduled 16 17 for today after the conclusion of this bench today. 18 So thank you. 19 (Whereupon the meeting was 20 adjourned until 11:20 a.m. in the videoconference 21 22 room.)

1 ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING CHAIRMAN FLORES: Just so that the record is 2 clear, we are now convening the administrative 3 4 meeting that was scheduled for today, March 24, following the bench. 5 There are two matters that we wanted 6 to discuss here today, the first matter being a 7 discussion beginning a dialogue on process and 8 procedures surrounding a potential possible ICC 9 10 resolution addressing the readiness of Illinois 11 electric service providers to accommodate electric 12 vehicles. 13 The second matter was brought forth by 14 Judge Wallace and this was the scheduling of 15 procurement meetings. 16 Taking the first matter on the agenda, 17 as all of you know, Commissioners, there has been a lot of discussion in Illinois and outside the state 18 19 of Illinois about electric vehicles, plug-in electric 20 vehicles, being developed and then being sent to market sometime late, sometime this fall. 21 22 Given the potential impact that it is

1 going to have on the work that we do here, I just thought that it would be a good idea to caucus and 2 start talking about some formal steps. This was 3 4 also, frankly, precipitated by discussions that I 5 believe are being had by other stakeholders in the state of Illinois and I just wanted to bring this 6 7 matter to this collective body to flesh out what would be the appropriate next steps and action items. 8 9 I want to yield to Commissioner 10 Sherman Elliott who has been doing a lot of work, 11 doing some work in this area, has been following some 12 national trends and then obviously to hear from the 13 other Commissioners in terms of their viewpoints on 14 this matter. Commissioner Elliott? 15 16 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: One of the things that 17 first impacted me with regard to the urgency around 18 this issue was a presenter at the PJM, a 19 demand-response symposium some months ago, from Indiana, Paul Mitchell, who has been working in this 20 area on a pilot project for PHEV implementation in 21 22 Indianapolis for two years. And he gave a

1 presentation of what they have been engaged in and the work that they have been doing and some of the 2 problems of pulling all the parties together, the 3 4 utilities, the vehicle manufacturers, the charging 5 station folks, the software guys, everything that needs to sort of work seamlessly to make the customer 6 adoption of an electric vehicle seamless, and 7 essentially not to kill the electric car again. 8 9 And so I started reaching out to see 10 what was going on, and it seemed that there were a 11 number of different independent collaboratives and 12 efforts going on, none of which were inter-related, 13 but that the NRDC and Becky Stanfield (sp) and her 14 group have been working with ComEd and the City, and 15 had drafted a resolution and they were looking to either do something legislatively or present it to 16 17 the Commission.

And so once I was made aware of that, I sort of circulated some things around and had some discussions with them and certainly with ComEd in particular with regard to, you know, actually physically being able to implement these things once

they hit the market, and what the implications were. 1 And as I said, I think there are 2 3 companies that are out there that are contemplating 4 building charging stations for the public that have no idea that the Commission has regulations and rules 5 with regard to sales of electricity, resale of 6 electricity, public safety issues. 7 So there are just a number of issues 8 that I think we need to start tracking on and 9 10 particularly urgently with regard to the early 11 adopters. And I am sure there are going to be some, considering a \$7500 tax credit for up to 200,000 12 13 electric vehicle sales and with all the companies 14 taking, it seems, a major step in this area to 15 produce and get these to market. So with Chicago being a key market, 16 17 all of the manufacturers are looking at that, it just seems that we should make some efforts here to get 18 19 something going and the sooner, the better. Well, I would certainly 20 COMMISSIONER FORD:

21 like for it to come from the legislature because I22 think in my opinion, I think we have so much on our

1 plate with this Smart Grid and with the AMI, that I
2 think that it would look like we are coming out with
3 another pilot.

4 And I went back to that letter, not 5 letter, but that editorial that you sent me on Baltimore, so I don't want us to be out front and 6 then the prices go down on anything. I would rather 7 it come from the legislature. Because, remember when 8 9 we were at Harvard? All those cars out in 10 California, it doesn't seem to be doing anything. I 11 don't see a big impetus, other than from people who 12 are elitist with this kind of thing.

13 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Actually, it has and 14 California has opened a proceeding on this identical 15 stuff.

16 COMMISSIONER FORD: But I was sitting next to 17 the president and that was forced from the 18 legislature. That's why --

19 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Actually, it was forced 20 from his wife.

21 COMMISSIONER FORD: Peavey said, he said, "I am22 on board," but because Peavey, who you know is the

1 chair, had kind of twisted his arm. I want us to be cautious and let the legislators take the lead with 2 3 this. That's just my opinion. Because all these 4 representatives coming in here now, that's pressure, subtle pressure. And if they take the lead on this, 5 then the mayor would make sure -- let the mayor's 6 legislative people take the lead on this piece. I 7 have no problem asking the mayor to do this. 8

9 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: I don't have any 10 problems pursuing that, and I am sure parties will. 11 But I think in the short run, I think trying to get 12 something in place to enable this -- someone is going 13 to buy a car. How the heck do they hook it up, 14 what's the relationship between the dealership and 15 the utility, what rate do they get put on, all these things are going to come before us. And we are 16 17 either going to have a plan in the short run to deal with this or we don't. 18

19 COMMISSIONER FORD: But wouldn't that be 20 incumbent upon them, Chairman?

21 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: No, possibly in the long22 run. I think the relationship between the PHEVs and

the Smart Grid and all those types of things, there are policies that you can deal with in the long term and certainly that is something that we should be looking at in cooperation with them.

