March 27, 2023 Prehearing Conference ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

SCS Carbon Transport LLC Midwest Carbon Express CO2 Pipeline Project Siting Application

Case No. PU-22-39

TRANSCRIPT OF TELEPHONIC PREHEARING CONFERENCE

APPEARANCES

LAWRENCE BENDER, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., on behalf of Applicant SCS Carbon Transport LLC

BRIAN E. JORDE, Domina Law Group, on behalf of Intervenors/Landowners

STEVE J. LEIBEL, Knoll Leibel LLP, on behalf of Intervenors/Landowners $\,$

KEVIN PRANIS, on behalf of Intervenor Laborers District Council of Minnesota and North Dakota (LIUNA)

ZACHARY PELHAM, Special Assistant Attorney General Advisory Counsel to the Public Service Commission

and see how many witnesses and anticipated length for testimony from the parties.

So I believe we have our hearing starting at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning. And the commissioners and staff are coming in by plane. So it's my understanding, due to restrictions with the state plane and pilot schedules and time, that the plane needs to leave Gwinner by 9 p.m. So I think in order for that to happen, we need to be concluding the hearing around, at the very latest, 8 to 8:15 tomorrow night.

So, with that in mind, assuming that we go that full time, you know, we'll -- I'll plan on taking at least a morning break and an afternoon break that are usually 15 to 20 minutes and then two meal breaks, at least 30 minutes for those. So I think best estimate, we have about nine hours for testimony and public comment. Obviously, public comment is really going to depend how many people come to the hearing and how many people want to provide testimony. So I know that's impossible to predict today.

And I think I just heard somebody join. Can I ask who just called in?

MR. PRANIS: It's Kevin Pranis.

ALJ HOGAN: Oh. Good afternoon, Mr. Pranis. I apologize. We started without you since I had everybody

PAGE 3

PAGE 4

1	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE HOGAN: All right. It
2	is 12:02 p.m. on March 27th, 2023. This is the time and
3	date scheduled for a prehearing conference in PSC File
4	No. PU-22-391. This is a siting application for SCC
5	Carbon Transport LLC for the Midwest Carbon Express CO2
6	nineline project

I scheduled this prehearing conference to discuss tomorrow's hearing in Gwinner, North Dakota, so I'd like to keep the conversation specific to just tomorrow's hearing and not issues for this case.

Appearing for our prehearing conference today

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12 are the following: on behalf of the Applicant is
13 Attorney Lawrence Bender; on behalf of the Public
14 Service Commission is Attorney Zach Pelham; on behalf of
15 the intervenors are Attorneys Brian Jorde and Steven

the intervenors are Attorneys Brian Jorde and Steven

Leibel; and we also have PSC staff member Victor Schock.

I really wanted to -- after the last hearing, I wanted to schedule this prehearing conference to just talk about the schedule for tomorrow and the available time we have for this hearing. And I apologize, I probably should have had this -- scheduled this last

week so my apologies if this is so last minute.So just to kind of outline what we have

available for hearing time tomorrow, I want to gothrough that, and then I just kind of want to go around

else on the line.

MR. PRANIS: No, no, no. That's my fault.ALJ HOGAN: Okay. So, with that in mind --

And, Mr. Pranis, I was just going through the
schedule for tomorrow. And I guess the bottom line is I
think we have about nine hours at most for tomorrow's
hearing for testimony and public comment.

So I'm going to start with you, Mr. Bender. Do you know how many witnesses you plan to offer tomorrow?

MR. BENDER: Thank you, Your Honor. I haven't

totally decided that issue yet. One of the things I'm considering doing, Your Honor, is because we put our case on for the most part in Bismarck, I know that the hearing here in Gwinner is to discuss some of the things that are going on in Dickey County and Sargent County, and then, of course, there were some questions that were asked by the commissioners having to do with the SHPO letter and the Geological Survey letter and the -- where we are on right of way acquisitions and also the coal mine.

One of the things I considered doing is just putting on one witness, updating the Commission with respect to the SHPO letter, the Geological Survey letter, the right of way acquisition, and the coal mine, and then leave it to the intervenors to go forward. As

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March 27, 2023 Prehearing Conference ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

	IND PUBLIC SERV		
1	you know, Your Honor, we presented our case for the most	1	MR. JORDE: Well, so at this time at this
2	part, as I indicated, in Bismarck, but we have not heard	2	particular hearing again, this might change, but our
3	from the intervenors. And it just seems to me that time	3	intent prior to noon today was Rose Dotzenrod, Ben
4	might be better spent with the intervenors presenting	4	Dotzenrod, and Shirley Waloch, W-A-L-O-C-H.
5	their case and then, of course, the Commission having an	5	Now, I preface that because, based on
6	opportunity to hear from the public.	6	Mr. Bender's comments, and maybe a little clarification
7	So what I'm saying, Your Honor, is that we can	7	can help, but landowners, intervenors, of course, have
8	make it very short, but obviously if the Commission has	8	no burden of proof. And given that these are all
9	questions or Commission staff has questions, we could	9	separate hearings, it seems like they would need to put
10	respond to those, but we just don't think it makes much	10	on their case at each separate one. Otherwise, any
11	sense to spend a bunch of time going over what we went	11	person any intervenor testifying or participating
12	through in the long day in Bismarck.	12	and, frankly, anyone with public comment after the
13	ALJ HOGAN: Yeah. And I tend to agree with you,	13	initial hearing would be disadvantaged to the fact that
14	Mr. Bender, but I'll let the other parties weigh in on	14	how could you prepare your cross-examination or give
15	that as well.	15	cross-examination, conduct cross-examination, or then
16	Mr. Pelham, I assume you're not planning on	16	even in the public comments make appropriate comments if
17	calling any witnesses on behalf of the PSC tomorrow?	17	you haven't heard what the pipeline company is, you
18	MR. PELHAM: That's correct, we are not. Can I	18	know, claiming as their case in chief and putting it out
19	respond to Mr. Bender's statement?	19	there. So I think that's a potential problem.
20	ALJ HOGAN: Yes, absolutely.	20	Now, if it's going to be short-circuited for the
21	MR. PELHAM: No. I think from the Commission's	21	benefit of, I guess, the staff and the PSC in general
22	perspective, we are not opposed to what Mr. Bender is	22	because it's kind of like, well, we already heard this,
23	proposing. I would say, though, that I do think for	23	that's one thing, but no one showing up at Gwinner heard
24	purposes of members of the public that are attending in	24	anything that happened in Burleigh County. So I think
25	Gwinner tomorrow, that there needs to be a summation of	25	that's a potential issue.
	PAGE 5		PAGE 7
1	the project by a company witness and presented in that	1	And based on, I guess, kind of what I'm hearing
1 2	the project by a company witness and presented in that fashion, specific as to the counties that are covered	1 2	And based on, I guess, kind of what I'm hearing here and the fact that we're looking to set this
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March 27, 2023 Prehearing Conference ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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1	the record.	1	to conduct any cross-examination without him in the
2	And so I would submit that it might be more	2	room, and I understand that.
3	appropriate and, again, this then could fit into the	3	So if he would like to go forward with that and
4	condensed schedule and then the plane schedule, and I	4	conditioned upon me having the opportunity to
5	understand there's some practical things we need to work	5	cross-examine at a later date and I may not, but just
6	around, but I would suggest they be allowed and would	6	that opportunity I would stipulate to that.
7	ask for Mr. Bender's stipulation that the three of those	7	ALJ HOGAN: Okay. Mr. Pelham, any thoughts?
8	individuals be allowed to simply read into the record	8	MR. PELHAM: My only thought is even public
9	what would have otherwise been back and forth, back and	9	members of the public who provide testimony are
10	forth. That will speed things along. And then they'll	10	questioned. So I don't know the procedure that we've
11	have had their say. That's what I would request.	11	got in place, I would think that there may be questions
12	ALJ HOGAN: Okay. And before I go back to you,	12	from the commissioners, I may have questions on them. I
13	Mr. Bender, I just want to ask Mr. Pranis and I know,	13	think if they testify, you know, just in the generic
14	Mr. Pranis, you and I spoke during a break at the last	14	term as a member of the public and provide testimony,
15	hearing. It was my understanding that you planned to	15	they'd be subject to questions. So I don't know that
16	offer testimony or witnesses at one of the hearings, but	16	there's a procedure where they wouldn't be questioned or
17	then you ended up having to leave early from the	17	the potential for their questioning at the hearing.
18	Bismarck one so that didn't happen, which was okay	18	I don't know if Mr. Jorde's intention was to not
19	because we ran out of time anyway.	19	allow them to be questioned. I don't know that, I
20	So I guess my question is, Mr. Pranis, were you	20	didn't hear him say that, but maybe we can clarify on
21	planning on appearing tomorrow? And if so, are you	21	that point.
22	planning to present witnesses tomorrow?	22	ALJ HOGAN: Sure.
23	MR. PRANIS: Yes, Your Honor. I plan to appear	23	Mr. Jorde.
24	tomorrow and, with your permission, wanted to present	24	MR. JORDE: Yes. I think, you know, being
25	I have one witness, who is not me, and also wanted to	25	questioned based on, you know, limited, do not go
-0	PAGE 9		PAGE 11
1	present the report that we commissioned looking at	1	outside the scope of what they specifically say is fine.
2	economic impacts of that. I think Gwinner's as good a	2	I mean, I agree if you speak from a member of the
3	place as any to provide that. And I would be the	-	Thean, Tagree if you speak normal member of the
4	place as any to provide that. This i would be the	3	public you are subjected to questions potentially. So
	nrimary witness	3	public, you are subjected to questions potentially. So
	primary witness	4	I guess I don't have a problem with that.
5	ALJ HOGAN: Okay.	4 5	I guess I don't have a problem with that. I mean, in the spirit of things, I think what
5 6	ALJ HOGAN: Okay. MR. PRANIS: of that if Your Honor is willing	4 5 6	I guess I don't have a problem with that. I mean, in the spirit of things, I think what Mr. Bender was getting at, and which I respect and agree
5 6 7	ALJ HOGAN: Okay. MR. PRANIS: of that if Your Honor is willing and other parties don't object to present to just	4 5 6 7	I guess I don't have a problem with that. I mean, in the spirit of things, I think what Mr. Bender was getting at, and which I respect and agree with, is he wouldn't go into a full-blown
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PAGE 12

