1	STATE OF ILLINOIS PIATT COUNTY ZONING BOARD
2	
3	PROSPERITY WIND, LLC APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL USE PERMIT
4	8/29/23
5	5:35 P.M 8:43 P.M.
6	PIATT COUNTY ZONING OFFICER: Keri Nusbaum
7	HEARING FACILITATOR: Scott Kains, Esq.
9	PIATT COUNTY ZONING BOARD MEMBERS: Loyd Wax - Chairman Jim Harrington
11 12	PIATT COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS  Michael Beem  Paul Foran
13	Todd Henricks Gail Jones Kathleen Piatt
14 15	COUNSEL FOR THE PIATT COUNTY BOARD: Andrew J. Keyt, Esq.
16 17	COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT:  Jerald Hess, Esq.  Amy Antoniolli, Esq.
18	, 1
19	COURT REPORTER: Courtnay Orman, CSR
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22	
23	
24	
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1		
1	I N D E X	
2	EXAMINATIONS	PAGE
3	JASON CONLEY Presentation	6
4	Zoning Board of Appeals Questions  Piatt County Board Questions	.10
5	Public Questions	.21
6	Zoning Board of Appeals Questions	
7	ADAM CARLSON Direct Examination	37
8	Zoning Board of Appeals Questions  Public Questions	.39
9	BRIE ANDERSON	• 1 1
10	Presentation	
11	Public Questions	.79
12	Zoning Board of Appeals Questions  Piatt County Board Questions	.114
13		.110
14	ERIC HANSEN  Direct Examination	
15	Zoning Board of Appeals Questions	.120
16	ЕХНІВІТ S	
17	Admitted	
18	Applicant's Exhibit Group 11 48	
19	Applicant's Exhibit Group 12 49	
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

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           MR. KAINS: It is 5:35, and it is time to
    reconvene the public hearing.
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           Mr. Chairman, I think it's your turn to request a
    roll call.
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           MR. WAX: I think that's right.
6
           Could I have a roll call, please?
7
           MR. SMITH: You've got to swing it over towards
8
    him.
9
           MR. WAX: We're going to have a roll call.
10
           Ms. Nusbaum.
           MS. NUSBAUM: Larson?
11
12
           Harrington.
13
           MR. HARRINGTON: Here.
14
           MS. NUSBAUM: Lovin.
15
           Wax.
16
           MR. WAX: Here.
           MS. NUSBAUM: Chambers.
17
18
           MR. WAX: Call the roll for the County Board,
19
    please.
20
           MS. NUSBAUM: Yes, please.
2.1
           Henricks.
           MR. HENRICKS: Yes.
22
23
           MS. NUSBAUM: Edwards.
24
           Beem.
25
           MR. BEEM: Here.
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MS. NUSBAUM: 1 Jones. 2 MS. JONES: Here. 3 MS. NUSBAUM: Piatt. MS. PIATT: 4 Here. 5 MS. NUSBAUM: Foran. MR. FORAN: Here. 6 7 MS. NUSBAUM: Thank you. 8 MR. WAX: Thank you. At this point in time if 9 Public Hearing Officer Kains will take over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asked 10 MR. KAINS: 11 about the Pledge of Allegiance. Again for the second 12 night in a row, we have no flag to pledge allegiance to, 13 but I think that it goes without saying that we are very proud to pledge allegiance to the flag of our county, we 14 15 just won't do it tonight. Maybe we can get the flag from Abe sometime soon. Yes, besides Kenny Smith and 16 17 Courtnay, our court reporter, the other person that 18 makes this happen is Abe, who lets us into the building, and so we do appreciate that. 19 20 All right. We had three witnesses last night on 2.1 behalf of the Applicant Prosperity Wind, LLC, and we 22 have -- excuse me, we had an open question. 23 Mr. Harrington from the Zoning Board of Appeals had 24 asked Mr. Carlson, and, Mr. Hess, you had that

information, if you would proffer that for us, please.

MR. HESS: Yes, sir, Mr. Kains. Thank you.

Mr. Harrington, you had asked for the names of subcontractors that will be responsible for repairing drain tile. Mr. Carlson got that information for you, and there are two. Queens Trucking and Construction, Inc. and the second is AM Construction. The other thing that Mr. Carlson tells me is that Queens Trucking and Construction, Inc. is the company that repaired drain tile at the Ford County project that we did.

Thank you, sir.

2.1

MR. KAINS: Thank you, Mr. Hess.

Prosperity Wind, LLC has the opportunity to call additional witnesses.

Counsel, you may call your next witness.

MS. ANTONIOLLI: Okay. Thank you. On behalf of Prosperity Wind, we'd like to call Jason Conley, manager of health and safety.

MR. KAINS: Thank you.

Mr. Conley, if you could, please raise your right hand to be sworn by the court reporter.

JASON CONLEY

called as a witness, being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

MR. KAINS: Sir, could you please state your name, spelling your first and last names for the record?

MR. CONLEY: My name is Jason Conley, J-A-S-O-N C-O-N-L-E-Y.

MR. KAINS: All right. Mr. Conley, you may proceed with presentation or testimony.

2.1

MR. CONLEY: Awesome. Thank you, Counsel.

Board, citizens of Piatt County, good evening.

My name is Jason Conley. I'm the health and safety

manager for Apex Clean Energy. I'm a safety

professional by trade. I hold a CSP certification and

over 16 years of experience supporting the energy

industry with combined experience from oil and gas, as

well as renewals, both in construction and in

operations. I'm here this evening to emphasize safety

as it pertains to Apex Clean Energy and Prosperity Wind

project. Next slide.

Safety is a core value at Apex Clean Emergency.

It's not just a part of the business, but it's how we do our business. The Prosperity Wind project has been designed to safely operate in Piatt County. Let me repeat that. Prosperity Wind has been designed to safely operate in Piatt County. I'm going to talk about the safe layout of the project, the safe design of the equipment, the constant monitoring of the equipment, and the trained professionals supporting this project, with all these points coming together to underscore that

safety is how we do our business. Next slide.

2.1

First, we're going to talk about the overall design of the project. Some examples that demonstrate safety and the best practices that Apex carries out include turbines that exceed the County's setback requirements. We'll have visible signage on the equipment that -- concerning the voltage and for identification purposes. We post 24-7 emergency contact information at the O&M and at the substation. The access roads are labeled, and we also work with the County to establish 911 addresses for the turbines. There will be climb prevention on the turbines for limited access, which is only for site personnel. Next slide.

Along with the safe layout, I'm going to talk about the turbine design and the feature that's been added to help ensure the safety of any personnel and the equipment, which is a fire detection and suppression system. During the last hearing here in Piatt County, there were lots of questions, as well as communications that were shared amongst the board members with regard to turbine fires, equipment, and emergency response.

So, ladies and gentlemen, what's different now? The fire detection and suppression. A new independent system above and beyond what is already present on the

equipment. This system that is to be installed on each turbine, along with the coordination with local emergency responders, addresses any doubt that the board or the local community may have with regards to the already low probability of a turbine fire and its effects on the community. I'd like to refer to a previous scenario from the last hearing that Mr. Chambers painted. The scenario was a late fall, dry corn field and a turbine were to catch on fire and to get into that field. Previously and typically the response would be to coordinate with local EMS, create a perimeter to prevent any spread of fire. Now in the same scenario, along with all the designed equipment features and monitoring systems that the turbines already come equipped with to prevent any equipment fires, we are installing an independent fire detection and suppression system to each turbine so that in the unlikely event one were to occur, this system would put it out in a matter of seconds. This feature was not previously required by the County and happens to be an upgraded feature, which is not currently an industry standard on turbines. So, this would be another example of how Apex goes above and beyond with regard to safety. Next slide.

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Along with the project layout and the safe

equipment design and features I have just mentioned, the personnel play a key role in establishing and maintaining safety at the project. The next couple slides will demonstrate that. From the technicians conducting routine inspections and maintenance of the turbines and equipment to constant monitoring and coordination with local EMS, the overall objective is to have a safe and reliable operation for many years to come. Next slide.

2.1

Previously I mentioned constant monitoring of the equipment. There were also lots of questions in the previous hearing with the onsite staff and constant monitoring and how that's achieved. Not only do the site personnel do this by visual inspection, but we also have a Remote Operation Control Center that can see every turbine, along with the substation equipment, its status, how it's performing, and possessive power to shut down and isolate any equipment in a matter of minutes should the situation warrant it. Next slide.

All of the previously mentioned features and actions taken by the company are all executed by trained professionals. Site management and technicians are trained in safe equipment operation for the turbines and the substation equipment. Along with safe isolation procedures and practices, they're also trained in

advance tower rescue, which includes self-rescue and buddy rescue. We also coordinate and conduct site walkthroughs and emergency rescue drills with the local and emergency management services, taking any lesson learned and striving to make operations safer for our personnel and for the public. Next slide.