But in the short run, I mean, in the 5 next five months, someone is going to buy an electric 6 vehicle. There is a Tesla dealership that has opened 7 8 up in Chicago. General Motors really wants to move 9 in the Chicago market. And it is an issue that we, I 10 think, have to have some regulatory enabling, some 11 tariffs, something, some means to allow this to 12 happen.

13 COMMISSIONER FORD: Then why would they buy
14 before -- that to me is putting the cart before the
15 horse.

16 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: That's part of the 17 problem.

18 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: If I might, I am 19 not sure what a resolution is going to do to 20 effectuate that, number one. Number two, I think the 21 Commission -- to Commissioner Ford's point, what I am 22 hearing Commissioner Elliott say is that there is

1 going to have to be changes in our tariffs, massive 2 amounts of changes. So I don't really know that the 3 resolution does anything to do that except put us out 4 in the front of the parade.

That being said, I think that -- and I 5 could be very wrong -- but I think that this issue is 6 being addressed in the Smart Grid collaborative and 7 so are we jumping into some area that is part of that 8 9 And to be honest with you, unless I had a process? 10 presentation by these respective companies as to what 11 their notions are, I really don't know enough to do 12 anything. And, again, I go back to I don't know what 13 a resolution does. A resolution to me doesn't 14 effectuate the change that I think we are going to 15 need to do to actually have the stations, the hook-ups, how that's going to be billed, how the 16 17 infrastructure is in place to do that.

This kind of reminds me of, you know, when we were getting the independent power producers and everybody went out and they went out along the road sides where there were transmission facilities, and many of those places are out of business today.

So I just think that we should go cautiously and I do think it is going to require a legislative change. And, honestly, I just don't have enough baseline information. Maybe that would be the place for us to start, where we would invite companies to come and make presentations to the Commissioners.

But as far as -- I would be 7 uncomfortable in getting into a resolution situation 8 at this juncture. And I do understand that there is 9 10 this time element but, you know, the companies that 11 are going to be bringing this to market should be thinking about that and so should our legislature. 12 13 COMMISSIONER FORD: Maybe we can have 14 California -- are they ahead of the game, is that

15 what you are saying, Sherman?

16 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Yeah, they are clearly 17 ahead of the game. And Michael Peavey, the impetus 18 behind that was his wife bought a Mini Cooper that 19 was electric and she was charging it and it took too 20 long to charge, it never got fully charged and 21 finally was dead on the street and they thought they 22 were charging it. So they opened up an

1 investigation. That's basically what it is.

2 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Isn't his wife a
3 legislator, too?

4 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Yes, right.

COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: But this is a Commission 6 opening. I could send around the scoping memo that 7 Michael Peavey wrote and these are the types of 8 9 things that I think are being contemplated by the 10 parties seeking to address this, particularly with 11 regard to the short term aspect. And what the 12 resolution I think is intended to accomplish, is to 13 start a workshop process for a very brief period of 14 time to try and work these issues with a tariff 15 filing by the utilities.

And so, you know, that's the -- and some short term solution to dealing with home charging and not necessarily the public charging infrastructure but just a short term idea of how does someone that wants to buy a car make it work.

21 COMMISSIONER FORD: What would they do? If you 22 were to buy a car, what would you do now? The

1 batteries I am told are not up to par.

2 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: They are being sold.
3 One in five cars in California is an electric vehicle
4 right now.

That's -- and I am sorry to 5 CHAIRMAN FLORES: cut in. Manuel Flores for the record. That's one of 6 the concerns that we had when we were in California 7 for the Harvard -- the Kennedy School program. 8 What I took from that presentation was that, you know, 9 10 there were some real concerns also by the utility 11 companies in understanding how these cars then were 12 going to effect some of the things that they are 13 doing.

14 And, you know, one thing that we ought to consider to also Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz's 15 16 point is, you know, in crafting whatever it is that 17 we decide on is to -- I think the information for us 18 is very important, all right, in terms of not just 19 from the car manufacturers and what they need, but 20 also to hear from the utility companies in terms of how they are going to be -- you know, what are the 21 22 needs that they are going to have, frankly, in terms

of being able to also provide the services that are going to be required to meet the demand created by the sale of these cars.

4 Commissioner Colgan, did you want to 5 say anything?

COMMISSIONER COLGAN: Well, I understand your 6 point, Chairman. You know, I read some of the memos 7 that were coming out of that collaborative in Chicago 8 9 with all the different parties, and it seemed like 10 they had a very entrepreneurial spirit about how they 11 were charging forward on this issue. And I think 12 they were pretty -- you know, the groups were pretty 13 ideologically aligned and I think they were really 14 hopeful that they were going to get something out of 15 that process.

But then you start to notice that part of their idea is that like in parking lots they would have battery charging stations where people would be plugging their cars in. And that, I think we have to be involved in that. I mean, it is like that's the resale of electricity. And then, you know, to set all that infrastructure up. So I understand that at

1 some point we are going to have to be involved in
2 this because, you know, we are going to have to be a
3 check off at some point down the line.

