

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

Electronic Application Of Kentucky Power Company	)	
For 1) A Certificate Of Public Convenience And	)	
Necessity To Construct A Mechanical Draft Cooling	)	
Tower At The Mitchell Plant 2) Approval Of Certain	)	Case No. 2026-00001
Regulatory And Accounting Treatments, And 3) All	)	
Other Required Approvals And Relief	)	

Kentucky Power Company's Notice of Filing Hearing Transcripts

In conformity with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 9(9)(a), Kentucky Power Company files with the Public Service Commission of Kentucky the stenographic transcription of the July 8, 2026, hearing in this matter, as well as the corresponding index.

Respectfully submitted,



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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE NO. 2026-00001

In the Matter of:

Electronic Application of Kentucky Power
Company for 1) A Certificate of Public
Convenience and Necessity to Construct a
Mechanical Draft Cooling Tower at the
Mitchell Plant 2) Approval of Certain
Regulatory and Accounting Treatments
and 3) All Other Require Approvals and
Relief

DAY 1 OF 1

The following hearing was held before
the Public Service Commission and was taken
before Janine N. Leroux, Stenographic Court
Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State
of Kentucky, at the Richard Raff Hearing Room,
Office of the Public Service Commission, located
at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky on
July 8th, 2026 at the approximate hour of
9:03 a.m.

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VICE CHAIR MARY PAT REGAN
COMMISSIONER ANDREW W. WOOD

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1 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: On the record
2 in Case No. 2026-00001, the Application of
3 Kentucky Power Company for a Certificate of
4 Public Convenience and necessity to construct
5 a mechanical draft cooling tower at the
6 Mitchell plant before approval of certain
7 regulatory and accounting treatments and all
8 other required approvals and relief.

9 I'm Angie Hatton, Chair of the Kentucky
10 Public Service Commission.

11 Joining me today are Vice Chair Mary
12 Pat Regan and Commissioner Andrew Wood.
13 Commissioner Mayfield can't join us, but he
14 will be able to review the hearing tape
15 before we make decisions.

16 If you have a cell phone with you,
17 please set them to silent.

18 The hearing today is for the purpose of
19 taking evidence in this matter.

20 At this time, let's have the parents of
21 counsel. First for the Applicant?

22 MR. GISH: Thank you, Your Honor.

23 Ken Gish from Stites & Harbison.

24 From Stites & Harbison for Kentucky
25 Power with me is Harlee Havens, Jordan Lee

1 from Stites & Harbison, and also Jessica Cano
2 from AEP. I also have four of our summer
3 associates here who are law students working
4 with us this summer. They're here just to
5 observe, so thank you.

6 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: We will try
7 to entertain them.

8 And tell us who your witnesses are.

9 MR. GISH: Our witnesses are: Amy
10 Elliott, Lerah Kahn, Shawn Malone, Josh
11 Snodgrass, Dan Pizzino, and Nicole Coon.

12 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: And that's
13 the order?

14 MR. GISH: Yes, ma'am.

15 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: All right.
16 Thank you.

17 For the Attorney General's Office.

18 MR. COOK: Good morning, Chair. For
19 the AG, I'm Lawrence Cook.

20 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Good morning.
21 And your witnesses?

22 MR. COOK: We have one witness, Lane
23 Kollen, who we share with KIUC.

24 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. And
25 Sierra Club are Joint Intervenors this time.

1 Sierra Club?

2 MR. SHOAFF: Sierra Club, Your Honor.
3 I'm Nathaniel Shoaff. With me is Joe
4 Childers.

5 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Good morning.

6 MR. SHOAFF: And then we have one
7 witness, Lucy Metz.

8 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. And
9 for KIUC?

10 MR. KURTZ: Good morning, Your Honor.
11 Mike Kurtz, Jody Kyler Cohn from KIUC.

12 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

13 MR. KURTZ: We are sharing the witness
14 with, the Attorney General.

15 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Gotcha.
16 Okay.

17 And for staff?

18 COMM STAFF YOUNG: Good morning, Your
19 Honor. Justin Young, Staff Attorney. With
20 me is Ben Bellamy, Assistant General Counsel.

21 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Good morning.

22 I've been advised that public notice
23 has been given and filed into the record, is
24 that correct?

25 COMM STAFF YOUNG: It is, Your Honor.

1 There's also a deviation requested as part of
2 public notice.

3 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. And
4 I'll go ahead and grant that motion.

5 MR. GISH: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: There are
7 other outstanding motions as well for
8 confidential treatment, and then also -- and
9 we'll get that order out as soon as possible,
10 but there's a motion for an extension of time
11 to file documents in response to two items
12 and Staff's first request for information
13 filed on April 2nd. I'll go ahead and grant
14 that without objection.

15 MR. GISH: Thank you, Your Honor.

16 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: And then the
17 deviation of hearing notice requirements, it
18 looks like there were some newspapers that
19 failed to run.

20 MR. GISH: Yes, Your Honor. They ran
21 the notice for the DSM hearing twice instead
22 of the notice for the DSM hearing and then
23 this hearing, and then they were closed last
24 week for the 4th of July holiday, so we
25 weren't able to get them published before

1 then.

2 There was one that also had changed
3 their layout and forgot to add it in, but
4 they file -- they did publish that notice
5 last week. It was a little sooner than -- it
6 wasn't seven days before, but it was done
7 before the hearing.

8 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. I'll
9 grant that motion as well.

10 MR. GISH: Thank you, Your Honor.

11 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Is there
12 anyone from the public who came here today
13 for the purpose of giving public comment?

14 (Person in audience raised hand)

15 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay, just
16 a moment. When we're ready, in a few
17 minutes, I'll ask you to step up to the
18 microphone and tell us your name and your
19 address, and we'll do seven-minute limits on
20 the comments.

21 I'll say before the first commenter
22 comes up, that anybody who wishes to provide
23 public comment may do so by following the
24 instructions on our website. You can always
25 send an email to psc.comment@ky.gov. If you

1 do want to submit a comment electronically,
2 please do make sure to reference the case
3 number, which is 2026-00001.

4 All right. First commenter, please
5 come on up, tell us your full name and where
6 you're from, and then we'll do the
7 seven-minute short roll.

8 If you said your name just now, I
9 missed it, I'm sorry.

10 MS. GRIFFITH: Suzanne Barker-Griffith.
11 I'm from Ashland, Kentucky, 535 Houston
12 Avenue, and I'm a -- and I am a ratepayer,
13 which I think is one of the most important
14 people here to tell you the truth because
15 this impacts us.

16 Do you want me to go ahead and
17 start?

18 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Yes.

19 MS. GRIFFITH: Okay. Here we are again
20 with a Kentucky Power case before the PSC
21 that will most likely raise the monthly bill
22 for ratepayers who already pay the highest
23 average bill in the state. This is just one
24 more of the least bad options that pile up on
25 our bills.

1 Of course, the deals -- this deals with
2 building a new cooling tower at the Mitchell
3 plant to replace the failing one.

4 To be honest, I'm not in favor of this.
5 To me, it is throwing good money after bad
6 and was -- and -- and never -- I was never in
7 favor of investing Eastern Kentucky ratepayer
8 dollars in the aged West Virginia coal plant
9 to begin with.

10 To recap, Mitchell pays no Kentucky
11 taxes, burns West Virginia coal, does not
12 employ Kentucky citizens, and has been a
13 money pit for ratepayers, and is set to be
14 decommissioned in 2040.

15 The following 2013 quote is from Rocky
16 Atkins in Case No. 00578. And this is when
17 they did away with the Lawrence County one
18 and invested in Mitchell.

19 What early on was identified by the
20 Company as a 31% rate increase versus an 8%
21 rate increase, became a lower 25.59% rate
22 increase just from Big Sandy 2 versus 13.98%
23 to transfer Mitchell as a result of staff A
24 request.

25 If you accept Kentucky Power's recent

1 rate filing, it has become a 25.59% versus
2 23.9% rate increase.

3 It is amazing how quick an initial 8%
4 increase turned into a 100% bill increase
5 over time. Worse yet, ratepayers are stuck
6 with an approximately 6% added
7 decommissioning charge until 2045 for the
8 2015 decommissioning of Big Sandy 2.

9 Rocky went on to say: What kind of
10 deal is this for Kentucky and Kentucky Power
11 ratepayers? We're being asked to take over a
12 generational facility in West Virginia along
13 with its debt and liabilities and pay for
14 much of the cost of it to meet environmental
15 compliance while giving up 150 or more good
16 paying jobs, 900,000 a year of property
17 taxes, and 2 million tons a year in coal
18 sales, and pay the cost of shutting down our
19 own power plant in Kentucky, most of which
20 we've already paid for.

21 Rocky al -- Rocky Atkins also mentioned
22 that we would have to pay for the
23 decommissioning of the Mitchell plant. And
24 he was right. I'm sure Kentucky Power would
25 like to put their bad decisions behind them,

1 but unfortunately the consequences of these
2 decisions show up on customer bills. But we
3 are forced to financially deal with ongoing
4 issues with Kentucky Power's failure to
5 provide thorough and rigorous analysis when
6 making large financial decisions.

7 Rocky went on to say: I hope the
8 Commission would not allow approval of the
9 settlement agreement to obligate Kentucky
10 Power's ratepayers to all the add-ons in the
11 agreement or approve the transfer of Mitchell
12 and figure it out in future case what it's
13 really cost.

14 And I can tell you that it's cost us a
15 lot. And we've been forced into that, and I
16 don't appreciate it, and neither do a lot of
17 other ratepayers.

18 What makes this even worse is due to
19 the age of Mitchell, new generation will have
20 to be added, with the case just submitted to
21 the PSC a mere 13 years after the Mitchell
22 plant was purchased.

23 To me, this is the epitome of poor
24 planning. With the understanding that all
25 parts of Kentucky Power make a bill impact, I

1 sent Kentucky Power an email about the new
2 generation as directed -- as directed to do
3 so on a handout provided at a Greenup County
4 fiscal court meeting on data centers. But
5 Amanda Clark of Kentucky Power did not
6 respond to the question I had concerning new
7 generation.

8 Make no mistake about it, I'm concerned
9 with how much the new generation will cost,
10 and if it is data center driven. The
11 patchwork of rate hikes, securitization
12 charges, and the laundry list of surcharges
13 on our bills is already too much for many
14 families to bear.

15 Now, I say this because the last time
16 they made us buy into Mitchell, we had around
17 a 25% rate increase.

18 And guys, we just cannot keep doing
19 this. You know, I get it. We might need new
20 generation. But 13 years after you all made
21 us buy that old coal plant, something's wrong
22 here. Something's very wrong.

23 But anyway, I asked Amanda about the
24 new plant that was coming, and like I said,
25 she -- she did not respond.

1 The questions I asked: Is this plant
2 to supply the new TeraWulf data center at
3 East Park? Will all rate payers be required
4 to pay for the plant? Is this plant
5 replacing the Mitchell plant? How many
6 megawatts will it be? What is the projected
7 date to be online? And what data centers or
8 other industrial rate customers will be
9 required? You know, will they be to pay a
10 higher securitization charge for this plant
11 due to having lower rates? And what is the
12 expected cost of the plant?

13 To me, all of this runs together. We
14 are looking at one issue right now. But when
15 I get my bill, I get a laundry list of
16 things, and so do our other rate payers, so
17 it all comes together.

18 I'm providing the email response I
19 received from Amanda Clark at Kentucky Power.
20 Actually, it was a handout provided by
21 TeraWulf, and the follow-up response I
22 received from TeraWulf.

23 And I will say, what I received from
24 TeraWulf was very thorough, and so I wanted
25 to provide it with you all today. It was

1 actually really impressed with it.

2 In closing, I thank the PSC for
3 launching an investigation into Kentucky
4 Power concerning troubling -- troubling
5 management and planning practices of Kentucky
6 Power. I, too, am deeply concerned and look
7 forward to the results of this audit.

8 So thank you very much for you all
9 doing that. I really appreciate it.

10 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Thank you.

11 MS. GRIFFITH: And I have your all's
12 files right here. Oh, it's right here.
13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: You can just
15 hand whatever written materials you brought
16 to staff.

17 COMM STAFF BELLAMY: Are these all the
18 same thing?

19 MS. GRIFFITH: Yes, they're all the
20 same papers.

21 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Thank you.

22 (Counsel and Commission conferring)

23 COMM STAFF BELLAMY: We'll post these
24 on the website.

25 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Ben, just

1 hang on to them if that's okay. It's a good
2 thing he has a law degree.

3 Did anyone else come here today for the
4 purpose of giving public comment? Seeing
5 none, we'll move on to the presentation of
6 evidence.

7 And counsel for Applicant, call your
8 first witness when you're ready.

9 MR. GISH: Yes, Your Honor. Company
10 calls Amy Elliott.

11 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Good morning,
12 Ms. Elliott. Would you rise your right hand
13 to be sworn?

14 Do you swear or affirm the testimony
15 you're about to give is true and correct
16 under penalty of perjury?

17 THE WITNESS: I do.

18 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Thanks.
19 Please be seated and tell us your full name
20 and your business address.

21 THE WITNESS: Good morning.

22 My name is Amy Elliott. My business
23 address is 1645 Winchester Avenue in Ashland,
24 Kentucky.

25 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Counsel?

1 MR. GISH: Thank you, Your Honor.

2 THEREUPON:

3 AMY ELLIOTT,
4 the witness, after being first duly sworn, was
5 examined and testified as follows:

6 EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. GISH:

8 Q. Ms. Elliott, can you please state your
9 employer and job title?

10 A. Yes. My employer is Kentucky Power.
11 My job title is Vice President of Regulatory and
12 External Affairs.

13 Q. And when did you assume the role of
14 Vice President of Regulatory and External Affairs?

15 A. In mid-April.

16 Q. What was your role with Kentucky Power
17 before that?

18 A. Prior to that, I was the Vice President
19 of External Affairs and Customer Service.

20 Q. And did you cause rebuttal testimony to
21 be filed in this case?

22 A. Yes, I did.

23 Q. And did you adopt certain portions of
24 the testimony of Tanner Wolffram in this case?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you adopt certain of the
2 responses to data requests that Mr. Wolfram
3 sponsored?

4 A. Yes, I did.

5 Q. Did you provide responses to data
6 requests on your own?

7 A. One.

8 Q. One. Yes?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And if I were to -- do you have any
11 corrections or updates to any of your testimonies
12 or data response requests?

13 A. I do not.

14 Q. If I were to ask you the same questions
15 that were included in the portions of direct
16 testimony that you adopted, your rebuttal
17 testimony, or any of the data requests that you
18 have either responded to or adopted, would --
19 would the responses be the same?

20 A. Yes.

21 MR. GISH: Madam Chair, the witness is
22 able for cross-examination.

23 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

24 Mr. Cook?

25 MR. COOK: Thank you, Chair.

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BY MR. COOK:

Q. Good morning, Ms. Elliott. I have just a couple questions for you.

So we're here today on a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity regarding the construction of a new water tower for Mitchell 2, is that correct?

A. Partially. It's a mechanical draft cooling tower for Unit 2 at Mitchell, yes.

Q. Okay. So there has been a series of press releases and articles printed in -- throughout the state, actually throughout the region, that AEP, Kentucky Power, and Wheeling Power, the joint owner of the Mitchell plant, were able to secure some funding, partial funding, for this tower, isn't that correct?

A. Yes, that is correct. We received a \$51 million award from the Department of Energy. That is the total for the plant, so Kentucky Power's share would be half of that.

As you all know, there are a number of grants and loans that are available currently, and Kentucky Power is aggressively pursuing those with the assistance of our federal grants team.

1 Q. Okay. I understand.

2 So is there then, if I understand
3 correctly, a potential, at least a potential, for
4 even further reduction of the cost through some of
5 these additional financings, or...

6 A. Perhaps. And we hope, we have pursued
7 securitization for the last two sessions of the
8 Mitchell plant. We have been unsuccessful in
9 getting securitization legislation that would be
10 necessary for us to be able to refinance the
11 Mitchell plant at a lower cost. But that is
12 something that we are always open to and
13 considering.

14 Q. So if I understand correctly, and
15 correct me if I'm wrong, then because the Mitchell
16 plant is owned jointly between Wheeling and
17 Kentucky Power, then the grant, for lack of a
18 better term, from the federal government is
19 applied 50-50 to both Wheeling and Kentucky Power,
20 is that correct?

21 A. Yes. The award would be applied
22 equally between Wheeling and Kentucky Power.

23 Q. Okay.

24 MR. COOK: Chair, that's all the
25 questions I have.

1 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

2 Mr. Kurtz?

3 MR. KURTZ: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. KURTZ:

6 Q. Good morning, Ms. Elliott.

7 A. Good morning.

8 Q. First of all, congratulations on your
9 promotion in May.

10 A. Thank you.

11 Q. Does that make you second in command,
12 so to speak?

13 A. So Kentucky Power has three vice
14 presidents. We have the vice president of
15 operations that I would rank above me, and then we
16 also have recently hired a vice president of
17 finance.

18 Q. Okay. Okay. So just to set -- KIU or
19 AG-KIUC witness Mr. Kollen agreed with the Company
20 that the new cooling tower at Mitchell Unit 2 is
21 the least cost of the options study, is that
22 correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. Did you review Mr. Kollen's
25 testimony?

1 A. Briefly, yes.

2 Q. Okay. And the primary disagreement
3 between Mr. Kollen and the Company is the timing
4 of the recovery of the cost of the Mitchell 2
5 cooling tower?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. I should say this. Mr. Kollen
8 agreed with the Company's analysis before even
9 factoring in the \$51 million grant, is that
10 correct?

11 A. That is correct, yes.

12 Q. And so that just makes it even better,
13 so to speak?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. So the Company's proposal is to
16 start recovering the construction period financing
17 costs through the GR rider, generation rider,
18 beginning in 2026.

19 A. Yes. Company Witness Kahn has
20 supported the cost recovery details.

21 Q. Right. And the -- the AG-KIUC witness'
22 position is to capitalize the construction period
23 interest and then start recovering those costs
24 through the GR rider in 2029 when the facility
25 goes commercial, is that correct?

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. Okay. And so let me hand -- let me
3 show you, Ms. Elliott, just very briefly.

4 MR. KURTZ: Your Honor, this is in
5 Mr. Kollen's testimony, so it doesn't need to
6 be marked as an exhibit or anything.

7 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Thank you.

8 THE WITNESS: We open most of our
9 meetings with a safety talking point. We
10 might use that as an example.

11 MR. KURTZ: That's right. That is
12 great. We are only a single bench hearing
13 today.

14 BY MR. KURTZ:

15 Q. So, this is in Mr. Kollen's testimony.
16 It's just kind of graphically showing that the
17 Company's proposal would start recovery of the new
18 rider, new line item on customer bills beginning
19 in '26 and it slowly builds up in '27, '28 and '29
20 versus his position is just wait until the
21 facility's finished and then start recovering the
22 construction period interest.

23 Does that -- do you understand that's
24 what this chart purports to show?

25 A. Yes, I understand that. These were the

1 amounts without the -- the DOE award, right?

2 Q. Right. So these amounts would be lower
3 in practice.

4 A. They would be lower, yes.

5 Q. But still the same thing. You want to
6 start recovering through a line item on customer
7 bills earlier, and he wants to just delay it until
8 the facility goes commercial, is that correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I couldn't tell if that was a question
12 or a statement.

13 Q. My fault.

14 Ms. Griffith was -- who testified here
15 earlier doesn't like to see new line items on the
16 bill. I guess a lot of people don't. But it
17 would be small, but it would be a new line item,
18 is that correct?

19 A. Yes. The generation rider was recently
20 approved in our base rate case.

21 Q. Okay.

22 From an earnings perspective, booking
23 AFUDC to the cost of the facility versus
24 recovering the construction work in progress in
25 cash during construction, that's earnings

1 indifferent to the Company?

2 A. I think so, but I'm not certain. I
3 would have to defer those questions to Company
4 Witness Kahn.

5 Q. It's primarily just a cash flow
6 question because --

7 A. Between the two types of recovery, yes.

8 Q. Okay. One -- one last question.
9 You're aware that it was brought up in the public
10 comments. TeraWulf has announced a 500 megawatt
11 data center to go online in the 2028-2029
12 timeframe?

13 A. Yes, I'm aware.

14 Q. Okay. If the Company, if the
15 Commission says we're going to delay recovery
16 until the facility goes commercial, then at that
17 point in time the new data center would make a
18 contribution to it versus starting to recover in
19 26-27 before the data center is up and running, is
20 that correct?

21 A. So we try in ratemaking to match the
22 current cost to the current customers. So the
23 TeraWulf announcement has been made. You know,
24 we -- we fully expect them to come online in '28,
25 but, you know, we've -- we've seen a few times in

1 our area where the economic development prospect
2 that we were expecting didn't come through. And
3 so that's why we'd want to continue to try to
4 match to the current customer base.

5 Q. And it's fair to be concerned, but if
6 the data center does come through and you delay
7 recovery, then the data center will end up paying
8 more of the -- of the bill.

9 A. So, we have the large load provisions
10 in place in our IGS tariff that would ensure that
11 the data center would pay a large portion of
12 several of our charges, including securitization
13 that Ms. Griffith also mentioned previously.

14 Q. Okay. Enough about that.

15 One last question. Of the options
16 studied, Option 1 was to repair the cooling tower.
17 Option -- there was another option, Option 2 about
18 build a new power plant. Option 3, which is the
19 one chosen, and Option 4 was to build a shorter
20 tower. Do I have the options right?

21 A. Mostly. I think Option 4 was to
22 shorten the existing tower, but yes.

23 Q. Okay. You won't have a specific answer
24 to this, but if -- Wheeling Appalachian Power has
25 a similar application into the West Virginia

1 Commission, is that correct?

2 A. Yes, that is correct.

3 Q. And the West Virginia Commission has
4 not ruled?

5 A. They have not yet ruled.

6 Q. I'm just going to ask you just your
7 opinion. If at some point, Wheeling or
8 Appalachian was to buy back Mitchell from Kentucky
9 Power or transfer it, in your opinion, would that
10 be easier with the new cooling tower or with the
11 patch it up or the short tower scenario?

12 A. Honestly, I'm not sure that I can
13 answer that. We have proposed the new cooling
14 tower in this case. It is the least cost
15 reasonable options for customers, and that's why
16 we have proposed Option 3.

17 And the Commission recently found in
18 case 2025-175 that our ongoing participation and
19 receiving the capacity and energy from Mitchell is
20 the least cost most reasonable option.

21 Q. Okay. And AG-KIUC witness Kollen
22 agrees with you on that just to reiterate?

23 A. Yes.

24 MR. KURTZ: Thank you, Ms. Elliott.

25 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

1 MR. KURTZ: No further questions, Your
2 Honor.

3 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Mr. Shoaff,
4 proceed.

5 MR. SHOAFF: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. SHOAFF:

8 Q. Good morning, Ms. Elliott.

9 A. Morning.

10 Q. I'm Nathaniel Shoaff on behalf of
11 Sierra Club. I have a few questions regarding
12 your rebuttal testimony in this case, and for the
13 most part, they center on the Department of Energy
14 award that you spoke about earlier.

15 A. Great. We're very excited about that.

16 Q. What's that?

17 A. I said we're very excited about the
18 award.

19 Q. Understandably.

20 Now, on Page 3 of your rebuttal
21 testimony, you wrote that DOE issued the award,
22 and you said that the Defense Production Act funds
23 were awarded in response to a question earlier
24 about whether the money was -- I believe the --
25 the questioner used the phrase "grant" and you

1 used the phrase "award." Can you just tell us
2 what -- what format the grant or the -- the award
3 takes? Is it a grant or is it a loan?

4 A. It is not a loan. We are using the
5 term "award".

6 Q. Is there a difference between award and
7 grant?

8 A. I don't know if it was just the type of
9 program that we applied through or -- or what, but
10 our federal team grants and loans team has
11 suggested that we use the word "award".

12 Q. Okay. Is there a payback period that
13 might indicate that this was a loan?

14 A. No, there's no payback period. This is
15 not a loan.

16 Q. Okay. Thank you for that.

17 Can you tell me how Kentucky Power was
18 notified about the award?

19 A. Yes. The vice president of our grants
20 department received a letter through email, I
21 believe. I think that's right.

22 Q. Do you know when the letter was sent?

23 A. I don't remember the announcement date.
24 It's in here. So I think that was June 4th, so it
25 would have been the day before.

1 Q. The day before what?

2 A. Before it was announced publicly.

3 Q. Okay. And then if we asked for that
4 letter in a post-hearing data request, could
5 Kentucky Power provide it?

6 A. I think so. I mean, there may be
7 portions of it that are confidential, but I think
8 we could produce it.

9 Q. Okay. All right. I have a question
10 about the mechanics of how the award works.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Has the money been dispersed already?

13 A. No, it has not.

14 Q. And when it gets dispersed, I think you
15 said it's a 50-50 split between Wheeling and
16 Kentucky Power. Does all of the money go to one
17 of those two entities or does it just directly get
18 split? How does that work?

19 A. So the award is issued in Wheeling
20 Power Company's name because they are the
21 operator. We are still discussing with DOE
22 exactly how the funds will be dispersed.

23 Q. Okay. Do you know when the funds will
24 be dispersed?

25 A. I don't. Usually with these types of

1 projects, there is a timeline based on metrics of
2 completion.

3 Q. Okay. Is there -- do you expect that
4 there will be a contract with the Department of
5 Energy regarding the award?

6 A. Yes. I mean, they will want to see
7 that we have built the new mechanical cooling
8 tower, at least in the process of it, before they
9 disperse funds.

10 Q. So you think at some point, before the
11 money comes to the utility, there'll be a contract
12 signed with the Department of Energy?

13 A. Yes, that would be my assumption.

14 Q. Okay. And then, just in terms of the
15 timing -- this is the first one of these I've been
16 a part of or in a proceeding where the Department
17 of Energy was awarding funds. Does it get awarded
18 all in a lump sum or is it doled out in stages?

19 A. It's also the first one that I've been
20 a part of. I'm -- I'm fairly certain -- let me
21 rephrase that.

22 It is the first one that I have been a
23 part of. It's not the first one that AEP has been
24 a part of. So I'm fairly certain that they will
25 be based on -- the disbursement amounts will be

1 based on certain completion metrics within the
2 construction projects.

3 Q. Let's talk about that for a minute.
4 Are there -- what are the conditions in which the
5 Company might have to return some of this money?

6 A. So we are still discussing the exact --
7 the exact details with the Department of Energy.
8 I'm not directly involved in those meetings.
9 Those are handled by our grants team.

10 It's my understanding that as long as
11 we build the mechanical draft cooling tower, that
12 we will receive the funding.

13 Q. Okay. Is there currently a letter of
14 understanding or some document, some communication
15 that spells out what those terms will be?

16 A. Not that I'm aware of.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I'm certain that there will be before
19 we receive the funding, and we are in -- we are
20 involved in those discussions, but it's just not
21 getting finalized.

22 Q. Understood. Thanks. Thank you,
23 Ms. Elliott.

24 I have a couple of questions about the
25 application process. So you note on Page 3 and 4

1 of your rebuttal testimony that the Company
2 applied for a different federal grant than it
3 didn't get, is that correct?

4 A. Yes, that is correct.

5 Q. And was there a separate application
6 for the Defense Production Act funded?

7 A. They used our initial application, and
8 we made some updates to it and provided some
9 additional information.

10 Q. And then you also refer on Page 4 of
11 your rebuttal testimony to a proactive and
12 well-coordinated federal engagement strategy that
13 the Company has.

14 Did the Company do anything specific,
15 other than update the application, to request
16 funding under the Defense Production Act?

17 A. So as I have mentioned, we have a
18 federal affairs grants team that consistently
19 monitors all of the -- the new programs that are
20 available, and we apply for those when we can.

21 You know, we're excited about this
22 award. This is a big deal for us. If we can get
23 \$25.5 million to help toward affordability for a
24 project that's necessary, then, you know, it's a
25 huge win. And that's why we're going to keep

1 pursuing these types of opportunities.

2 You know, there are a number of other
3 grants and loans that are out there that they are
4 competitive, so I won't discuss them today. But
5 yes, we are actively pursuing any of those types
6 of funding.

7 Q. Do any of those apply to the cooling
8 tower project, or could they if they were
9 approved?

10 A. They could in the future.

11 Q. Okay. Let me ask about how the Defense
12 Production Act works to the extent you're aware.
13 What section of the Defense Production Act did the
14 application -- was the application made under? If
15 you know, and it's okay if you don't.

16 A. I don't know. I was just
17 double-checking to make sure that I hadn't
18 mentioned it, but I -- I don't know.

19 Q. And if we asked for the application or
20 the amended application under the Defense
21 Production Act, is that something the Company
22 could provide?

23 A. I don't know what good it would do in
24 this case, but I think we could probably provide
25 it. Once again, there are probably portions that

1 are confidential, but once again, it's something
2 that we're proud of that we've done.

3 Q. Understood. Yeah. Thank you.

4 You referenced an email letter that was
5 sent on I think you said June 4th.

6 A. I think the -- I think the public
7 announcement was on June 4th. And I'm not sure if
8 we received it earlier in the day or maybe just
9 the night before.

10 Q. Understood. That is the email that I'm
11 referring to. Did that communication with the
12 Department of Energy specify what section of the
13 Defense Production Act the award was made under?

14 A. I don't remember.

15 Q. Okay. And are there any other specific
16 projects at the Mitchell plant that you're aware
17 of that the Company's applied for federal funding
18 for? I know you referenced a bunch, that there
19 were other federal grant opportunities.

20 A. None that I recall.

21 Q. Okay. And this one, the award here
22 covers, I believe it's roughly over a quarter of
23 the cost of cooling tower repair, right? It's a
24 \$51 million award?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What amount did the Company request in
2 its application?

3 A. I'm fairly certain that we requested
4 \$50 million and we were awarded \$51 million.

5 Q. Is there a -- can you tell us why the
6 Company didn't request the entire amount of the
7 cooling tower award or a larger percentage?

8 A. Honestly, I'm not sure if there were
9 limits within the -- the structure of that award,
10 but we also wanted to make sure that what we were
11 requesting was a reasonable amount that may be
12 more likely to be approved.

13 Q. Okay. That's it on that topic. I just
14 have a couple of other questions for you,
15 Ms. Elliott.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. Thanks for your time today.

18 A. Sure. Thanks.

19 Q. On Page 5 and 6 of your testimony, you
20 take issue with a portion of Lucy Metz who's the
21 Sierra Club witness in this case. You take issue
22 with a portion of her testimony that referenced
23 the Commission's decision in case 2025-00175.
24 That's a case you referenced earlier.

25 You didn't testify in that case,

1 though, did you?

2 A. No, I did not.

3 Q. Okay. On Pages 5 and 6 of your
4 rebuttal testimony, you cite one sentence from
5 that Commission decision. Did you read the
6 entirety of that decision?

7 A. I read most of it, yes.

8 Q. Did you read the proposed settlement
9 that Kentucky Power and some, but not all, of the
10 parties to that case joined?