So, in closing, and as I opened this presentation with, safety is not just a part of our business, but it's how Apex does business. It is with certainty that with this layout, the equipment and its upgraded features, the constant monitoring, the expertise of our personnel, and in open communication and coordination with local entities, this wind farm can safely operate in Piatt County, Illinois, for many years to come.

Thank you.

2.1

MR. KAINS: Thank you, Mr. Carlson -- I'm sorry, Mr. Conley.

Are there questions for Mr. Conley from members of the zoning board?

Mr. Wax. Dr. Wax.

MR. WAX: Thank you for the presentation. As I recall looking at the tech data sheet, the spreadsheet for the type of turbines you're using, there were a number of different features as options. Is the fire detection and prevention system the main one that you've

used, or are there others?

2.1

2.4

MR. CONLEY: With regards to the features to the turbine, the fire detection and suppression system will be added to all the turbines, that's correct.

MR. WAX: Okay. Are there any other types of systems that are added, any other options that were available?

MR. CONLEY: Well, the turbine already comes equipped with constant monitoring systems for the equipment inside the turbine, as well as the substation equipment that we have that monitor that equipment and makes sure that it stays within the perimeters of safe operations.

MR. WAX: Okay. Do you have a good, brief explanation of -- we do have a fire protection system illustrated by a handheld fire extinguisher. Could you get -- are you aware of and could you get into the detailed parts that are involved in a fire protection -- detection and protection system, and tell us how they work.

MR. CONLEY: So, this independent system will be installed. It's not just a fire extinguisher. It's an independent system that's built inside the nacelle of the wind turbine.

MR. WAX: What parts does it involve other than

parts installed? 1 2 MR. CONLEY: I would have to look at the exact spec sheets on how it's to be designed and set up, but 3 the turbines are to be installed with it. 4 5 MR. WAX: Okay. So -- okay. You would have to look it up, and you don't have direct knowledge of 6 7 exactly how this thing works or what parts are, other than it in theory detects and prevents and suppresses 8 fires before they get out of hand. MR. CONLEY: We will have the spec sheets with 10 11 the turbines on how it operates. 12 MR. WAX: Okay. Okay. Could I ask if you have 13 knowledge of the history of this particular fire protection system as used on this particular unit from 14 15 either your company or the wind farm industry as to how effective this is and how long it's been used? 16 17 MR. CONLEY: I would have to obtain that from the 18 manufacturer of the system. 19 MR. WAX: Okay. So, in order to get that 20 information, you would have to ask the manufacturer of 2.1 the system, is that what you're saying? 22 MR. CONLEY: That's correct. 23 MR. WAX: Okay.

MR. KAINS: Go ahead, Mr. Harrington.

MR. HARRINGTON: So, on that same note, do you by

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chance know the brand, brand name, or any details about
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2
    the make or model of your fire suppression?
           MR. CONLEY: I do, it's called Firetrace.
3
           MR. HARRINGTON: Firetrace.
 4
           MR. CONLEY: That's correct.
5
           MR. HARRINGTON: Is there a model number or
6
7
    anything to attach to it or just Firetrace?
8
           MR. CONLEY: That's the manufacturer of this
9
    system.
10
           MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. Have you installed these
    in any other projects?
11
12
           MR. CONLEY: We have not.
           MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. So, your history with
13
    them is limited in that case?
14
          MR. CONLEY: Yes.
15
16
           MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. So, you mentioned it's
    not an industry standard. Why is that?
17
18
           MR. CONLEY: I don't have an answer to why it's
    not an industry standard.
19
20
           MR. HARRINGTON: Right, but, I mean, logically
2.1
    you see why I'm asking.
22
           MR. CONLEY: I have no knowledge of why it's not
23
    an industry standard at this point.
24
          MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. Another thought in that
25
    same vein, so you said in the event of a fire, I think
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was the example you gave, is that right, that you were recanting from the previous application? MR. CONLEY: From the scenario that Mr. Chambers provided, right. MR. HARRINGTON: Right, so the previous application. What is the definition for you guys of a perimeter maybe for the audience and us as a board maybe you could describe that. You know, is that 300 by 300 feet, is that -- give me some -- some ideas here. MR. CONLEY: I would have to look -- I would have to look at how the Emergency Action Plan is drawed out in coordination with local emergency responders. Typically, that's 150, 200, could be up to 300 meters, but that would be in coordination with local emergency responders and what the safe distance is in the unlikely event that there happens to be one. Right. So, on that note, have MR. HARRINGTON: you gained any sort of contact with the local EMS in regards to this? MR. CONLEY: We have spoke with and/or attempted to speak with all of the local emergency responders for this project.

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MR. HARRINGTON: So not quite yet. You have gotten ahold of a few of them, but not all of them?

MR. CONLEY: We have met with many of them, yes.

MR. HARRINGTON: Do they understand your 1 2 perimeter idea? MR. CONLEY: We have provided them with copies of 3 4 our Emergency Action Plan. 5 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. So, in the unfortunate scenario -- so say your example you gave, a fire in the 6 7 fall, what -- what would the typical protocol be? How would this flow from your end if somebody called in and 8 said: There's a fire on turbine XYZ, then what happens? MR. CONLEY: Well, in the unlikely event that 10 11 were to happen, now this turbine is installed with the 12 detection-suppression system that would put the fire out within a matter of seconds. 13 MR. HARRINGTON: Right, in a matter seconds, but 14 15 the locals would be -- would do what? If they see flames, do they -- is there a phone number they call, is 16 there a website? 17 18 MR. CONLEY: They would call 911. Just like if you saw a fire on somebody's on farm. 19 20 MR. HARRINGTON: That's what I'm getting at. Can 2.1 you step through that? Once 911 gets the call, how do 22 they get ahold of you, or how does this flow? 23 MR. CONLEY: All of that emergency response 24 information is provided to the County emergency response

25

services.

MR. HARRINGTON: So, you can't tell me how that 1 2 goes, you just say it's a protocol and that's it? 3 MR. CONLEY: Well, I mean, I quess I'm not getting what you're asking. When a phone call is made 4 5 to emergency services, they would be notified that something was wrong with a piece of equipment, and 6 7 emergency services, one, has our contact information because we've already provided it to them. They could 8 contact us and have us do anything that we needed to do to isolate and/or respond to the situation, as well as 10 11 they would respond. 12 MR. HARRINGTON: But I think that's what I'm 13 getting at is how do you respond? Do you simply shut it off, or do you have some other tools in the tool bucket 14 15 to help with this matter? 16 MR. CONLEY: Well, the -- in an electrical fire, the first thing we would do is isolate the equipment. 17 18 MR. HARRINGTON: Right. MR. CONLEY: Which would be either, one, carried 19 20 out by the site personnel or carried out by the ROCC. 2.1 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. And then what's step two, if that's step one? 22 23 MR. CONLEY: We'll conduct a visual of the event. 24 MR. HARRINGTON: So, at what point does a person from your organization physically go out to look at this 25

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issue?
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2
           MR. CONLEY: As soon as they're notified.
           MR. HARRINGTON: Is there people on-call for
3
    that?
4
5
           MR. CONLEY: There are people on-call for that.
           MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. So that's good to know.
 6
7
           MR. CONLEY:
                       Yeah.
           MR. HARRINGTON: So, they're close at hand, where
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9
    they could respond, you know --
           MR. CONLEY: In a timely manner, yes, sir.
10
11
           MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. That's good to know.
12
    I guess, you know, thinking that out, you know, I think
    the basis of -- you okay?
13
           MR. CONLEY: I'm good.
14
15
           MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. The basis of
    Mr. Chambers' questions was, you know, time is of the
16
17
    essence in that scenario he gave you. Would you agree?
18
           MR. CONLEY: Yes, I would.
           MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. So, I guess when we think
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20
    about perimeters and how it's managed, I mean chances
2.1
    are if it happens, it's not going to be a calm, damp
22
    day, it's going to be a windy, dry, fall afternoon, and
23
    people that live close in proximity to these are
24
    probably wondering how will this go.
25
           MR. CONLEY: Understood.
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MR. HARRINGTON: That's all I have for now. 1 2 MR. KAINS: Very good. 3 MR. WAX: Could I have one follow-up question? MR. KAINS: Yes, of course, Dr. Wax. 4 5 MR. WAX: Did the company when they made the arrangements to purchase this from -- this option from 6 7 Vestas, did they not give you some sort of a degree or history concerning how effective this is, how it works, 8 and what their past history of effectiveness has been? 10 MR. CONLEY: I have not read through any 11 documentation on that, no. 12 Would anybody have that knowledge in MR. WAX: 13 the company? 14 MR. CONLEY: I don't have an answer to that. 15 MR. WAX: Okay. I do second Mr. Harrington's concern that there needs to be some sort of immediate 16 17 contact and ability of people in the surrounding area to 18 have an immediate number, as opposed to having to call 911 or run into the O&M office to find out what's going 19 20 on. Another question that just occurred to me, with all 2.1 the technology incurred, is it possible that these things may be wired up electronically so that somebody 22 23 would be -- the fire protection -- the detection system

-- detection and suppression system would have the

capability of notifying your office by some means of,

24

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hey, we've got a problem here?
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2
           MR. CONLEY: So that equipment is already
    installed with the turbines and is monitored by either
3
    onsite personnel electronically and/or by the ROCC. So,
4
5
    if there happens to be an anomaly with the turbine, we
    would know about it almost immediately.
 6
7
           MR. WAX: Any kind of anomaly then, abnormal
    situation you would know?
8
           MR. CONLEY: That is correct.
10
           MR. WAX: Okay. Thank you.
11
           MR. KAINS: Any other questions for Mr. Conley
12
    from the zoning board?
           Questions for Mr. Conley from members of units of
13
    local government, including school districts?
14
15
           Questions from other interested parties, members
    of the public opposed to the application or neutral on
16
17
    the application?
18
           Questions for Mr. Conley from Piatt County staff
    and consultants?
19
20
           Excuse me, sir.
2.1
           MR. HENRICKS: Yes.
22
           MR. KAINS: Come on up. Go ahead, sir, have a
23
    seat, and if you could for the record, please state your
24
    name, spelling your first and last name.
25
           MR. HENRICKS: Yes, my name is Todd Henricks,
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T-O-D-D H-E-N-R-I-C-K-S.