I am not clear what you think the General Assembly would do on this. Can you explain a little bit?

7 COMMISSIONER FORD: I think the General Assembly, if you are going to do -- we are talking 8 9 about tariffs again. Isn't that raising costs? Ι 10 want them to take the lead and then we will have 11 somebody to point a finger at. That is the same way 12 with this Tenaska piece. They take the lead with 13 these big issues, in my opinion; then we will have 14 somebody to say, well, this came through the state legislature, they are asking us to do that. 15

16 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: Are there legislators 17 involved in this issue?

18 COMMISSIONER FORD: Well, I think there should 19 be if we don't get involved.

20 CHAIRMAN FLORES: Well, I think, if I may, the 21 only way that this is going to work, though, the 22 right way is if you were to include very early on the

1 governor, you know, cities. The City of Chicago, for 2 instance, is involved in this program right now. And 3 one concern that I have and I am sure it is shared by 4 all of you is the City of Chicago is engaged in this 5 program but I don't think they have engaged the ICC 6 at all about what it is that they are -- well, maybe 7 Tim, but.

8 MR. ANDERSON: We are engaging. The City's 9 thing has been going on for a little while. ComEd 10 through Val Jensen (sp) clued us in. We have become 11 --

12 COMMISSIONER FORD: Who is the lead at the 13 City?

14 CHAIRMAN FLORES: It is the Commissioner of the 15 Department of Environment. But they have been 16 working on this now for some time.

17 COMMISSIONER FORD: Where would they plug their18 cars in, Sherman?

19 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Well, that's the 20 problem. I mean, the real issue here is I think a 21 lot of people have been concentrating on public 22 charging infrastructure and all the data that I have

1 seen say that 80 percent of these vehicles are going 2 to be charged at home. And the real issue from my perspective is what is the rate? I mean, are we 3 4 going to have these folks on average flat rates charging their car when they get home at 5:00 o'clock 5 in the afternoon? And we know that that doesn't 6 cause a problem today with five or ten. But when you 7 get to 100,000, then you have got significant 8 problems. And it doesn't --9 10 The other thing is the distribution 11 infrastructure. When two or three of these things 12 cluster in the same neighborhood, which is what they 13 have been experiencing in California, everyone that 14 wants to drive a vehicle, an electric vehicle, tend 15 to live in generally the same areas. They are having significant impacts on the distribution 16 17 infrastructure and the utilities aren't really aware 18 of it because they don't have the Smart Grid 19 infrastructure in place yet. 20 So the initial stages of this and how it is done, particularly, you know, what rate, I 21 mean, ComEd has an RTP rate now and to the degree 22

that they are going to have to work with the automobile dealer to put in any type of infrastructure in the home, to deal with, you know, what rate design they are on, those are things that I think we need to be working on and working on now. Because if we don't, there is just going to be no connection between these things.

And people are going to buy them. They are not going to wait for legislative response here. You know, General Motors and everyone else, Nissan, are putting these things out. There is a tax credit. People are going to buy them; they are going to show up; they are going to plug them in at home and we are going to run into problems.

MR. ANDERSON: Some of what's happening, too, is everything is being marketed without any kind of --

18 COMMISSIONER FORD: Right.

MR. ANDERSON: I think there is some building developers in the city who have made part of the marketing for the building we have got charging stations on every other floor for your electric cars.

1

CHAIRMAN FLORES: That's right.

2 MR. ANDERSON: Well, there is no way for that 3 to work. So people are going to buy --

4 COMMISSIONER FORD: I think it is going to be 5 misleading.

6 MR. ANDERSON: And people are going to have 7 expectations that won't be able to be met because 8 nobody is ready for --

9 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Not only that but we 10 don't know what the building is doing, who is 11 charging that customer for that service, is it part 12 of the -- you know, what's the public safety issues 13 around that.

MR. ANDERSON: Does ComEd understand what they have got? I mean, do they understand that -- I mean, they probably have to know about it.

17 COMMISSIONER FORD: I am sure they have to be18 licensed by the city to have a charging station.

MR. ANDERSON: But the station city is pushing 20 it.

21 CHAIRMAN FLORES: Again, from my experience22 with the city and from your experience with the city,

1 sometimes we try our best to communicate with one another but sometimes we are not on the same page. 2 And I think, you know, and then expanding that a 3 4 little bit, again, if we don't have other stakeholders like the legislator, House of 5 Representatives, the Senate, Governor's office, other 6 municipalities, I mean, if you took a look at 7 Naperville, for instance, and what they are doing, 8 some of the exciting things that they are doing with 9 10 their Smart Grid technology, and I am sure they are 11 already looking at the plug-in electric vehicle and 12 how it is going to be interfacing with their system, 13 I think it behooves us to address this issue now, but 14 to do it to Commissioner Ford's point, to do it in a 15 way where we are collaborating and create a mechanism where we are all talking about this together and we 16 17 are all taking the lead so that everyone on the front 18 end has a role to play and everyone understands what 19 the rules of engagement are going to be. 20 One concern I personally have is,

21 again, where someone creates a mandate but doesn't 22 include us in that discussion on the front end and

then all of a sudden we are put in a position where we are very limited and whereby later on down the road we realize well, gees, if only we had been involved earlier on, we would have had a little bit more latitude and flexibility to really address these issues.