PAGE 10

March 27, 2023 Prehearing Conference ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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conclusion of the Bismarck hearing. And these could be
                                                                      1
                                                                         are looking at one additional hearing day in Bismarck.
                                                                      2
                                                                         So that's probably going to be similar to what we had at
 2
     some -- I will tell you that this location is
 3
     convenient, more convenient, for their time and expense
                                                                      3
                                                                         the last one where we're going to have a limited amount
 4
     and away from chores, and so that's why the three
                                                                         of time for that day and a number of witnesses to get
 5
     individuals that I mentioned would like to simply say
                                                                      5
                                                                         in. So I'm not necessarily dictating anything, but I
     their piece, and I would think that's maybe ten minutes
                                                                      6
                                                                         just want the parties to be aware of where we're at with
 6
 7
     each. This is not going to be lengthy.
                                                                      7
                                                                         that.
                                                                      8
 8
             ALJ HOGAN: Okay. And just, you know, as we're
                                                                                 MR. JORDE: Your Honor, again, Brian Jorde.
 9
     talking about this and I'm thinking about that continued
                                                                      9
                                                                                  In regards to that, and since we're all here,
     Bismarck hearing, I think we're going to have time
                                                                     10
10
                                                                         will there be a set order? Are the intervenors, should
11
     issues with that hearing too.
                                                                     11
                                                                         we be talking offline and coordinating to try to be as
12
             So, you know, Mr. Jorde and Mr. Leibel, just so
                                                                     12
                                                                          efficient as possible? Or what's the best practice for,
13
     you guys know, we're going to be limited on time for
                                                                     13
                                                                         frankly, any of these hearings but specifically the
14
     that continued hearing too. And I know Mr. Bakke wants
                                                                     14
                                                                         Bismarck one?
15
     to present witnesses too. So, you know, I know I
                                                                     15
                                                                                 ALJ HOGAN: Mr. Jorde, and I guess to all the
16
     started this prehearing by talking about nine hours and
                                                                     16
                                                                         parties, I think that's a good idea. My plan is, once
17
     -- I mean, that's not nothing, that's quite a bit of
                                                                     17
                                                                         we have a hearing date for that next -- for that last
     time. So I guess my thought is please keep in mind that
                                                                     18
                                                                         hearing, I plan on holding another prehearing conference
18
19
     I don't want to pack everything into that Bismarck --
                                                                     19
                                                                         because I think -- I mean, if we learned anything from
20
     that continued Bismarck hearing because I think we're
                                                                     20
                                                                          the last hearing, having a game plan going in is
21
                                                                     21
     going to have time issues there too.
                                                                         probably a better idea than trying to do it on the fly
22
             MR. JORDE: Your Honor?
                                                                     22
                                                                         on the day of the hearing. So my plan would be to have
23
                                                                     23
                                                                         another prehearing conference to talk about scheduling
             ALJ HOGAN: Yep.
24
                                                                     24
                                                                          for that day and the amount of time we're going to have,
             MR. JORDE: I'm sorry, go ahead.
25
             ALJ HOGAN: No, I was done. Go ahead.
                                                                     25
                                                                         etcetera. So as much as the intervenors can get
                                                        PAGE 13
                                                                                                                            PAGE 15
 1
             MR. JORDE: This is Mr. Jorde.
                                                                          together and talk about that before that prehearing,
                                                                      2
 2
                                                                         that would be helpful, I think.
             I -- you know, just as an aside, for instance,
                                                                      3
 3
     in South Dakota, the hearing there for Summit is taking
                                                                                 MR. PRANIS: Is there a reason why we're not
                                                                      4
                                                                         doing prefiled testimony -- sorry. Kevin Pranis -- why
 4
     place over 15 trial -- or 15 hearing days. I realize we
                                                                      5
 5
     currently have four set with the one additional --
                                                                         we're not doing prefiled testimony for that Bismarck
                                                                      6
                                                                         hearing?
 6
     or one that's happened, three more, and then one
 7
     additional follow-on day. We certainly try to do our
                                                                      7
                                                                                 ALJ HOGAN: I don't know the answer to that.
                                                                      8
 8
                                                                                 Mr. Schock, do you know?
                                                                      9
 9
             You know, this is a pretty important docket to a
                                                                                 MR. SCHOCK: There's absolutely no problem with
10
     lot of people and it's complex and never done before in
                                                                     10
                                                                          any prefiled testimony in any of these proceedings.
11
                                                                     11
     the history of the state of North Dakota, nor has the
                                                                                 MR. PRANIS: I mean, I found that that can cut
12
     Commission ever proceeded over this particular type of
                                                                     12
                                                                          down the time significantly because then the focus is on
13
                                                                     13
                                                                          questions rather than reading through the testimony.
     pipeline. And so I guess we would certainly advocate
14
     for -- to be flexible as the Commission can on allowing
                                                                     14
                                                                                 ALJ HOGAN: Sure. Was there somebody else that
15
     enough time for all that (indiscernible).
                                                                     15
                                                                         had some comments?
16
             ALJ HOGAN: Yep. And I totally get all that,
                                                                     16
                                                                                 MR. JORDE: I'm sorry, this is the last thing
17
     Mr. Jorde. It's my understanding, and maybe Victor can
                                                                     17
                                                                         for tomorrow, Your Honor. So just in the spirit of kind
18
     -- or Mr. Schock can correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm
                                                                     18
                                                                         of the order and knowing the flow of things, given that
                                                                     19
19
     pretty sure they're only looking at one additional
                                                                         we've reached an agreement that our three folks will
20
     hearing date.
                                                                     20
                                                                         show up, will they be able to go first after, obviously,
21
                                                                     21
                                                                          Summit goes and then, you know, the staff? I mean,
             Mr. Schock, am I correct on that?
22
                                                                     22
                                                                         where will they be in line, just so I don't have them
             MR. SCHOCK: Yes, you are correct.
23
             ALJ HOGAN: Okay. So I don't have any control
                                                                     23
                                                                         there for nine hours, if we can kind of narrow that
24
     over that. That's up to the PSC so I guess you can make
                                                                     24
                                                                         down?
                                                                     25
                                                                                 ALJ HOGAN: Sure. And normally -- and it -- I
25
     your pitch to them, but as of now, I think the parties
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PAGE 16