2.1

MR. KAINS: Very good. Mr. Henricks, if you could direct questions now to Mr. Conley.

MR. HENRICKS: One thing is, do you know that all of the fire protection districts in the area or project when -- are volunteer?

MR. CONLEY: Yes, sir.

MR. HENRICKS: So, they have to do a page-out for their volunteers and hopefully get enough -- will respond for volunteer. In the case that Mr. Chambers and Mr. Harrington asked, so we have a fall harvest and corn and -- and we have -- we have one of your turbine's prop go on fire, how much time do you think we will get from the volunteer fire department? And I am a 35-years assistant chief for our fire department. I know how hard it gets to get them on duty after they page them out. How many -- how much time do you think you have to have them?

MR. CONLEY: So, I would have to look at, one, where the fire district is located associated with the project, but what I can tell you is with site walkthroughs of bringing volunteer firefighters to the site, letting them walk the turbines and substation down, as well as conducting emergency response rules, we can battle test what those times look like and work

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collaboratively to reduce that as much as possible.
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    I don't have exact times, because I don't know exactly
    where each one of the fire districts is located with
3
    regards to the turbines, but with other projects, that
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5
    is the way that we manage our business is that we stay
6
    in constant communication, we conduct drills, we conduct
7
    site walkthroughs, go through various scenarios.
    could use fire as a scenario and see what that response
8
    time looks like and look at ways to mitigate that and
10
    minimize that as much as possible.
11
           MR. HENRICKS: Well, I appreciate that, but you
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    need to know where these fire stations are before you
13
    start building.
           MR. CONLEY: That is understood. All of that
14
15
    information is built into our Emergency Action Plan
    before construction starts.
16
17
           MR. HENRICKS: Okay.
                                  Thank you.
18
           MR. CONLEY: You bet.
19
           MR. KAINS: Thank you, Mr. Henricks.
20
           Any other questions from the public for
2.1
    Mr. Conley?
22
           Piatt County staff and consultants. Oh, yes,
23
    sir. Come on up.
2.4
           MR. STILLABOWER: Hello.
25
           MR. KAINS: Hi. I remember you from last time,
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but I've forgotten your name. So, if you could, please state your name, spelling first and last names for the record.

MR. STILLABOWER: Okay. First name is Chris, last name Stillabower, C-H-R-I-S S-T-I-L-L-A-B-O-W-E-R.

MR. KAINS: Very good, Mr. Stillabower.

Questions for Mr. Conley.

2.1

MR. STILLABOWER: Okay. First one I was going to ask about if there were -- we've been talking about fire, so I was wondering how your on-call coverage works. Like, you guys have like one person on-call for just Piatt County, or would you have one person on-call for surrounding areas, too, or how does that work?

MR. CONLEY: I'd have to look at the exact operating agreement associated with how this is going to run. Historically, there is one on-call person for Apex for the entire project for a 24-hour period, and then there's also site technicians with the turbine manufacturers that would be on-call as well.

MR. STILLABOWER: Okay. I guess I was just kind of wondering like with a lot of on-call duties, like you have a certain response time, like you have a half hour to answer a call or, you know, say it's three o'clock in the morning, and if you guys have -- I don't know where all your other -- I'm going to call them properties,

other turbines are throughout the state, so I mean like if they're up, say, in Ford County.

2.1

MR. CONLEY: No, so our Remote Operations Control Center operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. So, that's one method of contacting Apex in the event something happens. So, there's always that number that's been provided. As far as the onsite, it is project specific.

MR. STILLABOWER: Okay. The other question I had was in the event the monitor -- so I think you call it R-O-C-C?

MR. CONLEY: The ROCC, that's correct.

MR. STILLABOWER: So, if the ROCC loses communication with the turbine, for example, I don't know weather, or I assume they're using like Wi-Fi -- not Wi-Fi, but like cell signal or something. If they were to lose connection, like sensors fail, things break, would it know -- is it smart enough to shut itself down because it doesn't know what's going on, or what does it do?

MR. CONLEY: If the Remote Operation Control

Center loses visibility to the turbines, they know

immediately, and then we would contact the OEM, which in

this case is Vestas, to see if they have visibility of

the turbines, and -- but the equipment will -- if it's

not being monitored, it can shut itself down, that's correct.

2.1

MR. STILLABOWER: So, it has a safety mechanism?

MR. CONLEY: That is correct.

MR. STILLABOWER: Okay. Okay, and then I had a question in regards to the access roads. So, up in Bellflower, north of Mansfield, I can't remember which company that is, but a lot of the access roads at least last time I looked, they're not marked off, they're not blocked off, they're not roped off, like you could just drive in on them. I mean, people could drive in on them, they could come back, you know, like say they're going to use it as a turn-around, come back on the road. There's no signs, like yield signs or anything. So, I mean, that could cause accidents. So, I was wondering, are you going to gate them off, rope them off, do something like that with these access roads?

MR. CONLEY: That would be in agreement with the landowner and how they -- if they have gates or they don't have gates.

MR. STILLABOWER: Okay. So, it's up to the landowner.

MR. CONLEY: And as far as those turbines, I don't know the manufacture, how the -- or the project owner, how they identify them, but our turbines are

identified, and, you know, access is agreed upon by whatever the landowner wants.

2.1

MR. STILLABOWER: Okay. A lot of those up there, they come out to the main road. Actually, I ended up -- I was up in Bellflower, and I ended up going on one of the roads I think by mistake. Actually, I think it was one of the new roads they built. It wasn't the actual access roads, but it's very confusing, so trying to prevent that, and also had a question about the laydown yard. So, when you guys are doing construction, are you going to like not be moving stuff during, like let's say like seven to nine, because there is a lot of buses on the road, kids going to school. Have you thought about like certain hours of the day like not doing movement of the big blades and stuff?

MR. HESS: Are you finished?

MR. STILLABOWER: Yeah.

MR. KAINS: Mr. Hess.

MR. HESS: Yes, sir, Mr. Kains. Mr. Kains, I would respectfully object, beyond the scope of Mr. Conley's presentation. It was really a question that I believe is as to yesterday's presentation as far as construction schedule. I didn't hear Mr. Stillabower sort of have any concerns from a safety perspective about the laydown. If there are, I think that's a fair

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question, but as far as the construction schedule, I
1
2
    think that's beyond the scope of Mr. Conley's
    presentation.
3
           MR. KAINS: It is. I'm going to sustain the
 4
5
    objection.
6
           Mr. Stillabower, you can ask this gentleman any
7
    questions about safety with respect to the laydown yard,
    but he's not the guy for the construction schedule, so
8
    you can go ahead and ask him another question.
           MR. STILLABOWER: Okay. So, a lot of our kids
10
11
    are in school buses and stuff on 150. You guys have a
12
    laydown yard there. So, I'm wondering how you're going
    to maintain their safety during the construction of the
13
14
    project.
15
           MR. CONLEY: Last time Mr. Carlson spoke of
    constant communication with the local communities, as
16
17
    well as the local road use authority on schedules. All
18
    that will be communicated to the site personnel and what
19
    those schedules will look like, and they'll adjust
20
    accordingly.
2.1
           MR. STILLABOWER: Okay. Thank you. That's all I
22
          So, thank you, guys. I appreciate it.
23
           MR. KAINS:
                       Thank you, Mr. Stillabower.
24
           MR. STILLABOWER: Thank you, sir.
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MR. KAINS: Any other questions from the public

for Mr. Conley? 1 2 I do believe I asked for Piatt County staff and 3 consultants questions. We have none. Redirect. 4 MS. ANTONIOLLI: Sure. Thank you. Just a few 5 6 questions. 7 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. ANTONIOLLI: 8 Q. Mr. Conley, you mentioned the ROCC or the R-O-C-C. Can you explain what that means, just the full 10 11 acronym? 12 A. Sure. The ROCC is the Remote Operations Control Center. It is located in Charlottesville, Virginia, and 13 it is a manned facility that oversees all our sites from 14 a technical standpoint 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 15 365 days a year. 16 17 Q. Okay. Thanks, and Firetrace is not a Vestas 18 company, is it? 19 A. That's correct, it is independent from Vestas. 20 Q. And does Vestas make a comparable fire detection 2.1 and suppression system? 22 A. I have not seen the fire suppression/detection 23 system that Vestas has.