7 This place, the ICC, has the expertise. We have the experts in place, the people 8 9 who understand energy, who understand energy policy, 10 ratemaking, how these systems work. I think it is 11 imperative that we be involved on the front end. 12 That being said, I think, again, reiterating 13 Commissioner Ford's point, we want to create a 14 mechanism where we include other stakeholders to also 15 take the lead along with us.

16 COMMISSIONER FORD: I want to see how --17 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Chairman, if I 18 might, you know, three years ago I was at, I don't 19 know, the Mark conference and the whole buzz was 20 about natural gas vehicles. So, you know, I think 21 that there are several different modalities of these 22 eco friendly cars, I will call them. So I think that

1 limiting this to just the electric vehicles versus the natural gas vehicles or any other modality that 2 is going to be popping up may be a mistake. 3 4 And honestly, I mean, obviously there 5 are companies that are manufacturing these vehicles. They should be in talking to us and making 6 presentations so that we have the information 7 foundation to know what's out there. And I just 8 9 don't have that at this point. 10 And, again, I go back to the Smart 11 Grid workshops and I believe that these issues are 12 somehow being covered there and are we stepping on

13 their terrain and that is a docketed proceeding. So 14 I don't know what the resolution gets us. I mean, I 15 think that maybe we start --

16 COMMISSIONER FORD: We will know April 6, won't 17 we, if it is out there? How much do these cars cost? 18 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: It depends. Some of 19 them are as low as 25,000 plus you get a \$7500 tax 20 credit. So these things are going to move; there is 21 no question in my mind.

And I think with regard to, you know,

the Chairman's points, you know, trying to -- there are activities going on right now. There are actions being taken in various levels at various arenas that are going to have an effect. If we come into this late in the game, we are going to be seen as, you know, creating barriers, that all of a sudden we are getting involved, etcetera, etcetera.

And I think you are right, your point 8 is well taken, that trying to bring these parties 9 10 altogether collectively to talk about these issues so 11 that we are not the last quy in the game with all of 12 a sudden all the regulatory problems and all the 13 certification and all the concerns that we normally 14 have are now suddenly in the forefront and of concern 15 to these parties.

16 CHAIRMAN FLORES: Commission Colgan? 17 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: Yeah, I think that we 18 are -- I think this is a good place to have a 19 discussion like this and maybe we need to have it 20 more on an ongoing basis. Because I think we are 21 really talking about fundamental perspectives of what 22 the Commission is and what our function is. I mean,

1 we are living in a changing world and so I think the Commission, we are going to have to change along with 2 everybody else. And I have not been here long enough 3 4 to really have, you know, a full point of view on this, but it seems like the mode that we operate in 5 is we wait for things to come to us. And that's 6 pretty much a judicial, guasi-judicial, mode that we 7 operate in. 8

It also seems like in this brave new 9 10 world we are heading into, we are going to have to 11 take some steps in terms of out there being involved 12 in what you might more accurately refer to as a 13 legislative mode, like having some upfront input. 14 Because we do have the expertise here. And I have 15 worked 20 years down the street and there are some notable exceptions in terms of expertise, but in 16 17 these areas, you know, there is none. They don't go 18 very deep into this. So what you get are these 19 political ideas, these popular looks Green America 20 ideas that sell politically and it sounds great. I was over there yesterday at the 21 22 Illinois Chambers Energy Meeting and, seriously, the

discussion was all about economic development and the renewable portfolio standards and there was not one -- well, other than a woman from Exelon made a comment about we need to consider the customers, you know, the costs and do they really want this stuff because it is going to cost money.

So I think, you know, that we have 7 some role here. And I am not clear on exactly what 8 9 that role is, but I think we should at least have 10 staff at some point involved in these discussions so 11 that, you know, because they might have to come back 12 and redo the whole plan. Because nobody knows --13 these discussions that are happening in Chicago, it's 14 like they don't even know the Commerce Commission exists. 15

16 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Right.

17 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: It is like, oh, we can do 18 just do this, you know.

MR. ANDERSON: And we got involved in that because we were told about it by ComEd and we are still trying to kind of -- we have contacted them. We have asked to be involved. Kind of the feedback

1 we got is, well, we are kind of on a break. We are 2 writing a first phase report and then we are going to go into phase two. So we are trying to catch up. We 3 4 are trying to catch up into phase two. But, you know, if they are talking 5 about parking lots and plug-ins in parking lots, they 6 are obviously not thinking about the regulatory 7 aspect of that. 8 9 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Exactly. 10 CHAIRMAN FLORES: And that hasn't been the 11 practice, frankly. 12 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: In today's lobby it would 13 be a throwaway. 14 MR. ANDERSON: Because that sounds very 15 convenient. COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: And the other thing to 16 17 the point, I know ComEd has got \$5 million in ERA 18 funding for this project that they are working with 19 the city. So they are spending money. They are 20 moving forward with this and they are putting real 21 money into it. 22 And, again, if we are not involved in

1 driving these people into a process that somehow is here at the Commission, then whatever gets developed, 2 3 if we have to turn around somehow and dismantle it 4 because of regulatory concerns or delay it, again, because we weren't involved in the process --5 COMMISSIONER FORD: But if ComEd is involved, 6 then they know about the ICC. Come on now. 7 MR. ANDERSON: Which is why they --8 9 COMMISSIONER FORD: They have lawyers there 10 with them. Well, then they should have started their 11 legislative piece. And they have lobbyists and they 12 have money. He just said they have \$5 million. So 13 who heads the Energy Department for the Senate and 14 the State House of Representatives? Who is the 15 Energy chair in the House? MR. ANDERSON: In the House is -- I think the 16 17 public utilities is what they have been using this 18 I think it is Annazette Collins. vear. 19 COMMISSIONER FORD: I know Annazette very well.