11 A. I skimmed it. I think I have it with
12 me.

13 Q. At multiple points in your rebuttal
14 testimony, Ms. Elliott, you provide your opinion
15 on what that commission -- what the Commission
16 decided in that case and what the decision means.

17 I understand from your rebuttal
18 testimony that you have a BA and an MBA. Do you
19 have any legal training?

20 A. No, I don't.

21 Q. So you don't have a law degree,
22 correct?

23 A. I do not have a law degree.

24 Q. Okay. Are qualified to give legal
25 advice.

1 A. No.

2 Q. You're licensed to practice law in
3 Kentucky?

4 A. No.

5 MR. GISH: She already admitted that
6 she doesn't have a law degree.

7 A. I don't have a law degree.

8 MR. SHOAFF: Okay. Ms. Elliott, I
9 appreciate your time today. I don't have any
10 other questions for you.

11 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

12 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Staff?

13 COMM STAFF YOUNG: We do have a few
14 questions, Your Honor.

15 EXAMINATION

16 BY COMM STAFF YOUNG:

17 Q. Good morning, Ms. Elliott. I'm Justin
18 Young as I said earlier. I am far away from you,
19 so if you have a hard time hearing me, please let
20 me know and I will try to speak up.

21 A. Should I put on my glasses, too?

22 Q. I was thinking the same thing. I might
23 need some for this.

24 Also, if I ask you any questions that
25 are better replied or better responded to by

1 another witness, please just let me know and we'll
2 pass those on.

3 Do you know the current status of the
4 West Virginia case that mirrors this one?

5 A. Yes. I think they're about a month
6 behind us, well, maybe a couple months. I think
7 their hearing is in September. The applications
8 were filed at about the same time, and I think we
9 expect an order around a similar timeframe for --
10 for both states.

11 Q. Could you describe to me, in whatever
12 detail you've got, how Kentucky -- if when
13 Kentucky Power originally purchased its interest
14 in Wheeling, how it determined the valuation, if
15 any inspection or review or consideration was
16 done, of the condition of Towers 2?

17 A. So that's probably a better question
18 for Company Witness Pizzino as far as the exact
19 timing of inspections.

20 In 2012 when we were applying to obtain
21 a 50% undivided ownership in Mitchell, we -- we
22 put a case forward at the commission that very
23 clearly stated that there was no -- no known
24 problems with the Mitchell plant.

25 Q. I understand. Do you know what was

1 done to verify that?

2 A. I mean, there are a number of regular
3 inspections that Company Witness Pizzino could
4 tell you about. I --

5 Q. I understand.

6 A. I don't remember all the details of
7 that case.

8 Q. I can ask Mr. Pizzino. Thank you.

9 A. Thanks.

10 Q. And this one may also be a pass, but
11 we'll see.

12 Do you mind walking me through the
13 timeline of how Kentucky Power has handled the
14 structural issues since they discovered it in
15 2016?

16 A. So, once again, that's probably a
17 question for Company Witness Pizzino. I can say
18 that in 2016 we began monitoring it very closely,
19 and there were various stages of the project.

20 In 2024 is when we began the
21 preliminary work, and then June of -- July of '25,
22 we recognized that the work was going to be much
23 more extensive and expensive than we initially had
24 thought. But Company Witnesses Malone and Pizzino
25 can -- can give you all the details of that.

1 Q. Thank you.

2 Going back to the DOE award that
3 everyone was just asking questions about, could
4 the grant be used -- just is the grant restricted
5 solely to the new mechanical draft tower, or could
6 it be used for other projects?

7 You -- a moment ago in your testimony
8 you referred to it as a grant for something
9 specific, and I can't remember the terminology
10 used, but it made me think it might be possible to
11 use that for other things.

12 A. No. The award is strictly for the new
13 mechanical draft cooling tower at Mitchell. We
14 must build the cooling tower in order to receive
15 the -- the award, and there will be certain
16 milestones of the project that are required to be
17 completed before we receive funding.

18 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: So that only
19 applies to Option 3?

20 THE WITNESS: Only applies to Option 3.

21 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Was that the
22 way it was applied for?

23 THE WITNESS: That's the exact way it
24 was applied for, yes.

25 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: So the

1 application didn't contemplate that a
2 different option could have be chosen?

3 THE WITNESS: No, it didn't.

4 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: I think
5 that's it.

6 BY COMM STAFF YOUNG:

7 Q. In a post-hearing data request, are
8 there any documents from the Department of Energy
9 that you could provide that would indicate that?

10 A. Yes. I mean we can -- we can share
11 those.

12 Q. And will that -- the benefit of that
13 grant be split equally between West Virginia
14 ratepayers and Kentucky ratepayers?

15 A. Yes, it will. Yes.

16 Q. Do you know if there will be any tax
17 consequences of that award?

18 A. That's a better question for Company
19 Witness Coon.

20 COMM STAFF YOUNG: Thank you. That is
21 all I have for you today. Thank you.

22 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you.

23 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Commissioner
24 Wood?

25 COMMISSIONER WOOD: Yes.

EXAMINATION

BY COMMISSIONER WOOD:

Q. Good morning, Ms. Elliott.

A. Good morning.

Q. You have the privilege of being the first witness in a long -- in a long hearing.

I wanted to ask, regarding the witnesses, would there be any testimony going to be presented about showing the actual flaws at the cooling Tower and how severe they are? I wanted to ask some questions about, I guess, the difference in the assessment from several years ago when they thought it would be repaired versus now. They're saying that -- it sounds like they're saying that it's at risk of complete structural failure altogether. And I was going to ask you, are there any witnesses who are prepared to give testimony to those -- to those flaws and sort of the change in assessments from a few years ago?

A. Yes. I guess Company Witnesses Malone and Pizzino can help with those types of questions. I'm neither a lawyer or an engineer, unfortunately.

Q. You or -- you or them, either one, or

1 are they engineers?

2 A. Oh, no, I'm not. I was making a failed
3 joke.

4 Q. Well, no, that's all right.

5 It's just sometimes when you sit up
6 here you don't know the right person to ask and
7 what -- you know, exactly what testimony is going
8 to be presented. And this is a large dollar
9 figure, and I just want to make sure that I ask
10 the right questions to the right people.

11 A. They can absolutely help you with those
12 questions.

13 Q. Okay. Does Kentucky Power have a
14 target retirement date for Mitchell?

15 A. We have a planned retirement date. For
16 planning purposes we're using a retirement
17 timeline of 2040. However, there will be several
18 integrated resource plans that are presented to
19 the Commission between now and then.

20 You know, there's currently no federal
21 mandate that would require us to retire the
22 Mitchell plant in 2040. So, yes, the -- the
23 planning retirement timeline is 2040.

24 Q. And is there a possibility that the
25 life of the plant could be extended beyond that

1 time?

2 A. Yes. I think Company Witness
3 Snodgrass, in his rebuttal testimony, talked a
4 little bit about the -- the overall lifeline of
5 Mitchell, what can be expected there.

6 Q. I've just got to tell you that from my
7 perspective, you know, to build a -- to build a
8 brand-new cooling tower who's -- I mean,
9 presumably it'll have a 50-year plus lifespan, it
10 seems -- I won't say it's a waste of money if
11 it -- if it saves lives and, you know, keeps you
12 from having to purchase power in the open market,
13 but it seems like a waste to build a 50-year
14 cooling tower and then retire it after 8 years
15 or -- or 10 years.

16 A. I can see how you would say that, but
17 it is by far the least risky option. You know,
18 Options 1 and 4 where we either tried to continue
19 with the repair or Option 4 where we were going to
20 shorten the tower and take a D rate, you know,
21 those are both riskier, much, much riskier options
22 with -- you know, without it being that much lower
23 in cost.

24 In the house I have two air
25 conditioning units. One of them is new and the

1 other one we are patching together. And, you
2 know, you never know how much money you should
3 invest in the patch to keep it going or when to
4 replace it. We did try the -- the fix for the --
5 the cooling tower, but it was -- it was not
6 proving to be cost effective or able to extend the
7 full life of Mitchell, and so that is why we are
8 proposing that Option 3 is our best option.

9 Q. And I'm going to ask a question.
10 Knowing that you're not an engineer, and there's
11 other better people to answer the question, but
12 are there different types of cooling towers that
13 could have been utilized? You know, not every --
14 not every fossil fuel power plant has a parabolic
15 cooling tower. There are also kind of low-rise
16 cooling towers. And I just wondered if there was
17 a different -- if there was a different sort of
18 technology for cooling towers that could have been
19 utilized other than the -- the traditional
20 parabolic tower.

21 A. Yes, I think there are other types of
22 cooling towers. I can't tell you what they are or
23 why they were not chosen at the time. I do know
24 that there are several hyperbolic cooling towers
25 across the AEP system. Company Witnesses Pizzino

1 and Malone could give you more information on
2 that.

3 Q. Was there an -- was an independent
4 engineering firm consulted regarding these
5 possibilities, or was it only the -- a
6 consultancy? Was there anybody else, I guess, who
7 was brought in to advise the Company on possible
8 other fixes other than Option 3?

9 A. The Company did hire a consultant,
10 Company Witness Pizzino or Malone would -- I think
11 Pizzino would be able to tell you more about that.

12 COMMISSIONER WOOD: Very well. That's
13 all I have.

14 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

15 Commissioner Regan?

16 EXAMINATION

17 BY COMMISSONTER REGAN:

18 Q. Good morning.

19 A. Good morning.

20 Q. Just a -- A couple of questions.

21 The grant team at AEP or Kentucky
22 Power?

23 A. It's an AEP service corporation team.

24 Q. Okay. Do you know if there were any
25 commitments made in exchange for this grant to be

1 awarded, either financial or operational or
2 anything like that?

3 A. To my understanding, it's just to build
4 the mechanical draft cooling tower.

5 COMMISSONTER REGAN: Okay. All right.
6 Thanks.

7 A. Thank you.

8 EXAMINATION

9 BY COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON:

10 Q. Good morning.

11 A. Good morning, Chair Hatton.

12 Q. You've adopted Tanner Wolffram's
13 testimony?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. He talks in his testimony, I think on
16 Page 17, about monthly impact to customers.

17 A. Yes. Let's see. Just a second, I'll
18 get there, please. Okay. I'm there.

19 Q. So when his testimony was filed, it was
20 before the DOE grant?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you have updated numbers for
23 customer bill impact after that is applied?

24 A. We do. The updated monthly bill impact
25 is \$3.64 per month --

1 Q. For the average residential --

2 A. -- for 1,200 kilowatt hours for a
3 residential customer. But Company Witness Coon
4 calculated those --

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. -- and made the updates after the
7 award, so she could -- she could give you more
8 detail about that.

9 Q. Okay. So down from \$4.59 a month to
10 \$3.64 a month --

11 A. \$3.64.

12 Q. -- for the average residential
13 customer.

14 And am I interpreting correctly that
15 they won't see that impact until April of '27?

16 A. So I think if you look at Lane Kollen's
17 exhibit in front of me, that under our proposal,
18 it would be a small charge in '26 for construction
19 work in progress.

20 Q. Okay. So that's the 33 cents?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And after the DOE, do you remember what
23 the 33 cents became?

24 A. I don't. Company Witness Kahn --

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. -- could probably help you with that.

2 Q. Okay. So that's the proposal for the
3 construction work in progress?

4 A. That is the proposal, yes.

5 Q. Okay. And then once the plant is
6 placed in service and after an update to the
7 generation rider in February of '27, then the
8 larger impact to customers?

9 A. So I think that --

10 Q. If there's somebody better to ask these
11 questions to, I'm happy to do that too.

12 A. Yeah. Company Witness Kahn can
13 definitely give you a little more detail about
14 cost recovery. I think that we expect the new
15 cooling tower to be in place in '28.

16 Q. And then partial demolition of the
17 current cooling tower to be completed by '29.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And will that again have an impact on a
20 customer's bill at that point?

21 A. It's my understanding that the partial
22 demolition has been included in Company Witness
23 Coon's calculations, but we could confirm that
24 with her.

25 Q. So, I don't think it would be

1 surprising or a shock that this is a pretty
2 unpopular project with ratepayers. It's out of
3 state. It is a very old tower. It is 55 years
4 old, I think, now. And by the retirement date it
5 will be 69 years old. And this \$191 million
6 proposed project is for an expected maximum life
7 of 14 years.

8 And I think we've known for quite a
9 while that this tower was not in great shape. And
10 I don't know that you would have this information
11 or if you can tell me who can, but when the
12 purchase was made in 2013, I'm wondering what sort
13 of diligence was done as to the -- the shape of
14 the asset that was being purchased. Because it
15 doesn't feel like an arm's-length transaction. It
16 feels like one affiliate sold to another.

17 And I think we knew that there were
18 problems with this tower as early as 1990, is that
19 right? Were there some repairs made in 1990?

20 A. I never heard that. I thought that we
21 were -- we became aware in 2016.

22 Q. After our purchase, we --

23 A. Right, after the purchase.

24 Q. Okay. But -- and I don't remember
25 where I saw that, but I think that we've known

1 there have been some problems with this tower for
2 a long time. What can you tell me, if you know,
3 about what sort of diligence was done? And if you
4 were purchasing it from a -- an actual entity that
5 wasn't affiliated with Kentucky Power, do you
6 think that would have been better due diligence
7 about the condition of the asset you were
8 purchasing?

9 A. So I remember vaguely from the time
10 that, you know, we did present a thorough case
11 about the condition of the plant. That's
12 something we could probably provide in a
13 post-hearing data request, but I don't -- I don't
14 remember the details.

15 I remember Company Witness LaFleur at
16 the time was our employee that presented to the
17 Commission on the details of the condition of the
18 plant. But the Mitchell plant to us was half the
19 cost of our alternative in installing the -- the
20 scrubber at Big Sandy. And it was a value to our
21 customers that was approved by the Commission
22 in -- in late 2013.

23 And we still feel that it is a -- a
24 good plant. It's a good resource for our
25 customers. You know, it's not abnormal for the

1 aging coal plants to need updates and continued
2 investments. I think that our legislature has
3 passed legislation over the past few years that
4 encourages utilities to continue investing in
5 those plants.

6 As far as all of the analysis that we
7 did at the time of -- of the 2012 case, I didn't
8 review that before -- before the hearing today.

9 Q. And in 2012 and 2013, I wasn't in this
10 position either or -- or working in Frankfort or
11 around the legislature at that time.

12 But do you know whether the Company
13 considered the sort of ancillary impacts that
14 closing Big Sandy would have on the workforce and
15 the business community in its service territory?

16 A. We did. In fact, that's why at the
17 time that we closed Big Sandy Unit 2, we had a
18 school energy manager program to help with the
19 loss of property tax in the region. And we, I
20 think, gave \$200,000 annually to help with
21 economic development in the Lawrence County area
22 for a period of five years.

23 And then I think we had also help to --
24 the -- the school energy management auditors. I
25 think we had added a \$33,000 amount for salaries

1 for them.

2 I mean, there were -- there were a
3 number of considerations that we -- we did -- we
4 did think about and try to help when we closed
5 Unit 2.

6 Q. We weren't talking about population
7 loss much in 2012.

8 A. Not as much. It was soon after that,
9 though, that Kentucky Power really amped up its
10 efforts in economic development. That was around
11 2014, 2015. But we were -- we were starting to
12 have those economic development discussions then,
13 but, no, we weren't talking about population loss
14 as much back then.

15 Q. You mentioned the recent legislative
16 changes that create additional hurdles in order to
17 close a -- any sort of a fossil fuel plant. And I
18 believe West Virginia has more strenuous
19 requirements than we do. And I don't know all the
20 details, but it's very difficult to shut down a
21 coal-fired power plant, either one.

22 How much confidence do you have in the
23 2020 -- the 2040 retirement date?

24 A. You know, that's a better question for
25 Company Witness Snodgrass. I think he even

1 mentioned it in his rebuttal testimony that, you
2 know, there is nothing currently that would make
3 us retire the -- the plant in 2040.

4 There was a question on Page 7 of his
5 rebuttal testimony that asked if there's any
6 reason that he believes that with the installation
7 of the new mechanical draft cooling tower, if
8 Unit 2 could operate past 2040. And he says
9 there's no reason that he would have to believe it
10 couldn't.

11 Q. And at that point, it will be 69 years
12 old?

13 A. Yeah. Well, parts of it, right?

14 Q. I hope I'm still operating at 69 years
15 old.

16 And the safety hazards that are
17 characterized as probably pretty urgent, we think
18 they'll be completely resolved by the new cooling
19 tower?

20 A. So it's my -- these are questions
21 probably for the engineers, but it's my
22 understanding that once we do the partial demol --
23 demolition of Unit 2 and with the new cooling
24 tower, then, yes, those safety concerns will be
25 addressed.

1 Q. Who would be the best witness to talk
2 about the decisions that went into the DOE
3 application?

4 A. That's probably me. I'll do my best.

5 Q. Since an option hadn't been chosen at
6 that time or approved by the Commission, I'm
7 curious whether -- because I believe I understood
8 you to say that the application only contemplated
9 Option 3 being chosen when applying for the DOE
10 grant, and I'm wondering if there were ways that
11 that could have been -- the application could have
12 been made so that we weren't faced with a
13 situation where you lose \$51 million if we don't
14 choose Option 3.

15 A. Honestly, I don't know if we could have
16 presented alternatives within the application.
17 I -- I don't know if we could have or not. But I
18 do know that Option 3 is presented today because
19 it is the least cost, most reasonable option with
20 the least amount of risk. And the best options
21 for long-term use for the Mitchell plant.

22 Q. We -- we've heard the term least --
23 "least bad option" with reference to this Mitchell
24 plant a few times. And it -- it does sort of feel
25 like options keep getting taken off the table

1 because of the way planning is done in this case.
2 That's a comment, not really a question.

3 But there is always the possibility
4 that West Virginia and Kentucky, since we're both
5 exercising jurisdiction over this facility, will
6 reach different decisions about its maintenance
7 and upkeep and its extended life.

8 And -- and we've already done it once
9 when we didn't approve the Kentucky Power
10 participation beyond 2028 that we've had to change
11 course on.

12 What are the expected implications with
13 regard to the DOE loan if West Virginia and
14 Kentucky make different decisions in the next
15 couple of months regarding this -- the options and
16 the cooling tower?

17 A. I don't know how that would work
18 exactly. You know, it is our hope that both
19 commissions make the same decision. Just, you
20 know, we've -- you -- you referenced the different
21 decisions in the previous case. There have been a
22 lot of changes to the market since then.

23 Q. That's true.

24 A. You know, the last thing that we would
25 want at this point is to lose the capacity and

1 energy from the Mitchell plant and have to
2 purchase from the market. If the commissions were
3 to make different decisions, we would have to
4 evaluate our options, and that -- that could be
5 one of them.

6 Q. So, I don't know if they're identical,
7 but very similar applications have been made to
8 West Virginia and Kentucky about building the new
9 cooling tower. I'm assuming the same options are
10 presented in the cases?

11 A. I would think so, but I honestly did
12 not review the West Virginia case.

13 Q. You don't work for Wheeling Power. You
14 work for --

15 A. Well, I can tell you that the options
16 were presented in exactly the same method to the
17 operating company. I always say that.

18 Q. Committee.

19 A. The operating committee, yes.

20 So if you look at TSW-1, the options as
21 they were presented to the operating company where
22 the company president of Wheeling and Kentucky
23 Power made the joint decision to choose Option 3,
24 they were all presented the same options, so...

25 Q. I did look at those minutes.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. So if Kentucky and West Virginia Public
3 Service Commissions make different decisions about
4 recovery of the costs, that probably is not that
5 big a deal because they're operated as separate
6 companies, is that right?

7 A. Right. So recovery is separate. Like
8 west Virginia, for example, is securitized or in
9 the process of securitizing the Mitchell plant.
10 Kentucky has not yet received statutory authority
11 to securitize the Mitchell plant. So there are
12 some cost recovery mechanisms that are different
13 between the two states.

14 Q. But that eventuality is planned for
15 basically because they're operated totally
16 separately and they have separate ratepayers and
17 separate structures.

18 A. Different number of customers.

19 Q. So the danger would be if the two state
20 commissions chose not to accept the same option
21 for building the tower. Do you -- do you know
22 what would happen in that case?

23 A. I -- I don't know. I think it would be
24 pretty similar to the ELG case where we have to go
25 back and try to figure it out.

1 You know, I think that we may lose
2 entitlement to the capacity and energy that comes
3 from Mitchell if we're not paying in an equal
4 share of the cost.

5 Q. Lose or be proportioned differently?

6 A. I think we would have to evaluate that.
7 I think that with the ELG case, there was an
8 amendment made to the operating company, you know,
9 to account for those charges separately.

10 So, and it's -- it's something that we
11 have dealt with before. It is not the ideal
12 scenario. I -- I think that if the Commission
13 denies our application for Option 3, then, you
14 know, we would have to re-evaluate our options for
15 capacity and energy for planning for customers.

16 Q. It feels again to me like the options
17 presented to us aren't real options. It's --
18 we're co-owing a plant that is not in our state
19 and is not wholly decided by, you know, Kentucky's
20 PSC, how -- how it's going to operate, and it's a
21 frustrating situation.

22 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: I think
23 that's all the questions I have. Anything
24 further from the Commissioners?

25 COMMISSIONER WOOD: No.

1 COMMISSONTER REGAN: No.

2 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

3 Redirect?

4 MR. GISH: No, ma'am.

5 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: All right.

6 Is this your lead witness or your catch-all
7 witness?

8 MR. GISH: Yes.

9 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. I'm
10 sorry, I can't excuse you then.

11 THE WITNESS: No.

12 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Thank you.
13 And I had a request for a break.

14 MR. GISH: Okay.

15 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: So, let's
16 take 15.

17 (Thereupon, a break was taken from
18 10:11 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.)

19 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: We're back on
20 the record now in Case No. 2026-00001.

21 And Mr. Gish, if you want to call your
22 next witness?

23 MR. GISH: Thank you, Your Honor.

24 The Company calls Lerah Kahn, and
25 Ms. Havens will handle this witness.

1 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Oh, yeah.

2 Welcome back.

3 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

4 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Do you swear
5 or affirm the testimony you're about to give
6 is true and complete under penalty of
7 perjury?

8 THE WITNESS: I do.

9 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Thanks.
10 Please be seated. Tell us your full name and
11 business address.

12 THE WITNESS: My name is Lerah Kahn.
13 My business address is 1645 Winchester
14 Avenue, Ashland, Kentucky 41101.

15 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Ms. Havens.

16 MS. HAVENS: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 THEREUPON:

18 LERAH KAHN,
19 the witness, after being first duly sworn, was
20 examined and testified as follows:

21 EXAMINATION

22 BY MS. HAVENS:

23 Q. Ms. Kahn, can you please state your
24 employer and job title?

25 A. Sure. My employer is Kentucky Power,

1 and my job title is regulatory manager.

2 Q. And did you cause to be filed rebuttal
3 testimony in this case?

4 A. I did.

5 Q. And did you respond to data requests?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. And did you adopt portions of Mr.
8 Tanner Wolffram's direct testimony?

9 A. Yes, I adopted Section 9.

10 Q. And did you adopt any of his responses
11 to data requests?

12 A. I did.

13 Q. And do you have any corrections to
14 either Mr. Wolffram's responses in testimony or
15 your own?

16 A. No.

17 Q. And if you were asked the same
18 questions in your testimony, your data request
19 responses and those you adopted, would all the
20 answers be the same today?

21 A. They would.

22 MS. HAVENS: The witness is ready for
23 questioning.

24 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

25 Mr. Cook?

1 MR. COOK: Thank you, Chair.

2 EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. COOK:

4 Q. Good morning, Ms. Kahn. I have just a
5 few questions for you.

6 A. Good morning.

7 Q. So you've already said that you're
8 adopting a portion of Tanner Wolffram's testimony,
9 Section 9, is that correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Okay. Thank you. And you also rebut
12 the position of Mr. Kollen's direct testimony
13 regarding the AFUDC offset, isn't that correct?

14 A. I did.

15 Q. Okay. And, in fact, you state that the
16 Company is proposing to recover a return on rate
17 base and construction work in progress, isn't that
18 correct?

19 A. It is correct. The Company believes
20 this approach is appropriate because it would
21 employ a gradualism -- gradualistic rate
22 implementation, which Ms. Elliott and Chair Hatton
23 were discussing previously, as opposed to
24 Mr. Kollen's, which would have one large lump sum
25 once the project goes into service, which is late

1 2028. So for the generation rider, that would be
2 our filing February 2029. It starts billing in
3 April 2029 as well.

4 This is also important to the Company
5 because it ensures the financial integrity. So
6 also in my testimony at R-8, we -- this -- the
7 Company's financial health is important for both
8 the Company and our customers, so it ensures that
9 it allows or will likely help when being rated by
10 rating agencies.

11 So specifically, cash flow is one of
12 the metrics that rating agencies look at. And for
13 us, that a higher credit -- for any utility,
14 sorry -- a higher credit rating generally means
15 that there will be a lower cost of debt, which
16 would result in smaller interest payments for
17 customers and an overall rev -- revenue
18 requirement reduction.

19 It also means that in times of
20 volatility, that we would have better access to
21 capital.

22 Now, currently, Kentucky is a Baa3 with
23 Moody's, which is at the lowest investment grade
24 for credit rating agencies.

25 Q. Okay. Thank you. You're familiar, are

1 you not, with the Company's rate case 2025-00257.
2 That was the last rate case.

3 A. I am familiar, but I was not a witness.

4 Q. Okay. And you're familiar with the
5 Company's generation rider tariff, also known as
6 tariff GR, which the Company filed with the
7 Commission after the final order was issued in the
8 rate case?

9 A. I am. I actually prepared the
10 compliance filings and I provided the final
11 approved from 2025-257 as Exhibit LMKR-1.

12 Q. Okay. Thank you.

13 MR. COOK: We're going to pass out
14 several documents from the rate case as
15 exhibits. Counsel for KIUC is going to do
16 this.

17 MR. KURTZ: Your Honor, these are
18 marked as AG-KIUC Exhibits 1, 2, and 3.

19 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: These are not
20 in the record?

21 MR. KURTZ: These are Kentucky Power
22 documents from the last rate case.

23 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Thank you.
24 Staff, did we incorporate that case?

25 COMM STAFF YOUNG: Yeah.

1 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: We did.

2 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

3 MR. KURTZ: This is another Kentucky
4 Power exhibit from the rate case.

5 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Get your
6 steps in.

7 MR. KURTZ: What's that?

8 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Get your
9 steps in.

10 So we're looking at AG-KIUC Joint
11 Exhibits 1 and 2?

12 MR. KURTZ: So, yes, and I have one
13 more. Last one. This is the generation
14 rider tariff that was approved in the last
15 rate case.

16 THE WITNESS: I have it in my exhibit,
17 I believe.

18 (AG Exhibits 1-3 were identified for
19 the record)

20 BY MR. COOK:

21 Q. Okay. Ms. Kahn, we just handed out
22 three exhibits. First, I'd like to have you look
23 at the one that is in the upper left corner. It's
24 marked AG-KIUC Exhibit 1.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. And do you see in the upper right
2 corner where this document came from Kentucky
3 Power's application in the rate case?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Okay.

6 MR. GISH: Mr. Cook, if I might just --
7 I don't mean to break your train. This has
8 yellow highlighting. I believe it's just
9 for --

10 MR. COOK: It was for
11 demonstrative purposes.

12 MR. GISH: Demonstrative purposes and
13 not confidential?

14 MR. COOK: Correct.

15 MR. GISH: Makes me -- so it's not
16 confidential but --

17 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Thank you for
18 clarifying that. I -- I had a moment to
19 think about that, too.

20 MR. GISH: And also, I don't know if
21 this matters, but the -- Exhibit 3 that
22 they've handed out as tariff GR is only Pages
23 1 of -- it's the first two pages of a
24 three-page tariff that is provided.

25 MR. COOK: Is it front and back?

1 MR. GISH: It's just one -- it's a
2 three-page tariff that's in the -- in the
3 record already in this case. It didn't
4 accompany Ms. Kahn's rebuttal.

5 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. So all
6 three pages are already in the rebuttal
7 testimony?

8 MR. GISH: Yes.

9 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. But
10 we're only going to look at two of them?

11 MR. GISH: Yes.

12 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: So, assuming
13 these are not confidential, if they're marked
14 in yellow, that wasn't an objection?

15 MR. GISH: No, I just wanted to clarify
16 to make sure that you didn't get (inaudible).

17 BY MR. COOK:

18 Q. Okay. Okay. There on Exhibit 1, can
19 you -- do you see on the left side the line
20 numbers are numbered? And at Line 44, can you
21 read that description into the record?

22 A. Construction work in progress,
23 (excludes AFUDC and CWIP).

24 Q. Okay. Thank you. So this shows the
25 CWIP included in rate base, correct?

1 A. Yes, excluding AFUDC.

2 Q. Okay. Now, looking at the next
3 exhibit, AG-KIUC Exhibit 2, this is also a filing
4 from the rate case, correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And this document shows the AFUDC
7 offset as an increase to operating income for CWIP
8 that qualifies for AFUDC, isn't that correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Okay. And there at Line 14, which
11 we've highlighted for demonstrative purposes,
12 could you please read that description into the
13 record?

14 A. AFUDC offset adjustment/deferred
15 income.

16 Q. Thank you. And finally, Exhibit 3,
17 we've talked about this a little bit already.
18 This is the copy of the tariff that you worked on
19 and that you included in your rebuttal, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Okay.

22 MR. COOK: Chair, I believe that's all
23 the questions I have.

24 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. Do you
25 want to move to admit these?

1 MR. COOK: Yeah, I'd like to admit all
2 three exhibits.

3 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Any
4 objection?

5 MR. GISH: The only objection I have is
6 that the exhibit -- sorry.

7 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Go ahead.

8 MR. GISH: The only objection have is
9 Exhibit 3 is already in the record in total
10 as Exhibit LMKR-1.

11 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: New rule. If
12 you're going to tag team, say tag.

13 MR. GISH: I know. I'm sorry.

14 MS. HAVENS: I tried to tell.

15 MR. GISH: Sorry.

16 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: All right.
17 It will be admitted then.

18 (AG's Exhibits 1-3 were admitted)

19 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: And that's
20 the end of your questions?

21 MR. COOK: Yes, that's all I have,
22 Chair.

23 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: And I -- I
24 went -- I generally do KIUC first, but I
25 think I asked Mr. Shoaff first last time, so

1 it doesn't matter to me which one of you
2 wants to go first.

3 MR. SHOAFF: We have no questions, Your
4 Honor.

5 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

6 MR. KURTZ: I have a few.

7 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: In that case,
8 you're going first.

9 EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. KURTZ:

11 Q. Ms. Kahn, so on this question of
12 starting the recovery, assuming the Commission
13 approves the cooling tower, it's a \$75 million
14 capital investment, 100 basically, or minus 25
15 from the DOE grant, correct?