Q. So, you would -- went somewhere else to another

company to find a system that would --

2.4

- 1 A. That is correct.
  - Q. -- that would do that?
  - A. That is correct.
  - Q. And that -- what was the purpose of finding this detection -- the fire detection and suppression system for this particular project?
  - A. One for the safety of the equipment, but it was also part of the requirements --
  - Q. Okay.

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- A. -- for the project.
- Q. Yeah, and are you familiar with the Emergency
  Management Plan that was submitted as part of the
  application?
- 14 A. I have seen it.
- Q. That was submitted as appendices or Appendix 3E?
- 16 A. I believe that's correct.
- Q. Okay. I'll come up and show it to you. I just
  want to go over and have you read a little section out
  of it about signage and what information is going to be
  provided.
  - UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Excuse me, but we're having trouble hearing back here. I don't think the mic is turned on.
- MR. KAINS: I believe the mic is on, but its placement is not quite where it needs to be.

MS. ANTONIOLLI: Thank you. Sorry, my legs are a little shorter. I'm trying to reach over here. Okay, here, this is much better.

Q. Can you read for me that section about information signs?

2.1

A. Yes. Prosperity Wind will post information signs, which are turbine placards --

MR. KAINS: Mr. Conley, just slow down just a little bit.

A. Sorry. That will include the turbine ID number and the phone number for the owner's operation control center, which is the ROCC, 24-7 operation desk. Signage will also be placed at the project substation and O&M building with the same contact information. If called, the operator will take action, notifying the on-call technician if needed, initiating the Emergency Action Plan, local emergency responders, the zoning administrator. The county board members will be given an up-to-date map prior to construction showing the equipment location in relation to all public roads.

MS. ANTONIOLLI: Okay. Thank you.

MR. KAINS: All right. Based upon those questions and Mr. Conley's responses, are there any questions from the zoning board for Mr. Conley?

Mr. Harrington.

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MR. HARRINGTON: Yeah. So, in regards to safety
1
2
    and/or protocols, one thing that I forgot to ask you was
    occasionally we see some of these turbines, whether they
3
    are yours or not yours, I don't know, with leaks, oil
 4
5
    leaks. What is your protocol? How do you contain them,
    clean up?
              What can you tell me about that?
6
7
           MR. CONLEY: So, each project is required to have
    an SPCC plan, which would include the turbines. So --
8
    which is Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures.
           MR. HARRINGTON: So, can you describe that to me?
10
11
    Like let's say hypothetically one leaks, what happens?
12
           MR. CONLEY: Well, the technicians go and inspect
    the turbine and figure out where the leak is coming from
13
    and respond and try to -- you know, repair it.
14
15
           MR. HARRINGTON: Right. So you stop the leak,
    right?
16
17
           MR. CONLEY: Yeah.
18
           MR. HARRINGTON: What about the oil that's
19
    already made its way to the ground? What about that?
20
           MR. CONLEY: That's part -- part of the response
2.1
    of that is contained in the SPCC plan on how they would
22
    respond to that --
23
           MR. HARRINGTON: Right.
24
           MR. CONLEY: -- with regards to --
25
           MR. HARRINGTON: I don't have that memorized.
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Can you tell me what it is?
1
2
           MR. CONLEY: I haven't seen the SPCC plan for
3
    this project.
           MR. HARRINGTON: You haven't seen this one?
 4
           MR. CONLEY: I have not.
5
           MR. HARRINGTON: So, what do they do in other
6
    plans? Do they remove the dirt? Do they do anything?
7
    I don't know.
8
           MR. CONLEY: I believe that's a question for
    somebody with more of an environmental background, but
10
11
    historically, yes, they would go -- whatever the SPCC
12
    plan dictates with regards to response to any spills,
    that's how they would manage that.
13
14
           MR. HARRINGTON: Can you get back to us?
15
           MR. CONLEY: Absolutely.
           MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. Back to a fire, you had
16
17
    referenced Mr. Chambers' scenario/synopsis, and at the
18
    time, you had said, because, correct me if I am wrong,
    in the previous application, fire suppression was not
19
20
    part of it, right?
2.1
           MR. CONLEY: That's correct.
22
           MR. HARRINGTON: It is now, I think we've
23
    established that.
24
           MR. CONLEY: That's correct.
25
           MR. HARRINGTON: But in the previous ones since
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you referenced it at the time, I had some notes that, 1 2 correct me if I am wrong, that mentioned the best scenario was to let it burn out; is that correct? 3 4 MR. CONLEY: Previously. 5 MR. HARRINGTON: Right. Previously. Is that 6 right? 7 MR. CONLEY: That's what I recall in the conversation, that's correct. 8 MR. HARRINGTON: Do you still have that same opinion? Has something changed now that you have fire 10 11 suppression, or is there a different dynamic involved? 12 MR. CONLEY: Well, if the turbines are equipped with a fire detection and suppression system, the 13 likelihood of one catching on fire is almost nil. 14 15 MR. HARRINGTON: Right, but in the unfortunate happenstance that your fire suppression works, and the 16 17 fire is too far gone, that's what I think these local 18 residents are concerned about is, hey, how does this get 19 controlled? What do we do? 20 MR. CONLEY: Then that's something that's built 2.1 in once again in the Emergency Action Plan. We have 22 conversations with local emergency responders on how we 23 respond to that in a safe manner and minimize the impact 24 to the public. 25 MR. HARRINGTON: Do you train the EMS volunteer

folks on this process? 1 MR. CONLEY: On? 2 MR. HARRINGTON: On your action plan. 3 MR. CONLEY: They have copies of it, yes, and 4 5 they go through and help us build it. MR. HARRINGTON: They have copies, but do you 6 7 like have trained personnel to show them: Hey, here's what you can do; here is the safe way about it. 8 MR. CONLEY: That would be part of the site walkthroughs is taking the Emergency Action Plan with 10 11 the local emergency responders, doing a site walkthrough 12 for the turbines, for the substation equipment, and identifying what those response protocols look like. 13 MR. HARRINGTON: And then as time goes on the 14 15 life of the project, are these EMS folks trained with: Hey, this is going to be a problem -- you know, here's 16 some things to look for as the project gets older? 17 18 MR. CONLEY: We conduct, once again, constant communication and annual drills with site personnel. 19 20 MR. HARRINGTON: Right, and who would be the EMS 2.1 or the volunteer department's contact, would it be the site guy you have at the project or some other soul in a 22 23 different location? 24 MR. CONLEY: No, the facility manager for the 25 project is the primary contact.