20 Who is in the Senate?

21 MR. ANDERSON: Mike Jacobs.

22 COMMISSIONER FORD: I don't know him, but I

certainly know Annazette. And I think ComEd and the city needs to have a conversation, and I certainly want to look back at those plug-in hybrid vehicles to see exactly what California, since they have one in five, I would like for us to go out there and look at that. Look at their stations to see how they, step by step, how they did it.

8 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: They are working on that 9 right now.

10 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: I think the regulated 11 utility is going to want to have that charging 12 station be their charging station.

13 COMMISSIONER FORD: Of course.

14 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: I am sure there are other 15 people who would like to have a piece of that.

16 COMMISSIONER FORD: You said the right word 17 when you said entrepreneur. Everybody that's running 18 now wants to buy those places to make money.

19 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: To bring in a 20 telecom analogy, it is going to be like a pay phone 21 that we never can find any more. But that's kind of 22 what I am seeing that could be -- and then you are

1 going to have the same type of certification

2 processes that accompanied those pay phones and were 3 the big rage in the '90s.

4 And I totally agree with what 5 Commissioner Colgan so succinctly stated. You know, the political poppycock, as opposed to the real nuts 6 and bolts, and the bottom line is somebody is going 7 to pay for this and it is going to be the ratepayers 8 9 that we have to shove those costs on to. And I don't 10 know how that is even factored into all of this, you 11 know, renewable green, green, green, green, green. 12 Well, green is the cost of money and it is going to 13 cost a lot of money to do all of this. 14 And I am certainly -- you know, I 15 think it is great for us to be environmentally

16 conscious and sound and do all these things, but, you 17 know, we heard this morning from three different 18 representatives that told us to just say no, no 19 matter what a rate increase was. And these are going 20 to be rate increases. There are going to be tariff 21 changes. There is going to be all of these things.

22 But, again, I go back to the

informational piece, that I don't really think we have this informational piece. And if ComEd is there and Ameren is there, then obviously I think there is an obligation for them to come in and talk to us about what's going on in these meetings that are going on with regard to the City of Chicago.

And, you know, the City of Chicago, no offense, they want it their way or the highway. And they are very closed about how they do things. And they care nothing about the regional impact of what they do and how others are going to pay. And I say that as a former Chicago resident and a McHenry County resident.

14 So, you know, these are things as 15 regulators -- that's why it is great that we come 16 from all different parts because we kind of look at 17 it a little differently. But I think we need to 18 learn more about it before we start sticking our head 19 in a place that it may not be appropriate for us to 20 be doing it, when we don't have the base knowledge for it. 21

CHAIRMAN FLORES: Let me just say for the sake

22

1 of time because I know that Commissioner Elliott has 2 got to get going, that's why I wanted to bring this 3 up in this administrative meeting so that we would 4 have the ability to have this discussion and to 5 really formulate it in a way that made sense.

6 Again, I just want to reiterate that it is critical, given what the ICC's knowledge of the 7 importance of making sure that policies, whatever 8 policies are made, that they be in line with all of 9 10 the areas and the factors that we have to regulate, 11 all right. I think a good point has been made with 12 regards to protecting that consumer interest and 13 recognizing that a variety of policies, while they 14 may seem politically good and expedient, that we have 15 to be mindful of what the expenses are going to be, that we enter into these policies with our eyes wide 16 17 open.

But, frankly, the ICC is in the best position to inform and instruct these parties. And that's why, again, I think it is good for us to have these discussions and to think about the vehicle by which we can provide for that instruction, to avoid

1 the issues that Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz just 2 referenced and also Commissioner Colgan, Ford and 3 Elliott.

4 Let me make this recommendation. Commissioner Elliott indicated that he had some 5 literature on this issue. If anyone else has any 6 other literature on this issue, I ask that the 7 parties make that available to all of the assistants 8 9 so that everyone has an opportunity. I believe that 10 with regards to a resolution, Commissioner 11 O'Connell-Diaz, I think it could be along the lines 12 of frankly instructing parties that we regulate that 13 if you are having these discussions, to come before 14 the ICC to give us a report.

15 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: You know what, 16 Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN FLORES: I am not done.

18 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: We don't need a 19 resolution for that.

20 CHAIRMAN FLORES: I am not done. Can I just 21 finish my remarks, with all due respect? It is a 22 recommendation. I am not suggesting that that's the vehicle we choose. It is a recommendation of a possible vehicle. So I think it starts, though, from the perspective of making sure that everyone has the information and so that people can review this material so that we can decide collectively what is the appropriate next steps.