March 27, 2023 Prehearing Conference ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

	IND I OBLIC SERV	1	
1	think it makes sense to continue the normal procedure	1	One clarification on that. That's all correct.
2	for tomorrow's hearing. So Summit will present its	2	I would request the courtesy of having, say, ten days or
3	witnesses first. And then given what we've talked about	3	two weeks or some advance notice rather than not knowing
4	today, Mr. Jorde, I think your clients would go next.	4	if questions want to be asked and then they make the
5	And then we would move to public testimony. Well,	5	trek and they're sitting there and it's, like "Oh, I
6	actually	6	didn't need to ask questions."
7	MR. JORDE: That's great. So we'll have	7	So I mean I guess you know, you'll know after
8	ALJ HOGAN: Go back. Mr. Jorde, your clients	8	tomorrow if there's something you want to follow up on,
9	would go I'd call them first. Then I'd have Mr.	9	Mr. Bender, and I'd appreciate it if you could give us a
10	Pranis present his witnesses, and then public testimony.	10	head's up, if that makes sense.
11	MR. JORDE: Okay. Very good. So I'll need to	11	MR. BENDER: I have no problem with that at all.
12	have them there ready to go first thing in the morning,	12	I think that's a fair request.
13	it sounds like.	13	ALJ HOGAN: All right. Are there any other
14	ALJ HOGAN: Yeah.	14	questions the parties want to discuss regarding
15	MR. JORDE: Okay.	15	tomorrow's hearing?
16	ALJ HOGAN: Yeah. Because I don't anticipate,	16	Mr. Bender, did you have anything?
17	even if Summit's witnesses provide more you know, a	17	MR. BENDER: I don't have anything further, Your
18	summary or more information about the project than maybe	18	Honor.
19	originally thought, you know, I don't think it will be	19	ALJ HOGAN: All right. And Mr. Pelham?
20	as lengthy as their testimony in Bismarck so	20	MR. PELHAM: Nothing further. Thank you.
21	MR. JORDE: Okay.	21	ALJ HOGAN: Mr. Jorde or Mr. Leibel.
22	MR. BENDER: That's correct, Your Honor.	22	MR. JORDE: Brian Jorde.
23	ALJ HOGAN: Okay.	23	If, for instance, and I don't think we will, but
24	MR. BENDER: I'm sorry, Your Honor. This is	24	say a fourth person comes and they want to say their
25	Lawrence Bender again.	25	piece, I would just respectfully request they be added
	PAGE 17		PAGE 19
1	Even if we don't do it as abbreviated as I	1	at the end of the three that are there. I don't think
2	initially discussed at the beginning of this telephone	2	that will be the case, but just in case, rather than
3	conversation, it's still going to be relatively brief,	3	having them sit there all day, that's what I would
4	an outline from one, possibly two witnesses about the	4	request.
5	project, you know, timing, cost, that sort of thing. I	5	ALJ HOGAN: That's fine if there's some way you
6	mean, I understand that the public is coming, they may	6	can let me know that they're part of your group versus,
7	not have heard what happened in Bismarck. We'll give	7	you know, just (indiscernible) from the public.
8	them a flavor for the pipeline, I mean keeping in mind	8	MR. JORDE: We'll coordinate that.
9	everything we've been talking about is in the	9	ALJ HOGAN: Okay.
10	application. So maybe they couldn't attend the Bismarck	10	MR. JORDE: We'll coordinate that, Your Honor.
11	hearing, but they certainly had access to those	11	And anyone I didn't mention, again, I don't think this
12	materials.	12	is going to be the case, but they would go immediately
13	And, I mean, I can't control the Commission or	13	after the third of the three I did mention
14	the Commission staff or others from asking the public	14	ALJ HOGAN: Okay.
15	questions and, as a result of that, can't control	15	MR. JORDE: so they'd be ready.
16	questions that might be asked of Mr. Jorde's clients,	16	ALJ HOGAN: All right. Sounds good.
17	but I do not intend to do any sort of full	17	Mr. Pranis, did you have anything else for
18	cross-examination.	18	today?
19	Mr. Jorde has been cooperating here today, and I	19	MR. PRANIS: No, Your Honor.
20	trust him that he'll have those three people at the	20	ALJ HOGAN: And, Mr. Schock, did I miss anything
21	Bismarck hearing if at all possible. And if there's	21	that we need to talk about before the hearing tomorrow?
22	specific questions I want to ask them, I'm going to have	22	MR. SCHOCK: No. I think you covered
23	an opportunity to do it there.	23	everything. Thank you.
24	ALJ HOGAN: All right.	24	ALJ HOGAN: All right. Well, I thank all of you
25	MR. JORDE: I just this is Brian Jorde.	25	for calling in today and making time for this
1	PAGE 18	I	PAGE 20

March 27, 2023 Prehearing Conference ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

1	prehearing. I think this was helpful to talk about
2	tomorrow's hearing and having a better game plan going
3	into it. So thank you very much.
4	I will note for the record that it's 12:29 p.m.
5	That will conclude our prehearing conference. And I'll
6	be seeing most of you tomorrow.
7	MR. JORDE: Thank you.
8	MR. BENDER: Thank you, Your Honor.
9	ALJ HOGAN: Thank you. Bye-bye.
10	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.
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24 25	
25	B105.04
	PAGE 21
	PAGE 21 <u>CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST</u>
	CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST
	CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST
	STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA) ss. I, Lisa A. Hulm, CET-783, a certified electronic transcriber, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter, to the best of my professional skills and abilities. I further state that I was not present during these recorded proceedings, and I am
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PAGE 22

March 27, 2023 Prehearing Conference ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