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1
           MR. HARRINGTON: He's the go-to for any and
2
    everything?
3
           MR. CONLEY: That's correct.
           MR. HARRINGTON: And will you provide the local
 4
    districts with that, or will they have to seek it out?
5
6
           MR. CONLEY: No, that's built into the Emergency
7
    Action Plan, and it's posted at the O&M.
8
           MR. HARRINGTON: I know it's in the plan, but
9
    what I'm saying is, is Apex taking the step above and
10
    beyond to make sure that those folks have that
11
    information, not: Hey, it's on a board, or it's on our
    website?
12
           MR. CONLEY: That would be part of the constant
13
    communication with the local entities is making sure
14
    that there was face-to-face contact.
15
16
           MR. CONLEY: Okay. Very good.
17
           MR. WAX: I have one more follow-up question.
18
           MR. KAINS: Yes, Dr. Wax.
19
           MR. WAX: Somehow, I'm not entirely sure, I guess
20
    it doesn't make much difference, but for my curiosity
2.1
    here, is this a Vestas option, or is this a third-party
22
    addition to the system?
23
           MR. CONLEY: The Firetrace is an independent
24
    system.
25
           MR. WAX: It's an independent system --
```

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MR. CONLEY: That's correct.
1
2
           MR. WAX: -- from somebody else?
           MR. CONLEY:
                        That's correct.
3
 4
           MR. WAX:
                    Okay. Okay. When these events from
5
    your knowledge, or what you've been told apparently,
    when this goes off and saying, okay, a fire is detected
6
7
    and suppressed, what actually happens at that point?
                                                           Ιs
8
    there typically some damage and your group comes out and
    fixes the problem, starts all over, or what is the
    scenario at that point in time?
10
11
           MR. CONLEY: It would depend on what type of
12
    event that it is, but the suppression system activates,
13
    does what it's supposed to do, puts out a potential
    fire, and then, you know, we would know about the
14
15
    equipment being offline, and then we would go inspect
    what needed to be inspected and needed to be repaired.
16
17
           MR. WAX: You would take it offline at that point
18
    in time, inspect it thoroughly, and restart the system?
19
                        That's correct,
           MR. CONLEY:
20
           MR. WAX: Okay. Thank you.
2.1
           MR. KAINS:
                       Mr. Harrington.
22
           MR. HARRINGTON:
                            So, I just happened to think of
23
    it, so this suppression system, what is it?
    chemical based; is it water based? What is it?
2.4
25
           MR. CONLEY: I'd have to look at the spec sheet
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with regard to what type of chemicals they use.
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2
           MR. HARRINGTON: Can you get back to me?
           MR. CONLEY: Absolutely.
3
           MR. HARRINGTON:
                            That's it.
 4
5
           MR. KAINS: All right. Very good.
           Thank you, Mr. Conley. You may step down, but
 6
7
    you will be subject to recall by the board. You'll be
    here all -- the whole hearing, correct?
8
           MR. CONLEY: That's correct.
10
           (Whereupon the witness was excused.)
11
           MR. KAINS: Okay. Very good.
12
           Mr. Hess.
13
           MR. HESS: Mr. Kains, may we have just a moment?
    May we have just a moment? We might be able to provide
14
15
    an answer to Mr. Harrington's question right now if we
    could have just a moment.
16
17
           MR. KAINS: All right. Very good.
18
           MS. ANTONIOLLI:
                           Yeah, we'd like to answer those
    questions. Recall Adam Carlson.
19
20
           MR. KAINS: All right. That would be great.
2.1
           All right. Mr. Carlson, this is just a reminder.
    Do you understand you are still under oath from last
22
23
    night's testimony?
2.4
           MR. CARLSON: Yes, sir.
           MR. KAINS: Okay. If you could for Courtnay
25
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since she is new tonight, if you could give her your 1 2 name, spelling your first and last for the record. MR. CARLSON: It's Adam Carlson, A-D-A-M 3 C-A-R-L-S-O-N. 4 5 MR. KAINS: All right. You may proceed, 6 Ms. Antoniolli. 7 MS. ANTONIOLLI: Thank you. DIRECT EXAMINATION 8 9 BY MS. ANTONIOLLI: Adam Carlson, thank you. Can you tell us how the 10 Ο. 11 Firetrace fire detection and suppression system works? 12 Yes, ma'am. So, I've been the one working with Α. Firetrace to install this -- this system. You're 13 correct that Vestas doesn't have this option for a 14 15 16 17

Firetrace to install this -- this system. You're correct that Vestas doesn't have this option for a fire-suppression system, it's just the detection piece. So, even they've had to go to a third party to install a fire-suppression system. The Firetrace system, there's three places where it's installed up tower in the nacelle, and those are the only three places where a fire could actually occur, would be the switchgear -- so just think of electrical cabinets -- the transformer room in the back of the nacelle, and then the gearbox. If a fire were to happen in the nacelle, this system, it's a set of tubing that runs inside the cabinet or in the transformer room, and it's actually a pressure

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switch that's activated. It's -- I would say it's like a rubber tubing. When that rubber tubing ruptures, that will activate the pressure switch, and then the -- it's like Halon or CO2. It's just disbursed all over the inside of the nacelle. The specific type of fluid that this company Firetrace uses actually protects the electrical equipment. It wouldn't damage it for the long term, so that in a sense answers another question, where -- well, what do we do after there is a fire? Well, we would go back in and investigate, well, what equipment is damaged, what needs to be replaced, but at the end of the day, it will be very minimal, the amount of equipment that needs to be replaced compared to something -- to some type of extinguishing agent that would ruin all of the electrical equipment. So, yeah, it's a pretty smart design. It's all -- it's connected back to the Remote Operation Center like we talked about before, but I think the issues in the past if it's simply just a fire detection, yes, there will be an alarm that's raised, and we can cut power, but who knows in any of these given situations if somebody wasn't paying attention or something, like I don't know what exactly happened that caused fires in the past, but this will be much more immediate, and it will immediately extinguish any oxygen in the nacelle, and that is one of

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the key pieces of the fire detector. For any fire
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    fighter in the room, you know that the fuel, oxygen,
    heat, those are all needed to keep a fire going. So, if
3
    you remove any of those, then the fire is out, and Jason
 4
5
    is definitely right, the first thing you do is cut
    power. So, this is all -- this is all intertwined now,
6
7
    and a few other statistics about Firetrace, they are --
    they are retrofitting a lot of turbines around America.
8
    Just in Illinois alone, there might only be 7 to 10
    percent of turbines that have a fire suppression on it,
10
11
    but you can be quaranteed that all 50 turbines here at
    Prosperity Wind will have that detection and suppression
12
    system installed on it.
13
           MR. WAX: Where are -- do you mind if I ask a
14
15
    question?
16
           MS. ANTONIOLLI:
                            No.
17
           MR. KAINS: Ms. Antoniolli, do have you any other
18
    questions for Mr. Carlson?
19
           MR. WAX:
                     I'm sorry.
20
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: No, that's all, please go ahead.
2.1
           MR. KAINS: Okay. Very good.
22
           Mr. Wax, please go ahead.
23
           MR. WAX:
                     Where is this particular system
24
    manufactured and by whom?
25
           MR. CARLSON: I don't have that answer.
```

1 MR. WAX: Okay. Back to an earlier question to 2 -- for you to know about this, does somebody have to call in, or is there a system built in that when 3 4 something goes wrong with this system, when it takes 5 off, okay, hey, we need to put -- we need -- there's a fire, we need to do it, are you -- is somebody 6 electronically notified so that you have immediate 7 information? 8 MR. CARLSON: Yes, within a second. 10 MR. WAX: Okay. 11 MR. CARLSON: Because it is actually connected to 12 the existing fire detection system, all are like electrically connected there --13 14 MR. WAX: Okay. MR. CARLSON: -- back to the --15 MR. WAX: What do you have to do then to so-call 16 17 recharge the system, get everything cleaned up, get it 18 ready to go so you feel comfortable about, okay, it's going to work the next time? 19 20 MR. CARLSON: That's a great question, and we did 2.1 go over that in a meeting with Firetrace. It's way

simpler than even I thought. They just replace the

tubing, the -- that rubber tubing that I told you about,

and then I don't think they would recharge the existing

canister/cylinder, but they just put a new one in there.

22

23

24

So, that alone would be a very simple replacement and 1 2 then replace any switchgear that was damaged. MR. WAX: To your knowledge, did you get any 3 information from the company as to how these -- where 4 5 these are placed around the country and what their history is concerning how effective they are in 6 7 detecting and suppressing fires? 8 MR. CARLSON: Yes. They have all that 9 information listed on their website in different statistics and metrics. 10 11 MR. WAX: Is there any way you could kind of put 12 that in a very brief form so I don't have to look up a website here? 13 14 MR. CARLSON: Yes. Yes, we can definitely 15 provide that. 16 MR. WAX: Thank you. 17 MR. CARLSON: You're welcome, sir. 18 MR. KAINS: Mr. Harrington, do you have questions for Mr. Carlson with respect to the workings of the fire 19 20 detection and suppression system? 2.1 MR. HARRINGTON: Correct. Yeah, so you mentioned 22 CO2 gas, right? That's the apparent suppressing feature 23 of it. Obviously, if you have a fire, you'd have to 24 recharge it, but is there any maintenance on an annual

basis? Do they -- does Firetrace when you contract with

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them, do they say: Hey, we'll be out once every 12
1
2
    months, six months to make sure that this properly
    functioning or is charged fully?
3
           MR. CARLSON: Yes, sir -- yeah, that's a great
 4
5
    question. There is a maintenance frequency, but I don't
    know -- I can't remember if it's 12, 18 months.
6
7
           MR. HARRINGTON: Do you know if your project is
    contracted with that?
8
           MR. CARLSON: Yes, we would have -- and, again, a
    warrantee period on everything as well. Yeah, so, it
10
11
    will be a routine maintenance schedule, yes.
12
           MR. HARRINGTON: So, I know you don't have that
13
    memorized. Can you get back to us with what that would
    be?
14
15
           MR. CARLSON: Yes, sir.
           MR. HARRINGTON: All right. Good. You know, I
16
    think that's good. I got to be honest, you mentioned
17
    it, you said that -- what was the statistic, one -- or 7
18
    percent or something of Illinois turbines -- it doesn't
19
20
    matter, all I'm getting at is why not? Why has this not
2.1
    been a standard feature for a long time?
22
           MR. CARLSON: My answer would only be
23
    speculative.
24
          MR. HARRINGTON: Sure, I get it, but when you
25
    look at the size and scale of this project, millions,
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billions of dollars, and we're just now getting to the point of, hey, let's do this.