7 That being said, I would just like to remind everyone again, though, that timing is 8 9 important. Given that people are already meeting, 10 given that the industry has already indicated that 11 they are going to be marketing these vehicles, given that our own President of the United States has 12 13 indicated, has demonstrated, a real strong interest 14 in this, and given that you have also had discussions even among the FERC commissioners about this 15 material, we in Illinois have to be prepared as the 16 17 chief regulatory commission of the utilities. 18 So let me just say in wrapping up here 19 that if, Commissioner Elliott, if you can distribute 20 the materials you have...

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21 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Certainly.

22 CHAIRMAN FLORES: ..let's plan on having

another administrative meeting in the next bench session that we have to then discuss this issue. I am hoping that at that point we can agree to some concrete next steps or measures, given the information that we will have.

6 COMMISSIONER FORD: One other point, I would 7 like to look at best practices. See, we don't need 8 to try to always reinvent the wheel. If California 9 takes the lead, I want to know what they did, Tim, if 10 you are going to find somebody to this. That's the 11 way I would like at it.

12 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: I think they are in the 13 middle of looking at the same things that we are 14 talking about.

COMMISSIONER FORD: But they seem to be farther
 ahead, if they are one in five. Somebody has to be.
 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: That's what I am saying.
 They are buying these cars without a plan. They are
 putting them in their garages and plugging them in.
 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: I think it's good to look

21 at that, though.

22 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: I mean, that's what's

1 being done in California.

| 2  | COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: But I have a             |
|----|---|
| 3  | question. I don't believe on our staff we have        |
| 4  | anybody that is an expert on plug-in hybrid vehicles  |
| 5  | of any sort. Are there any stimulus moneys that are   |
| 6  | available that we could in fact get somebody that is  |
| 7  | an expert in that field?                              |
| 8  | And I am not slicing our staff or                     |
| 9  | anything, but we all are assuming that we have        |
| 10 | someone that is an expert in this area. And forgive   |
| 11 | me, but we are running low on the amount of employees |
| 12 | that we have. We have 8,000 rate cases; people are    |
| 13 | working around the clock. And so, you know, we just   |
| 14 | need to be mindful of this. And I don't know whether  |
| 15 | we have anybody that is there that does that, and     |
| 16 | maybe some of these stimulus moneys could be utilized |
| 17 | for that purpose.                                     |
| 18 | MR. ANDERSON: I think we have utilized the            |
| 19 | stimulus money and there are some people getting      |
| 20 | ready to come on board. In the energy area these are  |

21 young people. That's the way we did it. But I think 22 they are --

1 COMMISSIONER FORD: Saying something about us 2 olders?

3 MR. ANDERSON: But we can submerge them in this 4 kind of thing. Mary has a person who is getting 5 ready to start in that area, too, could assist from 6 some of the legal aspects. So we can get on that 7 from that perspective. That's what we have these 8 folks here to do, is some of these new emerging 9 areas. So we can get right on that.

10 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Good.

11 COMMISSIONER FORD: The last question for 12 Sherman. Who is paying the bills when the people 13 plug in, Sherman? I guess that's my --

14 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: That's the problem. 15 What you have got is a car with a battery and a plug. 16 You go home and you plug it in. The issue is, is 17 this good policy, and the answer is no. What you 18 want to do is have these things charge off-peak. 19 Well, how do you do that? What's the mechanism that 20 you accomplish that with?

21 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: People will be burning22 their house down because they are trying to get

1 something out of the plug in the wall that it is not 2 designed to provide.

3 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Exactly. And the cars, 4 they are not charging the way they are being told. So what's happening is the experience is turning out 5 bad for the consumer, bad for the automobile 6 manufacturer. It is bad for the utility because they 7 have got distribution system problems related to the 8 9 clustering of these things. And now they are all 10 finding out that we need to come together to solve 11 these problems and here are the problems, and that's what California is in the middle of doing. 12

13 And looking at the scoping memo, the 14 scoping memo that Michael Peavey wrote, about the 15 investigation that they are dealing in, it is exactly the same things we have been talking about here. 16 17 What's the short term solution to deal with the quy 18 that comes home with the car? What's the long term 19 solution when it comes to the Smart Grid? And that's 20 the sort of think that we are dealing with in the 21 collaborative.

22 COMMISSIONER FORD: What was their regulatory

1 controls before? They had none? They had no regulatory controls before this happened? 2 3 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: No. I mean, you don't 4 have to go to -- when you buy a car, there is no connection between that and the utility or the 5 regulatory community. You just buy a car with a 6 7 plug. COMMISSIONER COLGAN: Well, that's a missing 8 step then. 9 10 COMMISSIONER FORD: The missing step is that 11 the consumer evidently didn't know that they were 12 going to pay more to plug that car in. 13 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: Deceptive practices. 14 COMMISSIONER FORD: Absolutely. 15 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Well, here is another thing, and this really does go to the 16 17 legislative impact of this. If this is the fact that 18 there is no plan, there is no -- there does need -- I 19 mean, the entities selling the cars are licensed by 20 the state. There has to be a connectivity between 21 that and how the new gas for the car is going to come

22 into that car. And that really is a legislative

1 function.