16 A. I think it started at -- I'm not sure
17 of the specifics, I'm sorry. I think it started
18 at 191 and then there's the \$51 million grant and
19 then 50% for us.

20 Q. So \$70 million capital project?

21 A. Sure. I'll take you math.

22 Q. Okay. And so your position is that you
23 should start recovering the interest on that
24 approximate 70 million through the GR tariff
25 immediately after this case, or in your next GR

1 filing, and start recovering that -- that amount
2 on customer bills immediately?

3 A. Yes. So it would be -- I discussed
4 this at Kahn R-6. The Company would be refunded,
5 and customers would pay for the interest cost
6 while the project is being constructed, so it
7 would be a phased in rate. So if there's
8 construction costs in 2026, then those would
9 appear in the generation rider. When we file in
10 February of 2027, the rate would start in April
11 billing of 2027.

12 Q. Okay. So it wouldn't be a phase-in,
13 but customers would start seeing a new line item
14 on their bill, starting small and then building up
15 until the facility goes commercial.

16 A. The generation rider already exists on
17 bills, so I wouldn't say it's a new line item on
18 bills. The rate for it will change on the
19 schedule I provided.

20 And it would be a small -- for this
21 project, it would be a phased in, smaller as the
22 project starts to go in service.

23 Q. So the generation rider will -- will
24 increase on customer bills sooner under your
25 proposal versus capitalizing the construction

1 period interest under the AG-KIUC Mr. Kollen
2 approach?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. And that -- that would have --
5 under either approach, there's no effect on the
6 Company's earnings, isn't that correct? Because
7 AFUDC is treated as -- as earnings versus getting
8 the cash through your --

9 A. Correct. There might be a little bit
10 of nuance depending on what weighted average cost
11 of capital is approved at the time between the
12 two, but generally, yes, that's correct.

13 Again, I would say that we're proposing
14 this approach because we think it's important from
15 the cash flow perspective for the Company and our
16 customers.

17 Q. It's a relatively small amount of
18 money, isn't it, every month under -- under
19 this -- under your approach or capitalizing it?
20 We're talking about the interest expense on a \$70
21 million investment over a few years.

22 A. So I did ask our folks in Columbus to
23 run what the impact to our FFO to debt of doing an
24 AFUDC approach. And during the year with the
25 highest amount of construction cost, it would be

1 about 0.7%.

2 Now, that may not seem like a lot, but
3 it is important to the Company, and a lot of these
4 small things can add up to a bigger picture.

5 Q. So this is -- this is a cash flow
6 issue. It's not an earnings issue.

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And consumers have cash flow issues
9 also, don't they?

10 A. Yes, we have the same problems that our
11 customers do.

12 Q. Okay. If the Commission were to wait
13 and start recovering, assuming this \$70 million or
14 so investment gets approved, and the Commission
15 were to wait until it's finished before recovery
16 starts, wouldn't the new data center that's been
17 announced pay a large portion of that cost versus
18 starting to recover it early before the data
19 center is -- is online?

20 A. If the data center comes online, which
21 the Company, as Ms. Elliott, already discussed, it
22 does not operate under what-ifs, but if the data
23 center comes online, then yes, it would increase
24 the denominator that's utilized in the generation
25 rider.

1 Q. And lower --

2 A. And spread the cost making the overall
3 rate impact lower.

4 Q. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Kahn.

5 A. Yeah.

6 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Is there also
7 a gradualism issue there for customers? I
8 know there's cash flow or earnings issue, but
9 if we started sooner, is it a more gradual
10 increase for --

11 THE WITNESS: Exactly. And that's the
12 Company's approach, or proposed approach.

13 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: But if they
14 waited until -- assuming a data center is
15 ever approved and comes online, then it
16 would, as you said, change the denominator,
17 and everybody pays a little less when there's
18 a large load customer like that.

19 THE WITNESS: Yes. That's the benefit
20 of economic development.

21 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Gotcha.
22 Sorry.

23 MR. KURTZ: No, I was done, Your Honor.
24 Thank you.

25 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: All right.

1 Mr. Shoaff, you have no questions?

2 MR. SHOAFF: No questions.

3 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Staff.

4 EXAMINATION

5 BY COMM STAFF BELLAMY:

6 Q. I have just a few quick questions.

7 I just wanted to get some clarity on,
8 at least in base rates, how the process works
9 because there was kind of two AFUDC offsets, I
10 think, that were being talked about.

11 With the CWIP that's included in rate
12 base in base rates, it's -- it's saying excluding
13 AFUDC. That -- is that -- and I'm looking at
14 Exhibit 1, AG-KIUC Exhibit 1.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. So it says excluding AFUDC. That's not
17 talking about the income adjustment. That's
18 talking about AFU -- or interest that is accrued
19 as AFUDC is booked into the construction work in
20 progress account, is that correct? And you're
21 removing that portion of the CWIP.

22 A. So I would probably need to go back to
23 the -- I do take AG-KIUC's Exhibit 1 and 2 in
24 conjunction with each other. So I would need to
25 go back to the person that performed the

1 adjustment. I believe it was 51 in this one to
2 confirm your statement.

3 Q. Okay. Do you know, I guess, generally
4 speaking, with respect to Kentucky Power's base
5 rates, though, when they include CWIP and rate
6 base, does Kentucky Power exclude that portion of
7 CWIP that's attributable? Essentially the already
8 capitalized portion of the AFUDC, that's part of
9 CWIP?

10 A. That's my understanding.

11 Q. Okay. And then -- and then the
12 other -- looking at AG-KIUC Exhibit 2, Kentucky
13 Power includes CWIP in rate base so that there
14 would be a return on -- on the full CWIP except
15 there's an income adjustment that corresponds to
16 the AFUDC that would be accrued on that
17 construction work in progress that effectively
18 offsets that portion of the return, is that
19 correct?

20 A. Sorry for the pause. Yes, I just
21 wanted to state that my testimony at Kahn R-7
22 discusses this.

23 Q. Okay. I just wanted to make sure
24 because there was talk about the AFUDC offset.
25 Just -- there's kind of two offsets, is that

1 correct? There's the removal of the AFUDC from
2 the CWIP that's included in rate base, and then
3 there's the income adjustment that removes the
4 return on the AFUDC.

5 A. Like I said, I'd want to confirm with
6 the people who actually did the adjustments, but
7 that's my understanding.

8 Q. Okay. That's what I was wanting to
9 clarify because there was kind of talk about AFUDC
10 offset, and I just wanted to make sure that I
11 understood that.

12 With respect to AFUDC and CWIP,
13 there's -- some construction work in progress is
14 not eligible for AFUDC, is that correct?

15 A. That's my understanding. It's only for
16 the qualifying ones that we would do this process.

17 Q. So if all of the CWIP -- well, I guess
18 my second question is, is the return on AFUDC or
19 the return that's used to calculate AFUDC or the
20 interest rate or -- is that different than the
21 weighted average cost of capital that's used to
22 calculate the return on CWIP if the CWIP is
23 included in rate base?

24 A. I don't believe so. But again, I would
25 want to confirm with the person that did the

1 adjustment.

2 Q. I meant just generally speaking, are
3 you familiar with how Kentucky Power calculates?

4 A. No, I've never done the calculation,
5 no.

6 Q. Okay. I'll ask that as like a
7 post-hearing data request.

8 I guess, are you familiar with -- do
9 you know whether or not FERC has specific rules
10 regarding the rate that should be used to
11 calculate AFUDC?

12 A. No, not offhand.

13 Q. Okay. If you could look at Page 10 of
14 your rebuttal testimony.

15 A. Okay, I'm there.

16 Q. And I understand Kentucky Power WAS
17 asking for a deferral of certain costs related to
18 the cooling tower -- or authorities deferred
19 certain costs related to the cooling tower for a
20 later rate recovery, is that correct?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. In Table 5 there on Page 10, does that
23 list the categories of costs that -- at least with
24 the initial application, that Kentucky Power was
25 seeking to defer?

1 A. Sorry, can you repeat the --

2 Q. My question really is what categories
3 of costs was Kentucky Power seeking to defer? And
4 I believe you list them there in your table.

5 And so my question is, like in the
6 initial application, are those the categories of
7 costs that Kentucky Power was seeking to defer as
8 part of that request for deferral authority?

9 A. Yes. And then rebuttal has then closed
10 that gap a little bit.

11 Q. Yeah. So the generation rider was
12 approved, so that eliminated the need to defer
13 certain categories of costs, is that correct?

14 A. Yes. They're -- I think the original
15 application just wanted to make sure that we could
16 include those costs in the generation rider. It
17 may not have even been necessary in the original
18 application to have requested it.

19 Q. And then what -- what are the
20 categories of costs for which you're still -- or
21 for Kentucky Power is still requesting deferral
22 authority? Is it incremental O&M, incremental
23 property taxes, and then engineering and related
24 work to investigate possible alternatives?

25 A. Yes, sir. So it's the first, third,

1 and fifth, which I believe is all the ones you
2 listed in the table.

3 Q. As far as incremental O&M, if -- to
4 your knowledge, is there any incremental O&M that
5 would arise from the operation of Option 3, the
6 new cooling tower?

7 A. No. And we clarified in discovery that
8 this incremental O&M really is just equal to the
9 engineering studies that were necessary to bring
10 this application forward to the Commission.

11 But the -- there is no incremental O&M,
12 to my knowledge, between the mechanical cooling
13 drive tower versus what is currently the parabolic
14 cooling tower.

15 Q. So the incremental O&M would be
16 basically, you said engineering, so you're talking
17 about the first item in this table, engineering
18 and related work to investigate possible
19 alternatives?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. So -- so then the two that are
22 being requested are the -- the engineering or
23 related work to investigate possible alternatives
24 and then the incremental property tax expense?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Okay. I understand the incremental
2 property tax expense. But as far as that
3 engineering and related work to investigate
4 possible alternatives, to your knowledge, do the
5 FERC -- does the FERC system accounts allow for
6 the capitalization of preliminary survey and
7 construction work?

8 A. I'm not sure, but we're not asking for
9 a return on this. We're just asking to defer the
10 costs that we actually incurred.

11 Q. I understand that. I guess my -- my
12 main question is, though -- I guess, are you not
13 familiar with what categories of costs can be
14 capitalized as part of a project, like preliminary
15 surveys and certain preliminary work that might be
16 eligible for capitalization?

17 A. Not offhand. I didn't prepare for
18 this, no.

19 Q. Would you agree, though, that if
20 something is eligible for -- to be capitalized,
21 there would be no need for a deferral because the
22 deferral is an expense item that would not
23 otherwise be capitalized?

24 A. Sorry, can you repeat the question?

25 Q. If something can already be capitalized

1 under other rules that would allow it to be
2 included as part of CWIP and then moved to plant
3 service when the cooling tower goes into service,
4 there would be no need to defer those costs, would
5 you agree with that?

6 A. I would, but that's not what we
7 proposed here.

8 Q. Okay. I guess that -- that was really
9 the heart of my question, and maybe you can't
10 answer it. Is -- you know, my understanding is
11 that the FERC rules and, you know, other
12 accounting rules do allow certain costs to be
13 capitalized.

14 And I was trying to get out -- my
15 question is can you distinguish between the cost
16 that would be capitalized and then placed in plant
17 service versus the cost that you're seeking to
18 defer here? Can you distinguish between those
19 two?

20 A. Yeah. Like I said, we're not asking to
21 capitalize the Line 1 or 5, but we can...

22 Q. And I'm not saying you can. I guess
23 my -- my -- my question really is that I know
24 there are certain costs that can be capitalized,
25 and I'm presuming if you could capitalize them

1 that way, you wouldn't ask for deferral authority
2 because there would be no need. And so my
3 question is to distinguish between those two, and
4 it sounds like maybe you don't know the answer to
5 that.

6 A. I don't know the answer to that today.

7 Q. Okay. I wasn't intending to suggest
8 that the cost in the table could be capitalized,
9 but...

10 COMM STAFF BELLAMY: I don't have any
11 other questions. Thank you.

12 THE WITNESS: Okay.

13 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Commissioner
14 Wood?

15 EXAMINATION

16 BY COMMISSIONER WOOD:

17 Q. I wanted to ask a question. Did you
18 say that Kentucky Power's rating was Baa?

19 A. Baa3.

20 Q. Baa3. And that's a Moody's --

21 A. That's the Moody's one, yes. I'm not
22 sure what Fitch or S&P is currently.

23 Q. But that's still investment grade, is
24 that correct?

25 A. It is. It's the very last one for

1 investment grade.

2 Q. Okay. Very well. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER WOOD: That's all I have.

4 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Commissioner
5 Regan?

6 COMMISSIONER REGAN: Commissioner Wood
7 asked my question.

8 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

9 EXAMINATION

10 BY COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON:

11 Q. MS. Kahn, Witness Elliott gave me the
12 updated customer impact, monthly impact for
13 residential average customer after construction is
14 completed. But under your proposal, there was
15 initially, I think, \$0.33 per customer per month
16 estimated for 2026 if -- if your proposal is
17 accepted for the construction work in progress.
18 Do you have an updated amount after the DOE grant?

19 A. So I do not. Witness Coon actually
20 prepared the rate impacts.

21 Q. Okay. So I'll ask Witness Coon then
22 about that updated amount.

23 In your rebuttal testimony, when you're
24 rebutting some of the assertions that Witness
25 Kollen put forth, Witness Kollen has asserted that

1 Kentucky Power is considered an AFUDC company, and
2 I believe that your -- your testimony is that
3 you -- you could be both, and that it depends on
4 which costs we're talking about, and that certain
5 costs would qualify for the construction work in
6 progress treatment.

7 Can you -- and I know you -- you
8 pointed to one example that the Commission had
9 approved the CWIP treatment in the 2021 case for
10 major construction projects.

11 Can you tell me why you feel like this
12 is one of those qualifying projects that should
13 get the CWIP?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Is it just because it's considered
16 major construction?

17 A. Yes. Because of the size of the
18 project, we think that it's important -- like I
19 was discussing, this cash flow does become one of
20 the metrics that rating agencies do look at. So
21 ensuring that we have a strong rating will reduce
22 -- will likely reduce the cost of debt, and then
23 that then reduces the interest payments that end
24 up lowering revenue requirements for customers.

25 Q. So has the Commission applied the CWIP

1 treatment to all of the major construction
2 projects, the generation building and all the
3 things that -- I don't think so, right?

4 A. I don't think so.

5 Q. Are you proposing it in this case for
6 cash flow purposes?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. Can you address Mr. Kurtz's
9 comment earlier or question about the benefits of
10 waiting until a potential large -- large load
11 customer comes on board?

12 A. I think Ms. Elliott actually already
13 addressed this. We simply just don't operate
14 under what-ifs. Now, certainly, it would have the
15 impact of increasing the denominator, which then
16 spreads or reduces the rate across more customers,
17 but we do not operate under potential. We operate
18 under what we know and our current customer base.

19 Q. I'd like to take this opportunity to
20 talk just a little bit and ask you to explain, in
21 general, how a large load customer would have the
22 effect of stabilizing rates. And if you're not
23 the right witness -- and I know it's not specific
24 to this particular testimony that you gave on this
25 issue, but it's something that I -- I don't know

1 that ratepayers understand.

2 A. So, I appreciate that. I think it --
3 Ms. Coon is with the pricing team and certainly
4 has dealt with these in various jurisdictions. I
5 think it's really -- what I already discussed, now
6 it's more nuanced. There's costs that might go
7 into serving that customer, but then those costs
8 may be entirely offset by their contribution to
9 what needs to be paid, and then some, alleviating
10 the cost to other customers.

11 Now, that's very high-level
12 explanation. Like I said, Ms. Coon is in the
13 pricing team and could probably go into further
14 detail.

15 Q. Okay. Thank you for that.

16 People may be led to believe that they
17 may see a decrease in their rates, not just
18 smaller increases, but a decrease. Is that a
19 possibility?

20 A. It's a possibility, but it's not a
21 guarantee. It all depends on what is happening.

22 So there may be increases that would
23 happen outside of that load, regardless of that
24 customer, that that customer is essentially
25 masking for everybody else, that they're bringing

1 down those costs for everybody else, but there's
2 still an increase. Does that make sense?

3 Q. Yeah. So the -- but the large load
4 customer, assuming we managed any additional costs
5 caused by that -- that large load customer, could
6 have a positive impact for other ratepayers?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Are there any costs, or potential
9 costs, related to this project that we're not
10 seeing in here? For instance, decommissioning
11 costs?

12 A. Not that I'm aware of, but Witness Coon
13 prepared the analysis.

14 Q. Okay.

15 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: I think
16 that's all the questions I have. Anything
17 further from the Commissioners?

18 COMMISSIONER WOOD: Yeah, I wanted to
19 ask something else.

20 EXAMINATION

21 BY COMMISSIONER WOOD:

22 Q. Is the -- is the \$51 million grant, is
23 that guaranteed? Is that in the bag, or is that
24 still pending, or what's the status of that?

25 A. I've not been involved in those

1 discussions. I think Ms. Elliott said we're
2 currently working out the milestones at which it
3 would be paid out, so to me, that says that it's
4 in the bag, but I can't confirm that.

5 Q. And the depreciation of the new cooling
6 tower, how many years do you propose to depreciate
7 it?

8 A. So, again, this was in Ms. Coon's
9 testimony. There's two elements to this. There's
10 the economic analysis, which utilized 25 years,
11 which is the useful life of the cooling tower, and
12 it represents the potential for it to go past
13 2040, whether Mitchell remains as a coal unit or
14 converts to perhaps gas.

15 In the rate impacts for the case, it is
16 usual -- we have proposed that it be depreciated
17 through 2040 at a unique depreciation rate of
18 8.33%. And that proposal is simply to make sure
19 that future ratepayers don't end up with a higher
20 remaining plant balance for that project.

21 COMMISSIONER WOOD: Very well. Thank
22 you.

23 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Anything
24 further? Redirect?

25 MS. HAVENS: No redirect, Your Honor.

1 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Any reason
2 this witness couldn't be excused?

3 Thank you Ms. Kahn.

4 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

5 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: And Mr. Gish
6 or Ms. Havens?

7 MS. HAVENS: Your Honor, the Company
8 calls Mr. Shawn Malone.

9 MR. GISH: I'll try to keep my mouth
10 shut this time, Your Honor.

11 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: You can try.

12 MR. GISH: Sorry, I don't know that it
13 will work, but I'll try, I promise.

14 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Hello,
15 Mr. Malone. Would you raise your right hand
16 to be sworn.

17 Do you swear or affirm the testimony
18 you're about to give is true and correct
19 under penalty of perjury?

20 THE WITNESS: I do.

21 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Thanks.
22 Please be seated and tell us your full name
23 and business address if you will.

24 THE WITNESS: Good morning. My name is
25 Shawn Malone. My business address is

1 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

2 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: You may ask.

3 MS. HAVENS: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 THEREUPON:

5 SHAWN MALONE,

6 the witness, after being first duly sworn, was

7 examined and testified as follows:

8 EXAMINATION

9 BY MS. HAVENS:

10 Q. Mr. Malone, can you please state your
11 employer and job title?

12 A. Sure. My employer is American Electric
13 Service Corporation. My job title is Director of
14 Projects.

15 Q. And did you cause to be filed direct
16 testimony in this case?

17 A. I did.

18 Q. And did you cause to be filed responses
19 to data requests?

20 A. I did.

21 Q. Do you have any corrections to your
22 direct testimony or your responses to any data
23 requests?

24 A. I do not.

25 Q. Okay. And if you were to be asked the

1 same questions in your testimony and in those data
2 requests today, would your responses be the same?

3 A. They would.

4 MS. HAVENS: Okay. The witness is
5 ready for cross-examination.

6 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.
7 Mr. Cook?

8 MR. COOK: No questions, Chair.

9 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Mr. Shoaff?

10 MR. SHOAFF: No questions.

11 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Mr. Kurtz?

12 MR. KURTZ: No questions, Your Honor.

13 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Staff?

14 COMM STAFF BELLAMY: We did have some
15 questions.

16 EXAMINATION

17 BY COMM STAFF BELLAMY:

18 Q. Could you turn to Page 5 of your direct
19 testimony? I was looking at Table SPM-1.

20 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

21 Q. These are the estimated capital and
22 removal costs for the four options that Kentucky
23 Power considered, is that accurate?

24 A. That is accurate.

25 Q. I guess, firstly, looking at Option 2,

1 I notice that the incremental capital cost is
2 zero. Other -- other witnesses' analysis
3 contemplated that Option 2 would include the
4 purch -- or the construction of a natural gas
5 combined cycle unit, is that correct?

6 A. That is my understanding.

7 Q. Okay. Is the reason that -- that --
8 that Option two is zero there, is that because
9 that's something you weren't a part of, providing
10 the capital cost for that unit?

11 A. Correct. You're correct.

12 Q. Okay. So, does this table just include
13 capital costs or estimated capital costs and
14 removal costs for Mitchell under these options?

15 A. Yes, it does.

16 Q. Okay. I'm looking at Option 1 and the
17 removal costs. Can you confirm that the full demo
18 for Option 1 is estimated to cost \$3 million?

19 A. That is correct.

20 Q. And where did that number come from?

21 A. My understanding was -- we contacted a
22 contractor for an implosion, and that was the cost
23 we got for an implosion.

24 Q. Okay. Do you know what contractor was
25 contacted?

1 A. I do not recall.

2 Q. Was that done in writing or was that
3 done over the phone, or...

4 A. It was done in writing.

5 Q. Okay. In your direct testimony at
6 Page 7, you indicated that the existing cooling
7 tower cannot be safely imploded due to a delay out
8 at the Mitchell plant. Back -- back to the table
9 you were just looking at, is that why there's such
10 a cost difference between the demolition costs for
11 Option 1 and the demolition costs for Option 3?

12 A. Exactly correct.

13 Q. Okay. So the -- the 29 million for
14 demoing -- or partially demoing the tower while
15 Mitchell continues to operate, that would not be a
16 cost that would be incurred for Option 1, is that
17 correct?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. The -- the 29 -- or approximately
20 29 million partial demolition costs that's in
21 Options 2, 3, and 4, what is the basis -- where
22 did you get that number from?

23 A. That, again, was from a contractor who
24 contacted out.

25 Q. Okay. And, again, do you know if that

1 was in writing or was that...

2 A. That was in writing as well.

3 Q. Okay. And -- and do you know who the
4 contractor was?

5 A. I know at least we got a -- a cost from
6 the International Chimney Corporation who was on
7 site doing other work for us.

8 Q. And I know we had -- we had asked a
9 question about -- I might ask it post-hearing -- I
10 have some other questions about this, but I might
11 ask it post-hearing, you know, to the extent that
12 those aren't already in the record, to kind of
13 provide those estimates. Would that be something
14 that would be possible?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. Looking at -- and I don't know
17 if this is -- I'm looking at your -- for Option 3,
18 I believe -- and this might be in Ms. Coon's
19 documentation, but there's an additional, I think,
20 \$5 million removal cost at the end of the life of
21 Mitchell.

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And is that \$5 million -- that's in
24 addition to the 29, correct?

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. And is that contemplating, again,
2 implosion of the remaining tower?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Okay. And was that something that you
5 got from International Chimney, an estimate that
6 you got, or did you just escalate the \$3 million
7 estimate?

8 A. It would be best to ask Ms. Coon that
9 question.

10 Q. Okay. Did -- do you know if you got an
11 estimate for 5 million?

12 A. Yes. My understanding is we did get an
13 estimate for \$5 million.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I assume it came from ICC,
16 International Chimney Corporation, but I don't
17 know that for sure.

18 Q. And that was a separate estimate from
19 the \$3 million implosion?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Would you have any idea why the -- the
22 cost difference there?

23 A. I don't know why, no.

24 Q. Okay. Could you refer -- if you
25 have -- do you have requests for information that

1 you responded to in front of you?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So I'm looking at Kentucky Power's
4 response to Commission Staff's first request for
5 information, item 5B. My apologies, I need to
6 pull it up myself.

7 A. What subpart was that?

8 Q. I was looking at Subpart B.

9 A. B., okay.

10 Q. If you wanted to read through it really
11 quick, I'll...

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. Okay. So with respect to Option 1, you
14 indicated the cost estimate was prepared by
15 extrapolating International Chimney Corporation,
16 Commonwealth's contractor utilized by the Company,
17 actual repair rate, both duration and costs
18 realized on the project to date over the remaining
19 anticipated tower repairs?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Could you explain what you mean by that
22 in more detail?

23 A. Certainly. So we came up with our --
24 our estimate to do the complete parabolic repair.
25 The first part of that was to basically sandblast

1 the exterior of the cooling tower. And our
2 assumptions on the superficial layer were
3 different. So when we removed that first layer of
4 skin, we saw a lot more cracking, a lot deeper
5 cracking, and we had to do what we call full depth
6 repairs, so a lot more full depth repairs. So
7 we're cutting complete windows through the side of
8 that chimney.

9 So that was where we thought we would
10 encounter the least amount of deformities, so we
11 extrapolated HAI.

12 As we get to where we know there are
13 more deformities where we remove that outer layer
14 of skin, and we really see the bones and the
15 muscle of this tower, we're going to anticipate
16 we're going to see the exact same type of
17 additional deformations that we saw on the lower
18 part of the chimney.

19 So that's when we say we're going to
20 extrapolate. We're going to assume that where we
21 saw fewer, and we anticipated fewer, and we had
22 more, that we'll have the same effect as we get up
23 the chimney to where there are actually -- where
24 we plan to encounter more deformities.

25 Q. So, you've already done a portion of

1 the work, I guess.

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. What percentage of the, I guess,
4 complete restoration have you done?

5 A. About 20% of the complete restoration.

6 Q. Okay. And what was the total cost
7 spent on that?

8 A. Loaded cost was about \$33 million.

9 Q. And what do you mean by loaded cost?

10 A. That includes all of our overhead AFUDC
11 capital costs. It's the entire cost.

12 Q. What about the -- the costs -- the
13 initial capital costs?

14 A. Separate from what I call the loaded
15 costs?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. I believe that's around \$28 million.

18 Q. Okay. And so back to your, I guess,
19 your table, Table S&P1, you had 136 million
20 remaining.

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. So you took the 28%, you've done 20%,
23 so you have four times that left --

24 A. Right.

25 Q. -- which would be roughly \$112 million,

1 assuming it's 28 million?

2 A. Right.

3 Q. So then you escalated that to some
4 extent to get to 36 million?

5 A. That's correct. That's where we
6 extrapolated because at the bottom of the tower is
7 where we anticipated encountering the least amount
8 of repair work. And we knew as we moved up to
9 Chimney, we were going to have to do more
10 additional repairs. So that's where we said we
11 extrapolated.

12 Hey, this is what we encountered when
13 we moved that. We basically powerwashed,
14 hydro-blasted that outer skin. We would see the
15 same type of deformities, only more of them, as we
16 moved up the cooling tower.

17 Q. And how did you determine the extent --
18 I guess, the extent of that escalation?

19 A. We took -- here's the costs that we
20 said, hey, here's Phase 1 costs that we got from
21 ICC, and here's where we ended up.

22 And we said, okay, take that same type
23 of percentage but multiply it because we know
24 we're going to hit more deformities. We know
25 we're going to hit more imperfections as we move

1 up the cooling tower.

2 Q. So was the initial plan -- how many
3 phases was the project initially intended to --

4 A. Three phases.

5 Q. Three phases. And did Kentucky Power
6 get estimates for all three phases initially?

7 A. I do not know that.

8 Q. Okay. I assume you got one for the
9 initial phase, though.

10 A. I would assume -- in my role, that's
11 not part of what I do to communicate that out, so
12 I don't know how it was communicated to Kentucky
13 Power.

14 Q. Who's responsible for --

15 A. It would be Ms. Elliott, who spoke
16 earlier, or Ms. Coon.

17 Q. Well, I guess, when I say "Kentucky
18 Power," I'm meaning with respect to Mitchell.
19 Who's responsible for -- for retaining the
20 contractors with respect to Mitchell for these
21 types of projects?

22 A. So my group writes the contract, so we
23 have the contract for all the construction
24 activities going on there.

25 Q. So that's what I -- that's what I was

1 asking about. The initial 28 million, you would
2 have been responsible for --

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. -- I guess requesting proposals from
5 contractors?

6 A. Correct, yes.

7 Q. And -- and did you send request for
8 proposals to multiple contractors, or how did that
9 work?

10 A. We did. We sent them out to five, only
11 three responded. So we went out to five
12 contractors that our procurement group and our
13 engineering group identified as capable of doing
14 this type of work. We only got three responses.
15 I believe out of the three responses, only two of
16 them could technically meet our specifications.

17 There aren't a lot of parabolic cooling
18 towers out there throughout the world, let alone
19 in the US, so there are very few companies that do
20 this type of work.

21 Q. And those two companies, one was
22 International Chimney, and who was the other
23 company?

24 A. I don't recall.

25 Q. Was -- and that was just for Phase 1,

1 though?

2 A. No, that -- that would have been for
3 all phases.

4 Q. Very well.

5 A. For all phases of construction on the
6 tower.

7 Q. Okay. I don't think that -- that that
8 was provided in any response to your request for
9 information. So if we did a post-hearing request,
10 would that be something that you'd be able to
11 provide?

12 A. Sure. I would say a lot of it would be
13 proprietary to ICC, so we would probably make it
14 confidential, but we could provide it.

15 Q. So when you say you extrapolated, I
16 guess, you had -- you had the full bid for the
17 full project. You knew that Phase 1 ended up
18 going over budget.

19 Did you just assume that Phase 2 and
20 Phase 3 would go over budget to the same degree to
21 get the \$36 million, or did you make additional
22 adjustments?

23 A. We made additional adjustments. We
24 assumed it would be worse.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. So there would be an additional to the
2 percentage that we had on Phase 1. Because,
3 again, that's where we anticipated encountering
4 the least amount of deformities.

5 Q. Where did you anticipate -- did you
6 anticipate Phase 2 would be the same as Phase 1,
7 or that Phase 2 would have more deformities?

8 A. We assumed Phase 2 would have much more
9 deformities.

10 Q. And then Phase 3?

11 A. Phase 3, would -- where you can
12 actually physically see the bubbles on the outside
13 is where we encountered that. So we knew Phase 2
14 and 3 would be -- we would encounter the most
15 amount of deformities in Phase 2 and 3.

16 Q. And what percentage did you escalate
17 the Phase 2 and the Phase 3 costs?

18 A. I was not part of that to see the
19 percentages that they used, so I don't know the
20 exact percentage.

21 Q. Who made that decision as to the extent
22 to which to escalate the Phase 2 and the Phase 3
23 estimates to get the 136 million?

24 A. So that was a combination of our cost
25 analysts, so our cost analysts group, engineering,

1 and our site folks who were actually on the tower
2 looking at the amount of deformities that they
3 were seeing, and project management was part of
4 that as well.

5 Q. That's something -- you're -- you're
6 managing the project so you weren't -- were you
7 involved in those discussions?