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MR. CARLSON: Yeah. So, I think -- I think very -- maybe what people were thinking about even 10 years ago or something is the probability is extremely low, and if there were to be a fire, we would just cut power remotely, and that's going to put it out, but obviously we've seen there have been cases of that. I mean, there might be, what, 90,000 turbines in the country, and there might have been a few fires, just a few, among all of those, and maybe it was internally caused or maybe a lightning strike and there wasn't a good grounding system or something, but I think -- I think that it's -that it's important to like continually learn and improve on things, and that happens in any industry. So, this is just one of those prime examples where we're learning and improving on what had been done in the past.

MR. HARRINGTON: I agree, but I think since you mentioned last night you're an east-central Illinois native --

MR. CARLSON: Uh-huh (affirmative).

MR. HARRINGTON: -- and you understand that the time of year we are most concerned with obviously there is a high vulnerability in the exact location you're

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planning to place these, right, and the other thing
1
    would be, we don't doubt that the likelihood of fire is
2
    low or possibly zero, but as you no doubt understand, if
3
    it would occur, there would be very little time to
 4
    respond, and it will probably spread rapidly. Would you
5
6
    agree?
7
           MR. CARLSON:
                         I would agree with that, yes, sir.
8
           MR. HARRINGTON:
                             Right.
9
           MR. CARLSON: Yes. Yeah, I would agree.
10
           MR. HARRINGTON:
                             Thank you.
11
           MR. KAINS: Thank you.
12
           Questions for Mr. Carlson with respect to the
13
    fire detection and suppression system with what the
    scope of his testimony is tonight? Questions for him
14
    along that from members of units of local government,
15
    including school districts?
16
17
           Questions for Mr. Carlson again on fire
18
    suppression and protection from members of the public?
19
           Mr. Hartke.
20
           MR. KAINS: Could you please state your name,
2.1
    spelling your first and last for the court reporter?
22
           MR. HARTKE: My name is Ted Hartke, T-E-D
23
    H-A-R-T-K-E.
2.4
           MR. KAINS: Go right ahead, Mr. Hartke.
25
           MR. HARTKE: On the fire suppression system, the
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CO2, it's all gas? Is it a powder or all just gas?
1
2
           MR. CARLSON: It's -- it's a liquid.
                                                 It's called
3
    -- I said like CO2 or Halon system, but it's called 3M
    Novec 1230 fire-protection fluid. The example that this
4
5
    company shows even in a picture is that they have
6
    something that's electronic emersed in the fluid and
7
    it's still operating, but it will suck all the oxygen
    out of the nacelle in those areas where there might be a
8
    fire.
10
           MR. HARTKE: Okay. So, if the fire starts --
11
    tell me if my scenario is okay. If a fire starts, the
12
    fire causes these hoses to rupture. Is there rubber or
    thin what?
13
14
           MR. CARLSON: Yeah, it's like a thin rubber, yes.
15
           MR. HARTKE: And where the rupture happens,
    that's where all this gas is suddenly sprayed out.
16
                                                         Ιs
17
    there nozzles or anything like that? It's something out
18
    of a hose?
19
           MR. CARLSON: It's -- it's -- it's not out of a
20
    hose, it's out of the -- it's out of the canister.
2.1
    hose is just placed in kind of like a snake pattern
22
    either in the transformer room, in the switchgear
23
    section.
              Once -- once that hose ruptures anywhere,
24
    boom, the whole nacelle gets covered in this fluid.
25
          MR. HARTKE:
                        Okay.
```

MR. CARLSON: It won't be -- it won't be -- it 1 2 won't be localized, that's how I should answer that. MR. HARTKE: Are the nacelles -- to keep them 3 from overheating and keep all these things running cool, 4 5 does the nacelle have like a fan, a ventilation system that's keeping everything cool? 6 7 MR. CARLSON: Yes, and --MR. HARTKE: I'll tell you where my question is 8 9 going. It's not your question, I think. If the nacelle is a system that has fans and ventilation and stuff, how 10 11 is this material staying present long enough that the fans and the cooling and the open air just doesn't let 12 13 this liquid dissipate? This is a one-time, immediate squirt only, and then it's over? 14 15 MR. CARLSON: That's right, yes. 16 MR. HARTKE: Okay. 17 But the probability of an MR. CARLSON: 18 instantaneous, large fire happening is I would say zero. 19 It's going to start very small, and it would actually 20 start mainly from just very intense heat, and even that 2.1 alone could rupture that rubber tubing. 22 MR. HARTKE: Okay. This is a point of order. Ιs 23 the other gentleman answering safety questions, is he 24 still coming back, because this gentleman took over when 25 he couldn't answer a question.

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MR. KAINS: Well, Mr. Conley was excused, and he
1
2
    stepped down from the stand.
3
           MR. HARTKE: Okay.
                       So, Mr. Conley is done unless he is
 4
           MR. KAINS:
    recalled by counsel for Prosperity Wind or if he is
5
6
    recalled by the zoning board.
7
           MR. HARTKE: Okay. The next question -- I'll
    just spill the beans, the next one is about a lightning
8
    evacuation area, so that's my next question, and I
10
    thought the safety guy would be who I would ask that
11
    question to.
12
           MR. KAINS: He's already had his
    cross-examination.
13
14
           MR. HARTKE: Thank you. Have a good evening.
           MR. KAINS: Thank you, Mr. Hartke.
15
16
           Any other questions with respect to the fire
17
    detection and suppression system for Mr. Carlson?
18
           Questions from Piatt County staff and
19
    consultants?
20
           Any redirect from counsel?
2.1
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: No.
22
           MR. KAINS: Okay. Very good.
23
           And finally questions from the zoning board?
24
           Thank you, Mr. Carlson.
           MR. CARLSON: Thank you, sir.
25
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(Whereupon the witness was excused.)
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2
           MR. KAINS: Call your next witness.
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: Thank you. Now, on behalf of
3
    Prosperity Wind, I'd like to call Brie Anderson,
4
    director of project permitting.
5
           Okay. If we take -- if we could have one minute
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7
    before Brie starts, we would like to distribute some
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    exhibits.
           MR. KAINS: Absolutely.
10
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: And we'd like to admit the
11
    slides from Adam Carlson -- no, Jason Conley into the
12
    record, and that would be Applicant's Group Exhibit No.
    11.
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           MR. KAINS: Applicant's Group Exhibit 11 will be
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    admitted into the record.
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16
           Now, Ms. Anderson, if you could raise your right
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    hand to be sworn by the court reporter.
18
                          BRIE ANDERSON
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    called as a witness, being first duly sworn, was
    examined and testified as follows:
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2.1
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: And we have one more exhibit to
    offer.
22
23
           MR. KAINS: All right.
24
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: Just give us one more minute --
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           MR. KAINS: That's all right.
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MS. ANTONIOLLI: -- and we'll give you
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2
    Ms. Anderson's slides so you can refer to them during
3
    her presentation.
           MR. KAINS: I was jumping ahead so we could kill
4
    two birds with one document.
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           MS. ANTONIOLLI: Oh, yes, you do have them all.
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    Thank you.
8
           MR. KAINS: We're all set?
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: Yes.
           MR. KAINS: Ms. Anderson, if you could, please
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    state your name, spelling your first and last names for
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12
    the court reporter.
           MS. ANDERSON: Sure. Brie Anderson, B-R-I-E
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    A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N.
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           MR. KAINS: Very good. Thank you.
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           Ms. Antoniolli, do you have questions, or will
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    this be a presentation?
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           MS. ANTONIOLLI: This will be a presentation, but
    I understand you have Ms. Anderson's slides now.
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    would like to officially move them into the record as
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    Applicant's Group Exhibit No. 12.
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           MR. KAINS: Exhibit 12 will be admitted into the
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    record.
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          Go ahead, Ms. Anderson.
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          MS. ANDERSON: Great. Thank you. Almost exactly
```

one year ago, Apex Clean Energy submitted a special use permit for the Goose Creek project. That application was filed under and met this County's prior wind ordinance and state law. In January, a new state law passed that makes clear wind projects are an appropriate use in agricultural areas. Under the new law, counties may not adopt standards for commercial wind energy facilities that are more restrictive than the standards that are now set forth in the Illinois County Code. As a result of the new state law in May, Piatt County updated its ordinance to comply with the law. Prosperity Wind project special use permit application was therefore submitted under the new state law and this County's updated ordinance after this fundamental change in law. Next slide.

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The new wind siting statute states in part: A request for a special use permit for a commercial wind energy facility shall be approved if the request is in compliance with the standards and conditions imposed in this act, the zoning ordinance adopted consistent with this code and the conditions imposed under state and federal statutes and regulations. This board also adopted the -- updated their WECS ordinance in May and adopted the same language: The county board shall approve.

Ladies and gentlemen, Piatt County shall approve this application if it meets all the technical requirements, and it does. Let me show you how.

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Let's start with turbine setbacks since these are a major driver in where turbines are sited. Turbine setbacks are shown on maps in appendices B3 and B4 of our application, and you don't even have to go there, they're also on that poster right over there.