If the law is changed to the effect 2 3 that the car manufacturers as well as the car dealers 4 are going to have to, you know, fit that piece of the 5 puzzle in, that's the front end part. And, you know, that is a legislative function because the Commission 6 can't be telling them what to do, they can't tell the 7 City of Chicago what to do. 8 9 MR. ANDERSON: Well, at a minimum that involves 10 the Secretary of State. 11 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Right. There are many 12 issues here, the motor vehicle tax not being done on 13 gasoline, if these things take off, who knows. I am 14 agnostic with regard to whether they are ever going 15 to go. My issue is what do we do in the short 16 term for somebody that comes home with a car in 17 18 November of this year with a pluq. Because there is 19 no relationship. 20 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: How many cars are 21 coming to Illinois in November of this year? 22 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Well, if there is no

infrastructure to do this, they probably won't market 1 in Illinois. That's the other issue. I mean, they 2 will bypass those communities that aren't able. 3 4 That's why the two-year program in Indianapolis was so interesting because they weren't going to market 5 in Indianapolis because the city wasn't ready. But 6 with what they have done over the last two years, now 7 the automobile manufacturers are looking at that 8 9 community as coming in and doing business.

10 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Then let's look 11 at what they did. That sounds like they are a 12 Midwestern city. Let's see what they did.

13 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Yeah, there is no
14 question that we can certainly take whatever best
15 practices they have accomplished.

16 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: So have the staff that's 17 going to take a full scope look at it, and I support 18 your idea that we circulate the memo that you are 19 talking about and continue this discussion.

20 COMMISSIONER FORD: Absolutely continue it. 21 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: But I just feel a sense 22 of urgency here, even if it is one car. And I know

somebody is going to buy the darn thing, you know.
 CHAIRMAN FLORES: Let's get you out of here,
 Sherman.

4 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: They will go California 5 and buy the car and drive it here.

CHAIRMAN FLORES: Again, let's just agree, 6 though, that we are going to be exchanging 7 information regarding these initiatives and let's 8 plan on addressing this issue the next admin meeting 9 10 which will be scheduled for the next bench that we 11 have scheduled, with the intent of having a more formalized idea of how we want to move forward on 12 13 this issue, okay.

14 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Well, I just want 15 to say something about our admin meetings. You know, 16 obviously we bring these issues up at the admin 17 meetings, but I would encourage everybody to talk 18 amongst ourselves outside the admin meetings and 19 encourage that type of discussion, that we are not 20 violating any kind of rulings of the Commission, but 21 certainly we really do need to dialogue among 22 ourselves and not just at the admin meetings. And I

1 think that we could be doubly productive because of 2 that.

3 So I would encourage everyone to, you 4 know, when we have these issues that come up, let's 5 talk about them in between time and we will get 6 double the fun out of it.

7 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Absolutely.

MS. STEPHENSON-SCHROEDER: I would only concur 8 on that point. Can I just say, I think Commissioner 9 10 O'Connell-Diaz hits on a very important point. Admin 11 meetings are supposed to be for personnel and 12 scheduling matters, so it is really limited what you 13 can go into discussions on. We have had this 14 problems in the past and sometimes you stray off 15 that. You can stray a little and talk about ideas for proposing and scheduling for proposing things, 16 17 but you are really supposed to stick to personnel and 18 scheduling matters.

19 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: So really, these 20 issues, we can really do these among ourselves and I 21 think we can be very -- what is the word I want --22 productive in talking about these all during the

1 weeks and I don't think we really need to be just only isolating these for admin meetings. And based 2 on what Mary just said, which I didn't really think 3 4 about, it is probably not appropriate for them to be 5 at the admin meetings. So I think we really should start talking among ourselves without violating any 6 rules and figure out a game plan for this, and we 7 don't need to have it at the admin meetings. We can 8 9 really start working on what we want to be doing with 10 this and come to some good, well-constructed 11 programs.

12 CHAIRMAN FLORES: I just agree with that and, 13 Mary, I appreciate just the reminders in terms of the 14 admin meetings. I also, though, share the views that 15 Commissioner Colgan expressed that these admin meetings are, I think, a good idea in addition to 16 17 what Commissioner O'Connell-Diaz indicated, just so 18 that we stay on track in terms of scheduling. I know 19 we have so much work on our docket and, you know, 20 what we are doing individually, but I think these are 21 good meetings just to keep moving forward.

22 So that being said, I just want to

1 thank all of you and also Commissioner Elliott. We 2 wish you a safe travel to wherever you are going. 3 COMMISSIONER ELLIOTT: Yeah, I am going to go 4 talk about transmission planning. I am excited. COMMISSIONER FORD: Well, you better have 5 control of citing. Lock it down, lock it down. 6 7 CHAIRMAN FLORES: Judges Wallace? COMMISSIONER FORD: The southern states would 8 never go with it, if it wasn't states' rights. 9 10 CHAIRMAN FLORES: Judge Wallace, do you want to 11 talk about the scheduling of the procurement 12 meetings? 13 JUDGE WALLACE: Well, the initial thing is 14 Richard says we need a meeting March 30 or 31 for the 15 Ameren capacity benchmark methodology. COMMISSIONER FORD: The 31st is not good for me 16 unless it is in Chicago because I have a meeting. 17 18 MR. ANDERSON: It would be a special meeting. 19 JUDGE WALLACE: Well, it will be a special open 20 meeting and it can be anywhere and it can be video 21 conference. 22 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: The 31st in

Chicago is fine for me. Is that okay, Commission
 Ford?