8 A. I definitely was.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. I did not --

11 Q. But you don't know what the percentages
12 that were used?

13 A. I can determine that. I don't recall
14 the exact percentages that were used because at
15 that time, we were looking at a whole host of
16 issues, which is why we paused. Because the
17 project -- I mean, I made the call like this
18 project's getting out of hand. We have to bring
19 them in or we have to talk to Wheeling or we have
20 to talk to Kentucky because these costs are
21 escalating too quick on what we assumed would be
22 the easiest part of the tower, so that's why we
23 paused.

24 And we ran through multiple, multiple
25 scenarios with that group I just discussed to --

1 to see where would -- where could we end up and
2 where could we be?

3 Q. Was there any kind of memo written with
4 respect to where you might end up on -- from a
5 cost perspective if you continued with the initial
6 project?

7 A. I would say there were multiple memos
8 written on that.

9 Q. Okay. I think I'll do a post- hearing
10 request asking about those with respect to any
11 discussion of, you know, the potential cost risks.

12 To your recollection, is there any like
13 high-side risks that was contemplated, you know,
14 with respect to Option 1, the initial project?

15 A. I'm not sure what you mean by high-side
16 risks.

17 Q. Well, you know, you estimated -- so you
18 kind of escalated -- you know, there's the initial
19 estimate, and then Phase 1 is complete. You still
20 have Phase 2 and Phase 3 to complete?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. To get the 136 million that was used
23 for the economic analysis to support this case,
24 you escalated Phase 2, and you escalated Phase 3.

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. I imagine when you're talking about
2 escalating those costs, you say, you know, well,
3 there's -- you know, it might be, you know, 10%
4 lower than our estimate, or, you know, there's a
5 probability it's going to be 30% higher than our
6 estimate.

7 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

8 Q. So was there any discussion like that?
9 And if so, you know, what was kind of the ceiling
10 you were -- that was discussed?

11 A. So initially we were doing a classified
12 estimate, which was plus 100 percent, minus 50.
13 We were confident we were not going to go minus
14 because of the amount of deformities we were
15 finding.

16 We scanned the building -- Mr. Pizzino
17 can talk about this in much better detail than I
18 myself. But we scanned the building so we knew
19 where the cracks were. We knew the size of the
20 cracks. Just when we sandblasted them and
21 power-washed them, for give me, it exposed a lot
22 more cracks and a lot deeper cracks that that skin
23 was really covering up and masking.

24 And we knew as we moved up that tower,
25 that they were just going to continue -- that same

1 pattern would repeat itself as we moved up the
2 tower because we could see physically a lot more
3 cracking as we moved up that tower.

4 Q. Okay. What level of confidence do you
5 have in the -- the 136 million for the remainder
6 of the project?

7 A. It concerns me, the 136 million. It
8 could go higher. It could also go lower. We
9 put -- we put some good safety factors in there.
10 But until we take off that extra layer of skin,
11 there's really no way of knowing.

12 So we do have a good deal of
13 confidence. We put contingency in there, and we
14 put safety factors in there, but it's still a big
15 concern because we did the same thing in the Phase
16 1 approach.

17 That's why, if I can jump ahead to
18 Option 3, we're building it in the clear. So
19 there's a lot less risk that we have to assume in
20 that option. So it's a much safer option. It's a
21 much more reliable and dependable option
22 continuing with Option 1.

23 Q. And what do you mean building it in the
24 clear? I think I know, but could you explain that
25 a little bit?

1 A. Sure. Building it in the clear. So,
2 Option 1 on the -- Option 1 is repairing an
3 existing asset, an existing tower. When we build
4 it in the clear, we're basically taking a -- a
5 piece of land at Mitchell, which right now we are
6 having to remove some stuff, but it will be
7 basically a greenfield. There'll be nothing there
8 as we start construction. And then we can build
9 it in the clear and then tie it in.

10 So we're going to clear off, if you
11 will, a parcel area on the Mitchell property
12 and -- and build that without -- as a brand new
13 asset.

14 Q. Thank you. I appreciate that
15 explanation.

16 A. No problem.

17 Q. Going back to the response to
18 Commission Staff's first request for information,
19 Item 5, and I was going to talk about Option 4.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. And for Option 4 you indicated the cost
22 estimate was developed in direct coordination with
23 International Chimney Corporation, as is -- as
24 this is their area of expertise, and they were
25 physically present on the tower to understand the

1 complexity of the structural challenge associated
2 with the tower's existing conditions.

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Could you kind of give a more detailed
5 explanation of -- what what's meant by that?

6 A. It's a little bit of what I've
7 explained. So we put out our RFP. They responded
8 to the RFP. We identified the cracking. We
9 identified the deformities. We could see where
10 there were actual physical holes all the way
11 through the tower.

12 But as they started to hydrowash the
13 exterior and remove that layer of skin, that's
14 when we started seeing a lot more of the
15 deformities.

16 And so that was their expertise. So we
17 said, hey, assuming we're going to see these same
18 type of things when we move up the cooling tower,
19 do you agree with that first of all? And they
20 were like, yes, we absolutely agree with that.
21 Can you give us a price, a firm price for moving
22 up? And they said we would do a time and material
23 price for that because there is so much unknown.
24 Because as we blast the skin off of this building,
25 or of this tower, which is, you know, pushing 65

1 years, we don't know what we're going to
2 encounter.

3 And we've experienced that already on
4 what was supposed to be the most stable part of
5 the tower, and as we go up we're just not sure
6 what we're going to hit.

7 So they've had safety factors. We put
8 safety factors in as well on that number.

9 Q. So they actually gave you a time and
10 material bid?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. For Option 4 or for both Option 4 and
13 Option 1?

14 A. Option 1 and 4.

15 Q. Okay. And Option 4 is effectively --
16 it -- it is -- Option 1 -- well, let me --
17 there -- there's incremental capital costs on
18 Option 4.

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Does that incremental capital cost just
21 include like reinforcing a portion of the existing
22 tower?

23 A. It's actually -- it's continuing to
24 reinforce the tower and shorten the tower.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. So it's reducing the overall height of
2 the tower.

3 Q. Well, that's what -- I'm looking at,
4 again, your table SPM-1. You have the 80 million
5 for the incremental capital costs?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Then you have the 29 million for the
8 partial demolition?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. Does the \$80 million include
11 reinforcing the tower and shortening the tower?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. If that's the case, if the 80
14 million is reinforcing the tower and shortening
15 the tower, why is there a need for the 29 million
16 for the partial demolition, which is --

17 A. So maybe -- maybe I misspoke there.
18 The 80 million is to reinforce the tower, and the
19 29 is to reduce it, but they're two separate
20 numbers.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. So 80 million would just be we're going
23 to reinforce that shorter tower, and the 29 would
24 be priced to make it shorter, to reduce the
25 overall height.

1 Q. And were both of those included in
2 this -- this bid that was provided by --

3 A. ICC?

4 Q. -- International Chimney?

5 A. Yes, I believe they were.

6 Q. I'll do a post-hearing data request for
7 that.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. Did any other potential vendors -- or
10 let me distinguish. I know you had the initial
11 project, and then Option 1 and Option 4 were kind
12 of extensions of the initial project to some
13 extent.

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. So after you determined the damage was
16 more extensive than you anticipated, were there
17 other vendors that provided bids for Option 1 and
18 Opt -- or Option 4?

19 A. No.

20 Q. It was just International Chimney?

21 A. It was just ICC, correct.

22 Q. Okay. So to the extent there were --
23 there were other vendors, that was for the initial
24 project?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. They were on site. They had the most
3 on-hand experience on that building, and we
4 already knew the five companies we could find.
5 Only two of them were deemed qualified, and ICC
6 was the lower-cost option.

7 Q. In the Witness Coon's testimony, she
8 had indicated that -- something to the effect --
9 and we can refer to her testimony if necessary,
10 but that -- that you had provided her
11 information -- or, I'm sorry. I don't know if --
12 she didn't say that you had, but she said that
13 Option 4 would require that Unit 2 be offline for
14 a period of time?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Are you familiar with that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you provide her with that
19 information?

20 A. Yes, our group did.

21 Q. How long would Unit 2 have to be
22 offline for Option 4?

23 A. Oh, for Option 4. Sorry, I thought you
24 said Option 2, but yes.

25 We assumed that we could get it done in

1 about six months, so it would be off -- offline
2 for six months.

3 Q. When you say like "assume you can get
4 it done," are you talking about the reinforcing or
5 the demoing?

6 A. Reinforcement doesn't need a -- we
7 don't need an outage to do the reinforcement.
8 It's just to do the reduction of tower height. We
9 need an outage for that.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. And that was from ICC. That was their
12 schedule, their timeframe that they provided to
13 us.

14 Q. Okay. And was that in this bid that we
15 were talking about, or...

16 A. Yes. I -- I mean, I know -- I know it
17 was in a memo for the duration. When you say "a
18 bid," I'm not sure if it was in the bid
19 department. We asked for a schedule and dollar
20 amounts, and they provided it to us.

21 Q. Or an estimate --

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. -- that was provided by ICC.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Work planner.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So -- so six months is the timeframe?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Okay. Witness Coon's testimony, I
5 think she indicated that you had provided the
6 estimated 10-year useful life for Options 1 and
7 Option 4, is that correct?

8 A. I didn't provide that. That would be
9 best answered by Mr. Pizzino.

10 Q. Okay. She had indicated that it came
11 from you, is that --

12 A. I would say that the useful life would
13 have come from -- from Dan, but it may have come
14 through our group. It may have come to me, and I
15 provided it to her. That's how she received it.

16 Q. That's what I was wondering, if it came
17 through you.

18 A. Yes, it came through me.

19 Q. But you wouldn't have been the person
20 that came up with that 10-year useful life?

21 A. You're correct.

22 Q. So that would be --

23 A. Mr. Pizzino.

24 Q. -- Mr. Pizzino.

25 I wanted to look at Option 3. What --

1 I'm looking, again, at Table SPM-1. So you have
2 Option 3. You have incremental capital costs of
3 162 million, and then the removal cost of
4 29 million.

5 I understand that that capital cost
6 came in part from -- is it Worley, the engineering
7 firm --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- that prepared the report
10 regarding --

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. So...

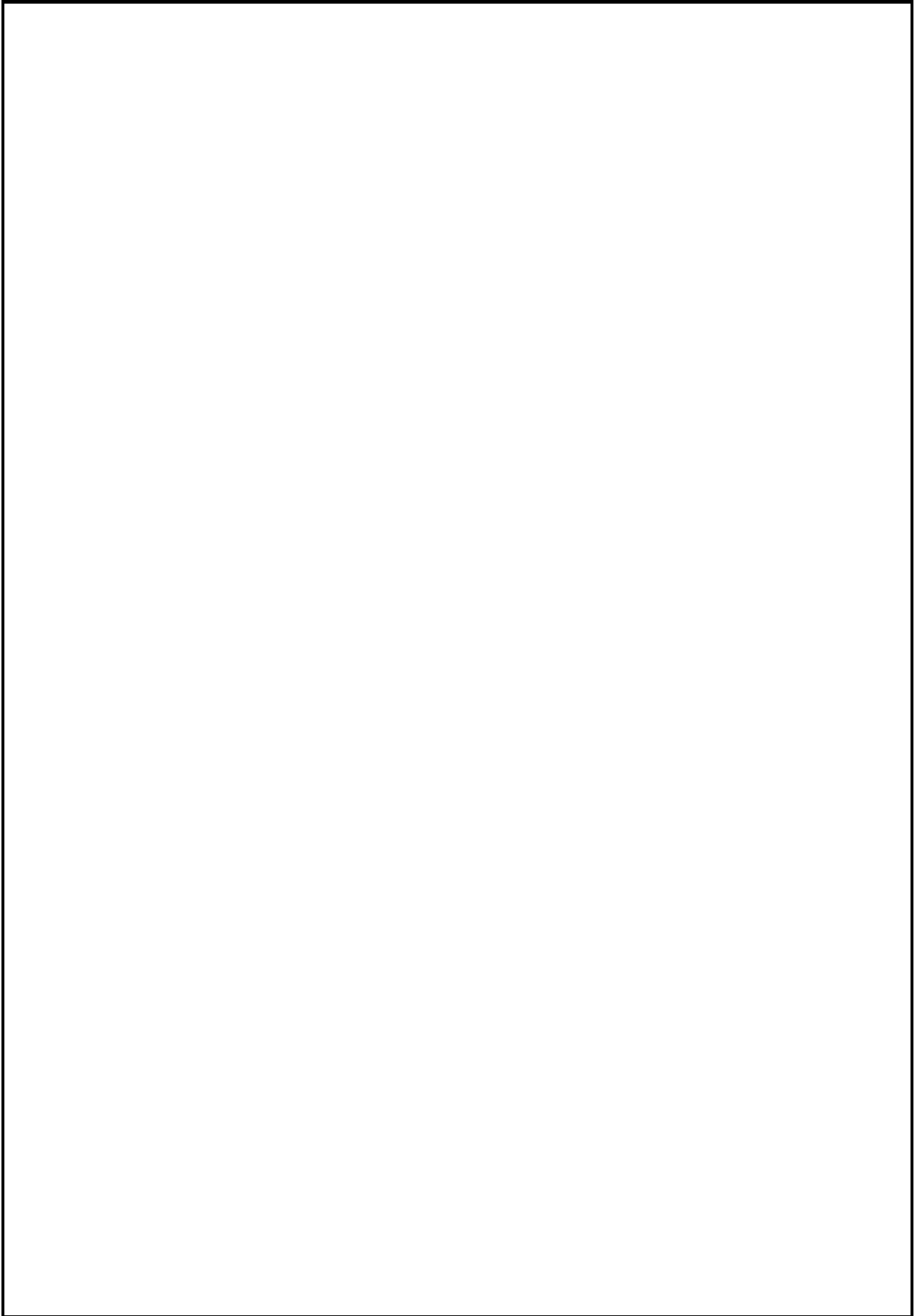
13 COMM STAFF BELLAMY: I guess we might
14 need to go into a confidential session. It
15 might make it easier just to ask. The Worley
16 cost estimates are currently confidential.

17 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

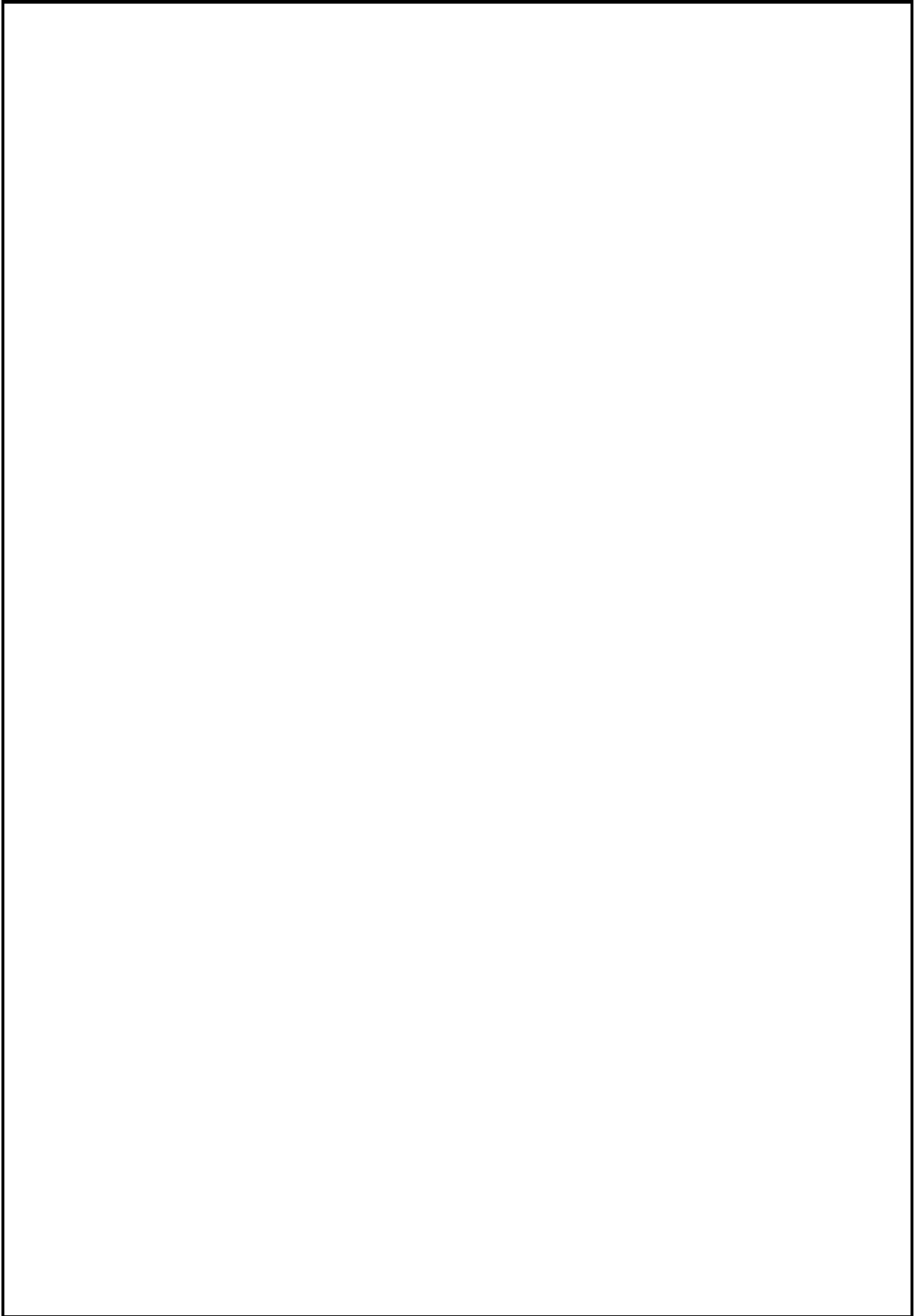
18 Glenn, can we move into confidential?

19 (This part of the hearing is
20 confidential and a separate confidential
21 transcript will be created)

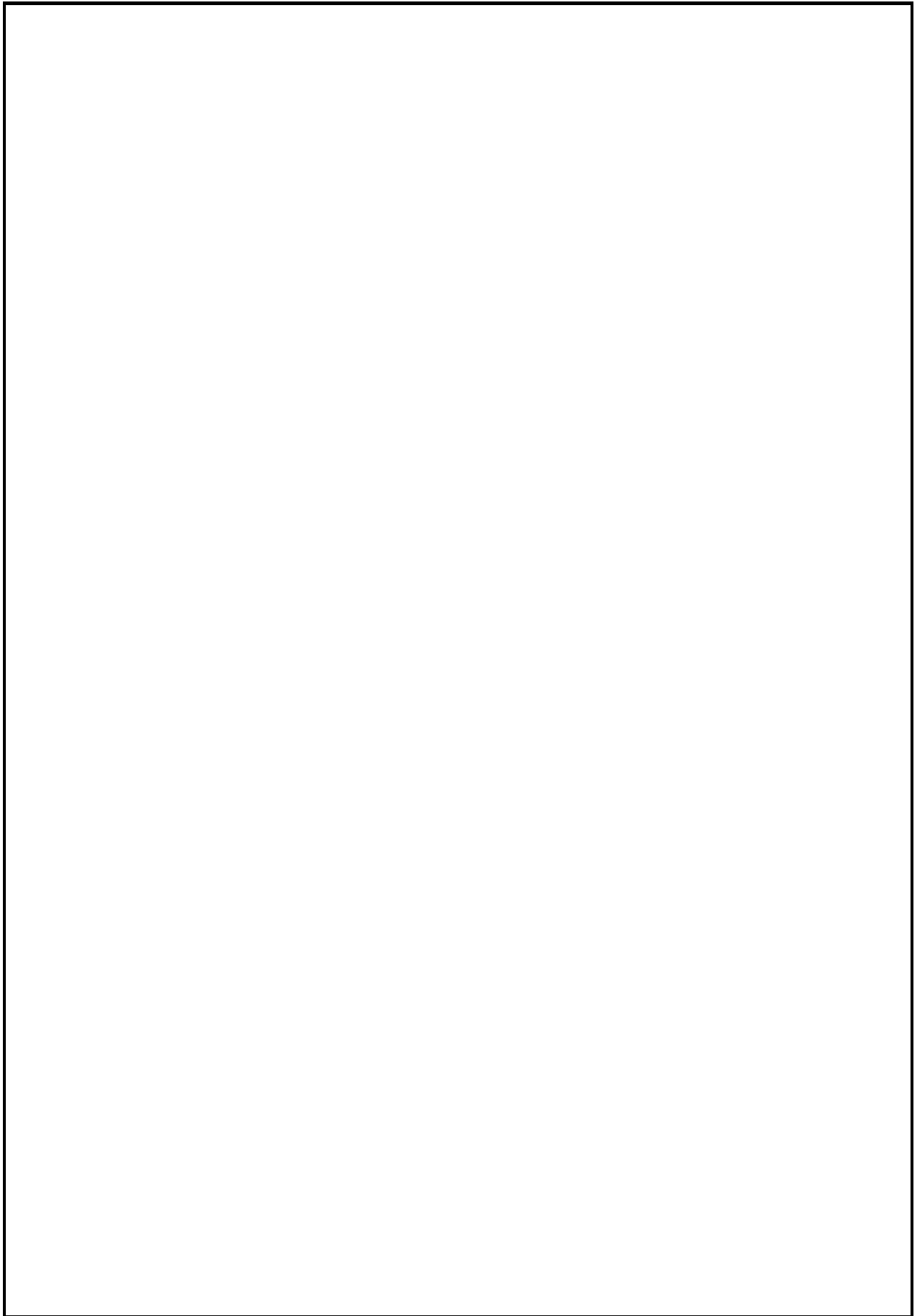
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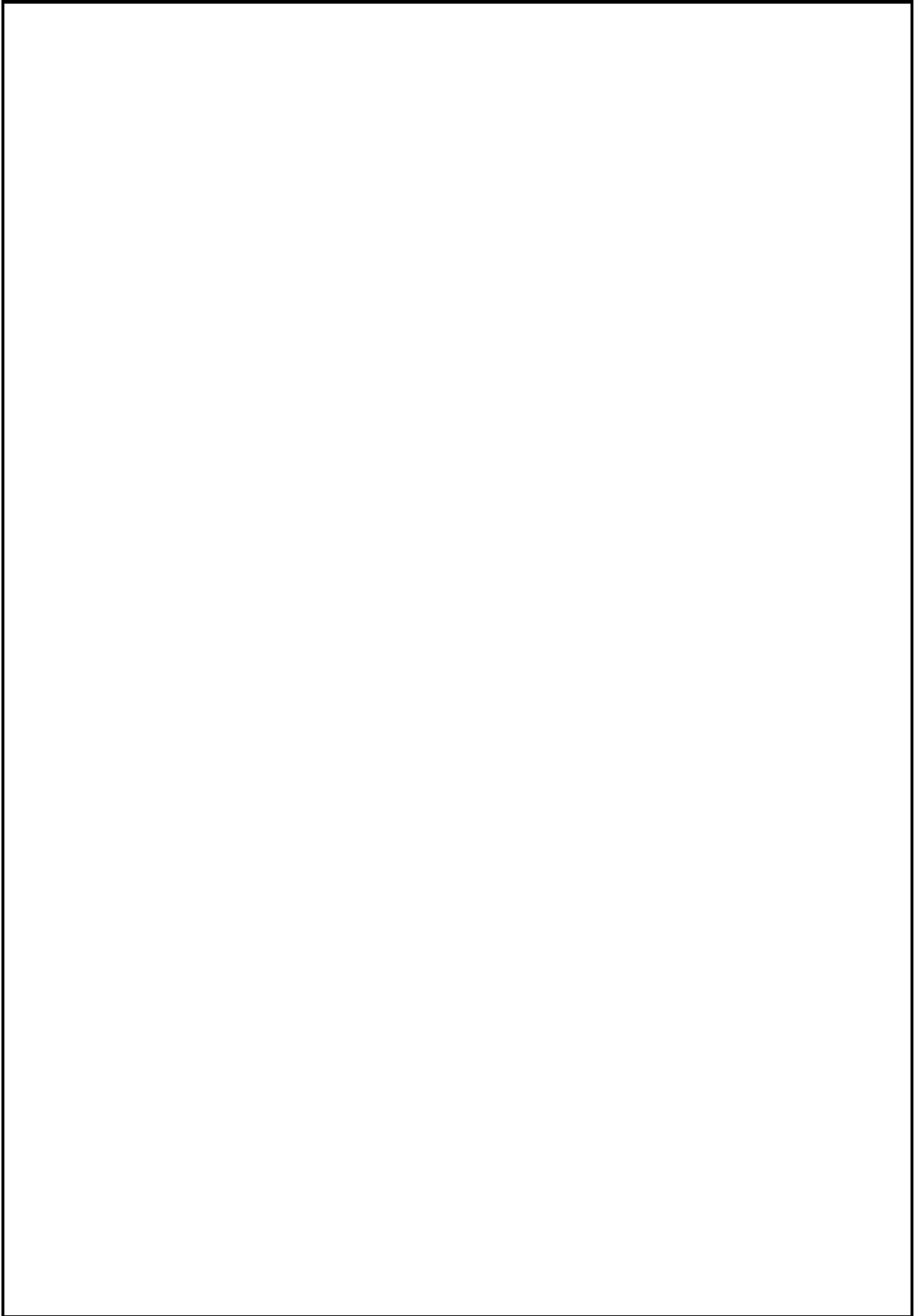
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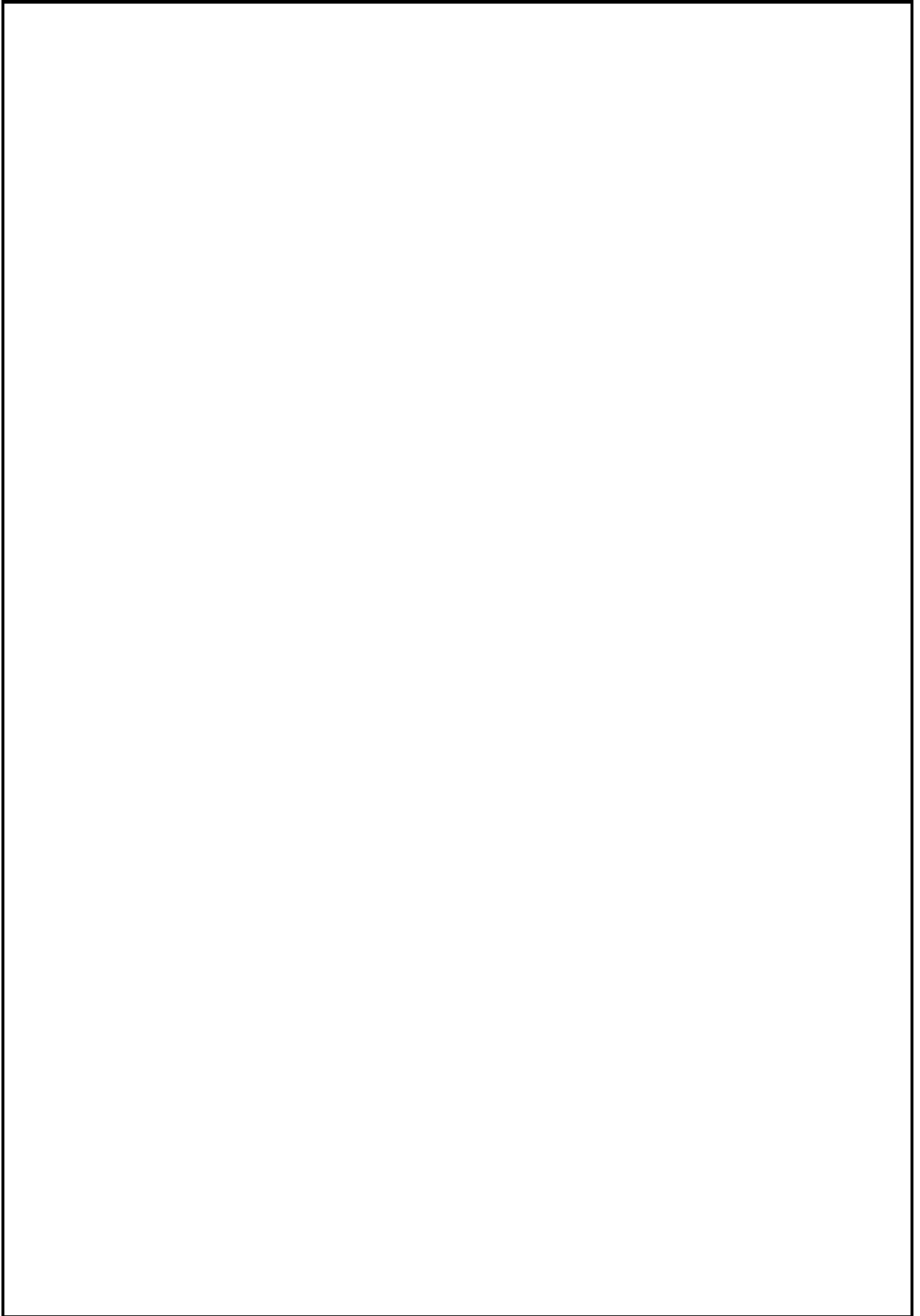
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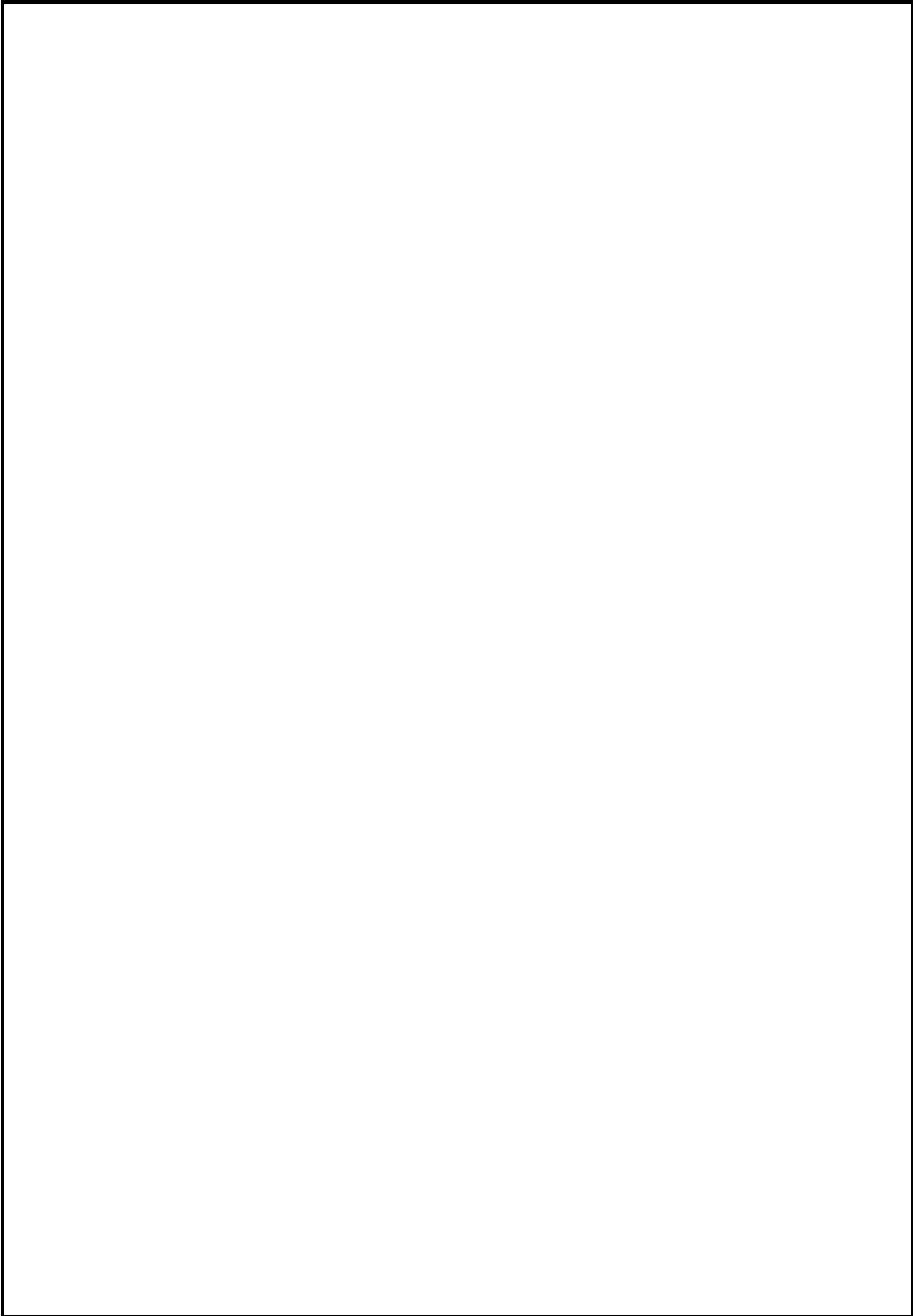
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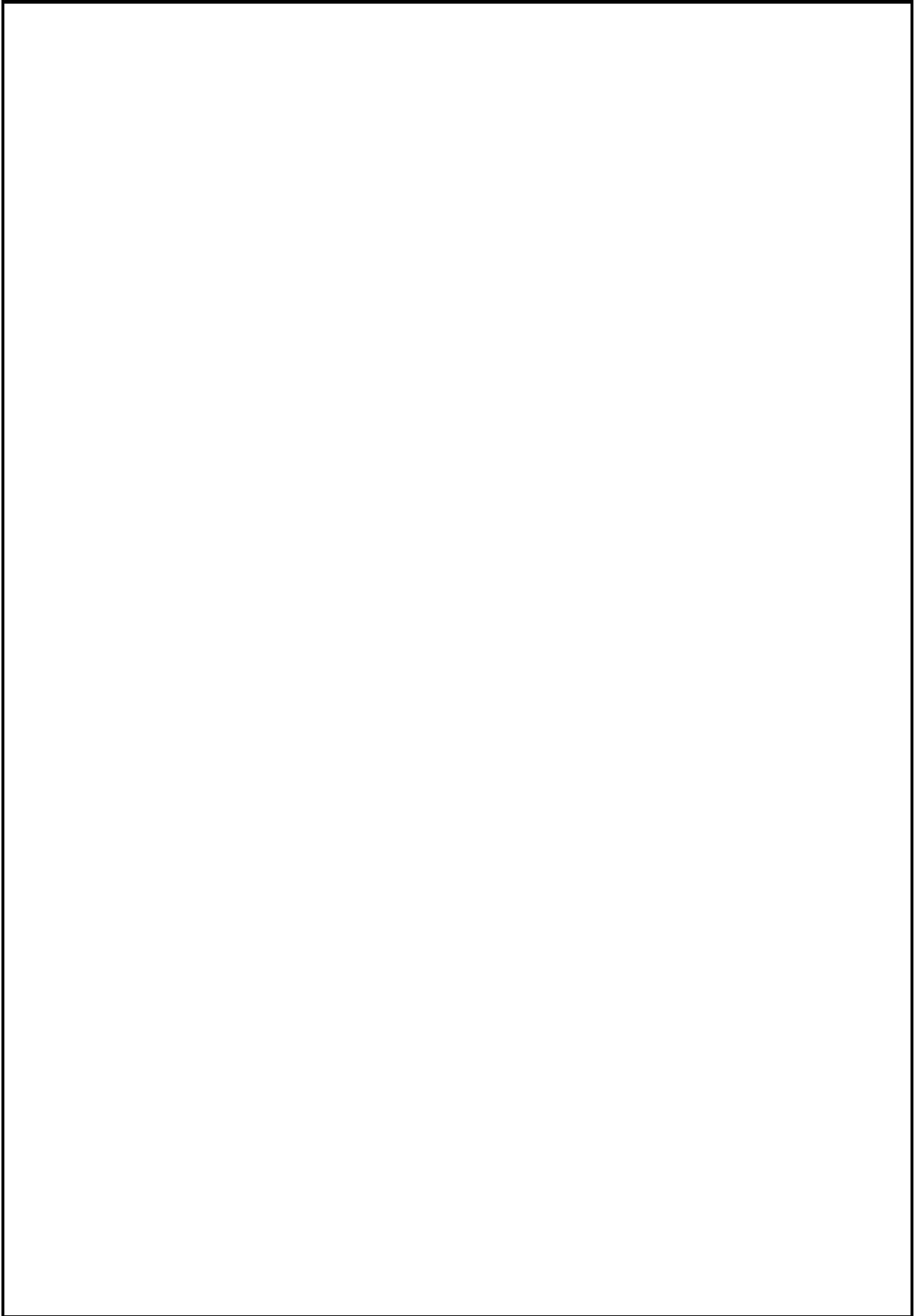
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COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. All right. We are back on the public record, but we are going to take a one-hour break. I'll see everybody back about 1:00.