All turbines are sited to meet the WECS ordinance and the wind siting statute setbacks. As an example, the setback for non-participating residences is 1,282 feet. The closest turbine is 1,669 feet. We exceed the required setback by nearly 400 feet or approximately one football field. Similarly, the setback for non-participating parcels is 672 feet. The closest turbine is over a thousand feet, also nearly one football field further than required. Not only are the turbines in the Prosperity Wind project sited to meet Piatt County's WECS ordinance and the wind siting statute requirements, but they in fact also meet your prior ordinance. Look, you guys, there was a lot of speculation after the Goose Creek hearings that we were going to move turbines closer to non-participating residences or parcels, increase turbine heights by over a hundred feet, because you can no longer limit turbine

height, or use upwards of 90 turbine positions, and we could do have done any of those things. Instead, we're honoring our commitments related to turbine setbacks, and those are clearly demonstrated in our application and on that poster. Next slide.

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By your ordinance and the wind siting statute, turbine sound must comply with the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulations. The Prosperity Wind project complies with local and state law even with three conservative modeling assumptions. First, the modeling adds a two-decibel adjustment factor to the sound power level. This means that we have modeled the turbines with sound power levels that are two decibels higher than even the turbine manufacturer specifications. the model assumes that all turbines are always operating at the maximum sound emission, which doesn't happen, and, three, the model assumes that all receptors are downwind from every turbine, which is not meteorologically possible. These conservative model assumptions are consistent with the wind turbine sound modeling standard used by noise control engineering professionals. The sound report is included in Appendix E5 of this application and clearly demonstrates that turbine sound is below the IPCB limits at residential properties. During the Goose Creek hearing, we received some feedback about relating turbine sounds to residents. We have Eddie Duncan here, a board-certified noise control engineer, who conducted the sound analysis, and he's given me a comparison. Think of conversational speech. The one of conversations that many of you were having before this hearing started tonight. The IPCB limit is half as loud as conversational speech, and that is the sound level you can expect at about 45 decibels.

2.1

Let's look at another example. Shadow flicker.

Your ordinance and the new state law requires residences and community buildings to receive no more than 30 hours of shadow flicker per year unless the owner has signed a waiver. The shadow flicker modeling report in Appendix E4 clearly demonstrates that all residences participating or not and occupied community buildings will receive less than 30 hours of shadow flicker per year. The project therefore complies with local and state law. Additionally, even though the law allows for waivers of the shadow flicker limits, this project is sited that no waivers are needed.

You might recall that for Goose Creek, we had one primary structure that exceeded 30 hours of shadow flicker per year and did require a waiver. Prosperity is even better because we've reduced the footprint so

that no residences or community buildings receive more than the limit and no waivers are required. The result is clear, and Piatt County has certainty on shadow flicker. Prosperity Wind project complies with this law.

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There's our commitment to include fire-suppression systems in each turbine. You just heard from Jason and Adam about the redundant systems and procedures in place for the unlikely event of a fire -- and let me pause on this point, because it came up a lot during the Goose Creek hearings and even tonight. We heard you for Goose Creek, and we agreed to a permit condition that required fire suppression. are standing by that commitment for Prosperity Wind. the same way that we have redundant systems in place for fire, we also have that for ice. First, all turbines will have ice-detection systems that will shut down turbines when icing or thawing events are detected, and, second, the project will utilize a combination of meteorological and ice sensors to determine whether ice accumulation is even likely. In either case of fire or ice, turbine sensors can shut down turbines, the local staff can shut down turbines, or staff at the ROCC, a Remote Operations Control Center, can shut down turbines.

Prosperity Wind is so far developed and so far engineered and designed that Piatt County can have certainty. Let's take a step back. We can -- why can we be so certain that Prosperity Wind meets all of these technical requirements? I've been permitting renewable energy projects just like this one for over 15 years all across the country. My job is to take a project and draft a permit application that ensures the project meets all of the requirements. I need to demonstrate that a project meets all these requirements, because it's the transformation of a project as an idea or a concept to a project as a sound, compliant certainty and one that we can build, own, and operate.

2.1

Apex prides itself on having projects that are well designed, well engineered, and that are safe and compliant. Not every company works this way. Part of why I joined Apex a couple years ago was because I wanted to be a permit writer for such a project, and I was. That project was called Goose Creek Wind. Goose Creek met all of the Piatt County technical requirements. Even Mr. Matt Minder of Patrick Engineering acknowledged this at the Goose Creek hearing when he said we had checked all of the boxes.

After the Piatt County Board denied the Goose Creek permit, we kept working. We developed a new

project, Prosperity Wind, on the strong foundation that

-- of Goose Creek. For example, Prosperity Wind has a
complete set of Road Use Agreements ready to be signed
because they are the Goose Creek Road Use Agreements.

Prosperity Wind had a Natural Resource Impact Assessment
that includes an evaluation by HLR of every culvert in
the project site. This was possible because HLR had
already started examining the project site for Goose
Creek. Prosperity Wind has a drainage plan for both
public and private drainage systems, because we had to
figure out all of those technical issues for Goose
Creek. In all of my time as a permit writer, I have
never seen a project with this much certainty at this
stage of permitting.

2.1

Let me show you all of the additional information that is in the Prosperity Wind application that was not in the Goose Creek application. We include a landscape plan for the project substation and O&M facility. We have clear, demonstrated avoidance of protected lands in Appendix B5. Your ordinance now requires an applicant to produce notice of a project and a copy of the site plan to the Mahomet Valley Water Aquaphor Authority.

Not only did we do that, but we went three steps further. At the Goose Creek hearings, Ms. Rupiper and several members of the public wondered why we hadn't

done a well drawndown study. Well, included in our application and also provided to Ms. Rupiper, as attorney for Mahomet Valley Water Aquaphor Authority, a drawdown study that demonstrates the project can be expected to have minimal impact on the Mahomet Aquaphor.

2.1

Mr. Harrington, last night you asked about the potential well impacts to neighbors during our well use during construction. Let me put a finer point on this for you and for those in the room to remove any doubt. If our activity harms a neighbor, for example, causes a neighbor's well to run dry, even temporarily, we are committed to doing -- being a good neighbor and doing what is right. So, in that scenario, absolutely, we would provide water until either the well recharged or we figured out some other solution that worked for the neighbor, and I'll reiterate, the well is just for construction.

We talked about certainty around Road Use

Agreements and fire-suppression systems. We will honor
the commitments we made during the Goose Creek hearing
on those two things.

Let's talk about waivers. This board adopted rules that would require the implementation of vegetative screening and perimeter fencing around turbines as well as access road gates. The vegetative

screening and fencing alone would increase the turbine footprint by 25 times. Let me stay that again. The requirements for vegetative screening, planting pollinator habitat and trees outside -- 75 feet from the base of the turbine and then perimeter fencing 60 feet out from that, that's a significant impact on farmland. Agriculture is important to this community, and every landowner hosting a turbine has signed a waiver for vegetative screening, perimeter fencing, and access to road gates. I know Mr. Stillabower just asked about access to road gates.

2.1

The last thing I'll highlight on this slide is certainty with regards to the FAA. The FAA has approved the location and height of every Prosperity Wind turbine. In addition, we talked a lot about Air Traffic Detection Lighting Systems during the Goose Creek hearings and a little bit last night, and the implementation of it was caveated on "if approved by the FAA". I can now tell you with certainty the FAA has approved ADLS for the Prosperity Wind project.

In response to some of the questions we got last night about how ADLS works, I just want to point you to our application, Section 5.7.1, page 23, and just read real quick: The ADLS radar detects aircraft within 16 nautical miles and activates the lights when the

aircraft is within 3.5 nautical miles. The light turns off five minutes after the aircraft is at least 3.5 nautical miles past the turbines. Aircraft flying at cruising altitudes, class air -- Class A space above 18,000 feet do not trigger the ADLS. Again, the FAA has approved ADLS for the Prosperity Wind project. Next slide.

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This board also included a new requirement in the WECS ordinance that you updated in May, an analysis of weather radar. I know this is important to you because the addition is in all caps in the ordinance, so let me take a second to show you that we will not impact weather radar. This map on the screen here is included in Appendix E2 of the application from Westslope consulting, an industry leader with nearly 30 years of experience in analyzing weather radar systems. On the left side of the map is a red dot, which is surrounded by a red blob. That red blob represents a "no-build zone". As we keep moving to the right or east on the map, we move through orange, which represents "mitigation" would be needed, and then yellow, which represents "consultation". To the right of that is a dark green. This is a "notification" area, and last, the light green, a "no-impact zone" to weather radar, and you can see the whole Prosperity Wind project is

within that area. At more than 50 kilometers from the Lincoln weather radar, the Prosperity Wind project will not impact it, and this is not just a third-party expert's work. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA, is a clearinghouse for federal users of the radio spectrum, including the National Weather Service. They've reviewed the project and issued a letter stating: No reviewing agencies have concerns with turbine construction in the designated build areas. The analysis here by Westslope and the review by federal agencies that administer weather radio and other telecommunications are consistent, Prosperity Wind will not impact weather radar.