1	amount [2] - 15:3, 15:24	10:22, 10:23, 12:14, 13:1, 13:10, 13:19,	conclusion [1] - 13:1 condensed [1] - 9:4	dictating [1] - 15:5 disadvantaged [1] -
	answer [2] - 12:24,	13:20, 15:1, 15:14,	conditioned [2] -	7:13
2:02 [1] - 2:2	16:7	16:5, 17:20, 18:7,	10:20, 11:4	discuss [3] - 2:8, 4:14
2:29 [1] - 21:4	anticipate [2] - 10:11,	18:10, 18:21	conduct [3] - 6:8,	19:14
5 [3] - 3:14, 14:4	17:16	bit [1] - 13:17	7:15, 11:1	discussed [2] - 6:9,
	anticipated [1] - 3:1	blown [1] - 12:7	conference [8] - 2:3,	18:2
2	anyhow [1] - 8:9	bottom [1] - 4:5	2:7, 2:11, 2:18, 8:19,	discussion [1] - 8:20
	anyway [1] - 9:19	break [3] - 3:13, 9:14	15:18, 15:23, 21:5	docket [1] - 14:9
	apologies [1] - 2:22	breaks [1] - 3:14	considered [1] - 4:21	done [2] - 13:25,
20 [1] - 3:14	apologize [2] - 2:20,	Brian [4] - 2:15, 15:8,	considering [1] - 4:12	14:10
!023 [1] - 2:2	3:25	18:25, 19:22	constraints [1] - 12:19	Dotzenrod [2] - 7:3,
? 7th [1] - 2:2	appear [1] - 9:23	brief [1] - 18:3	continuance [1] - 8:3	7:4
	appearing [4] - 2:11,	briefly [1] - 10:8	continue [1] - 17:1	down [2] - 16:12,
3	9:21, 10:19, 12:14	bringing [2] - 10:21,	continued [4] - 12:14,	16:24
		12:24		
0.45	applicant [1] - 6:7		13:9, 13:14, 13:20	due [1] - 3:6
0 [1] - 3:15	Applicant [1] - 2:12	bunch [1] - 5:11	control [3] - 14:23,	during [1] - 9:14
	application [2] - 2:4,	burden [1] - 7:8	18:13, 18:15	_
4	18:10	Burleigh [2] - 7:24,	convenient [2] - 13:3	E
	appreciate [3] - 12:9,	8:3	conversation [2] - 2:9,	
10 cm 10:40	12:18, 19:9	bye [2] - 21:9	18:3	oorly (4) 0:17
10 [1] - 10:12	appropriate [2] - 7:16,	bye-bye [1] - 21:9	cooperating [1] -	early [1] - 9:17
_	9:3		18:19	economic [1] - 10:2
8	aside [1] - 14:2	С	coordinate [2] - 20:8,	efficient [1] - 15:12
	assume [1] - 5:16		20:10	end [4] - 6:21, 8:24,
) ru 2:40	assuming [1] - 3:11		coordinating [1] -	12:20, 20:1
3 [1] - 3:10	attend [1] - 18:10	Carbon [2] - 2:5	15:11	ended [1] - 9:17
3:15 [1] - 3:10	attending [1] - 5:24	case [10] - 2:10, 4:13,	correct [7] - 5:18,	estimate [1] - 3:15
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	5:1, 5:5, 6:8, 7:10,	8:22, 14:18, 14:21,	etcetera [1] - 15:25
9	Attorney [2] - 2:13,	7:18, 20:2, 20:12		event [1] - 10:23
	2:14	certainly [5] - 12:18,	14:22, 17:22, 19:1	examination [6] -
N 0.4 0.0	Attorneys [1] - 2:15	12:25, 14:7, 14:13,	cost [1] - 18:5	7:14, 7:15, 11:1,
9 [2] - 3:4, 3:8	available [3] - 2:19,	18:11	counsel [3] - 6:14,	12:8, 18:18
_	2:24, 10:8	change [1] - 7:2	8:6, 8:12	
Α	aware [1] - 15:6		counties [1] - 6:2	examine [1] - 11:5
		chief [1] - 7:18	County [4] - 4:15,	expense [1] - 13:3
			7:24, 8:3	Express [1] - 2:5
0.4	В	chores [1] - 13:4	7.24, 0.3	Express [1] 2.0
	В	circuited [1] - 7:20	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5,	
a.m [1] - 3:4 abbreviated [1] - 18:1		circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18	· ·	F
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20	B Bakke [1] - 13:14	circuited [1] - 7:20	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23	
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20		circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2	F
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20	Bakke [1] - 13:14	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6,	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2,	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2,
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5,	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20,	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15,	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13,	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19,	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8,	fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24 acquisitions [1] - 4:19	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13,	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24 acquisitions [1] - 4:19 added [1] - 19:25	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6]	fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 abble [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24 acquisitions [1] - 4:19 added [1] - 19:25 addition [1] - 6:4	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1,	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24 acquisitions [1] - 4:19 added [1] - 19:25 addition [1] - 6:4 additional [4] - 14:5,	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10,	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6]	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24 acquisitions [1] - 4:19 added [1] - 19:25 addition [1] - 6:4 additional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24,	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17,	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1,	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3,
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24 acquisitions [1] - 4:19 added [1] - 19:25 addition [1] - 6:4 additional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 address [2] - 6:17,	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24 acquisitions [1] - 4:19 added [1] - 19:25 addition [1] - 6:4 additional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 address [2] - 6:17, 6:18	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8 Bender [11] - 2:13,	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12 comments [7] - 6:15,	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examine [1] -	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12 fit [1] - 9:3
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24 acquisitions [1] - 4:19 added [1] - 19:25 addition [1] - 6:4 additional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 address [2] - 6:17, 6:18 advance [1] - 19:3	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8 Bender [11] - 2:13, 4:8, 5:14, 5:22, 6:5,	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12 comments [7] - 6:15, 7:6, 7:16, 8:15,	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examine [1] - 11:5	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12 fit [1] - 9:3 flavor [1] - 18:8
hbbreviated [1] - 18:1 hble [1] - 16:20 hbsolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 hccess [1] - 18:11 hcquisition [1] - 4:24 hcquisitions [1] - 4:19 hdded [1] - 19:25 hddition [1] - 6:4 hdditional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 hddress [2] - 6:17, 6:18 hdvance [1] - 19:3	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8 Bender [11] - 2:13,	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12 comments [7] - 6:15, 7:6, 7:16, 8:15, 10:17, 16:15	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examine [1] - 11:5 cut [1] - 16:11	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12 fit [1] - 9:3 flavor [1] - 18:8 flexible [1] - 14:14
hbbreviated [1] - 18:1 hble [1] - 16:20 hbsolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 hccess [1] - 18:11 hcquisition [1] - 4:24 hcquisitions [1] - 4:19 hdded [1] - 19:25 hddition [1] - 6:4 hdditional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 hddress [2] - 6:17, 6:18 hdvance [1] - 19:3 hdvocate [1] - 14:13	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8 Bender [11] - 2:13, 4:8, 5:14, 5:22, 6:5,	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12 comments [7] - 6:15, 7:6, 7:16, 8:15,	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examine [1] - 11:5	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12 fit [1] - 9:3 flavor [1] - 18:8 flexible [1] - 14:14 flow [1] - 16:18
hbbreviated [1] - 18:1 hble [1] - 16:20 hbsolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 hccess [1] - 18:11 hcquisition [1] - 4:24 hcquisitions [1] - 4:19 hdded [1] - 19:25 hddition [1] - 6:4 hdditional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 hddress [2] - 6:17, 6:18 hdvance [1] - 19:3 hdvocate [1] - 14:13	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8 Bender [11] - 2:13, 4:8, 5:14, 5:22, 6:5, 9:13, 10:15, 12:6,	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12 comments [7] - 6:15, 7:6, 7:16, 8:15, 10:17, 16:15	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examine [1] - 11:5 cut [1] - 16:11	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12 fit [1] - 9:3 flavor [1] - 18:8 flexible [1] - 14:14 flow [1] - 16:18 fly [1] - 15:21
bbreviated [1] - 18:1 bble [1] - 16:20 bsolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 ccess [1] - 18:11 cquisition [1] - 4:24 cquisitions [1] - 4:19 dded [1] - 19:25 dditional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 ddress [2] - 6:17, 6:18 dvance [1] - 19:3 dvocate [1] - 14:13 fternoon [2] - 3:13, 3:24	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8 Bender [11] - 2:13, 4:8, 5:14, 5:22, 6:5, 9:13, 10:15, 12:6, 17:25, 19:9, 19:16	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12 comments [7] - 6:15, 7:6, 7:16, 8:15, 10:17, 16:15 Commission's [2] -	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examine [1] - 11:5 cut [1] - 16:11	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12 fit [1] - 9:3 flavor [1] - 18:8 flexible [1] - 14:14 flow [1] - 16:18
hbbreviated [1] - 18:1 hble [1] - 16:20 hbsolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 hccess [1] - 18:11 hcquisition [1] - 4:24 hcquisitions [1] - 4:19 hdded [1] - 19:25 hddition [1] - 6:4 hdditional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 hddress [2] - 6:17, 6:18 hdvance [1] - 19:3 hdvocate [1] - 14:13 hdrernoon [2] - 3:13, 3:24 hgree [4] - 5:13, 12:2,	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8 Bender [11] - 2:13, 4:8, 5:14, 5:22, 6:5, 9:13, 10:15, 12:6, 17:25, 19:9, 19:16 Bender's [3] - 5:19, 7:6, 9:7	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12 comments [7] - 6:15, 7:6, 7:16, 8:15, 10:17, 16:15 Commission's [2] - 5:21, 6:6 commissioned [1] -	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examine [1] - 11:5 cut [1] - 16:11	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12 fit [1] - 9:3 flavor [1] - 18:8 flexible [1] - 14:14 flow [1] - 16:18 fly [1] - 15:21