(Thereupon, a lunch break was taken)

COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: We are back on the record in Case No. 2026-00001, Kentucky Power's Application for a CPC and for a cooling tower at the Mitchell plant, and we still have Mr. Malone on the stand.

Do you have more questions, Mr. Bellamy?

COMM STAFF BELLAMY: A few, yeah.

COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. Proceed.

1 CONTINUED EXAMINATION

2 BY COMM STAFF BELLAMY:

3 Q. Could you look at Page 8 of your direct
4 testimony?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You talked there about strict -- strict
7 project costs and schedule controls --

8 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

9 Q. -- that AEP has implemented. Could you
10 just kind of describe what those are and how you
11 seek to control costs once a project starts?

12 A. Yeah. So we create a baseline for our
13 costs, and we create a projection of how much
14 money we're going to spend in the year and how
15 much money we plan on spending each month.

16 The project team looks at those numbers
17 on a weekly basis to see if we're on track. To
18 look for anomalies. That's what I want to know
19 about. I want to be communicated to are there
20 anomalies? Maybe we received a bunch of material
21 early. Has it been delayed? But we really want
22 to keep on track with our cost projections for the
23 year.

24 And then every month I get a report
25 that I review with the project manager to review

1 those costs and say, hey, I see a surprise. You
2 know, can you explain this to me?

3 But we go through it, talk through it,
4 make sure that I'm comfortable with it. And then
5 if it's out of line, then I have to share it
6 with -- up the food chain. I share it with
7 Kentucky Power, share it with Wheeling Power, if
8 it reaches that level, to make sure they're
9 informed.

10 Q. So when you say strict -- and let me
11 just quote the language, I guess. Just -- it
12 says, AE -- on Line 17 it just says, AEPSC has
13 stringent project costs and schedule control
14 requirements that require project vendors and
15 contractors to develop and maintain integrated
16 construction schedules utilizing Primavera P6
17 schedule software, so the schedule can be
18 monitored and controlled.

19 So is it just -- the strict controls
20 are just monitoring a cost, or are there like
21 specific contract provisions that are included
22 that, you know, would prevent contractors from
23 going over budget?

24 A. So when we talked earlier about this
25 contract was a T&M, so time and material contract,

1 not to exceed, so they can't exceed that. But
2 we're not going to wait until they give us notice
3 that they've exceeded or they might exceed it.

4 We're tracking to say, hey, based on
5 the schedules, we want a fully integrated schedule
6 that has all the vendors incorporated into it, so
7 we can understand not just siloed vendors, but we
8 want it all integrated. We should be on this
9 spending spectrum. And in this case, hey, we're
10 trending way high. Why? Right? And I knew
11 about, hey, more deficiencies, right? After the
12 hydroblast, and we revealed more cracks, deeper
13 cracks, wider cracks.

14 So I knew the explanation, but I still
15 wanted to see in the cost reports how much
16 dollars, how many personnel hours are we spending
17 on this project above where a baseline was
18 established.

19 Q. Does AEP track what percentage of major
20 projects are completed within capital cost
21 estimates and contingencies?

22 A. I don't. The cost group may, but I
23 don't.

24 Q. Is -- is it typical to finish within
25 estimates and contingencies, or do a large

1 percentage of projects typically exceed the
2 estimates and contingencies?

3 A. I would say a large percentage exceeds
4 it because scope has changed. So when you get in
5 there and you say, hey, we're going to add scope,
6 we have time left in our schedule, we realized
7 Part A was broke. Now that we've opened the
8 turbine, we see Parts D and E are broke.

9 So for very justifiable reasons, we can
10 go above budget. And I would say that is not
11 uncommon because if you haven't opened a
12 turbine -- so we opened a turbine for the first
13 time since 2009, earlier this year, and there were
14 a lot of things we didn't anticipate, even with
15 bore scopes, putting cameras in there to look at
16 it. We just weren't aware of as much damage as
17 was done.

18 So sometime, usually, there's a
19 justifiable reason for why costs do increase. And
20 sometimes you put risk in there that doesn't
21 occur, and you come in under budget as well.

22 Q. Earlier you described Option 3 as a
23 clear project because it's sort of, I guess,
24 greenfield. It's a new component.

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. With respect to those, you were
2 describing cost overruns where you -- you know,
3 you're working on an existing system and find
4 other things wrong. With respect to, I guess,
5 what you had described as clear projects, what is
6 your experience with how often they're likely to
7 go over budget?

8 A. A lot less risk. So there's a lot less
9 risk involved, a lot less risk mitigation planning
10 that we have to do because we're going to have
11 that clear space, that green space to work within.

12 My biggest concern is because of the
13 age of Mitchell, we do want to make sure, and
14 we've done it, using ground penetrating radar,
15 what utilities in the past have been buried where
16 we plan to put that.

17 So that's a little bit of a concern but
18 we put contingency in there because it's not a
19 large part of the scope. We put some foundations
20 in that area, and a lot of those buried lines have
21 already been identified and accommodated in our
22 price.

23 Q. And I know you indicated you didn't
24 have specific percentages, but you'd say more
25 often than not, clear projects, you know, come in

1 within budget or less often than not?

2 A. Yes. I would say more often than not
3 they come within budget because there's less risk
4 involved.

5 Q. I just had a couple really quick just
6 point of order questions, and I'm almost finished.

7 A. Sure.

8 Q. I was just going to pull it up on the
9 screen just to facilitate a quick question.

10 I'm looking at the second exhibit to
11 your direct testimony, Exhibit SPM-2.

12 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

13 Q. And you have the partial demolition
14 of the existing cooling tower, and then you
15 have 2.1 million in 2026, and then you have 28.9
16 million in 2029.

17 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

18 Q. And this is for Option 3, is that
19 right?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Well, what is that 2.1 million?

22 A. So that was -- some -- some of it
23 was...

24 The design and engineering costs that
25 went into prepping for the demolition of the

1 cooling tower, and some of the equipment that we
2 would be using that would be shared with the
3 construction of the new tower were already there
4 and allocated to the partial demo.

5 So we did ask -- you know, we went
6 through this big study, how would we take this
7 part down? And we get -- we got really involved,
8 contractors involved, a lot of discussions with,
9 what would we do if we have to do this? And the
10 majority of it is in that \$2.1 million.

11 Q. Okay. So that's preliminary work
12 primarily with respect to the demolition?

13 A. Correct.

14 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: That's
15 already been spent in '26 then?

16 THE WITNESS: Correct.

17 Q. And is that -- sorry to scroll back up
18 here to your -- your table that we were looking at
19 earlier table, SPM1 on Page 5 of your testimony,
20 is that in addition to these amounts included
21 here, the 62 -- 162 million and the --

22 A. No, it's not in addition to it included
23 in those numbers.

24 Q. Okay. So that would be part of the
25 million -- or 162?

1 A. Yeah, or part of the 29 million for the
2 demo.

3 Q. And then kind of the same question
4 here. I believe this is Kentucky Power's response
5 to the Staff's First Request, Item 5, Attachment
6 1. And here with option 3 in 2025, there's 1.633
7 million.

8 A. Right.

9 Q. And the same question just what -- what
10 is that amount there?

11 A. Oh, so that is -- that is physically
12 the amount of engineering and work that went into
13 developing, hey, what do we intend to do if we
14 switch over to the new mechanical tower?

15 So there was countless hours spent in
16 trying to determine if this is a viable solution,
17 what is the solution, where can we fit it, how can
18 we fit it? So that was all that conceptual moving
19 into the beginning stages of design development
20 for the --

21 Q. And then this might be a question for
22 one of the other witnesses, so you can defer to
23 them if necessary. But does the -- well, Option
24 3, the new mechanical draft cooling tower, do you
25 know what the total thermal capacity of -- of that

1 tower will be?

2 A. I do not know.

3 Q. Okay. So do you know --

4 A. Mr. Pizzino --

5 Q. -- the extent to which it would
6 potentially result in a D-rate of Mitchell Unit 2?

7 A. I do not know that.

8 Q. Who would be the best witness to answer
9 that?

10 A. Mr. Pizzino would be the best witness
11 to answer that.

12 Q. And then just last series of questions
13 regarding the timeline.

14 A. Sure.

15 Q. I understand, you know -- I guess how
16 long have you been in the current position that
17 you're in?

18 A. A little over four years.

19 Q. Okay. Have you been with AEP since
20 2016?

21 A. I have been. I was in a different
22 role. I was in transmission at that time, though.

23 Q. Okay. Are you familiar at all with the
24 timeline for when issues with the cooling tower at
25 Mitchell 2 became known?

1 A. Only through conversations with
2 Mr. Pizzino.

3 Q. Okay. So Mr. Pizzino would be the
4 appropriate witness.

5 A. And Mr. Snodgrass, yes.

6 Q. Okay. I do not have any other
7 questions. Thank you very much for your time.

8 THE WITNESS: You're very welcome.

9 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Commissioner
10 Wood?

11 COMMISSIONER WOOD: Yes.

12 EXAMINATION

13 BY COMMISSIONER WOOD:

14 Q. Mr. Malone, so this is a different way
15 of cooling the heated water, right? It's -- it's
16 not the same as the parabolic --

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Okay. Would you explain the difference
19 between the two for me?

20 A. I am not an engineer, and I cannot do
21 that, unfortunately. Mr. Pizzino, though, would
22 be able to describe that in detail.

23 Q. Okay. Can you tell me if there were
24 multiple bids for this -- for these projects that
25 you've listed, or have you just been working with

1 one contractor, or how did you arrive at these
2 numbers?

3 A. So the numbers were a bid originally.
4 So to do the full repair on the existing cooling
5 tower was a bid. The numbers that we got and
6 developed were in combination from that contractor
7 that we awarded the repair work to. So for the
8 demo costs and the partial demo costs, we did get
9 from them, ICC, International Chimney Corporation.

10 They were already on site. They had
11 that firsthand knowledge of what we were seeing,
12 so we thought they would give us the best number.

13 If I can add to that just one other --
14 we used their number. However, when we do those
15 projects, we will go out for bid again to get the
16 best value we can at that time.

17 Q. I see. Okay. So this is not a done
18 deal in terms of --

19 A. For that contractor, absolutely not.

20 Q. Just to equate this to a television
21 show you might see on TV regarding real estate.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. This is not a paint and paper kind of a
24 project. This -- would you say that this -- that
25 the -- that the bones of the cooling tower are

1 bad? I mean, is this -- is this cooling tower
2 brought all the way to the core?

3 A. It is concerning. And I say that
4 because as we were hydroblasting in the exterior,
5 we know -- we -- we encountered more full-depth
6 repairs where we were going to have to cut windows
7 in it. And we knew we were going to do that in a
8 couple spots, but we found multiple locations.
9 And the site personnel called engineering because
10 they said, we have a group of them. We want
11 engineering to evaluate this because we have so
12 many windows concentrated in certain areas, we're
13 basically cutting a lot of holes in the leg of
14 this in a very defined area. We're compromising
15 already a compromised structure even further.
16 We're not going to let the contractor cut all
17 these windows until engineering says it's okay.

18 Engineering reviewed it and said,
19 you're absolutely correct. So they said -- and I
20 forget the exact -- I think it was 24 feet. They
21 can't be within 24 feet of one another because
22 that will further undermine the compromised
23 structure.

24 Q. It sounds like it's like pulling a
25 string on a sweater.

1 A. Yeah, you got to be careful.

2 Q. Will the -- and you may not be able to
3 answer this, but will the mechanical cooling tower
4 have any residual value at the end of -- you know,
5 I assume that it's a 50- or 60-year life --
6 lifespan design. Will it have any resale value at
7 the end of the -- of the term?

8 A. I would not be able to answer that, but
9 Witness Coon would be able to answer that for you.

10 Q. And so -- and so is it your testimony
11 that the bones of the cooling tower are bad?
12 There's -- that the structure itself is deficient
13 and in danger of collapse, or is it just
14 individual chunks of concrete that are in danger
15 of collapse, or how would you describe the -- the
16 condition of the structure itself, of the
17 weight-bearing structure?

18 A. So my interpretation would be it's
19 concerning, but that is based on conversation with
20 Dan Pizzino. So Dan Pizzino's engineering group
21 is overseeing that, so he could best answer it.

22 But I know it's very concerning. I'm
23 just executing the plan that was given to us from
24 engineering. But -- but yes, there are some big
25 concerns with the structural integrity of it, and

1 we just don't know the timeframe. That's the
2 concerning part.

3 COMMISSIONER WOOD: Very well. Thank
4 you.

5 THE WITNESS: Sure.

6 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Commissioner
7 Regan?

8 COMMISSONTER REGAN: Yes.

9 EXAMINATION

10 BY COMMISSONTER REGAN:

11 Q. From your experience, how long would
12 something like this take to happen? I mean, would
13 it have been this -- or the start of it in 2012,
14 2013, earlier than that?

15 A. I don't know because I'm not an
16 engineer, but I think Dan -- Dan Pizzino, again,
17 who's in our engineering group, he's overseeing
18 this project would be better to answer that. I
19 really have no idea.

20 COMMISSONTER REGAN: Okay. Thanks.

21 THE WITNESS: Sure.

22 EXAMINATION

23 BY COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON:

24 Q. And I think maybe a lot of the
25 questions aren't for you, but I'll -- I'll give a

1 few of them a try here.

2 A. Sure.

3 Q. And I did want to ask you, what cased
4 these flaws? Like is it shoddy construction? Is
5 it storm damage? Is it normal wear and tear? And
6 if you don't know, I can certainly ask
7 Mr. Pizzino.

8 A. I would ask Mr. Pizzino that.

9 Q. Okay. Yeah, I was just curious, like
10 if somebody else is responsible for that.

11 A. Right.

12 Q. I'm definitely not trying to ask you
13 for a legal opinion.

14 A. Right.

15 Q. But just if someone did some poor
16 work --

17 A. Right.

18 Q. -- and this was supposed to have lasted
19 a lot longer, I just wonder if someone else has
20 any -- do you have any information about that?

21 A. I don't --

22 COMMISSONTER REGAN: Have you seen this
23 anywhere else in the country with any -- any
24 or heard of it?

25 THE WITNESS: Again, not that I'm aware

1 of.

2 COMMISSONTER REGAN: Okay.

3 THE WITNESS: I don't know if Dan would
4 know that, Mr. Pizzino would know that or
5 not. Not that I'm aware of, no.

6 BY COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON:

7 Q. And it's my understanding that there
8 were drones being employed to monitor the
9 situation and -- and see whether anything became
10 urgent for repair, got more dangerous.

11 A. That's correct. There's also I know
12 monitors on the surface of the tower. There have
13 been for a number of years. Again, that's with --

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Engineering and Mr. Pizzino --

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. -- would have much more detailed
18 information than I have would have.

19 Q. Okay. So yeah, I'll ask him the rest
20 of that stuff.

21 You were involved in the repairs,
22 though, that were attempted to be made --

23 A. Yes, I was.

24 Q. -- made in '24?

25 Executed that -- that plan?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. Besides the hydroblasting --

3 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

4 Q. -- which is that pressure washing?

5 A. It's fancy -- very --

6 industrial-strength pressure washing is the

7 correct --

8 Q. There's no way that hydroblasting
9 caused the damage, is there?

10 A. No. They can adjust the sense --
11 sensitivity of it, and the pressure that's coming
12 out of those nozzles to do that.

13 Q. Yeah.

14 A. So they did testing of the concrete to
15 make sure that they weren't overblasting or
16 underblasting to get that surface off of there.

17 Q. What was the next step going to be?
18 You were going to cut some windows to, what,
19 replace material?

20 A. Yeah. So the -- the money we spent, we
21 completed that whole ring all the way around the
22 base of that to really solidify the base of the
23 existing tower, so that was completed. But yes,
24 it was --

25 Q. And was that -- that was the whole

1 project, though, cutting out some sort of rotten
2 material and replacing it?

3 A. It was to -- so we had some cracks,
4 some hairline cracks, some larger cracks. It was
5 to fill those cracks and then resurface it, I'll
6 say, with an industrial strength stucco.

7 And then to cut windows in it and
8 replace the rebar, because we could see holes that
9 were open and the rebar had deteriorated, so we
10 had to cut windows to make sure we could splice in
11 some rebar and then put fresh concrete around it
12 to secure it in place.

13 Q. So I guess rebar can rust if it's
14 exposed to elements?

15 A. If it's exposed, that's correct.

16 Q. And what percentage of the repairs did
17 you end up doing, would you say, like a quarter, a
18 third?

19 A. We did approximately 20% of all the
20 repairs we had planned to do on the whole tower.

21 Q. And so was some money saved or did
22 you -- were you over budget on that 20% of repairs
23 and used --

24 A. We were over budget, which became
25 concerning to me, so I raised it. Hey, we need to

1 pause. We need to figure this out because we
2 were -- the costs were increasing significantly
3 more than what we had planned on what was supposed
4 to be the easy part or the more simple part, less
5 compromised part of the cooling tower.

6 Q. So for any money that was -- was there
7 any saved from not completing the project?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And was that applied to your --

10 A. If we had waited until the contractor
11 said, hey, I'm reaching my NTP -- or NTE, not to
12 exceed amount, I mean, you'd be tens of millions
13 of dollars more spent with still a compromised
14 structure.

15 Q. Okay. So was there money saved, and
16 was that applied toward this new project?

17 A. Yes. Yes, it was.

18 Q. I hope you got to participate in the
19 pressure washing. That's my favorite.

20 A. It was interesting to see, I will say
21 that.

22 Q. It was so cathartic. I don't love
23 house --

24 COMMISSONTER REGAN: I'm glad you find
25 it that way.

1 Q. I don't love cleaning house in general,
2 but if there's pressure washing to be done, I -- I
3 want to be the one doing it. Not that anybody
4 asked what I felt about.

5 So again, stop me if I need to ask
6 somebody different these questions.

7 A. Sure.

8 Q. What -- so for the -- the new cooling
9 tower that's going to be built --

10 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

11 Q. -- how long would this type of cooling
12 tower that -- that is proposed to be built, for
13 the \$191 million --

14 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

15 Q. -- how long would that typically last?

16 A. My understanding is that the expected
17 life is 25 years, but Mr. Pizzino, again, could
18 give you a more detailed answer on that.

19 Q. So a typical project of this caliber
20 would be expected to have at least a life of 25
21 years?

22 A. That's my understanding, yes.

23 Q. We're putting it on a 55-year-old
24 plant.

25 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

1 Q. We're thinking that it's likely to be
2 retired around 2040. Are we building more than --
3 than is needed? Are we building a Cadillac when
4 we could get by with a Yugo?

5 A. Well, the difficult thing is there's
6 really no -- there's not enough real estate there
7 to build another tower, cooling tower, hyperbolic
8 cooling tower. There's just physically not enough
9 space.

10 So when we look at the options
11 available to us, it's either do you want to fix
12 the Yugo, or do you want to switch to a new option
13 that will last through the expected, extended, you
14 know, current life of the project and potentially
15 beyond, that's repurposed and used for different
16 resources?

17 So it gives you a lot of optionality in
18 the future, whereas repairing the cooling tower
19 doesn't give you a lot of optionality.

20 Q. Uh-huh (affirmative). And would you
21 expect -- or you may not know the answer to this
22 question, but what would we expect that if it
23 retires in 2040, it would be demolished?

24 A. The cool -- the new --

25 Q. The new tower?

1 A. I would ask -- I would refer to Witness
2 Pizzino.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. To see if -- because I know the
5 question is, hey, is there residual value as well
6 at the end of the line?

7 Q. I noticed in your testimony that there
8 is a provision being made for a floodplain permit.
9 How big an issue is that?

10 A. Very minor. It's a very minor
11 adjustment to the floodplain.

12 Q. So a flood in the area?

13 A. This is up out of the flood zone. You
14 can clary that with Mr. Pizzino, but that is my
15 understanding.

16 Q. There's -- I was thinking maybe there
17 was a small portion of the piping that passes
18 through an area designated as a floodplain, but
19 that's just piping?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. In your testimony on Page 11, you
22 referred to indirect costs that are included.

23 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

24 Q. As part of the total estimate, what
25 would you categorize as indirect costs?

1 A. All of the -- the corporate overhead
2 accounting costs that are included in that.

3 Q. And then the -- there's a 10%
4 contingency value built in.

5 A. Right.

6 Q. So I'm assuming for Kentucky Power's
7 part of this was 95 million with the DOE grant
8 applied, something like 70 million.

9 A. Right.

10 Q. So is that around \$7 million that you
11 received?

12 A. That's correct, yeah.

13 Q. And you'll do your best to save that --

14 A. To save that, that's right, yeah.

15 Q. -- and not have to use it?

16 A. As we move through the project, if --
17 risks that we associate with that \$7 million are
18 not realized, then that is returned back to the
19 Company. So it's not utilized in any way.

20 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

21 Anything further from the Commissioners?

22 Okay. Redirect?

23 MS. HAVENS: No redirect, Your Honor.

24 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: All right.

25 Thank you. Any reason this witness can't be

1 excused?

2 Thank you, sir.

3 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.
4 Appreciate it.

5 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Call your
6 next witness when you're ready.

7 MS. HAVENS: The Company would like to
8 call Joshua Snodgrass, please.

9 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Mr. Snodgrass
10 would you raise your right hand to be sworn.

11 Do you swear or affirm the testimony
12 you are about to give is true and correct to
13 the -- under penalty of perjury?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

15 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. Please
16 be seated and tell us your full name and
17 business address.

18 THE WITNESS: All right.

19 My name is Josh Snodgrass. My business
20 address is 8999 Energy Road, Moundsville,
21 West Virginia.

22 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Counsel?

23 MS. HAVENS: Thank you.

24

25

1 THEREUPON:

2 JOSHUA SNODGRASS,
3 the witness, after being first duly sworn, was
4 examined and testified as follows:

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. HAVENS:

7 Q. Mr. Snodgrass, can you please tell us
8 your employer and your job title?

9 A. Sure. My employer is AEP's Wheeling
10 Power, and my job title is Mitchell plant manager.

11 Q. Okay. And did you cause to be filed
12 rebuttal testimony in this case?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And did you cause to be filed responses
15 to data requests?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you have any corrections to your
18 testimony or your responses to data requests?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay. And if you were asked the same
21 questions in your rebuttal testimony and in those
22 data requests today, would your answers be the
23 same?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. A couple quick questions.

1 Are you familiar with the project that
2 was proposed in the DOE grant that was -- the DOE
3 grant application that's been discussed today?

4 A. Yes, ma'am.

5 Q. Okay. And can you explain why Option 3
6 was exclusively what was included in the
7 application?

8 A. Okay. Without getting into all the
9 specifics, the -- the award application stated
10 that it had to be a mechanical or technological
11 advancement through a piece of equipment. So
12 Option No. 3 would have been installing a
13 mechanical draft cooling tower, which would have
14 fit that, while retrofitting the current tower
15 would not have met that obligation.

16 Q. Okay.

17 MS. HAVENS: All right. And then the
18 witness is available for questions.

19 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Mr. Cook?

20 MR. COOK: No questions here.

21 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Mr. Shoaff?

22 MR. SHOAFF: Yes, Your Honor.

23 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: I waited
24 until you got a drink, so you're not ready.

25 MR. SHOAFF: I appreciate that, Your

1 Honor.

2 EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. SHOAFF:

4 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Snodgrass. I'm
5 Nathaniel Shoaff on behalf of Sierra Club. I have
6 a couple questions for you today.

7 If I ask you anything that should be
8 directed at one of your colleagues, please just
9 let me know.

10 A. Will do.

11 Q. Okay. So Units 1 and 2 of Mitchell
12 went into service in 1971, correct?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. And by my math, that puts them at about
15 55 years old today, is that right?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. And by 2040, they're almost 70.

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Okay. As you note in your rebuttal
20 testimony on Page 3, that fixing parts for older
21 plants can be, quote, increasingly difficult to
22 find AS they become obsolete or are no longer
23 manufactured, is that correct?

24 A. It's partially correct. It just simply
25 means that the technology advances over time. So

1 if you -- if you came to our facility, though it's
2 55 years old, a lot of the pieces internally are
3 not the same age.

4 You change technology over time. You
5 replace pumps with better technology that perform
6 better. So in general, that's -- that's what that
7 was targeted for.

8 Q. As plants currently break -- as parts
9 on this plant currently break, some of those parts
10 are obsolete or no longer available?

11 A. Generally speaking, it would be a -- a
12 manufacturer maybe is no longer available, so you
13 have to switch to a different vendor to get a
14 similar product, yes.

15 Q. Okay. And do you expect that to happen
16 more frequently as the plant gets older?

17 A. Not necessarily. In my 20 years with
18 the Company, it's remained relatively consistent.
19 I mean, you're going to have some -- I don't -- I
20 don't think the increase will get any different
21 unless we begin to lose manufacturers.

22 Q. Now, in her testimony, Ms. Metz, who's
23 Sierra Club's witness in this case, estimated that
24 annual capital expenditures at Mitchell 2 would be
25 roughly \$30 million per year based on industry

1 averages for the size and age of the plant.

2 Now, that testimony cites a U.S. Energy
3 Information Administration study prepared by
4 Sargent & Lundy. Are you familiar with the Energy
5 Information Administration?