3 COMMISSIONER FORD: That's fine. It would have 4 to be because I have a meeting right after that. 5 JUDGE WALLACE: And Commissioner Elliott got out of here, so I don't know if that's good. 6 7 CHAIRMAN FLORES: What was the date again on 8 that? 9 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: March 31. 10 JUDGE WALLACE: March 31, whatever time. 11 CHAIRMAN FLORES: I will not be here. I will 12 be out of the country, so. 13 JUDGE WALLACE: You are available? 14 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: I am available. 15 JUDGE WALLACE: Well, we just need to check with Commissioner Elliott to see if he is available. 16 17 Whatever time you want to do it is fine. We have 18 until Friday to put out notice. 19 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Commissioner 20 Ford, what time is your commitment? COMMISSIONER FORD: It is not until 4:00. 21 22 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: So how about is

1 10:30 good for everyone or do we want to do it in the 2 afternoon? What's everyone's pleasure? Commissioner 3 Colgan?

4 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: I am good.

5 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: I know you are6 good. I was asking for a time.

7 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: That day looks good.8 10:30 is fine with me.

9 MR. ANDERSON: And just for background, these 10 things, we don't have anything else like this. I 11 mean, the procurement administrators in the IPA kind 12 of decide how these things are going to run and then 13 we end up throwing out -- they are always special 14 meetings. We try to work them in with existing scheduled meetings but a lot of times we have to, 15 16 because it is a one-day turnaround, say we need a 17 meeting this day or this day. We really have nothing 18 else like this. It is not ideal, but it is the way 19 the law sets approving these things up.

20 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: So we don't have 21 any choice. We have to meet by those deadlines. 22 MR. ANDERSON: Right, and especially if the

1 capacity -- the benchmarks end up driving everything else. So we have a little bit more forward notice on 2 3 what the actual RFP approval things are, but the 4 benchmarks kind of end up -- they don't even have 5 most of the rest of them scheduled yet. COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Well, we have a 6 quorum even without Commissioner Elliott, so I think 7 8 we are okay. MR. ANDERSON: No, I don't think we do. 9 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: We have got 10 11 three? 12 MR. ANDERSON: I think we need four. 13 JUDGE WALLACE: We need Commissioner Elliott. 14 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: We have three? 15 JUDGE WALLACE: No, our quorum is four. MR. ANDERSON: When you are at a full five, you 16 17 have to have --COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: I am sorry. I 18 19 got so used to the other way. 20 COMMISSIONER FORD: We can have Alicia e-mail him and find out. 21 22 JUDGE WALLACE: He will be back.

COMMISSIONER FORD: Yeah, he will be back. He
 will be back in time.

3 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: He can always
4 call in.

JUDGE WALLACE: No, he can't call in, either.
MS. STEPHENSON-SCHROEDER: Yes, he can.

JUDGE WALLACE: No, he can't. The quorum has8 to be either physically present or video.

9 MS. STEPHENSON-SCHROEDER: I thought if they10 are altogether, then one still can call in.

11 MR. ANDERSON: The fifth could call in.

JUDGE WALLACE: The fifth person can call in, not with four.

MR. ANDERSON: You need the quorum in place.
MS. STEPHENSON-SCHROEDER: I am sorry. I am
sorry. I thought Chairman -- I didn't hear Chairman
Flores wasn't going to be here. I'm sorry.

JUDGE WALLACE: And then the next meeting is, according to Richard, is it looks hopefully it could be taken care of April 6 or 7, and it all depends on whether you want to take one day to vote or two days to vote.

COMMISSIONER FORD: April 7 I will be gone to
 Charleston, West Virginia, for my OPSI board.

3 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: And we have the 4 meeting on the 6th, so let's get that done on the 5 6th. We will be here.

JUDGE WALLACE: Again, it depends if they get
the report in.

8 COMMISSIONER O'CONNELL-DIAZ: Encourage them to 9 work quickly on it.

10 COMMISSIONER FORD: Because we leave right 11 after the April 6 meeting.

JUDGE WALLACE: But there should be four here to vote on the 7th, right?

14 CHAIRMAN FLORES: Yeah.

15 JUDGE WALLACE: And it gets goofier when ComEd 16 starts rolling in, too.

MR. ANDERSON: It gets goofy. And they wanted to go to one day. Aren't we at one day now?

JUDGE WALLACE: Well, March 31 is two days but the April 6, 7, 8, if we go -- if it comes in April 6 like Richard suggests and we vote on it April 7, it's the one day. If you want to go to two days, you

1 would have to have a special open meeting on the 8th. MR. ANDERSON: So what do we need to ask 2 3 Commissioner Elliott? It is May or, I am sorry, 4 March? JUDGE WALLACE: March 31, 10:30 a.m. 5 MR. ANDERSON: March 31, 10:30. 6 JUDGE WALLACE: And I guess just for purposes 7 of setting it, we will have it set in Chicago. 8 9 COMMISSIONER COLGAN: But we can do it by 10 video? 11 JUDGE WALLACE: We can set it for Springfield. 12 It is flipping the coin on that issue. Those are the 13 only two dates Richard has given us so far. So there 14 will be others that RFPs will come in and more benchmarks from ComEd. 15 Okay. Thank you. 16 17 CHAIRMAN FLORES: All right. Any other 18 matters? Very well, that concludes our 19 administrative meeting. 20 MEETING CONCLUDED 21 22