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24 acquisitions [1] - 4:19 added [1] - 19:25 addition [1] - 6:4 additional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 address [2] - 6:17, 6:18 advance [1] - 19:3 advocate [1] - 14:13 afternoon [2] - 3:13, 3:24 agree [4] - 5:13, 12:2, 12:6, 12:12	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8 Bender [11] - 2:13, 4:8, 5:14, 5:22, 6:5, 9:13, 10:15, 12:6, 17:25, 19:9, 19:16 Bender's [3] - 5:19, 7:6, 9:7 benefit [1] - 7:21	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12 comments [7] - 6:15, 7:6, 7:16, 8:15, 10:17, 16:15 Commission's [2] - 5:21, 6:6 commissioned [1] - 10:1	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examine [1] - 11:5 cut [1] - 16:11 D Dakota [3] - 2:8, 14:3, 14:11	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12 fit [1] - 9:3 flavor [1] - 18:8 flexible [1] - 14:14 flow [1] - 16:18 fly [1] - 15:21 focus [1] - 16:12 folks [5] - 8:4, 8:11,
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24 acquisitions [1] - 4:19 added [1] - 19:25 additional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 address [2] - 6:17, 6:18 advance [1] - 19:3 advocate [1] - 14:13 afternoon [2] - 3:13, 3:24 agree [4] - 5:13, 12:2, 12:6, 12:12 agreement [1] - 16:19	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8 Bender [11] - 2:13, 4:8, 5:14, 5:22, 6:5, 9:13, 10:15, 12:6, 17:25, 19:9, 19:16 Bender's [3] - 5:19, 7:6, 9:7 benefit [1] - 7:21 best [3] - 3:15, 14:8,	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12 comments [7] - 6:15, 7:6, 7:16, 8:15, 10:17, 16:15 Commission's [2] - 5:21, 6:6 commissioned [1] - 10:1 commissioners [3] -	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examine [1] - 11:5 cut [1] - 16:11 D Dakota [3] - 2:8, 14:3, 14:11 date [4] - 2:3, 11:5,	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12 fit [1] - 9:3 flavor [1] - 18:8 flexible [1] - 14:14 flow [1] - 16:18 fly [1] - 15:21 focus [1] - 16:12 folks [5] - 8:4, 8:11, 12:20, 12:25, 16:19
hbbreviated [1] - 18:1 hble [1] - 16:20 hbsolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 hccess [1] - 18:11 hcquisition [1] - 4:24 hcquisitions [1] - 4:19 hdded [1] - 19:25 hddition [1] - 6:4 hdditional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 hddress [2] - 6:17, 6:18 hdvance [1] - 19:3 hdvocate [1] - 14:13 hdrernoon [2] - 3:13, 3:24 hgree [4] - 5:13, 12:2, 12:6, 12:12 hgreement [1] - 16:19 hgriculture [1] - 12:22	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8 Bender [11] - 2:13, 4:8, 5:14, 5:22, 6:5, 9:13, 10:15, 12:6, 17:25, 19:9, 19:16 Bender's [3] - 5:19, 7:6, 9:7 benefit [1] - 7:21 best [3] - 3:15, 14:8, 15:12	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12 comments [7] - 6:15, 7:6, 7:16, 8:15, 10:17, 16:15 Commission's [2] - 5:21, 6:6 commissioned [1] - 10:1 commissioners [3] - 3:4, 4:17, 11:12	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examine [1] - 11:5 cut [1] - 16:11 D Dakota [3] - 2:8, 14:3, 14:11 date [4] - 2:3, 11:5, 14:20, 15:17	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12 fit [1] - 9:3 flavor [1] - 18:8 flexible [1] - 14:14 flow [1] - 16:18 fly [1] - 15:21 focus [1] - 16:12 folks [5] - 8:4, 8:11, 12:20, 12:25, 16:19 follow [2] - 14:7, 19:8
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24 acquisitions [1] - 4:19 added [1] - 19:25 addition [1] - 6:4 additional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 address [2] - 6:17, 6:18 advance [1] - 19:3 advocate [1] - 14:13 afternoon [2] - 3:13, 3:24 agree [4] - 5:13, 12:2, 12:6, 12:12 agreement [1] - 16:19 agriculture [1] - 12:22 ahead [2] - 13:24,	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8 Bender [11] - 2:13, 4:8, 5:14, 5:22, 6:5, 9:13, 10:15, 12:6, 17:25, 19:9, 19:16 Bender's [3] - 5:19, 7:6, 9:7 benefit [1] - 7:21 best [3] - 3:15, 14:8, 15:12 better [3] - 5:4, 15:21,	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [6] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12 comments [7] - 6:15, 7:6, 7:16, 8:15, 10:17, 16:15 Commission's [2] - 5:21, 6:6 commissioned [1] - 10:1 commissioners [3] - 3:4, 4:17, 11:12 company [2] - 6:1,	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examine [1] - 11:5 cut [1] - 16:11 D Dakota [3] - 2:8, 14:3, 14:11 date [4] - 2:3, 11:5, 14:20, 15:17 days [2] - 14:4, 19:2	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12 fit [1] - 9:3 flavor [1] - 18:8 flexible [1] - 14:14 flow [1] - 16:18 fly [1] - 15:21 focus [1] - 16:12 folks [5] - 8:4, 8:11, 12:20, 12:25, 16:19 follow [2] - 14:7, 19:8 follow-on [1] - 14:7
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24 acquisitions [1] - 4:19 added [1] - 19:25 addition [1] - 6:4 additional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 address [2] - 6:17, 6:18 advance [1] - 19:3 advocate [1] - 14:13 afternoon [2] - 3:13, 3:24 agree [4] - 5:13, 12:2, 12:6, 12:12 agreement [1] - 16:19 agriculture [1] - 12:22 ahead [2] - 13:24, 13:25	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8 Bender [11] - 2:13, 4:8, 5:14, 5:22, 6:5, 9:13, 10:15, 12:6, 17:25, 19:9, 19:16 Bender's [3] - 5:19, 7:6, 9:7 benefit [1] - 7:21 best [3] - 3:15, 14:8, 15:12 better [3] - 5:4, 15:21, 21:2	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12 comments [7] - 6:15, 7:6, 7:16, 8:15, 10:17, 16:15 Commission's [2] - 5:21, 6:6 commissioned [1] - 10:1 commissioners [3] - 3:4, 4:17, 11:12 company [2] - 6:1, 7:17	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examine [1] - 11:5 cut [1] - 16:11 D Dakota [3] - 2:8, 14:3, 14:11 date [4] - 2:3, 11:5, 14:20, 15:17 days [2] - 14:4, 19:2 dealing [1] - 12:18	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12 fit [1] - 9:3 flavor [1] - 18:8 flexible [1] - 14:14 flow [1] - 16:18 fly [1] - 15:21 focus [1] - 16:12 folks [5] - 8:4, 8:11, 12:20, 12:25, 16:19 follow [2] - 14:7, 19:8 follow-on [1] - 14:7 following [1] - 2:12
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24 acquisitions [1] - 4:19 added [1] - 19:25 addition [1] - 6:4 additional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 address [2] - 6:17, 6:18 advance [1] - 19:3 advocate [1] - 14:13 afternoon [2] - 3:13, 3:24 agree [4] - 5:13, 12:2, 12:6, 12:12 agreement [1] - 16:19 agriculture [1] - 12:22 ahead [2] - 13:24, 13:25 allow [1] - 11:19	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8 Bender [11] - 2:13, 4:8, 5:14, 5:22, 6:5, 9:13, 10:15, 12:6, 17:25, 19:9, 19:16 Bender's [3] - 5:19, 7:6, 9:7 benefit [1] - 7:21 best [3] - 3:15, 14:8, 15:12 better [3] - 5:4, 15:21, 21:2 between [1] - 10:12	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12 comments [7] - 6:15, 7:6, 7:16, 8:15, 10:17, 16:15 Commission's [2] - 5:21, 6:6 commissioned [1] - 10:1 commissioners [3] - 3:4, 4:17, 11:12 company [2] - 6:1, 7:17 complex [1] - 14:10	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examine [1] - 11:5 cut [1] - 16:11 D Dakota [3] - 2:8, 14:3, 14:11 date [4] - 2:3, 11:5, 14:20, 15:17 days [2] - 14:4, 19:2 dealing [1] - 12:18 decided [1] - 4:11	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12 fit [1] - 9:3 flavor [1] - 18:8 flexible [1] - 14:14 flow [1] - 16:18 fly [1] - 15:21 focus [1] - 16:12 folks [5] - 8:4, 8:11, 12:20, 12:25, 16:19 follow [2] - 14:7, 19:8 follow-on [1] - 14:7 following [1] - 2:12 forgot [1] - 6:21
abbreviated [1] - 18:1 able [1] - 16:20 absolutely [2] - 5:20, 16:9 access [1] - 18:11 acquisition [1] - 4:24 acquisitions [1] - 4:19 added [1] - 19:25 addition [1] - 6:4 additional [4] - 14:5, 14:7, 14:19, 15:1 address [2] - 6:17, 6:18 advance [1] - 19:3 advocate [1] - 14:13 afternoon [2] - 3:13, 3:24 agree [4] - 5:13, 12:2, 12:6, 12:12 agreement [1] - 16:19 agriculture [1] - 12:22 ahead [2] - 13:24, 13:25	Bakke [1] - 13:14 based [4] - 6:15, 7:5, 8:1, 11:25 beginning [1] - 18:2 behalf [6] - 2:12, 2:13, 2:14, 5:17, 6:13, 6:18 Ben [1] - 7:3 BENDER [7] - 4:10, 10:18, 17:22, 17:24, 19:11, 19:17, 21:8 Bender [11] - 2:13, 4:8, 5:14, 5:22, 6:5, 9:13, 10:15, 12:6, 17:25, 19:9, 19:16 Bender's [3] - 5:19, 7:6, 9:7 benefit [1] - 7:21 best [3] - 3:15, 14:8, 15:12 better [3] - 5:4, 15:21, 21:2	circuited [1] - 7:20 claiming [1] - 7:18 clarification [2] - 7:6, 19:1 clarify [1] - 11:20 clients [5] - 10:19, 12:14, 17:4, 17:8, 18:16 CO2 [1] - 2:5 coal [2] - 4:19, 4:24 coming [2] - 3:5, 18:6 comment [4] - 3:17, 4:7, 7:12 comments [7] - 6:15, 7:6, 7:16, 8:15, 10:17, 16:15 Commission's [2] - 5:21, 6:6 commissioned [1] - 10:1 commissioners [3] - 3:4, 4:17, 11:12 company [2] - 6:1, 7:17	course [4] - 4:16, 5:5, 7:7, 8:23 courtesy [1] - 19:2 covered [2] - 6:2, 20:22 cross [7] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 11:5, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examination [6] - 7:14, 7:15, 11:1, 12:8, 18:18 cross-examine [1] - 11:5 cut [1] - 16:11 D Dakota [3] - 2:8, 14:3, 14:11 date [4] - 2:3, 11:5, 14:20, 15:17 days [2] - 14:4, 19:2 dealing [1] - 12:18	F fact [3] - 7:13, 8:2, 12:10 fair [1] - 19:12 fashion [1] - 6:2 fault [1] - 4:2 File [1] - 2:3 fine [2] - 12:1, 20:5 first [4] - 16:20, 17:3, 17:9, 17:12 fit [1] - 9:3 flavor [1] - 18:8 flexible [1] - 14:14 flow [1] - 16:18 fly [1] - 15:21 focus [1] - 16:12 folks [5] - 8:4, 8:11, 12:20, 12:25, 16:19 follow [2] - 14:7, 19:8 follow-on [1] - 14:7 following [1] - 2:12