6 A. Generally, yes. The report that you
7 referenced, no, sir.

8 Q. Do you have any reason to doubt the
9 EIA's estimate for industry averages?

10 A. Specifically for Mitchell, I can just
11 clarify on what I've seen in my tenure at that
12 location and what I know the long-range plan to
13 be. That number is quite high compared to what
14 would be budgeted out whereas somewhere around the
15 \$12 million range is what I would expect to see.
16 Pending exceptions to a large project such as the
17 cooling tower, of course.

18 Q. Okay. I'm going to restate it. I
19 understand you have specific information about
20 Mitchell 2. My question is, do you have any
21 reason to doubt the EIA's estimate for the
22 industry average for annual capital costs at
23 coal-fired power plants?

24 A. I don't know where they get their
25 information from, but no, I suppose I don't have

1 any -- any reason to doubt their numbers.

2 Q. Okay. And I -- just so it's clear on
3 the record, I believe you said the estimate over
4 the next 10 years, your estimate over the next 10
5 years, for these annual capital costs at Mitchell
6 is \$12.3 million on average. Is that accurate?

7 A. Specifically for Unit 2, yes.

8 Q. Just for Unit 2?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And that doesn't include the proposed
11 cooling tower repair, correct?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. Okay. Now, your estimate for the
14 annual capital costs of this plant are roughly a
15 third of the industry average for a similar plant
16 of its size and age. Why do you think the
17 Company's projections for annual capital costs at
18 this plant are so much lower than the industry
19 average?

20 A. Can't say.

21 Q. And I think you mentioned -- you read
22 off a list of projects that might be included.
23 Can you just tell us what would be included in the
24 type of repair projects that go into this \$12.3
25 million estimate?

1 A. Sure. It ranges from anything from
2 pumps, motors, valves, any type of capital spec
3 part that you would need to replace that's coming
4 to end-of-life expectancy or has a fault of some
5 sort.

6 Q. Sorry, the last part was a fault of
7 some sort?

8 A. Yeah, like if something breaks.

9 Q. You mentioned pumps, motors, and
10 valves. Does that includes pipes?

11 A. Sure.

12 Q. Include fans?

13 A. Sure.

14 Q. And in 2025, the plant had higher costs
15 for repairs than in 2024, correct?

16 A. I can't specifically recall right off
17 the top of my head, but yes, it fluctuates based
18 on how long of outages you may be taking and what
19 scope of work that you're going after.

20 Q. Do you have your rebuttal testimony in
21 front of you?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Could you turn to Page 5 of that
24 rebuttal testimony?

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. The question at Line 4 is what caused
2 Mitchell Unit 2's E4 to increase in 2025. Do you
3 see that?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. All right. Does that section address
6 how the cost for repairs at the plant are more --
7 were more expensive in 2025 than they were in
8 2024?

9 A. It does. It represents, like I said, a
10 longer outage timeframe where we had the
11 opportunity to replace our major liabilities that
12 were driving the majority of our E4.

13 Q. And those -- the three that you
14 identify in that -- on that page are pipes, pumps,
15 and fans, correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Won't other things like pipes, pumps,
18 and fans, maybe not these particular pipes, pumps,
19 and fans, just keep breaking as the plant gets
20 older?

21 A. So it's all -- I mean, all equipment is
22 based on life expectancy. And when you lay out
23 your long-range plan, you -- you have a sheet that
24 we follow that tells you what the anticipated life
25 expectancy is for a piece of equipment, and you --

1 you lay out your plan to match those replacements.

2 So, for instance, the ID fan that was
3 referenced in this particular instance, you know,
4 engineering recommended years back to try to run
5 those for six years just to maximize the value for
6 the customer, of course.

7 But we found over time that five years
8 is a more accurate assessment of how long those
9 fans last. So running them longer makes you
10 subject for failure at an inconvenient time.

11 Q. Okay. You're employed, I think you
12 said, by AEP Wheeling Power, is that correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Do you know if Wheeling Power or
15 Kentucky Power has any other coal plants that are
16 as old as Mitchell?

17 A. Well, they have -- I know Kentucky
18 Power still has the Big Sandy facility which --
19 for which Unit 1 was converted over to gas, and I
20 believe it was from 1963.

21 Q. Have you ever looked at ongoing annual
22 capital costs at a coal plant of this age other
23 than Mitchell?

24 A. Well, I used to work at John Amos
25 facility, so I was familiar with the budgets that

1 they had in their long-range plan, if that's what
2 you're asking.

3 Q. How does the \$12.3 million that you've
4 estimated for annual capital costs at Mitchell
5 compare to that plant?

6 A. I would say it's relatively consistent,
7 other than the fact that that facility had three
8 units. So proportionally, you would expect to see
9 a bit more money for 3 rather than 2.

10 Q. And Mr. Snodgrass, would you -- you'd
11 agree with me that if you use lower forecasts for
12 annual capital costs, that makes this project look
13 more favorable compared to other alternatives,
14 correct?

15 A. Can you repeat that?

16 Q. Would you agree that using lower
17 forecasts for annual capital costs, as you have
18 done compared to the EIA study, that would make
19 this project look favorable compared to
20 alternatives, correct?

21 A. Well, if you utilize the lower number,
22 yes, you would be stating that over a period of
23 time you plan to invest less or spend less for the
24 customers. I don't know what relevance, in
25 regards to the project itself, I thought the

1 options were laid out pretty clearly, but spend is
2 spend, yes.

3 Q. And then these annual capital costs,
4 which, by your estimate, are going to be roughly
5 \$12 million a year, those get passed on to
6 Kentucky Power customers, correct?

7 A. Repeat that one more time?

8 Q. The annual capital costs, which you've
9 estimated over the next decade will be \$12.3
10 million per year, those get passed on to Kentucky
11 Power customers, correct?

12 A. I'm actually not certain how the
13 capital funds transition to the customer exactly,
14 so I probably wouldn't be the appropriate witness
15 to -- to rebuttal to that.

16 Q. Do you know who can answer that
17 question?

18 A. I would say Ms. Elliott could probably
19 respond better to that one.

20 Q. Okay. And if the costs, just
21 hypothetically, are a lot closer to the
22 \$30 million a year that EIA estimates, those would
23 also get passed on to customers?

24 A. Again, in general, I'm not sure of the
25 discrepancy between how O&M and capital ultimately

1 returns to the customer, yes, but any dollars
2 spent in the facility is an investment on behalf
3 of the customer.

4 MR. SHOAFF: All right. Mr. Snodgrass,
5 I don't have any other questions. Thanks for
6 your time.

7 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

8 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Mr. Kurtz?

9 MR. KURTZ: Thank you, Your Honor.

10 EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. KURTZ:

12 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Snodgrass.

13 So you used to work at the Big Sandy
14 plant?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. So that was converted to natural gas
17 about 10 years ago, 12 years ago?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So essentially, that plant boils water
20 to turn the turbine with gas fire rather than coal
21 fire?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Okay. If Mitchell were to be converted
24 to coal -- gas, would it need a cooling tower?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. Has -- is there -- is there
2 pipeline capacity to Mitchell?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. How many?

5 A. I can't speak to the exact cubic
6 footage. I just know that it runs directly in
7 front of the facility.

8 Q. Is it from one or more suppliers?

9 A. I'm not certain.

10 Q. Okay. Has AEP studied the conversion
11 of Mitchell to gas?

12 A. I personally have not, but I'm -- I'm
13 sure that when some of the environmental rules
14 came out, they looked at the evaluation of the
15 options that we had, so I'm certain that someone
16 in engineering has probably looked at it, yes.

17 Q. And it would not have to be 100%
18 conversion. It could co-fire with natural gas or
19 part coal, part gas?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Like the Spurlock unit of East
22 Kentucky?

23 A. I'm not familiar with that one, but...

24 Q. And you would still need the cooling
25 tower for that?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Okay.

3 MR. KURTZ: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Do you know
5 if you could use the exact same cooling tower
6 that's being built for a gas-fired plant?

7 THE WITNESS: To my knowledge, you
8 wouldn't have to change anything, no, ma'am.

9 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: It would
10 serve the same purpose and wouldn't need to
11 be refitted, or...

12 THE WITNESS: To the best of my
13 knowledge, yes, ma'am.

14 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. And
15 I'll take that to the best of your knowledge.
16 I'm not required...

17 Okay. Mr. Kurtz?

18 MR. KURTZ: I'm done, Your Honor.
19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Staff?

21 COMM STAFF YOUNG: I do have a few
22 questions, Your Honor.

23 EXAMINATION

24 BY COMM STAFF YOUNG:

25 Q. Would you mind just quickly walking

1 through the history of the discovery of this
2 problem and Kentucky Power's response to it?

3 A. Okay. Now, Mr. Pizzino can elaborate
4 much better than I, but to my understanding, it
5 was first identified in 2016. At that point it
6 would have been assigned to Mr. Pizzino's group in
7 engineering to do an assessment. And then after
8 the assessment, you would start working into
9 repair plans or options for like an RBTO on how
10 you want to move forward, so that's the basis of
11 what I know.

12 Q. We've talked a lot about discovering
13 new damage to the tower. Besides discovering new
14 damage, have there been any changes to the
15 condition of the tower since 2016, or has it been
16 stable since 2016? Not the tower, just the
17 condition of it?

18 A. Repeat it one more time just in --

19 Q. Has the condition of the tower been
20 consistent since 2016? Has it gotten worse since
21 it was discovered, to your knowledge?

22 A. I can't state on whether or not it's
23 gotten worse. I mean, from my point of view, the
24 fact that they did that project and made some of
25 the repairs I would have -- you know, from my

1 perspective, that makes that portion stronger and
2 more -- more integrity there.

3 And then, of course, we do other
4 sporadic projects to the cooling tower from
5 a capital perspective if there's needs. But
6 in regards to the defect itself, the areas that
7 were repaired, I would say, have more integrity
8 now.

9 Q. I appreciate that. But regarding the
10 other areas, you don't -- you can't say whether
11 they've been consistent or if they've gotten
12 worse?

13 A. No, sir.

14 Q. Thank you.

15 Can you tell me a little bit about the
16 safety systems that have been set up in response
17 to this issue?

18 A. Sure. So from an employee's
19 perspective, we installed a blue light system, for
20 which if the wind mile per hour increases over 50
21 miles per hour, that lighting system will come on
22 to alert folks at the facility to get out of what
23 we would identify as the exclusion zone, just in
24 case something were to happen to the tower. So
25 that lighting system is their awareness system,

1 and that's generally what we go by.

2 Q. Has that happened?

3 A. I think we've had over 50 mile an hour
4 winds three times, if I recall correctly.

5 Q. If Kentucky Power chose to continue
6 repairing the current tag tower, would you have
7 any concerns about safety or structural issues?

8 A. Yes. Ultimately, from our perspective,
9 as the folks have described before, you know,
10 you're -- you're putting a repair on an older
11 piece of equipment in this particular time that
12 showed more extensive damage than what the
13 engineering group was expecting when they went up
14 there.

15 I think they made a wise decision by
16 stopping and reassessing and then identifying
17 the -- the cost for going with a new mechanical
18 draft cooling tower is almost the equivalent of
19 repairing something for which you don't know
20 whether those repairs are going to be successful
21 and or how long they'll last.

22 Q. Does Kentucky Power have any additional
23 future upgrades to Unit 2 or projects relating to
24 keeping Unit 2 running that may or may not require
25 future CPCN?

1 A. Not that come to mind right offhand,
2 no, sir.

3 COMM STAFF YOUNG: That's all I have
4 for you today. Thank you.

5 THE WITNESS: Okay.

6 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Commissioner
7 Wood?

8 EXAMINATION

9 BY COMMISSIONER WOOD:

10 Q. I'm just going to ask if you had ever
11 seen this situation happen before in any other
12 power plants?

13 A. No, sir.

14 Q. There's no -- there's no playbook for
15 this in the industry?

16 A. Not that I know of. I mean, I'll let
17 Mr. Pizzino speak on that part, but I think that's
18 what made this so difficult. I think that's why
19 they chose with trying to go with that repair
20 method to see if it would be successful, but there
21 wasn't a lot of knowledge about that as well, just
22 because you don't see this.

23 I mean, we have another unit of similar
24 stature sitting right beside of it that's not
25 showing the same signs, so...

1 Q. It's the same age?

2 A. Right

3 Q. And same constitution?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Wow!

6 COMMISSIONER WOOD: Very well. That's
7 all I have.

8 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Any
9 questions?

10 EXAMINATION

11 BY COMMISSONTER REGAN:

12 Q. Good afternoon.

13 A. Good afternoon.

14 Q. You've been at the -- at the plant
15 since 2016?

16 A. No, I've been at the plant roughly
17 since 2018, but I've been with the Company for 20
18 years.

19 Q. Okay. Do you know -- were there any
20 maintenance -- maintenance activities that were
21 deferred?

22 A. Specifically for the cooling tower?
23 No, ma'am.

24 Q. Okay. So -- so I'm assuming then that
25 they were maintenance activities according to the

1 manufacturer recommendations?

2 A. Yes, ma'am.

3 Q. Could the repairs, had they been done
4 earlier, reduce the need for a replacement today?

5 A. I can't answer that. Mr. Pizzino would
6 be a better person to ask for that one.

7 COMMISSONTER REGAN: Okay. Thank you.

8 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

9 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: And I don't
10 have any questions.

11 Anything further? Redirect?

12 MS. HAVENS: No redirect, Your Honor.

13 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Any reason
14 Mr. Snodgrass can't be excused?

15 COMM STAFF YOUNG: No.

16 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: All right.
17 Thank you, sir.

18 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

19 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: When you're
20 ready, call your next witness.

21 MR. GISH: Yes, ma'am. The Company
22 calls the witness to whom everything has been
23 deferred, Mr. Dan -- Daniel Pizzino.

24 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Good
25 afternoon, Mr. Pizzino. Would you raise your

1 right hand to be sworn?

2 Do you swear or affirm the testimony
3 you're about to give is true and correct
4 under penalty of perjury?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

6 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Thank you.
7 Please have a seat and tell us your full name
8 and business address.

9 THE WITNESS: My name is Daniel
10 Pizzino. My business address is 1 Riverside
11 Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

12 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Thank you.
13 Counsel?

14 MR. GISH: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 THEREUPON:

16 DANIEL PIZZINO,
17 the witness, after being first duly sworn, was
18 examined and testified as follows:

19 EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. GISH:

21 Q. Mr. Pizzino, can you state your job
22 title and employer?

23 A. Yeah. My job title is Director of
24 Civil Engineering.

25 Q. And your employer?

1 A. My employer is American Electric Power
2 Service Corporation.

3 Q. And did you cause to be filed, in this
4 case direct testimony?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And did you cause to be filed in this
7 case responses to data requests?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And do you have any corrections or
10 updates to your responses to data requests?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Do you have any corrections or updates
13 to your direct testimony?

14 A. No.

15 Q. If I were to ask you those same
16 questions today that are in your direct testimony
17 or in your responses to data requests, would you
18 give the same answers?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. And I have a couple of questions
21 here that I think we can get to some of the
22 deferred early on.

23 Both the Chair and Commissioner Wood
24 asked about is there potential reuse or salvage
25 value for the cooling tower if it were installed

1 and the plant itself retires before the end of
2 useful life. Is there any potential salvage value
3 to that -- to that cooling tower?

4 A. You could reuse the tower in the event
5 that you wanted to put replacement generation on
6 the site.

7 Q. Okay. And there was also questions
8 that the Chair asked Mr. Malone about the actual
9 work itself.

10 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

11 Q. And your exhibit, DWP-2, includes
12 photographs from the project, is that correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 MR. GISH: So I don't know if you have
15 questions about the photographs that you
16 wanted to ask him while we're here about
17 the -- the -- about the size of the projects
18 or the work or anything like that.

19 BY MR. GISH:

20 Q. But there are -- there are pictures
21 from the project in the record, is that correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 MR. GISH: Okay. With that, the
24 witness is available for cross-examination.

25 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

1 Mr. Cook?

2 MR. COOK: No questions, Chair.

3 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Mr. Shoaff?

4 MR. SHOAFF: No questions, Your Honor.

5 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Mr. Kurtz?

6 MR. KURTZ: Just one.

7 EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. KURTZ:

9 Q. Do you know if AEP has studied the full
10 or partial conversion of one or both Mitchell
11 units to natural gas?

12 A. I'm not familiar with that.

13 MR. KURTZ: Thank you, sir.

14 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: And Staff?

15 COMM STAFF YOUNG: I do have a few
16 questions, Your Honor.

17 EXAMINATION

18 BY COMM STAFF YOUNG:

19 Q. Can you tell me -- this one was passed
20 on earlier.

21 Can you give me an idea of what
22 Kentucky Power did to verify the valuation or the
23 condition of Mitchell Unit 2 in the tower prior to
24 purchasing its share of Wheeling?

25 A. I'm not familiar with that.

1 Q. Okay. Sorry, give me one moment.

2 Are you aware of any future or other
3 upgrades that might be needed that could or could
4 not require CPCN in the future for Unit 2?

5 A. No.

6 Q. What's the total thermal capacity of
7 the proposed mechanical tower?

8 A. It would be the same -- roughly the
9 same as the existing cooling tower.

10 Q. So no D-rate needed or anything like
11 that?

12 A. I think the megawatt D-rate is
13 confidential.

14 Q. Thank you.

15 MR. GISH: Yeah, so we could talk about
16 the basis for it as long as we don't talk
17 about the amount.

18 BY COMM STAFF YOUNG:

19 Q. The -- the statement is the same as
20 sufficient.

21 A. There's a slight reduction due to the
22 fact that there's fans, and that has an auxiliary
23 load associated with them, so there'll be a slight
24 reduction.

25 Q. Okay, thank you.

1 A. Yep.

2 Q. I believe in your response to, I think
3 it was KIUC, there's a document that talks about
4 the buckling factor of 1. Are you familiar with
5 that?

6 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

7 Q. Can you explain what that means?

8 A. Yeah, the buckling factor is one of
9 the -- one of the parameters that the third-party
10 engineer looked at on our behalf, and it -- it
11 really looks at the indentations on the tower and
12 determines its strength and would determine, you
13 know, if it were to just collapse. I guess it's
14 really looking at that phenomena.

15 Q. So what does it mean to be buckling
16 factor of 1? Likely, not likely...

17 A. Very likely. I mean, 1 is that the
18 customer failure.

19 Q. Okay. Do you -- so since the issue was
20 discovered in 2016, do you have any reason to
21 believe the -- the condition of the tower, except
22 for repairs, has -- has changed, gotten worse?
23 Has it maintained the same condition, same safety
24 ratings?

25 A. We have scanned the tower, 3D scanned

1 the tower every year. We have not seen any
2 appreciable changes in the geometry of the tower.

3 We've also done drone inspections of
4 the tower, looking at cracks. We do think that
5 the tower just naturally is -- is deteriorating
6 probably at a rate of 1 to 2% per year.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. So there is some slight reduction in
9 its strength over time, but essentially it's --
10 it's been in a stable state since 2016. But it
11 does have a very reduced structural capacity in
12 the state that it's in.

13 Q. For Option 3, the cooling tower, as is,
14 it's expected to be ran for some time, is that
15 correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do we know how long that the -- the
18 expectation is of that?

19 A. What was the --

20 Q. Do you know how long the current
21 cooling tower is expected to be used while the new
22 mechanical tower is being built?

23 A. We would anticipate to utilize it for
24 the next several years until the new one can be
25 built.

1 Q. Okay. My understanding is that with
2 Option 3, there is a planned outage, I think in
3 2029, that helps somewhat decrease the cost when
4 you switch from the old tower to the new tower --

5 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

6 Q. -- the timing phase. Could that
7 same planned outage be used to benefit any of
8 the other options, and was that calculated?
9 Do you know?

10 A. No. I mean the advantage of the
11 mechanical draft cooling tower is we could build
12 it away from the existing tower while utilizing
13 the existing tower, route -- route all the piping
14 to a common tie point, and then switch over during
15 a short outage, so there would be a seamless
16 transition to utilizing the new tower.

17 Q. The -- the time period it was X number
18 of weeks, correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. In that same planned outage, it
21 couldn't benefit or decrease the cost of the
22 other projects at all for the same reason, just
23 that it's already planned, it's already built in
24 there.

25 A. Yeah. I don't -- I don't believe any

1 of the other options could take advantage of that
2 outage in the same manner.

3 COMM STAFF YOUNG: Thank you. That's
4 all I have.

5 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Commissioner
6 Wood?

7 COMMISSIONER WOOD: I don't have any
8 questions.

9 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. Vice
10 Chair?

11 COMMISSONTER REGAN: Just a couple.

12 EXAMINATION

13 BY COMMISSONTER REGAN:

14 Q. I'll just follow up on the -- the
15 questions that were deferred to you.

16 And so from -- were there any of the
17 maintenance activities that were deferred?

18 A. I'm not certain.

19 Q. Is there anyone who would know that?

20 A. I think folks at the plant. I mean,
21 we're -- prior to 2016 I don't have any history
22 of -- of what maintenances were done or not done
23 on the tower.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Specifically, I don't.

1 Q. Is there a record of the maintenance
2 that was kept prior to 2012, 2014?

3 A. I don't know if we have those records
4 or not. That would be something that Witness
5 Snodgrass may have.

6 COMMISSONTER REGAN: Okay. Thanks.

7 EXAMINATION

8 BY COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON:

9 Q. Mr. Pizzino, just a few of the same
10 kind of questions that were deferred to you.

11 Do we have any idea of what caused
12 these flaws? Is it initial construction flaws?
13 Is it cheap materials?

14 A. It's really difficult to say. We
15 haven't been able to pinpoint an exact cause. We
16 do know it's not the design. The design was the
17 same as Tower 1. We do know that it wasn't some
18 sort of large wind event that caused this to
19 happen, some sort of environmental factor.

20 We've looked at the materials in the
21 tower extensively. We don't believe it was the
22 materials. We don't -- we don't really know. It
23 may date back to the original construction. We're
24 not sure.

25 Q. Something about faulty work being done

1 when it was constructed?

2 A. It's just really hard to say.

3 Q. What -- what year would that have been
4 when it was -- was it constructed 55 years ago?

5 A. Around 1970 or so, yeah.

6 Q. I mean, the lawyer in me wants to sue
7 someone for that. Is there no one to sue?

8 A. I believe the tower was built by a
9 company called the Marley Company. I'm not sure
10 they're around. I don't believe they are.

11 COMMISSONTER REGAN: But you don't know
12 if there are any records?

13 THE WITNESS: We were never -- we never
14 found any really construction records or
15 anything of that nature.

16 BY COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON:

17 Q. But it's definitely not normal wear and
18 tear. Like the other one was built same time,
19 same material, same design.

20 A. Correct. It's a very unique problem.

21 Q. Have you carefully thought through and
22 been part of the team that considered whether the
23 option of just shortening the existing tower might
24 work?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And your -- your opinion is that it
2 could work, but it's not the best option?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. And I don't want to put words in
5 your mouth.

6 A. Yeah. It -- it would require an
7 extensive outage because you would have to shut
8 the plant down for an extended period. I think it
9 was six months. It's also pretty risky because
10 once you start cutting the tower down, you can't
11 stop until it's complete. And if you run into
12 issues, you -- you're going to have to get to a
13 point where you can actually rebuild -- you have
14 to put a concrete ring on the -- on the new top of
15 the tower. That's a pretty difficult operation.

16 You would still have to put on this
17 FRCM coating that we were going to apply for
18 Option 1. So that has its problems as well. So
19 there was a lot more uncertainty with that -- with
20 that construction.

21 Q. And was that coating FRCM?

22 A. That's Fiber-Reinforced Cementitious
23 Matrix.

24 Q. Okay. I remember seeing that
25 testimony.

1 Was that part of what the repairs were
2 going to be in 2024?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. That coating?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. But until you cut out all of
7 the, for lack of a better word, rotten areas,
8 you -- you couldn't just put that coating on and
9 save it?

10 A. Correct. Yeah, we needed to
11 repair all the rebar that was deteriorated
12 and seal all the cracks prior to putting on
13 that coating.

14 Q. Are there safety concerns with
15 continuing to use this while the other one's
16 built?

17 A. We believe we can properly monitor the
18 tower and keep people safe if there was an extreme
19 wind event. We're monitoring it continuously.
20 There's 120 prisms on the tower. There's
21 robotic --

22 Q. Prisms?

23 A. Prisms. They're surveyed instruments,
24 and there's robotic survey equipment that is
25 constantly surveying these prisms for movement.

1 So we would be notified if there was any movement,
2 sudden movement or irregular movement in the
3 tower.

4 So we think we can monitor that
5 until we can get -- you know, for -- for the
6 next few years until we get the new cooling tower
7 built.

8 Q. If the Commission just found 191
9 million to be way too much and limited the amount,
10 are there ways that you could build something that
11 would last and be safe without going to 191
12 million worth of expense?

13 A. We've looked at multiple options.
14 There's -- there really isn't -- it's either you
15 repair what we have or we build something new, and
16 it has to be a utility-grade, same duty-type piece
17 of equipment.

18 Q. Can't build a temporary one, I imagine.

19 A. I wish we could.

20 Q. Okay. Gotcha. All right.

21 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Anything
22 further?

23 COMMISSIONER WOOD: No.

24 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Any redirect?

25 MR. GISH: No, Your Honor.

1 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Any reason
2 Mr. Pizzino can't be excused?

3 Thank you, sir. You're excused.

4 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

5 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Whenever
6 you're ready.

7 MR. GISH: Thank you, Your Honor.

8 The Company calls its final witness,
9 Nicole Coon.

10 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Good
11 afternoon. Would you raise your right hand
12 to be sworn.

13 Do you swear or affirm the truth -- the
14 testimony you are about to give is true and
15 correct under penalty of perjury?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

17 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Thanks.
18 Pleas have a seat and tell us your full name
19 and your business address.

20 THE WITNESS: My name is Nicole M.
21 Coon. My business address is 1 Riverside
22 Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

23 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Counsel?

24 MR. GISH: Thank you, Your Honor.
25

1 THEREUPON:

2 NICOLE COON,
3 the witness, after being first duly sworn, was
4 examined and testified as follows:

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. GISH:

7 Q. Ms. Coon, can you please state your job
8 title and employer?

9 A. Yes. I'm employed by American Electric
10 Power Service Corporation as a regulatory
11 consultant staff.

12 Q. Okay. And did you cause direct
13 testimony and rebuttal testimony to be filed in
14 this case?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. And did you cause responses to data
17 requests to be filed in this case?

18 A. Yes, I did.

19 Q. And do you have any updates or
20 corrections to your testimonies or responses to
21 data requests?

22 A. Yes, one small addition on -- in my
23 rebuttal testimony on Page R-10, Line 3. That
24 should say: For Option 2 the Company and Wheeling
25 Power would lose approximately 800 megawatts of

1 nameplate capacity.

2 Q. So with that correction, would -- if I
3 were to ask you the same questions that are in
4 your testimonies and are in the data requests to
5 which you provided responses, would you give the
6 same answers?

7 A. Yes, I would.

8 MR. GISH: Okay. The witness is
9 available for cross-examination, Your Honor.

10 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

11 Mr. Cook?

12 MR. COOK: No questions, Chair.

13 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

14 Mr. Kurt?

15 MR. KURTZ: I do.

16 EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. KURTZ:

18 Q. Ms. Coon, on your Exhibit 2 to your
19 rebuttal, you calculated the rate impact by rate
20 schedule for year 2029?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. And in your direct testimony you
23 calculated it for '26, '27, '28, and '29, each
24 individual year?

25 A. Yes, the years that had CWIP.

1 Q. Okay. And that's this question about
2 whether you sort of phase in the rate increase to
3 improve the Company's cash flow, or whether you
4 just capitalize construction period interest using
5 AFUDC and then recover it once the facility is
6 commercial -- goes commercial?

7 A. Yes, that's the difference between the
8 CWIP and AFUDC.

9 Q. Okay. Did you also hear testimony that
10 a publicly traded data center company announced
11 plans to build a 500-megawatt data center at
12 the -- at the East Park Industrial Park in
13 Kentucky Power Service territory?

14 A. I don't know as many details as you
15 just said, but I am aware that there's been an
16 announcement, yes.

17 Q. Okay. I want to show you your
18 exhibit, I've made some hand-marked changes, and
19 just walk through the math to see if I -- I did it
20 right.

21 MR. KURTZ: Your Honor, we could have
22 this marked as KIUC -- or AG-KIUC, I guess,
23 Exhibit 4.

24 (Exhibit 4 was identified)

25 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Uh-huh

1 (affirmative). Okay

2 MR. KURTZ: Okay.

3 MR. GISH: Before you start, just to
4 note the yellow highlighting here is for
5 attention, not an attempt for
6 confidentiality, correct?

7 MR. KURTZ: Correct, correct. Correct,
8 correct.

9 BY MR. KURTZ:

10 Q. Okay. This is your rebuttal Exhibit 2
11 where you calculate the rate impact to the average
12 residential customer in 2029, including the 51
13 million DOE grant?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. So it's 191 million or so minus
16 51 divided by two is the Kentucky Power share?

17 A. Yes, that's correct.

18 Q. Okay. So in the column marked CP, a
19 demand allocation factor, it's 871.806 kilowatts
20 or 871.8 megawatts?

21 A. I'm sorry, what column are you looking
22 at?

23 Q. A CP demand allocation factor, Column
24 5.

25 A. Yes, I see that number.

1 Q. Okay. That's the -- at the bottom,
2 that's the total Kentucky Power demand for -- for
3 whatever test you used, 871.8 megawatts?

4 A. No. That's not actually their demand.
5 That's a -- a calculation based off billing energy
6 and then billing demand found in Columns 2, 3, and
7 then basing that ratio off of 4. So that 800
8 and -- that's not equal to the Company's demand.

9 Q. Isn't that the average demand --
10 average demand for -- for the test year, for a
11 test year?

12 A. I -- I don't think so.

13 Q. Well, because you -- you divided the
14 revenue requirement, 11.8 million, by the demand
15 per rate schedule to get the revenue in Column 10?

16 A. You're using that allocation factor to
17 allocate the cost, which are then in Column 6.

18 Q. Right. So in other words, the -- the
19 total revenue requirement this year, 2029, at the
20 top, \$11,807,815, then you allocated to rate
21 schedules based upon -- at Column 5, the
22 coincident peak demand allocation factor?

23 A. Right. It's -- it's an allocation
24 factor. That's not our like recorded demand on
25 the system. I mean, you can see in Column 3, that

1 is billing demand. That was actually billed to
2 those customer classes, and that amount is larger
3 than what's in Column 5.

4 Q. Well, no, it's -- you have to divide by
5 12. First of all, a lot of the rate schedules
6 don't have demand meters like the residential, so
7 that's a --

8 A. Right.

9 Q. -- that's a different number. That's
10 not the CP demand of the -- of the utility.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Okay. I'm just -- I'm not trying to
13 quiz you on your math. I see how you did it. I'm
14 just trying to understand.

15 Let's assume, because Kentucky -- do
16 you know what Kentucky Power's peak demand is,
17 about 1,100 megawatts, neighborhood? Do you know
18 what its average demand is?

19 A. I think I just did a calculation the
20 other day and it was not that high.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. I'm pretty sure they're -- and I don't
23 want to say it's wrong, but we can provide this in
24 a post-hearing data request, but I'm pretty sure
25 peak demand in 2025 was in January, and it was

1 around 1 -- 1,390 megawatts.

2 Q. Was it? Okay. That's -- that's one --
3 one peak --

4 A. 11,000 megawatts would be large.

5 Q. Okay. Do you know the average demand
6 for Kentucky Power, about?

7 A. I do know.

8 Q. Okay. Let's just assume it's the
9 871,806 kilowatts or 871.8 megawatts, okay?

10 I'm just -- I'm just trying to
11 understand the ramifications of adding 500
12 megawatts to this system.

13 500 megawatts is about 36 -- if you add
14 500 megawatts to 871.8 megawatts of CP demand in
15 Column 5, you get a total of 1,371.8 megawatts.
16 That's just math.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. Then the 500-megawatt new data
19 center customer would then be 36.4% of the system.

20 A. Assuming they use their full demand,
21 but yes.

22 Q. Okay. And so that means that the data
23 center -- if it -- it's been publicly announced,
24 so this is not speaking out of school, would pay
25 for 36.4% of the \$11.8 million revenue

1 requirement.

2 A. I mean, high level, that makes sense.
3 But again, until you actually have their kilowatt
4 usage and billing demand to fully calculate the CP
5 allocation factor, we want to actually know.

6 Q. That's right. You would know --
7 because a lot of things will change, but this --
8 this -- this much is clear. When you've got a set
9 pot of money, \$11.8 million, as Ms. Elliott said,
10 you increase the denominator by a large new load,
11 everybody else's share of the fixed pot of money,
12 \$11.8 million, will -- will go down.

13 A. Yes, that's correct.

14 Q. Okay.

15 MR. KURTZ: Thank you, Your Honor.

16 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: And Mr.
17 Shoaff? Mr. Shoaff?

18 MR. SHOAFF: Oh, no questions, Your
19 Honor.

20 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Staff?

21 COMM STAFF BELLAMY: Yes, we did have
22 some questions.

23 EXAMINATION

24 BY COMM STAFF BELLAMY:

25 Q. Could you refer to your direct

1 testimony on Page 6, Line 17?

2 A. Sorry, you said Line 17?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. Okay. I'm there.

5 Q. I'm looking for it myself. I
6 apologize. It's Page 5 of Line 17.

7 So I was looking at where -- the first
8 sentence for Option 1, the total capacity cost --
9 or the total capital cost for approximate -- or
10 the total capital cost for approximately 168
11 million for the reinforced and partial demolition
12 of Unit 2 cooling tower using the analysis that
13 was provided by Company Witness Malone.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Were you here when Mr. Malone testified
16 earlier?

17 A. I was listening, yes.

18 Q. Okay. I'm going to pull up -- in your
19 rebuttal testimony I think you said that the work
20 paper for Option 1, the economic analysis you did
21 was KPSC 1-10 Attachment 2, is that correct?

22 You can look at Page 5 of your rebuttal
23 if you want on that table.

24 A. Yeah, Option 1 is the answer to 110
25 Confidential Attachment 2.

1 Q. Okay. I'm just going to pull that up
2 really quick.

3 A. Note that it is marked confidential

4 Q. There's a public version. I'm just
5 going to do the public version to try to not go
6 into a confidential session. Sorry, I'm just
7 going to bring it up on the screen here.

8 So looking here at the rate base
9 section --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- I see there's like, here in Column
12 B, Row 6, you have the initial capital cost of
13 \$136 million?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And that was provided by?

16 A. Company Witness Malone.

17 Q. Okay. And then here in 2040, you have
18 capital costs of 3 million, is that correct?

19 A. Yes, that's for the full implosion of
20 the tower.

21 Q. Okay. And I guess my question is, why
22 do you have the 28.9 million in year 2038 for the
23 partial demolition?

24 A. Right. So that's due to the fact that
25 Option 1 only has a 10-year life. So in our

1 economic analysis it's assumed that it's only good
2 through 2038. And at that time in order for the
3 tower to stay on site until it's -- the plant is
4 retired in 2040, you have to bring it down to a
5 safe height so it doesn't...

6 Q. And who conveyed that to you?

7 A. Company Witness Malone. All these
8 numbers and the timing of them were provided by
9 Company Witness Malone.

10 Q. And does it surprise you that his
11 testimony doesn't reference the 28.9 million in
12 2010 or 2038?

13 A. I don't know if he references it or
14 not, but these are the numbers that were provided
15 to me.

16 Q. Okay. Actually, while I have this up,
17 I'll just -- actually, let me just refer back to
18 your direct testimony.

19 Page 6, Line 20 of your direct
20 testimony...

21 A. I'm sorry, what line did you say?

22 Q. Page 6, Line 20 of your direct
23 testimony.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. It should say the capital cost of a new

1 combined cycle -- I apologize. Let me pull this
2 up really quick.

3 The capital cost of a new combined
4 cycle and partially demolishing the old cooling
5 tower were \$1,044 million?

6 A. Yes, that's what it says.

7 Q. And so you had -- for the partial
8 demolition, did you use the \$28.9 million?

9 A. Yes, all the numbers are listed in the
10 Staff response to 1-5, Attachment 1 and Attachment
11 2.

12 Q. Okay. My question is for the capital
13 cost numbers for the new combined cycle, where did
14 you get those numbers from?

15 A. Yes. So we provided that in the
16 discovery response as well, but they were a part
17 of the most recent integrated resource plan that
18 was performed by our sister company, Appalachian
19 Power, for their Virginia Clean Economy Act. They
20 had capital cost estimates within there. Those
21 were also provided within a work paper for the new
22 build CC, and the table taken from that IRP is
23 within that work paper as well.

24 Q. And when you were preparing -- I think
25 I saw in your rebuttal testimony you referred to

1 some of the work papers from the 25-175 case. Did
2 you rely on those at all in preparing any
3 documents in this case?

4 A. I mean, the -- ones that were -- the
5 economic analyses that were done --

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. -- were the same as the ones provided
8 in that case because those were the ones that were
9 used for the Mitchell Operating Company Committee
10 to make their decision on which option to move
11 forward with.

12 Q. So the economic analysis for the
13 natural gas combined cycle was the same economic
14 analysis that was used in that case?

15 A. Are you saying for like the post-2031
16 options in the 2025? I believe they're the same.
17 However, in -- like for our economic analysis, we
18 were just using -- doing a 600 megawatt versus a
19 1200.

20 Q. That was my question. Because I
21 think -- there was a reference, I think, in one of
22 the responses to request information where a line
23 had been included and you indicated that that was
24 left over from --

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. -- 25-175, which made me think you used
2 the exact same spreadsheets. Is that accurate?

3 A. Yes. Now, that you bring up that
4 discovery response, yes --

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. -- it's the same spreadsheet as the
7 1200 megawatt, just divided by two.

8 Q. And -- and is that the only thing that
9 you changed?

10 A. I mean we added -- we had to add in
11 the -- like we took out the net -- the remaining
12 net book value cost recovery of Mitchell, and then
13 we had to add in the cost of replacement capacity
14 and energy during -- during -- that the combined
15 cycle would be built.

16 Q. From 2028 to 2031 -- or 2029 to 2031?

17 A. I think when we initially did the
18 economic analysis, it might have been an earlier
19 time frame because Mitchell hadn't been committed
20 in the -- into PJM yet for those planning years.
21 Since then Mitchell's been further committed.

22 Q. As far as the -- are you aware that
23 there was a short-term analysis done in 25-175?

24 A. A short-term analysis between 2028 and
25 2031?

1 Q. Yes, for buying replacement capacity
2 and energy.

3 A. Yes, I am.

4 Q. Did you use the same numbers for those
5 years as well, or did you do a new analysis in
6 this case?

7 A. We might have updated the cost of
8 capacity for the most recent PJM auction. I can't
9 tell you without having the spreadsheets right
10 next to each other if they're -- if they're the
11 same or different.

12 Q. Back to the capital cost for the
13 natural gas combined cycle unit, was it the
14 same -- other than dividing it in half because
15 you're doing a 600 megawatt, was -- did you use
16 the same capital cost for the natural gas combined
17 cycle unit that was used in 25-175?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you use the same fuel costs?

20 A. All of the capital and O&M costs within
21 that file were the same.

22 Q. Okay. So you just kind of carried that
23 file forward?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. Are you familiar with an

1 economic analysis in that case that looked at the
2 continued operation of Mitchell as a coal unit
3 through 2040?

4 A. Yes, I am aware.

5 Q. Okay. Did you review that at all in
6 preparing your testimony in this case?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. I'll come back to that here
9 shortly.

10 I kind of wanted to just look at -- get
11 some clarification on -- on your work papers in
12 this case.

13 I'm looking at your above testimony on
14 Page 5, Table NMC-R1.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So specifically -- I'm going to pull up
17 the non-confidential. I know that you refer to
18 the confidential versions.

19 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

20 Q. The -- there -- would you agree that
21 there's an average revenue requirement and a net
22 present value number in both the confidential and
23 the public version?

24 A. There probably is, but they're not
25 going to match these ones.

1 Q. Okay. Okay. That -- that -- that
2 was -- but -- but the public version and the
3 confidential version match, correct?

4 A. They should, yes.

5 Q. Okay. And frankly, that's what I was
6 about to get to was the fact that they don't
7 match. So I'm going to pull up just the public
8 version of No. 5.

9 Have you filed updated that -- that do
10 match the table from the rebuttal testimony?

11 MR. GISH: Can I ask when you say
12 No. 5 --

13 COMM STAFF BELLAMY: Yeah.

14 MR. GISH: -- what -- what do you mean
15 specifically? Sorry.

16 COMM STAFF BELLAMY: Sure.

17 BY COMM STAFF BELLAMY:

18 Q. So we got Confidential Exhibit
19 NMC-R5 --

20 A. Uh-huh (affirmative).

21 Q. -- which is the work paper for Option 3
22 with a 12-year life, is that correct?

23 A. So are you asking why the net present
24 value in this chart doesn't match what's in that
25 table?

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. Yeah. So I believe -- you can pull it
3 up as well, but I believe that's just a matter of
4 what that net present value might be looking at.
5 I think it's a shorter timeframe.

6 Q. And that's -- I think I know what the
7 issue is. I just wanted to get you to confirm it.

8 A. Yeah, we didn't pull the net present
9 values out of there. The net present value
10 calculation was done within Exhibit 1, and we
11 provided that work paper as well.

12 Q. Okay. So this is Public Exhibit
13 NMC-R5. You have the 180 for the -- and then the
14 average, which obviously it doesn't correspond
15 over there.

16 I just want to show you this is an
17 edited version of -- of yours, and I'm not going
18 to introduce it as an exhibit. I'll just - I
19 didn't change anything other than that tab.

20 Would you agree that this 180 is the
21 number from your original, the net present value
22 number in Column B, Line 36?

23 A. Is the same as what number, I'm sorry?

24 Q. The number for your original version of
25 this. I'll tell you right now the edits are right

1 here, this highlighted section 9indicating).

2 A. I'm -- I'm very sorry, but I don't know
3 what number I'm supposed to be comparing 180 to,
4 and that it's the same to.

5 Q. Okay. So I guess this -- this is your
6 original version. Do you agree with that?

7 A. That's the public version of R-5.

8 Q. The public version, yes.

9 A. Yes. R-5 was --

10 Q. And the net present value requirement
11 here is 180 million, right?

12 A. In that workbook, yes.

13 Q. Okay. And this is the workbook that's
14 referred to here, correct? Except it's referred
15 to the confidential version.

16 A. Yes. So that's where the revenue
17 requirements were calculated. Again, the net
18 present values were calculated in a separate
19 workbook. They were not pulled from those
20 workbooks.

21 Q. And what's the difference with the
22 edited version? That's what I'm getting at is,
23 you know, what the difference is. So looking here
24 at your version, you're doing a net present value
25 from Column B to Column K.

1 A. Wait. Can you scroll up to the years?

2 Q. Yeah.

3 A. So that one is going from 2028 to 2037.
4 In the net present value workbook it's covering
5 the span from 2027 through 2038.

6 Q. And what document is the net present
7 value workbook?

8 A. Yeah. So that's exhibit NMC-R1, and we
9 provided the Excel version of it as NMC-R3.

10 Q. So NC-R3 (sic) is the Excel version?

11 A. Yes. So there's essentially another
12 year within the net present value calculation.

13 Q. That's what -- that's what I thought.
14 So the 189 from table NMC-R1, it's basically doing
15 the net present value calculation on here, but
16 adding one additional year, 2038, is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. That was really the question I
19 was getting at.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. And that's the difference between
22 the...

23 A. Right. You'll probably find that in
24 all the Excel files because the net present value
25 was done within a separate workbook to capture the

1 same -- all the same years because they all had
2 different starting points within their individual
3 workbooks.

4 Q. Yeah. So each -- each of these that
5 are referred to, at least with the rebuttal
6 exhibits --

7 A. Calculates --

8 Q. -- there's one year missing, correct,
9 from the net present value calculation?

10 A. Maybe. I'd have to open them all.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. So the -- the work paper reference was
13 to give you where the revenue requirement was
14 calculated, and then we provided the work papers
15 where the net present values that were included.
16 We gave those as well.

17 Q. Is the average revenue requirement
18 calculated in that other workbook that you're
19 talking about?

20 A. Yes, it is.

21 Q. And those match these?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. And is the difference between
24 the -- the, you know, going back to this NMC-R5,
25 obviously here you have the average revenue

1 requirement of 25 million.

2 A. That's total plant, and the amount in
3 my rebuttal testimony shows Kentucky Power's
4 share.

5 Q. I understand that. In your rebuttal
6 testimony it's half, but it's not half of 25
7 million, it's a lower number, it's 12.2. Whereas
8 obviously half of 25 million would be like 12.5
9 something.

10 A. But again, you're going to run into the
11 issue of the extra -- of the different time frame
12 in -- in this file versus where they were --

13 Q. And that's what my question is. In --
14 in this file you did 2028 through 2037, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And to get the other number that you
17 had, you did it 2029 through 2038, is that
18 correct, or do you know?

19 A. It's still 2028 through 2038.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. So you have another year.

22 Q. Are you sure about that?

23 A. It should be, if you look at --

24 Q. It's fine. We can -- we can check it.

25 A. Yeah. All of them, if you look at

1 Exhibit NMC-R-1, the average should be calculating
2 all the numbers that are on that line for there,
3 so it would be 2028 through 2038 for this specific
4 option.

5 We explained in direct testimony as
6 well like why we -- why we did that, so we
7 captured the full lives of some of the options
8 that didn't go on until 2029, but had a 10-year
9 life.

10 Q. That's why you used the 10-year instead
11 of using --

12 A. So for some of the options, obviously
13 it's longer than 10 years, but that's because they
14 go online before other ones. It's trying to put
15 them on the -- on the same basis.

16 Q. Okay. Option 3 here, it refers to
17 Confidential Exhibit NMC-R-8. Is that the correct
18 work paper for that option?

19 A. Again, to find the revenue requirements
20 used within Exhibit NMC-R1.

21 Q. Just reviewing the documents that you
22 filed, it appears that Exhibit NMC-R7 is the
23 correct reference here. Do you know if that's
24 accurate?

25 A. Yeah, comparing it to the exhibits

1 listed on Coon R-2, it probably should be 7 in
2 that table.

3 Q. Why did we use average revenue
4 requirement?

5 A. Why did we use average revenue?

6 Q. Yes. Why do you think that's a good
7 metric for comparing the various options?

8 A. Right. So the average revenue
9 requirement is the amount that's actually going to
10 run through customers' bills and what they'll see
11 ultimately on their bill average over those 10
12 years. That's the amount that we run through that
13 rate impact worksheet, which I think is Exhibit
14 R-2. So that's the amount that's actually going
15 to run through customers' bills on average every
16 year. Net present value is not the amount that
17 runs through their bills.

18 Q. So if you're looking at 10 years, if
19 you imagine customers had to pay \$10 million in
20 year one and no money for the rest of the time,
21 the average would be a million per year, correct?

22 A. As explained in my direct testimony,
23 zeros are left out of the average.

24 Q. Okay. But -- but just bear with me,
25 though. Like let's say it's \$1. The first

1 year -- it's 10 million the first year, and then
2 it's \$1 for the remainder of the year until year
3 10. The average would be about \$1 million per
4 year, correct?

5 A. If you included the zeros in your
6 average calculation, yes.

7 Q. But, I mean, if customers were paying
8 nothing, should that not be considered? If they
9 don't have to pay anything in the first few years,
10 is that not important to consider?

11 A. That's what pops up then within the net
12 present value. We didn't solely -- they didn't
13 solely make the decision just based off the
14 average revenue requirement. All factors were
15 considered.

16 Q. I understand that. I'm just asking
17 about the average. So again, you know, \$10
18 million year one, a dollar every other year, a
19 million dollar average. But same scenario, you
20 pay a dollar every year, and then at year 10 you
21 pay \$10 million, the average would be \$10 million,
22 or the exact same as if you paid \$10 million year
23 one, is that correct?

24 A. I'm sorry, can you rephrase your
25 question?

1 Q. Yeah. Let's just count the zeros. So
2 \$10 million year one. You pay nothing for the
3 next nine years. The average revenue requirement
4 is going to be \$1 million per year, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You pay nothing for nine years, and you
7 pay \$10 million in year 10, the average revenue
8 requirement is going to be \$1 million per year,
9 correct?

10 A. Your average?

11 Q. Yes. Is that correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So those would have the exact same
14 average revenue requirement, correct?

15 A. They would have the same, I'm sorry,
16 what?

17 Q. Those two scenarios would have the
18 exact same average revenue requirement, correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. But would you agree that paying
21 \$10 million in year one is significantly different
22 than paying \$10 million in year 10 because of the
23 time value of money?

24 A. I -- i don't know.

25 Q. You don't know? Okay.

1 When you're looking at the average
2 revenue requirement and the net present value
3 revenue requirement, the goal is to look at what
4 customers are paying, as you said, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. So if you're looking at what
7 customers are going to pay, for Option 3, Kentucky
8 Power in this case is proposing to use a
9 depreciation rate based on 12 years, correct?

10 A. That is correct, yes.

11 Q. So if you were to do an economic
12 analysis in order to look at -- you know,
13 regardless of whether the cooling tower is going
14 to be able to be used for 12 years or 25 years,
15 what's being proposed is that customers will pay
16 for it in 12 years, correct?

17 A. The -- the Company is proposing 12
18 years, but the Commission does not have to order
19 12 years.

20 Q. Yes. But the Company is proposing
21 12 years, but the economic analysis doesn't assume
22 that it will be paid in 12 years, correct?

23 A. Right. The purpose of the economic
24 analysis was to use the useful lives of all of the
25 options and to -- in order to try to quantify the

1 qualitative benefit of having an asset that's
2 useful for 25 years versus 12 years.

3 Q. But didn't we just -- didn't you just
4 say the purpose of the economic analysis to assess
5 what customers will pay, like what's actually
6 hitting their bills?

7 A. Yes. And --

8 Q. So if what is hitting their bills is a
9 12 year -- is cost depreciated over 12 years,
10 regardless of whether it's useful for 25 years,
11 12 years should be what is reflected in the
12 economic analysis, is that correct?

13 A. It's still -- it's still the best
14 option even with using 12 years. That's why we
15 included it here in rebuttal to -- to show -- to
16 show that as well.

17 I mean, the other options as we've
18 talked about with other witnesses before me,
19 Pizzino and Malone, those options are very risky,
20 and that's something that has to be taken into
21 account when doing the economic analysis as well.

22 So trying to capture that qualitative
23 benefit, that ratepayers could see in the future
24 is -- is an important aspect of it.

25 Additionally, like the -- the way the

1 market is right now with the demand and supply
2 kind of being out of balance, it's very hard to
3 picture the Company not utilizing this cooling
4 tower past 2040. As was spoken by other
5 witnesses, it can be used in the conversion of
6 Mitchell to gas. It can be used at a whole new
7 plant.

8 So there's -- there's value in that 25
9 year life, which is what the economic analysis was
10 trying to capture.

11 Q. What is the likelihood -- actually,
12 other witnesses -- do you have any firsthand
13 knowledge of how long that cooling tower is likely
14 to be used after Mitchell is taken out of service?

15 A. The only knowledge that I have is being
16 told by engineering that the cooling tower can be
17 used, at minimum, for 25 years.

18 Q. So we should rely on what they said
19 about the likelihood of it being used after
20 12 years?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. Even -- if you depreci -- if you
23 use the 25-year useful life to depreciate the
24 cooling tower, at the end of 12 years -- and
25 everything remained in service for 12 years, at

1 the end of 12 years you'd effectively still have
2 13 years worth of capital costs to depreciate, is
3 that correct?

4 A. I'm sorry, did you say if we used -- if
5 we use a 12-year depreciable rate?

6 Q. I'm sorry, I meant 25. Like, so if you
7 used a 25-year depreciation -- if you used a
8 25-year depreciation rate to depreciate the
9 cooling tower and you depreciated it over 12 years
10 or after 12 years, you would still have 13 years
11 of depreciation left, correct?

12 A. Right, yeah. If you put into rates
13 using a 25-year depreciable rate, you would still
14 have 12 or 13 years left.

15 Q. And if you took it out of service -- if
16 Mitchell ended up being taken out of service at
17 that time and the cooling tower wasn't used, there
18 would be an expectation that that remaining
19 undepreciated balance would be recovered from
20 customers, is that correct?

21 A. Yes, in you're hypothetical that would
22 be correct. But that's part of the reason why the
23 Company currently set the depreciable rate to be
24 12 years so that customers in the future aren't
25 having to pay for that.

1 But again, as I stated in testimony and
2 discovery, once a decision is made around Mitchell
3 either to extend its life, convert it to gas or
4 whatever the decision is, you can update the
5 depreciation rates at that time coming back to the
6 Commission and asking for that authority.

7 Q. I wanted to look at -- I'm going to
8 look at the attachment -- SC211 Attachment 3. I'm
9 going to use the public version at first.

10 Just to be clear, I'm looking at Tab
11 OPCO Revenue Requirement of KPCO RSC211 Public
12 Attachment 3. Does this look like a -- an
13 accurate representation of that tab based on your
14 recollection?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. And I've got -- here's a 10-year
17 present value revenue requirement and then a
18 10-year average revenue requirement. Should these
19 numbers match or is there -- or is the number that
20 matches on your rebuttal back over on -- on Table
21 NMC-R1?

22 A. Again, I -- this one definitely will
23 not match because in Option 4, if you would have
24 the Excel file for that one, there's also the --
25 which is on the cash flow of U2. You have to

1 account in the cost of capacity that you have to
2 purchase during the longer outage.

3 Q. Okay. So this refers to SC-211
4 Attachment 3. Is that not the correct work paper?

5 A. It is. But again, the net present
6 values were calculated within Exhibit NMC-R-1.
7 Okay.

8 Q. So they were calculated separately here
9 also for this one?

10 A. Yes. All the work papers referenced
11 there are where the revenue requirements are
12 calculated. All of those were then translated
13 over into Exhibit NMC-R-1 and in direct testimony
14 Exhibit NMC-1 to calculate the net present value.

15 Q. So is this one in NMC-1 or is this in
16 R-1 for Option 4?

17 A. Well, that one -- for the corrected PV,
18 that would be NMC-R-1.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. The original one was calculated in
21 NMC-1.

22 Q. And then going back to this
23 Attachment 3, would this be the -- obviously this
24 number is significantly lower than the number on
25 the table.

1 A. That's because it does not include the
2 capacity purchased during the outage.

3 Q. That's my question. Where's the
4 capacity purchased in outage calculated?

5 A. On the cash flow of U2 tab in that file
6 that you're in.

7 Q. Oh, cash flow of U2?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Okay. So that's part of the
10 confidential material.

11 A. Yeah. So the outage portion is
12 calculated there, so that's 75.7 million. And
13 then in the confidential amount is the amount of
14 lost energy margins that you would have from
15 Mitchell during that time, which then is the total
16 amount for that first year during the outage,
17 which then is -- which is -- the total amount is
18 then shown on Exhibit NMC-R-1. So I think that
19 first year it's about 93.5.

20 Q. Is that --

21 A. The total amount's not, no.

22 Q. Okay. Okay. So it's -- that's the
23 amount the first year you said?

24 A. Yes. So if you look at Exhibit NMC-R-1
25 in Option 4 in 2027, when the assumed outage would

1 have to happen, you have to purchase capacity and
2 then you have lost energy margins from Mitchell
3 that would have -- you would have otherwise had if
4 it were operating. So you would have the amount
5 of \$93.5 million that you'd have to pay in just
6 that one year.

7 Q. And that is for six months of capacity
8 or is it for longer?

9 A. Capacity is an annual product, so you
10 have to buy it in annual chunks.

11 Q. Are you familiar with Kentucky Power's
12 plans to construct any other regeneration within
13 the next several years?

14 A. I know there's -- there was a notice of
15 intent filed, but other than that, I'm not
16 involved in that case.

17 Q. Do you -- do you know anything about
18 the timeline for the construction of that new
19 generation?

20 A. I do not. I feel Company Witness
21 Elliott might know that a little bit better.

22 Q. Do you know whether or not that new
23 generation could potentially fill the capacity
24 need when Unit 2 is taken offline?

25 A. If you're asking if a new generation

1 facility could be built by 2027 as we sit here in
2 July of 2026, my answer is no.

3 I mean just given my analysis here, it
4 was assumed at that time, back in October of 2025,
5 that the absolute earliest we could have a new
6 build-on was 2031, so I would assume that -- and I
7 believe that was the case also in Case 2025-175.

8 Q. But would the partial decommissioning
9 or the partial -- for Option 4, would you have to
10 partially tear down the existing cooling tower by
11 2027? My understanding is that could be
12 potentially pushed out further.

13 A. I believe Option 4, but again, Witness
14 Malone or Pizzino would have answered this better,
15 is to shorten the tower and then still do some of
16 the FRCM.

17 Q. Yes. They're doing the partial
18 demolition. But do you know whether or not that
19 could have been pushed back beyond 2027, 2028?

20 A. I don't. Only through conversations
21 with Witness Pizzino and with him saying that in
22 the short term Mitchell can operate, but a
23 solution needs to be addressed and found and
24 worked on, and that's why we're here today to
25 present the least cost reasonable option of

1 building a new mechanical draft cooling tower.

2 Q. I'll do a post-hearing request just on
3 the timeline for a new natural gas combustion
4 turbine.

5 A. I mean, again, based off the analysis
6 done in this case, the earliest we've had was
7 2031.

8 Q. For a natural gas combined cycle,
9 correct?

10 A. Yes, in this analysis it was a combined
11 cycle.

12 Q. Do you know if there's differences
13 between the construction timelines for a natural
14 gas combined cycle and a natural gas combustion
15 turbine?

16 A. I do not.

17 Q. Okay.

18 COMM STAFF BELLAMY: I don't have any
19 other questions. Thank you.

20 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.
21 Commissioner Wood?

22 COMMISSIONER WOOD: I don't have any
23 questions.

24 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Vice Chair?

25 COMMISSONTER REGAN: Just a couple.

EXAMINATION

BY COMMISSONTER REGAN:

Q. Just to follow up on Mr. Bellamy's question on the process, you take what the engineers give you, is that correct? The pricing, the cost?

A. So yes, engineering and then Shawn Malone's team with coming up with a schedule and budgets.

Q. Okay. So you didn't independently verify any of this?

A. I did not, no.

Q. Do you know where it gets verified?

A. I believe that's done by Mr. Malone's team using those third-party estimates.

Q. Okay. And if the capital costs exceed the current estimates, do you know how customer rates would change?

A. If it were to go over the \$191 million?

Q. Uh-huh (affirmative).

A. I believe the rates would increase if there was an increase.

COMMISSONTER REGAN: Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Anything to add?

1 COMMISSIONER WOOD: No.

2 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: I don't have
3 any questions.

4 Any redirect?

5 MR. GISH: No redirect?

6 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. Any
7 reason this witness can't be excused?

8 All right. Thank you, ma'am. You're
9 excused.

10 Let's take a quick break. We'll try to
11 keep it at 15 minutes, and we'll get our last
12 two witnesses.

13 (Thereupon, a break was taken)

14 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: We are back
15 on the record in Case No. 2026-00001, and I
16 believe you had called all your witnesses,
17 Mr. Gish?

18 MR. GISH: Yes, ma'am. Kentucky Power
19 rests its case.

20 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: All right.
21 And I see Mr. Kollen has joined us on the
22 stand already. And that's your next witness?

23 MR. COOK: Yes.

24 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: All right.

25 MR. COOK: The AG calls -- the AG-KIUC

1 Joint Witness Lane Kollen.

2 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: All right.
3 Thank you.

4 Would you raise your right hand,
5 please, Mr. Kollen?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Do you swear
8 or affirm the testimony you're about to give
9 is true and complete under -- true and
10 correct under penalty of perjury?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes.

12 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Thank you.
13 Please have a seat. Tell us your full name
14 and your business address, please.

15 THE WITNESS: My name is Lane Kollen.
16 My business address is J. Kennedy &
17 Associates, Incorporated. 35 -- I'm sorry,
18 that's the old address. 570 Colonial Park
19 Drive, Suite 305, Roswell, Georgia 30075.

20 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.
21 Counsel?

22 MR. COOK: Chair, also I will qualify
23 Mr. Kollen. And then if there's any
24 redirect, Mr. Kurtz will ask, because it's a
25 joint witness.

1 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Sure.

2 THEREUPON:

3 LANE KOLLEN,

4 the witness, after being first duly sworn, was
5 examined and testified as follows:

6 EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. COOK:

8 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Kollen.

9 A. Good afternoon.

10 Q. Were you the same Mr. Lane Kollen who
11 caused direct testimony and responses to data
12 requests to be filed in this docket?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. If you were asked those same questions
15 today, would your responses be the same?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you have any other changes to those
18 items?

19 A. No.

20 MR. COOK: Chair, the witness is
21 available for cross.

22 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

23 Mr. Gish?

24 MR. GISH: Yes. Thank you, Your Honor.
25 Just a couple of quick questions.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. GISH:

Q. Mr. Kollen, you're here testifying on behalf of both the Attorney General and the KIUC, is that correct?

A. That's correct.

Q. And is the position, your testimony on their behalf, that the new mechanical draft cooling tower, Option 3, is the best option presented?

A. We don't oppose that, but I believe that to be true.

Q. I just have a -- you were here earlier today when there was some discussion about the 12-year depreciation of the new cooling tower at -- and reflecting that 12-year depreciation in rates, is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And if, at the end of that 12-year period, the -- the cooling tower is fully depreciated but the Company was able to continue to operate the Mitchell plant, would the cost to operate the Mitchell plant, all else held equal, decrease?