March 27, 2023 Prehearing Conference ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

forth [2] - 9:9, 9:10
forward [2] - 4:25,
11:3
four [1] - 14:5
fourth [1] - 19:24
frankly [2] - 7:12,
15:13
front [1] - 6:21
full [4] - 3:12, 8:7,
12:7, 18:17
full-blown [1] - 12:7

10:6, 12:17, 13:22, 15:8, 16:17, 17:22, 17:24, 19:18, 20:10, 20:19. 21:8 hour [1] - 10:13 hours [4] - 3:16, 4:6, 13:16, 16:23

I

Honor [16] - 4:10,

4:12, 5:1, 5:7, 9:23,

7:1, 8:22, 11:24, 12:16, 13:22, 13:24, 14:1, 15:8, 16:16, 17:7, 17:11, 17:15, 17:21, 18:25, 19:22, 20:8, 20:10, 20:15, 21:7 Jorde's [4] - 10:16,

10:19, 11:18, 18:16

K

keep [2] - 2:9, 13:18

Kevin [2] - 3:23, 16:4

12:22, 12:25, 16:17,

knowing [2] - 16:18,

kind [9] - 2:23, 2:25,

7:22, 8:1, 8:17,

16:23

keeping [1] - 18:8

mean [10] - 12:2, 12:5, 13:17, 15:19, 16:11, 16:21, 18:6, 18:8, 18:13, 19:7 member [3] - 2:16, 11:14, 12:2 members [2] - 5:24, 11:9 mention [2] - 20:11, 20:13

4:22, 7:10, 7:23, 9:16, 9:18, 9:25, 14:5, 14:6, 14:19, 15:1, 15:3, 15:14, 18:4, 19:1 open [1] - 12:11 opinion [1] - 6:9 opportunity [4] - 5:6, 11:4, 11:6, 18:23 opposed [1] - 5:22 order [3] - 3:8, 15:10, 16:18 originally [1] - 17:19 otherwise [2] - 7:10,

outline [2] - 2:23, 18:4

Р

p.m [3] - 2:2, 3:8, 21:4

outside [1] - 12:1

own [1] - 12:19

pack [1] - 13:19

20:6

7:11

part [3] - 4:13, 5:2,

participate [1] - 8:12

participating [1] -

particular [3] - 6:3,

parties [7] - 3:2, 5:14,

10:7, 14:25, 15:6,

7:2, 14:12

15:16, 19:14

9:9

offline [1] - 15:11

one [18] - 4:11, 4:21,

once [1] - 15:16

G

game [2] - 15:20, 21:2 general [1] - 7:21 generic [1] - 11:13 Geological [2] - 4:18, 4:23 given [3] - 7:8, 16:18, 17:3 great [2] - 12:16, 17:7 group [1] - 20:6 guess [13] - 4:5, 7:21, 8:1, 8:17, 8:23, 9:20, 12:4, 12:11, 13:18, 14:13, 14:24, 15:15, guys [2] - 6:22, 13:13 Gwinner [5] - 2:8, 3:8, 4:14, 5:25, 7:23 Gwinner's [1] - 10:2

idea [2] - 15:16, 15:21 immediately [1] -20:12 impacts [1] - 10:2 important [1] - 14:9 impossible [1] - 3:20 indicate [1] - 6:24 indicated [1] - 5:2 indiscernible [1] -20:7

instruct [1] - 6:6

intend [1] - 18:17

intending [1] - 8:4

intent [2] - 7:3, 12:13

intention [2] - 6:19,

intervenor [2] - 6:7,

intervenors [12] -

2:15, 4:25, 5:3, 5:4,

8:12, 8:21, 15:10,

intervention [1] - 8:14

issue [2] - 4:11, 7:25

issues [3] - 2:10,

13:11, 13:21

6:13, 6:19, 6:23, 7:7,

11:18

7:11

15:25

19:3 L indiscernible) [1] -14:15 individuals [3] - 9:8, 10:21, 13:5 information [1] -17:18 initial [1] - 7:13 16:16 insofar [1] - 12:8 instance [2] - 14:2,

landowners [1] - 7:7 last [9] - 2:17, 2:21, 2:22, 9:14, 10:22, 15:3, 15:17, 15:20, latest [1] - 3:10 Lawrence [2] - 2:13, 17:25 lead [1] - 6:14 learned [1] - 15:19 least [2] - 3:13, 3:15

leave [3] - 3:7, 4:25, 9:17 Leibel [3] - 2:16, 13:12, 19:21 length [1] - 3:1

lengthy [2] - 13:7, 17:20 less [1] - 10:13

letter [4] - 4:18, 4:23, 4:24 likely [1] - 10:13

13:13, 15:3 line [3] - 4:1, 4:5, 16:22 **LLC** [1] - 2:5

limited [3] - 11:25,

location [1] - 13:2 looking [5] - 8:2, 8:17, 10:1, 14:19, 15:1

M

March [2] - 2:2, 12:20

materials [1] - 18:12

manner [1] - 6:7

meal [1] - 3:14

10:19 9:16

mentioned [1] - 13:5 Midwest [1] - 2:5 might [6] - 5:4, 6:16, 7:2, 8:13, 9:2, 18:16 mind [4] - 3:11, 4:3, 13:18, 18:8 mine [2] - 4:20, 4:24 minute [1] - 2:22 minutes [4] - 3:14, 3:15, 10:12, 13:6 miss [1] - 20:20 modify [1] - 8:23 morning [3] - 3:4, 3:13, 17:12 most [5] - 4:6, 4:13,