A. If the plant was fully depreciated at

1 that time, there would be no additional
2 depreciation.

3 MR. GISH: No further questions, Your
4 Honor.

5 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.
6 Mr. Shoaff?

7 MR. SHOAFF: No questions, Your Honor.

8 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Staff?

9 COMM STAFF BELLAMY: We have no
10 questions. Thank you.

11 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.
12 Commissioner Wood?

13 COMMISSIONER WOOD: No.

14 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Vice Chair?

15 COMMISSONTER REGAN: No.

16 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.
17 All right. Let's see. I don't think I
18 necessarily have any questions either then.
19 I hope you've enjoyed your trip to Kentucky.

20 THE WITNESS: Very much, so actually,
21 yes. No redirect then I take it, either, so
22 okay.

23 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Do you have
24 any redirect, Mr. Kurtz?

25 MR. KURTZ: No.

1 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. If you
2 do, I was going to make you say tag.
3 All right. Thank you, Mr. Kollen. You
4 may be excused.
5 Call your witness, Mr. Shoaff.
6 MR. SHOAFF: Yes, Your Honor, I'd like
7 to call Lucy Metz.
8 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: All right,
9 Ms. Metz, would you raise your right hand to
10 be sworn?
11 Do you swear or affirm the testimony
12 you're about to give is true and correct
13 under penalty of perjury?
14 THE WITNESS: I do.
15 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Thank you.
16 Please have a seat, and tell us your full
17 name and business address as well.
18 THE WITNESS: My name is Lucy Metz, and
19 my business address is 45 Massachusetts
20 Avenue, Suite 3, Cambridge, Massachusetts
21 02139.
22 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.
23 MR. SHOAFF: Thank you, Your Honor.
24
25

1 THEREUPON:

2 LUCY METZ,
3 the witness, after being first duly sworn, was
4 examined and testified as follows:

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. SHOAFF:

7 Q. Ms. Metz, would you please state your
8 title and employer for the record?

9 A. Yes, I'm a Senior Associate at Synapse
10 Energy Economics.

11 Q. And did you call us to be filed direct
12 testimony, corrected testimony and responses to
13 data requests in this document?

14 A. I did.

15 Q. Do you have any changes to those
16 documents today?

17 A. No, I do not.

18 Q. And if I asked those same questions on
19 the stand today, would your answers be the same?

20 A. Yes, they would.

21 MR. SHOAFF: Your Honor, the witness is
22 available for cross.

23 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

24 Mr. Gish --

25 MR. GISH: No cross-examination.

1 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: -- or

2 Ms. Havens?

3 Anything from the Attorney General's
4 Office?

5 MR. COOK: No questions, Chair.

6 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: KIUC?

7 MR. KURTZ: No questions, Your Honor.

8 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: All right,
9 Staff?

10 COMM STAFF BELLAMY: Yes, we did have
11 some questions.

12 EXAMINATION

13 BY COMM STAFF BELLAMY:

14 Q. On Page 30 -- or on Page 20 of your
15 testimony, at Line 19, and you might not need
16 to go there, it's just the reference to the
17 30 million in annual -- I think you said based on
18 its size and age Mitchell 2 likely requires annual
19 capital expenditures of approximately \$30 million.

20 And that's based on -- or what is that
21 based on, actually?

22 A. That's based on a Sargent & Lundy study
23 commissioned by the U.S. Energy Information
24 Administration that looked at class averages for
25 power plants across the U.S., and they found that

1 for coal plants sustaining capital expenditures
2 mainly depend on the unit size and age, so they
3 developed estimates based on unit size and age for
4 class averages.

5 Q. Okay. My question, and obviously you
6 have that link there too, but did that analysis
7 look at plants as a whole, or at specific units?
8 Like would it -- would it include Mitchell Unit 1
9 and 2 or in your mind would it include Mitchell
10 Unit 2 only?

11 A. The \$30 million estimate is for
12 Mitchell 2 only.

13 Q. Was there an amount -- I assume that
14 capital costs -- and this might be an incorrect
15 assumption. But as the size gets bigger, does it
16 go up in a one-to-one ratio, or does it go up
17 slower?

18 A. Right. So I believe the estimates in
19 the Sargent & Lundy report are on a per kilowatt
20 basis for a size category of the plant, so within
21 that category, it would scale to the size of the
22 plant.

23 Q. Okay. So they just looked at like a
24 per kilowatt cost, and then you just multiply that
25 by the size of the plant, and then you get the

1 30 million?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Okay. I understand that part of your
4 testimony is that Kentucky Power should have
5 looked at more long-term options as alternatives
6 to the continued operation of Mitchell with
7 Option 3, Option 4 or Option 1, is that correct?

8 A. That's correct. And also that Kentucky
9 Power needs to consider the true -- the full
10 avoidable forward-going cost of continuing to
11 Operate Mitchell 2 in Option 3.

12 So the choice facing the Company is
13 whether to build the cooling tower and continue to
14 operate Mitchell 2 or whether to retire and
15 replace it. But that's not the cost data that
16 they have presented to us in the economic analysis
17 because the economic analysis for all the options
18 that continue operation of Mitchell 2 omits all
19 the forward-going fixed costs at Mitchell 2. That
20 includes sustaining CapEx, which, as we were just
21 talking about, could be as high as \$30 million per
22 year.

23 It's not really clear why the Company's
24 estimate is so much lower, and I think we would
25 need some more information from them on what cost

1 categories and what equipment replacements they've
2 actually included in that estimate to make sure
3 that they're not underestimating sustaining CapEx.

4 And it also includes fixed operations
5 and maintenance at the plant. So sustaining
6 CapEx, those are capitalized expenses for
7 equipment replacement, as we heard earlier, pumps,
8 fans, turbines, that go into rate base. That's
9 one cost category. And then fixed operations and
10 maintenance can add millions more dollars per
11 year. Again, using that Sargent & Lundy report,
12 could be about \$35 million per year for Mitchell
13 2.

14 So between those two cost categories,
15 that's a large amount of costs that the Company
16 will incur every year at Mitchell 2 that are
17 completely not included in the economic analysis,
18 and that's why Option 3 appears to have so much
19 lower of a revenue requirement than the retire and
20 replace option in Option 2.

21 Q. I just wanted to make clear the costs
22 that you indicated are not included. It's -- it's
23 any ongoing capital costs. There's no -- other
24 than the -- whatever option is chosen for the
25 cooling tower, there's no additional capital costs

1 included in the economic analysis for Option 1, 3,
2 or 4, correct?

3 A. Correct. What we're looking at in the
4 economic analysis is a very narrow comparison of
5 some replacement capacity costs, cooling tower
6 costs, but no other costs for continued
7 maintenance of Mitchell 2 compared to the full
8 all-in costs of a replacement combined cycle plan.

9 So it's really not an apples-to-apples
10 comparison as it's laid out right now.

11 Q. And then the fixed O&M costs, would
12 normally be included. Those are not included, is
13 that correct?

14 A. That's correct. So the correct
15 comparison would be all avoidable forward-going
16 costs at Mitchell 2, including the cooling tower
17 costs, including other sustaining CapEx and
18 environmental compliance costs, and including
19 fixed operations and maintenance at Mitchell 2.

20 Q. And as far as the variable costs, are
21 those included in your opinion as part of the
22 marginal cost analysis?

23 A. The Company has captured those through
24 this lost energy margins metric. So in theory,
25 that should capture the impact of the variable

1 costs.

2 Another recommendation I made in my
3 testimony is that to increase transparency and
4 ability of the Company, Commissioners, Intervenors
5 to understand what's going on in those
6 calculations, that it would really be better for
7 the Company to present as separate cost
8 categories, variable operations and maintenance,
9 fuel costs, and then energy market revenues,
10 rather than rolling them up into this one rather
11 opaque lost energy margin metric.

12 Q. Were there any other categories of
13 costs that you thought weren't included that we
14 haven't talked about?

15 A. Those are the main ones. And of
16 course, just mentioning that Mitchell 2 is likely
17 to have upcoming environmental compliance
18 expenditures, which would be part of the
19 sustaining capital expenditures, but are also
20 important to consider in the ledger for Option 3,
21 so that includes, for example, compliance
22 equipment for the 2024 ELG rule.

23 Q. And to your -- do you -- I guess to
24 your knowledge, what is the compliance deadline
25 for the 2024 ELG rule?

1 A. The Company didn't provide us a lot
2 of -- a lot of information and discovery about
3 their estimates for compliance with that rule. My
4 understanding is that the deadline is the end of
5 2034, but the Company didn't give us -- they gave
6 us some estimates from a prior docket for costs if
7 the unit were to co-fire with gas, but they didn't
8 provide us any cost estimates if it continues
9 firing on coal.

10 Q. Okay. Any other costs that were
11 excluded?

12 A. I think we've covered the main ones.

13 Q. Okay. And the exclusion of those
14 costs, or actually the 2024 ELG rule, is that the
15 next major environmental compliance cost that
16 you're aware of?

17 A. That I'm aware of. It would definitely
18 be helpful, I think, to assessing the CPCN to
19 understand if there are other upcoming costs. We
20 weren't able to get much data from the company
21 about specific upcoming investments that it
22 anticipates needing to make at Mitchell 2,
23 including for environmental compliance.

24 Q. But -- but are you aware of any other
25 costs that would likely affect a coal plant due to

1 impending environmental -- environmental
2 regulations or current regulations?

3 A. Not specifically, no. Based on trends
4 in environmental regulation, it is quite likely
5 that over time Mitchell 2 would face increasing
6 costs, just because the long-term trends in
7 regulation have been towards increased protections
8 against pollution streams, which unfortunately
9 coal-fired power plants do tend to have higher
10 amounts of these pollution streams, and so are
11 more likely to face costly environmental
12 compliance retrofits going forward than other
13 types of generation that might be cleaner and less
14 risky in that regard.

15 Q. Are you aware of any actions that have
16 been taken by the current federal administration
17 to suspend or otherwise postpone the 2004 ELG
18 rule?

19 A. No, I'm not aware of that.

20 Q. Okay. The costs that you indicated are
21 included in the economic analysis, does that
22 affect the comparisons of Options 1, 3, and 4, or
23 just the comparisons -- like if you're comparing
24 Options 1, 3, and 4 against each other, does the
25 inclusion of those costs affect that analysis in

1 your opinion?

2 A. Comparing only Options 1, 3, and 4 to
3 each other, all of which continue operation of
4 Mitchell 2, I would assume that those should be
5 roughly comparable because it's roughly the same
6 forward going costs that have been omitted from
7 all of them.

8 Q. So it -- so that -- that's what I
9 thought your answer would be. So the issue is
10 comparing Options 1, 3, and 4 to Option 2, which
11 is the alternative that uses a different form of
12 generation, correct?

13 A. That's correct. And -- and if you
14 think about this framework in terms of you have an
15 old car and you're deciding whether to replace it,
16 you know, this framework just -- it clearly
17 doesn't make sense.

18 Because if you have a repair to do on
19 your old car, you're not going to compare the cost
20 of only that one repair to the entire cost of
21 buying a new car. Of course, the new car will
22 always look very expensive in that scenario.
23 You're going to think about, what's my total cost
24 to own this old car over the next several years,
25 and how does that compare to the costs that I'd be

1 paying for a new car?

2 So similarly, when we're thinking about
3 whether to repair an existing generation asset, we
4 need to think not only about what's the cost of
5 the repair today, but what's the total cost to own
6 this generation asset going forward, and would it
7 be lower cost and lower risk to instead get that
8 power from either a single new generation asset or
9 a portfolio that could include some gas capacity
10 and also some battery and renewables to really get
11 the best of all of those resource types.

12 And again, shield ratepayers from any
13 of the risks that they will be open to with
14 continued reliance on this aging Mitchell 2 unit.

15 Q. I know that Kentucky -- or Kentucky
16 Power's rebuttal referred to the analysis that was
17 conducted in 2025-175. Did you review that case
18 in preparing your testimony?

19 A. I'm generally familiar with that case.
20 I haven't delved into the details of the analysis.

21 But just taking a step back, it's not
22 like you can make a decision once about whether to
23 keep a generation asset and then never think about
24 it again. It's critical that Kentucky Power is
25 reassessing whether it makes sense to continue

1 receiving power from Mitchell 2 every time that
2 there's a major capital expenditure that needs to
3 be made at the plant.

4 Because if it does that analysis and
5 finds that the capital expenditure or other
6 changing conditions have tipped the balance so
7 that it's no longer economic to maintain Mitchell
8 2, it's Kentucky Power's responsibility to
9 ratepayers at that point to retire and replace the
10 unit with lower cost generation.

11 So just because this issue may or may
12 not have been considered in a past docket, does
13 not mean that it's not the Company's
14 responsibility to consider it again in this
15 docket.

16 Q. Has -- assuming that the analysis that
17 was accepted in 2025-175 was accurate at the time,
18 and I know you said you hadn't reviewed it, has
19 there been any material changes in the regulatory
20 environment or with respect to fuel costs in the
21 last -- since that decision was issued in December
22 of 2025, that you think would materially change
23 any analysis?

24 A. It would be difficult for me to comment
25 on that without knowing what data about plant

1 costs was provided in that prior docket.

2 Q. Has there been any changes in the
3 regulatory environment since the third quarter of
4 2025?

5 A. My understanding is that when that last
6 analysis was in place, the company was still under
7 the understanding that the 111 rules would apply
8 to Mitchell.

9 Q. And that's the greenhouse gas rules?

10 A. Right. And so that's why they had
11 studied the gas co-firing conversion scenarios in
12 that prior docket. While that may be less of an
13 immediate concern now, there's still just the
14 concern over plant economics, and is it costing
15 ratepayers extra money to continue maintaining
16 this coal unit, which is already 55 years old,
17 and -- and which is less suited to changing grid
18 conditions because it is an older steam turbine
19 unit, it's less flexible, it's less efficient.

20 It does have these pollution streams,
21 which, while we might be in a moment now where
22 they're not subject to as stringent regulation, as
23 I mentioned, the long-term trend has overwhelming
24 been that over time this plant will be subject to
25 higher levels of regulation and higher costs.

1 Q. Other than the elimination of the
2 greenhouse gas rule or, I guess, suspension, I
3 don't know honestly exactly what the status is,
4 but has there been any other changes in the
5 regulatory environment since the third quarter of
6 2025 that you're aware of?

7 A. Not that I'm aware of.

8 Q. And would -- the elimination of the
9 greenhouse gas rules, in your opinion, would that
10 typically have a net favorable effect on the
11 continued operation of Mitchell or a net negative
12 effect on the continued operation of Mitchell?

13 A. I think it really depends on what the
14 forward-going costs of the unit are, which we have
15 not received good data on in this docket. The 111
16 rule has set a very concrete deadline for when an
17 operation on coal needed to end. But it's quite
18 possible that if the company recalculated the
19 economic analysis using the full forward-going
20 costs of the plant, or of Unit 2 specifically,
21 they would find that it just doesn't make economic
22 sense to continue operating the unit on coal.

23 Q. Assuming all else is equal, though, the
24 elimination of the greenhouse gas rules would
25 typically favor the continued operation of

1 Mitchell, is that correct?

2 A. It would remove a specific deadline by
3 which the Company would be required to end coal
4 burning at the unit.

5 Q. I guess how many -- do you do a lot of
6 resource planning as part of -- I guess how long
7 have you been involved in resource planning?

8 A. I've been in my current role about four
9 years, and yes, I'm involved in resource planning
10 dockets in a number of different states across the
11 US.

12 Q. Have you been involved in any other
13 dockets involving the potential closure of a coal
14 plant in favor of a natural gas combined cycle
15 unit?

16 A. I've been involved in a number of IRP
17 dockets and gas CPCN dockets. I can't think of
18 another docket that was this specific situation of
19 a coal retirement.

20 I also just wanted to add a clarifying
21 point that I think the company in its analysis has
22 framed this docket -- or has framed this question
23 very narrowly as, do we continue operating the
24 coal plant, or do we replace it with a gas plant?

25 But that is an artificially narrow

1 framing of the replacement options that are
2 available. And so another aspect of completing a
3 rigorous alternatives analysis would be to look at
4 a wider range of replacement resources that are
5 available and that could be more cost-effective
6 and also shield ratepayers from long-term risks,
7 for example, gas price volatility.

8 So that could look like a smaller CC or
9 a gas combustion turbine paired with battery
10 storage and renewables, which won't have that
11 long-term fuel exposure.

12 Q. I guess looking at -- at -- at a
13 new generation resource will typically have a
14 significantly or fairly large initial capital
15 investment as compared to an existing resource.
16 Is that generally accurate?

17 A. That's correct. You pay a higher
18 upfront capital cost, and in exchange tend to get
19 lower operating costs.

20 Q. So is it -- when you build a new unit
21 because of that higher capital cost in the first
22 5, 10, however many years of its operation, when
23 the capital costs are high, you -- the increased
24 efficiency you might receive from the new unit you
25 might not see that rate for maybe 10 or 15 years

1 until the capital investment has been depreciated
2 to some extent, is that correct?

3 A. That's correct. So generally when
4 you're designing a replacement portfolio, you need
5 to look both at the total net present value, which
6 might be lower for a new generation asset, but
7 then also at the short-term rate impact. Because
8 in the early years, the depreciation expense is
9 high for the new asset, you can sometimes see
10 higher rate impact.

11 So those are all considerations that
12 would need to be balanced in designing a
13 replacement portfolio. Of course, what is overall
14 beneficial to ratepayers depends a lot on the
15 details of how the numbers work out for the
16 individual portfolios you're looking at.

17 Q. So a new -- a new generation resource
18 with a high capital cost might have a lower net
19 present value, but in the first however many
20 years, maybe decade or so, it would -- in those
21 periods it would have a higher rate impact, but
22 over 20, 30 years it might have a lower net
23 present value. Is that kind of what would -- you
24 might expect?

25 A. That's generally the -- the shape of

1 the trends we would see, particularly for
2 company-owned resources. I mean, you can also
3 look into other structures, such as a renewable
4 PPA, which can flatten out the cost more over the
5 life of the asset.

6 Q. For -- for new generation resources,
7 what's the typical time period you might see
8 where, on an annual basis, the new resource
9 becomes more economic than -- than the existing
10 resource?

11 A. That will depend a lot on the specific
12 resources you're comparing, and I don't think I
13 have a -- a rule of thumb to share on when that
14 point would be.

15 COMM STAFF BELLAMY: Let me just look
16 at this really quick, thank you.

17 I don't have any other questions.
18 Thank you very much.

19 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

20 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.
21 Commissioner Wood?

22 COMMISSIONER WOOD: No questions.

23 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Commission
24 Chair?

25 MR. GISH:

1 COMMISSONTER REGAN: Yeah, just one.

2 EXAMINATION

3 BY COMMISSONTER REGAN:

4 Q. Good afternoon. I've read through your
5 testimony, and I'm on Page 28 where you talk about
6 performing the updated capacity expansion and
7 production cost modeling. Do you think that is
8 still viable if you weigh what they presented
9 versus the safety issue? Do you -- do you think
10 that -- would your -- does your testimony stay the
11 same?

12 A. The short answer is yes. I would
13 certainly defer to the Company on how long they
14 can safely operate this existing damaged cooling
15 tower.

16 But my understanding is that, as the
17 Company has laid it out, the cooling tower would
18 actually be retired sooner in Option 2, which is
19 retire and replace, than it would in Option 3.

20 Because in Option to the Company has
21 set up the analysis so that they'll be purchasing
22 replacement capacity in those intervening years
23 while the current cooling tower is offline and
24 until the new generation can be brought online.

25 COMMISSONTER REGAN: Okay. Thank you.

1 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: I don't think
2 I have questions.

3 Joint -- sorry, redirect, Mr. Chair?

4 COMMISSIONER WOOD: No.

5 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Any reason
6 this witness can't be excused? Okay. Thank
7 you, Ms. Metz. You're excused.

8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

9 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: All right.
10 Is that the conclusion of the evidence today?

11 MR. COOK: Yes, ma'am.

12 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. Any
13 motions at this time?

14 And, Mr. Kurtz, I don't remember if you
15 moved to admit your. Go ahead.

16 MR. KURTZ: I did not. Thank you. I'd
17 move to admit AG-KICU's Exhibit 4.

18 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. Any
19 objections?

20 MR. GISH: No.

21 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: It will be
22 admitted.

23 (Exhibit 4 was admitted)

24 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Staff, can
25 you get written summary of requests out by

1 July 14th?

2 COMM STAFF YOUNG: Yes.

3 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: And if he
4 does that, can we get responses by close of
5 business July 28th?

6 MR. GISH: Yeah. I think that -- that
7 should work.

8 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

9 MR. GISH: Some of those -- some of
10 those may require some digging and finding --
11 depending what they are, but I think the 28th
12 would be sufficient or that -- what is that,
13 that's the Tuesday of that week, I believe?
14 I think we could probably get that done.

15 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

16 MR. GISH: Yeah.

17 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: And if not,
18 get everything you can in, and let us know
19 when we'll get the rest. We'll be
20 accommodating if we can.

21 And then our final order is due October
22 17th in this case. If the parties would like
23 to submit a brief, suggest August 4th for a
24 simultaneous initial brief. They're saying
25 no. What would you --

1 MR. GISH: For a very personal reason,
2 I would prefer it to be later. I'm going to
3 be out of -- out of town that entire week of
4 August.

5 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay.

6 MR. GISH: So if we could move it a
7 couple weeks later, I would -- I would really
8 appreciate it.

9 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: So you're
10 suggesting the --

11 MR. GISH: 21st?

12 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: The 21st.

13 Staff, is that -- is that too much?

14 COMM STAFF YOUNG: It's probably fine.

15 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: Okay. August
16 21st. Going once...

17 Okay. And then I had response briefs
18 by August 14th, but let's say by...

19 MR. GISH: The 28th, a week later?

20 COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: That's only
21 seven days later.

22 COMMISSONTER REGAN: Is that enough
23 time for you?

24 MR. GISH: That would be enough time
25 for us, yeah.

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MR. SHOAFF: No objection here, Your Honor.

COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: 28th. Any reason that doesn't work, staff?

COMM STAFF BELLAMY: No.

COMMISSION CHAIR HATTON: All right. Anything further? If not, we are adjourned.

(Thereupon, the proceedings
adjourned at 3:41 p.m.)

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STATE OF KENTUCKY
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

I, Janine N. Leroux, Court Reporter and the undersigned Notary Public in and for the State of Kentucky at Large, certify that the foregoing is a true record of the hearing held before the Public Service Commission on, Wednesday, July 8th, 2026.

ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED: Janine Leroux

JANINE LEROUX - COURT REPORTER
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE-AT-LARGE
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 11/26/2027

	51/12 64/25 90/3 94/18 95/21 142/11 146/3 175/6 185/7 190/23 227/22 229/1 233/13 252/22 254/4 COMMISSONTER REGAN: [18] 52/5 65/1 90/6 146/8 146/20 147/22 148/2 151/24 176/7 185/11 186/6 187/11 227/25 228/23 233/15 253/1 253/25 256/22 MR. COOK: [22] 9/18 9/22 22/25 24/24 68/1 70/13 72/10 72/14 72/25 74/22 75/1 75/21 98/8 158/20 180/2 193/12 229/23 229/25 230/22 231/20 236/5 254/11 MR. GISH: [56] 8/22 9/9 9/14 11/5 11/15 11/20 12/10 20/9 21/1 22/21 42/5 65/4 65/8 65/14 65/23 72/6 72/12 72/15 72/20 73/1 73/8 73/11 73/15 75/5 75/8 75/13 75/15 96/9 96/12 176/21 177/14 179/14 179/23 181/15 190/25 191/7 191/24 193/8 195/3 208/11 208/14 229/5 229/18 231/24 233/3 235/25 252/25 254/20 255/6 255/9 255/16 256/1 256/6 256/11 256/19 256/24 MR. KURTZ: [28] 10/10 10/13 25/3 27/4 27/11 31/24 32/1 70/17 70/21 71/3 71/7 71/12 76/6 80/23 98/12 168/9 170/3 170/18 180/6 180/13 193/15 194/21 195/2 195/7 199/15 233/25 236/7 254/16 MR. SHOAF: [17] 10/2 10/6 32/5 42/8 76/3 81/2 98/10 158/22 158/25 168/4 180/4 199/18 233/7 234/6 234/23 235/21 257/1 MS. GRIFFITH: [4] 13/10 13/19 19/11 19/19 MS. HAVENS: [12] 66/16 67/22 75/14 95/25 96/7 97/3 98/4 155/23 156/7 156/23 158/17 176/12 THE WITNESS: [50] 20/17 20/21 27/8 31/25 42/11 45/20 45/23 46/3 46/22 65/11 66/3 66/8 66/12 71/2 71/16 80/11 80/19 89/12 96/4 96/20 96/24 139/16 142/8 146/5 146/21 147/25 148/3 156/3 156/14 156/18 168/7 170/7 170/12 174/5 176/8	176/18 177/5 177/9 187/13 191/4 191/16 191/20 230/6 230/11 230/15 233/20 234/14 234/18 252/19 254/8 \$ \$0.33 [1] 90/15 \$1 [5] 215/25 216/2 216/3 217/4 217/8 \$1,044 [1] 203/5 \$10 [9] 215/19 216/17 216/21 216/21 216/22 217/2 217/7 217/21 217/22 \$11,807,815 [1] 196/20 \$11.8 [3] 198/25 199/9 199/12 \$112 [1] 105/25 \$12 [2] 161/15 167/5 \$12.3 [4] 162/6 162/24 166/3 167/9 \$136 [1] 201/13 \$191 [3] 55/5 152/13 228/19 \$2.1 [1] 139/10 \$200,000 [1] 57/20 \$25.5 [1] 37/23 \$28 [1] 105/17 \$28.9 [1] 203/8 \$3 [3] 99/18 102/6 102/19 \$3.64 [3] 52/25 53/10 53/11 \$30 [5] 160/25 167/22 236/19 237/11 238/21 \$30 million [1] 167/22 \$33 [1] 105/8 \$33,000 [1] 57/25 \$35 [1] 239/12 \$36 [1] 109/21 \$4.59 [1] 53/9 \$5 [3] 101/20 101/23 102/13 \$50 [1] 40/4 \$51 [7] 23/19 26/9 39/24 40/4 60/13 76/18 94/22 \$7 [2] 155/10 155/17 \$70 [3] 76/20 78/20 79/13 \$75 [1] 76/13 \$80 [1] 118/10 \$93.5 [1] 225/5 , '24 [1] 148/24 '25 [1] 44/21 '26 [4] 27/19 53/18 139/15 193/23 '27 [4] 27/19 53/15 54/7 193/23 '28 [4] 27/19 29/24 54/15 193/23 '29 [3] 27/19 54/17 193/23 0 0.7 [1] 79/1 00001 [6] 1/3 8/2 13/3 65/20 132/17 229/15 00175 [1] 40/23	00257 [1] 70/1 00578 [1] 14/16 02139 [1] 234/21 1 1 Riverside [1] 97/1 1,100 [1] 197/17 1,200 [1] 53/2 1,371.8 [1] 198/15 1,390 [1] 198/1 1-10 [1] 200/21 1-3 [2] 71/18 75/18 1-5 [1] 203/10 1.633 [1] 140/6 10 [22] 7/23 49/15 84/13 84/22 113/3 155/3 162/4 162/4 168/17 192/23 196/15 200/21 214/13 215/11 215/18 216/1 216/3 216/20 217/7 217/22 250/22 250/25 10-year [7] 122/6 122/20 201/25 214/8 214/10 222/16 222/18 100 [4] 15/4 76/14 113/12 169/17 1024 [1] 2/18 10:11 [1] 65/18 10:35 [1] 65/18 11 [1] 154/21 11,000 [1] 198/4 11.8 [1] 196/14 11/26/2027 [1] 258/18 110 [1] 200/24 111 [2] 247/7 248/15 12 [19] 168/17 197/5 218/9 218/14 218/16 218/17 218/19 218/22 219/2 219/9 219/9 219/14 220/24 220/25 221/1 221/9 221/10 221/14 221/24 12 years [3] 218/21 219/11 220/20 12-year [5] 208/22 221/5 232/15 232/16 232/20 12.2 [1] 213/7 12.5 [1] 213/8 120 [1] 189/20 1200 [2] 204/19 205/7 123/LINE [1] 7/23 125 [1] 5/9 13 [6] 4/3 16/21 17/20 221/2 221/10 221/14 13.98 [1] 14/22 1300 [1] 3/15 132/10 [1] 7/23 133 [1] 5/11 136 [5] 105/19 110/23 112/22 114/5 114/7 14 [2] 55/7 74/10 142 [1] 5/12 146 [2] 5/14 5/15 14th [2] 255/1 256/18 15 [3] 65/16 229/11 250/25 150 [1] 15/15 157 [1] 5/18 158 [1] 5/19 162 [3] 123/3 139/21	139/25 1645 [2] 20/23 66/13 168 [2] 5/21 200/10 17 [5] 52/16 134/12 200/1 200/2 200/6 170 [1] 5/22 174 [1] 5/24 175 [9] 5/25 31/18 204/1 205/1 205/23 206/17 226/7 245/17 246/17 1758 [1] 2/13 177 [1] 6/3 17th [1] 255/22 180 [6] 6/5 6/6 209/13 209/20 210/3 210/11 185 [1] 6/8 186 [1] 6/9 189 [1] 211/14 19 [1] 236/15 191 [4] 76/18 190/8 190/11 195/15 192 [1] 6/12 193 [1] 6/14 194 [1] 7/14 1963 [1] 165/20 1970 [1] 187/5 1971 [1] 159/12 199 [1] 6/15 1990 [2] 55/18 55/19 1:00 [1] 132/13 2 2's [1] 164/2 2.1 [2] 138/15 138/21 20 [10] 105/5 105/22 150/19 150/22 160/17 175/17 202/19 202/22 236/14 251/22 200 [1] 2/18 2004 [1] 243/17 2009 [1] 136/13 201 [1] 3/10 2010 [1] 202/12 2012 [6] 43/20 57/7 57/9 58/7 146/13 186/2 2013 [5] 14/15 55/12 56/22 57/9 146/14 2014 [2] 58/11 186/2 2015 [2] 15/8 58/11 2016 [12] 44/15 44/18 55/21 141/20 171/5 171/15 171/16 171/20 175/15 182/20 183/10 185/21 2018 [1] 175/17 2020 [1] 58/23 2021 [1] 91/9 2024 [7] 44/20 163/15 164/8 189/2 241/22 241/25 242/14 2025 [10] 140/6 163/14 164/2 164/7 197/25 204/16 226/4 246/22 247/4 248/6 2025-00175 [1] 40/23 2025-00257 [1] 70/1 2025-175 [4] 31/18 226/7 245/17 246/17 2025-257 [1] 70/11 2026 [7] 1/22 26/18 77/8 90/16 138/15
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