5:1, 10:12, 21:6

multiple [1] - 6:22

move [2] - 8:13, 17:5

narrow [1] - 16:23 necessarily [2] - 12:8, need [6] - 3:9, 7:9, 9:5, 17:11, 19:6, 20:21 needs [2] - 3:7, 5:25

party [1] - 6:7 PELHAM [4] - 5:18, 5:21, 11:8, 19:20 Pelham [4] - 2:14, 5:16, 11:7, 19:19 people [4] - 3:18, 3:19. 14:10. 18:20 permission [1] - 9:24 person [2] - 7:11, 19:24 perspective [1] - 5:22 piece [2] - 13:6, 19:25 pilot [1] - 3:6 pipeline [4] - 2:6, 7:17, 14:13, 18:8 pitch [1] - 14:25 place [3] - 10:3, 11:11, 14:4 plan [9] - 3:12, 4:9, 8:20, 9:23, 15:16, 15:18, 15:20, 15:22, 21:2 plane [4] - 3:5, 3:6,

Н

half [1] - 10:13

handful [1] - 12:25 head's [1] - 19:10 hear [2] - 5:6, 11:20 heard [6] - 3:21, 5:2, 7:17, 7:22, 7:23, 18:7 hearing [39] - 2:8, 2:10, 2:17, 2:20, 2:24, 3:3, 3:9, 3:18, 4:7, 4:14, 6:3, 7:2, 7:13, 8:1, 9:15, 10:21, 10:22, 11:17, 12:15, 13:1, 13:10, 13:11, 13:14, 13:20, 14:3, 14:4, 14:20, 15:1, 15:17, 15:18, 15:20, 15:22, 16:6, 17:2, 18:11, 18:21, 19:15, 20:21, 21:2 hearings [3] - 7:9, 9:16, 15:13 help [1] - 7:7 helpful [2] - 16:2, 21:1 history [1] - 14:11

holding [1] - 15:18

J

join [1] - 3:21 Jorde [19] - 2:15, 6:14, 8:20, 10:20, 10:24, 10:25, 11:23, 12:13, 13:12, 14:1, 14:17, 15:8, 15:15, 17:4, 17:8, 18:19, 18:25, 19:21, 19:22 JORDE [20] - 6:15,

never [1] - 14:10 next [2] - 15:17, 17:4 night [1] - 3:10 nine [4] - 3:16, 4:6, 13:16, 16:23 noon [1] - 7:3 normal [1] - 17:1 normally [1] - 16:25 North [2] - 2:8, 14:11 note [1] - 21:4 nothing [2] - 13:17, 19:20 notice [1] - 19:3 number [1] - 15:4 0 object [1] - 10:7 objection [2] - 8:10, obviously [4] - 3:17, 5:8, 8:24, 16:20 3:7, 9:4 offer [3] - 4:9, 6:4, planned [1] - 9:15 planning [3] - 5:16,

March 27, 2023 Prehearing Conference ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

9:21, 9:22
plans [1] - 12:15
point [1] - 11:21
possible [2] - 15:12,
18:21
possibly [1] - 18:4 potential [3] - 7:19,
7:25, 11:17
potentially [1] - 12:3
practical [1] - 9:5
practice [1] - 15:12
PRANIS [8] - 3:23, 4:2,
9:23, 10:6, 10:10,
16:3, 16:11, 20:19 Pranis [9] - 3:23, 3:24,
4:4, 9:13, 9:14, 9:20,
16:4, 17:10, 20:17
predict [1] - 3:20
preface [1] - 7:5
prefiled [3] - 16:4,
16:5, 16:10 prehearing [11] - 2:3,
2:7, 2:11, 2:18, 8:19,
13:16, 15:18, 15:23,
16:1, 21:1, 21:5
prepare [1] - 7:14
present [10] - 8:13,
9:22, 9:24, 10:1,
10:7, 10:8, 10:25, 13:15, 17:2, 17:10
13.13, 17.2, 17.10
presentation [1] - 8:7
presentation [1] - 8:7 presented [2] - 5:1,
presentation [1] - 8:7 presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19,
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19,
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [4] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [4] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10,
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] -
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 process [1] - 12:10
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 process [1] - 12:10 production [1] - 12:21
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 process [1] - 12:10 production [1] - 12:21 project [4] - 2:6, 6:1,
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 process [1] - 12:10 production [1] - 12:21
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 process [1] - 12:10 production [1] - 12:21 project [4] - 2:6, 6:1, 17:18, 18:5 proof [1] - 7:8 proposing [1] - 5:23
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 proceedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceedings [1] - 16:10 process [1] - 12:10 production [1] - 12:21 project [4] - 2:6, 6:1, 17:18, 18:5 proof [1] - 7:8 proposing [1] - 5:23 provide [7] - 3:19, 8:5,
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceedings [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 production [1] - 12:21 project [4] - 2:6, 6:1, 17:18, 18:5 proof [1] - 7:8 proposing [1] - 5:23 provide [7] - 3:19, 8:5, 8:15, 10:3, 11:9,
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 production [1] - 12:21 project [4] - 2:6, 6:1, 17:18, 18:5 proof [1] - 7:8 proposing [1] - 5:23 provide [7] - 3:19, 8:5, 8:15, 10:3, 11:9, 11:14, 17:17
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 process [1] - 12:10 production [1] - 12:21 project [4] - 2:6, 6:1, 17:18, 18:5 proof [1] - 7:8 proposing [1] - 5:23 provide [7] - 3:19, 8:5, 8:15, 10:3, 11:9, 11:14, 17:17 prudent [1] - 8:4
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 process [1] - 12:10 production [1] - 12:21 project [4] - 2:6, 6:1, 17:18, 18:5 proof [1] - 7:8 proposing [1] - 5:23 provide [7] - 3:19, 8:5, 8:15, 10:3, 11:9, 11:14, 17:17 prudent [1] - 8:4 PSC [5] - 2:3, 2:16,
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 process [1] - 12:10 production [1] - 12:21 project [4] - 2:6, 6:1, 17:18, 18:5 proof [1] - 7:8 proposing [1] - 5:23 provide [7] - 3:19, 8:5, 8:15, 10:3, 11:9, 11:14, 17:17 prudent [1] - 8:4
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 process [1] - 12:10 production [1] - 12:21 project [4] - 2:6, 6:1, 17:18, 18:5 proof [1] - 7:8 proposing [1] - 5:23 provide [7] - 3:19, 8:5, 8:15, 10:3, 11:9, 11:14, 17:17 prudent [1] - 8:4 PSC [5] - 2:3, 2:16, 5:17, 7:21, 14:24 PU-22-391 [1] - 2:4 public [16] - 3:16,
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 process [1] - 12:10 production [1] - 12:21 project [4] - 2:6, 6:1, 17:18, 18:5 proof [1] - 7:8 proposing [1] - 5:23 provide [7] - 3:19, 8:5, 8:15, 10:3, 11:9, 11:14, 17:17 prudent [1] - 8:4 PSC [5] - 2:3, 2:16, 5:17, 7:21, 14:24 PU-22-391 [1] - 2:4 public [16] - 3:16, 3:17, 4:7, 5:6, 5:24,
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 process [1] - 12:10 production [1] - 12:21 project [4] - 2:6, 6:1, 17:18, 18:5 proof [1] - 7:8 proposing [1] - 5:23 provide [7] - 3:19, 8:5, 8:15, 10:3, 11:9, 11:14, 17:17 prudent [1] - 8:4 PSC [5] - 2:3, 2:16, 5:17, 7:21, 14:24 PU-22-391 [1] - 2:4 public [16] - 3:16, 3:17, 4:7, 5:6, 5:24, 7:12, 7:16, 11:8,
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 process [1] - 12:10 production [1] - 12:21 project [4] - 2:6, 6:1, 17:18, 18:5 proof [1] - 7:8 proposing [1] - 5:23 provide [7] - 3:19, 8:5, 8:15, 10:3, 11:9, 11:14, 17:17 prudent [1] - 8:4 PSC [5] - 2:3, 2:16, 5:17, 7:21, 14:24 PU-22-391 [1] - 2:4 public [16] - 3:16, 3:17, 4:7, 5:6, 5:24, 7:12, 7:16, 11:8, 11:9, 11:14, 12:3,
presented [2] - 5:1, 6:1 presenting [1] - 5:4 pretty [2] - 14:9, 14:19 primary [1] - 10:4 problem [4] - 7:19, 12:4, 16:9, 19:11 procedure [3] - 11:10, 11:16, 17:1 proceeded [1] - 14:12 proceedings [1] - 16:10 process [1] - 12:10 production [1] - 12:21 project [4] - 2:6, 6:1, 17:18, 18:5 proof [1] - 7:8 proposing [1] - 5:23 provide [7] - 3:19, 8:5, 8:15, 10:3, 11:9, 11:14, 17:17 prudent [1] - 8:4 PSC [5] - 2:3, 2:16, 5:17, 7:21, 14:24 PU-22-391 [1] - 2:4 public [16] - 3:16, 3:17, 4:7, 5:6, 5:24, 7:12, 7:16, 11:8,

Public [1] - 2:13 purpose [1] - 6:23 purposes [2] - 5:24, put [2] - 4:12, 7:9 putting [2] - 4:22, 7:18

Q

questioned [4] -

questioning [1] -

quite [1] - 13:17

ran [1] - 9:19

read [1] - 9:8

16:13

20:15

6:16

19:14

rather [4] - 10:10,

16:13, 19:3, 20:2

reached [1] - 16:19

reading [2] - 10:19,

realize [1] - 14:4

12:17, 12:22

reason [1] - 16:3

ready [3] - 8:22, 17:12,

really [4] - 2:17, 3:17,

recognized [1] - 8:11

record [5] - 6:24, 9:1,

9:8, 10:20, 21:4

recording [1] - 6:20

regarding [2] - 10:16,

regard [1] - 12:15

regards [1] - 15:9

report [1] - 10:1

6:22, 6:25

20:4

12:6

19:25

5.19

representing [2] -

request [5] - 9:11,

respect [2] - 4:23,

respectfully [1] -

respond [2] - 5:10,

response [1] - 10:16

19:2, 19:12, 19:25,

relatively [1] - 18:3

reconsidering [1] -

R

11:25

11:17

restrictions [1] - 3:6 result [1] - 18:15 role [1] - 6:6 room [1] - 11:2 Rose [1] - 7:3

S

11:10, 11:16, 11:19, questions [17] - 4:16, 5:9, 10:8, 10:24. 11:11, 11:12, 11:15, 12:3, 12:11, 16:13, 18:15, 18:16, 18:22, 19:4, 19:6, 19:14

Sargent [1] - 4:15 SCC [1] - 2:4 schedule [6] - 2:18, 2:19, 4:5, 9:4, 12:23 scheduled [3] - 2:3, 2:7, 2:21 schedules [1] - 3:7 scheduling [1] - 15:23 Schock [5] - 2:16, 14:18, 14:21, 16:8, 20:20 SCHOCK [3] - 14:22, 16:9, 20:22

scope [1] - 12:1 see [1] - 3:1 seeing [1] - 21:6 sense [4] - 5:11, 8:8, 17:1, 19:10

separate [3] - 7:9, 7:10, 10:10 **Service** [1] - 2:14 set [3] - 8:2, 14:5, 15:10 Shirley [1] - 7:4

short [3] - 5:8, 7:20, 12.24 short-circuited [1] -

7:20 show [2] - 8:4, 16:20 showing [1] - 7:23 SHPO [2] - 4:17, 4:23 significantly [1] -

16:12 similar [1] - 15:2 **simply** [4] - 8:5, 8:14, 9:8, 13:5 sit [1] - 20:3

siting [1] - 2:4 sitting [1] - 19:5 so.. [1] - 17:20 sorry [4] - 13:24, 16:4,

16:16, 17:24 sort [2] - 18:5, 18:17 sorts [1] - 12:21 sounds [2] - 17:13,

South [1] - 14:3 speaking [1] - 12:10 **specific** [3] - 2:9, 6:2,

20:16

18:22 specifically [3] - 6:24, 12:1, 15:13

speed [1] - 9:10 spend [1] - 5:11

spent [1] - 5:4 spirit [3] - 12:5, 12:9, 16:17 staff [7] - 2:16, 3:5, 5:9, 7:21, 12:19, 16:21, 18:14 standpoint [1] - 6:6 start [1] - 4:8 started [2] - 3:25, 13:16 starting [1] - 3:3 state [2] - 3:6, 14:11 statement [2] - 5:19, 10:20 status [1] - 8:14 Steven [1] - 2:15 still [1] - 18:3 **stipulate** [1] - 11:6 stipulation [1] - 9:7 subject [1] - 11:15 subjected [1] - 12:3 submit [1] - 9:2 suggest [1] - 9:6 summary [1] - 17:18 **summation** [1] - 5:25 Summit [3] - 14:3, 16:21, 17:2

together [1] - 16:1 tomorrow [18] - 2:19, 2:24, 3:4, 3:10, 4:5, 4:9, 5:17, 5:25, 6:14, 6:25, 8:21, 9:21, 9:22, 9:24, 16:17, 19:8, 20:21, 21:6 tomorrow's [6] - 2:8, 2:10, 4:6, 17:2, 19:15, 21:2 totally [2] - 4:11, 14:16 Transport [1] - 2:5 trek [1] - 19:5 trial [1] - 14:4 trust [1] - 18:20 try [2] - 14:7, 15:11 trying [1] - 15:21 two [5] - 3:14, 10:11, 10:12, 18:4, 19:3 type [1] - 14:12

UNIDENTIFIED [1] -21:10 unless [1] - 8:6 **up** [7] - 7:23, 8:5, 9:17, 14:24, 16:20, 19:8, 19:10 updating [1] - 4:22

Т

Summit's [1] - 17:17

suspect [1] - 10:25

Survey [2] - 4:18, 4:23

technically [1] - 12:11 telephone [1] - 18:2 ten [2] - 13:6, 19:2 tend [1] - 5:13 term [1] - 11:14 terms [1] - 12:21 testify [3] - 8:21, 8:22, 11:13 testifying [1] - 7:11 testimony [15] - 3:2, 3:16, 3:19, 4:7, 8:5, 9:16, 11:9, 11:14, 16:4, 16:5, 16:10, 16:13, 17:5, 17:10, 17:20 thinking [1] - 13:9 third [1] - 20:13 thoughts [5] - 6:9, 6:18, 8:25, 10:16, 11.7 three [12] - 8:4, 8:11, 8:14, 8:21, 9:7, 10:21, 13:4, 14:6, 16:19, 18:20, 20:1, 20:13 timing [1] - 18:5 today [7] - 2:11, 3:20, 7:3, 17:4, 18:19,

20:18, 20:25

versus [1] - 20:6 Victor [2] - 2:16, 14:17

W

W-A-L-O-C-H [1] - 7:4 Waloch [1] - 7:4 wants [1] - 13:14 week [1] - 2:22 weeks [1] - 19:3 weigh [1] - 5:14 whatnot [1] - 12:19 willing [1] - 10:6 withdraw [1] - 8:13 witness [5] - 4:22, 6:1, 9:25, 10:4, 10:10 witnesses [11] - 3:1, 4:9, 5:17, 9:16, 9:22, 13:15, 15:4, 17:3, 17:10, 17:17, 18:4

Ζ

Zach [1] - 2:14