2.1

Let's turn to wildlife. Under the new state law, a county can require an applicant to adhere to the IDNR recommendations in their EcoCAT, which is IDNR's review of a project. IDNR provided a letter to Prosperity Wind and the same letter to Keri Nusbaum. The IDNR made two recommendations, both of which Prosperity Wind will follow. First, the IDNR identified three protected lands call INAI or Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites that all require a half-mile setback from turbines, the Mansfield Botanical area and two streams, Salt Creek Farmer City Reach and the Sangamon River. Prosperity Wind has more than doubled that recommendation for Salt

Creek and has sited turbines more than four times that setback recommendation for the other two sites. These are shown on the avoidance of protected lands figure in Appendix B5. Prosperity Wind also agrees to the turbine operations recommendation, curtailing turbines at low wind speeds in the active season for bats to protect them. One important thing I want to point out, IDNR's recommendation for Goose Creek included additional turbine setbacks from forested bat habitats. For Prosperity, however, it's not on the list. Why? Because there is no forested bat habitat in the Prosperity Wind project, a project improvement and acknowledgement by the IDNR. Just like we did for Goose Creek, Prosperity Wind will follow the IDNR's recommendations.

2.1

We talked a lot about how turbines are sited and the turbine technology. Let's understand the footprint of the above-ground facilities, because it's probably a lot less than you think. Each turbine has an 18-foot-wide pedestal surrounded by 20 feet of gravel around that. So, from a center point, a 29-foot radius. That is six one-hundredths of an acre per turbine. Six one-hundredths. Including the three spare turbines, the 53 proposed turbines occupy just over three acres. That's it. Access roads to each turbine are 15-feet

wide and total just over 31 acres. When we add the footprint of the supporting facilities, the ADLS radar, the project substation, the O&M facility, we land at 38.76 acres across near 40-square miles. four-tenths of one percent of the acreage of parcels with aboveground facilities. That's it, and that's not including all of the other parcels that are signed into the project without aboveground facilities, which is another 27,000 acres. Why is this important? this wind project will not require the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement was executed on May 11th, 2023. This agreement is specific to wind projects and is required by the Illinois Department of Agricultural to protect and preserve the integrity of agricultural land. The agreement itself outlines detailed measures for decommissioning so that the land is returned to agricultural use after the project's useful life. Again, development of this project is not a permanent conversion of agricultural land like other types of development, and this agreement with the State makes that clear. Next slide.

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So, what is required to decommission the project?

In May when this board updated the Piatt County WECS ordinance, the decommissioning plan simply states that

the decommissioning plan shall comply with the terms of the AIMA. Well, that actually makes it a little bit easier. There's only one set of standards to follow, and those are from the State. The decommissioning plan included in Appendix E7 of the application does just that. But let me back up just a bit to describe how we got here on decommissioning. We submitted a decommissioning plan for Goose Creek that was consistent with the AIMA. At the hearing, we heard from the zoning board and Patrick Engineering about uncertainty related to the decommissioning cost. In response to that uncertainty, I want to call out three things that are included in the decommissioning plan for Prosperity Wind and have been added since the Goose Creek hearings. First, we've increased the decommissioning cost contingency from 10 percent to 15 percent. Two, we've increased the amount of payments to farmers in the event of crop damage during decommissioning, and, three, we've reduced the salvage value of scrap materials based on concerns that current scrap metal pricing is unusually These were three things identified by Mr. Minder of Patrick Engineering at the Goose Creek hearing. of which are required by your ordinance or the AIMA. Nonetheless, we have included them -- these extra protections to further protect Piatt County.

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Piatt County is further protected from incurring decommissioning costs by the financial assurance. Included with the decommissioning plan and in compliance with Section 21D of the AIMA, Prosperity Wind included a draft performance bond. A bond is a legal agreement where a separate company, known as a surety, guarantees that Prosperity Wind performs its decommissioning obligations for the benefit of Piatt County. exchange for this guaranty, Prosperity Wind pays the surety an annual premium. The entire purpose of such a decommissioning performance bond is to protect Piatt County. Thus, it is designed along with the decommissioning plan to ensure that if something unexpected or unfortunate should happen -- should happen to Prosperity Wind, that Piatt County can draw on this bond to ensure that decommissioning is completed without Piatt County having to pay for it. In addition, a surety bond provides even more protection for a county than insurance, because under the bond, the surety must ensure that decommissioning actually occurs rather than simply pay out an insurance claim. We heard a lot of concern at Goose Creek about financial assurance and how it works. In a hypothetical situation -- and this was asked at the Goose Creek hearing -- let's imagine that Apex or Prosperity Wind even files for bankruptcy. This

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bond is a legal instrument. Piatt County is protected by the surety company Philadelphia Indemnity. Piatt County will be listed as beneficiary on the bond and can therefore access it, and, furthermore, the landowners are listed as secondary beneficiary.

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In another hypothetical situation, even if
Prosperity Wind stops paying the annual bond premiums,
the bond is still controlled by the county. That is
directly stated on page 3 of the bond, and I have it on
the slide up there. "The nonpayment of the premiums
associated with this Bond will not invalidate the Bond,
nor shall obligee [Piatt County] be obligated for the
payment thereof." The bond in its structure are
consistent with AIMA and provides certainty that this
board, the county board, and Piatt County residents will
not have to pay for decommissioning this project at the
end of its useful life.

Based on the wind siting statute and the Piatt

County Ordinance, if the application meets the

requirements -- and it does -- the project shall be

approved. Everything in this application points to

certainty. Certainty that the project meets the

requirements, certainty for landowners that the project

design meets all the safety requirements, and certainty

for this community. The Prosperity Wind project

application is -- unquestionably provides more detail 1 2 and more certainty than any project that's ever come before this board. The project shall be approved. 3 MR. KAINS: Thank you, Ms. Anderson. Dr. Wax, Mr. Harrington, do you want to take a 5 five-minute break to come up with questions or formulate 6 7 your questions for Ms. Anderson? We would be scheduled to take a break at about 7:15 in about 20 minutes 8 anyway. What's your pleasure? Do you want to take a break, or do you want to just start with questions for 10 11 her now? 12 MR. HARRINGTON: I think go ahead and take a break. 13 MR. KAINS: Then the question becomes, do we want 14 15 to take a five-minute break to formulate questions, or a ten-minute break to have our break? 16 17 MR. HARRINGTON: Let's go ahead and do a 18 ten-minute break. 19 MR. KAINS: All right. 20 MR. WAX: Very good. 2.1 MR. KAINS: The chairman and vice chairmen 22 definitely drive this bus. All right. We will be in 23 recess until about five after seven, at which time there 24 will be questions for Ms. Anderson. 25 We're in recess.

1 (Recess was taken.) 2 MR. KAINS: All right. Ms. Anderson, are you 3 ready? 4 MS. ANDERSON: Ready when you are. MR. KAINS: All right. Just a reminder, do you 5 6 understand that you remain under oath? 7 MS. ANDERSON: I do. MR. KAINS: All right. Very good. Thank you. 8 9 All right. It's time for questions for Ms. Anderson regarding her presentation. First of all, 10 members of the Zoning Board of Appeals. 11 12 MR. WAX: I'll ask one here. Would you -- are 13 you okay with trying to answer -- I'm sure you could answer, is it okay to ask a question concerning health 14 15 and safety managers? Are you okay with answering questions concerning health and safety? 16 17 MS. ANDERSON: You can try, but we just had Jason 18 from health and safety provide a presentation, so --MR. WAX: I'll ask something, and if you want to 19 20 defer it to somebody else, that's fine. I'm talking 2.1 about personal health and safety, and I recognize you've 22 listed that you've met all the requirements and -- in 23 terms of problems concerning sound, shadow flicker, 24 whatever, that a person, people might be concerned 25 about, but there may still be people who on occasion

will have -- will either believe or be diagnosed that they have a sleep problem, a -- some other health problem that they feel is being caused by some feature of this wind farm. Within -- both within the limit, and without -- outside the limit and you say nobody should have any problem, but let's assume that they do, or they believe -- they believe so or they've been diagnosed, what kind of property -- what kind of procedure has the company had for -- for handling those kinds of complaints? Let's say one comes in, what -- what do you do? What kind of a plan do you have to handle those complaints?

MR. HESS: Dr. Wax, I'm sorry to interrupt.

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MR. HESS: Dr. Wax, I'm sorry to interrupt.

Mr. Kains, if I may very respectfully just make a partial objection. To the extent that Dr. Wax is asking about sleep studies or general health requirements, those are not required under the WECS ordinance. There is no sleep-study requirement; there's no requirement to prove health. What's required under the ordinance, because what's required under the state law, is to show that you have satisfied all of these technical requirements. So certainly I think the last part of Dr. Wax's question was: Well, what are your procedures to handle if somebody complains about this? That's a fair question, no objection to that, but to the extent that

there's anything suggesting before that that we have to prove that something is generally safe sort of as a matter of human health, that is not in either the state law or this County's ordinance.

MR. KAINS: All right, understood, Mr. Hess.

MR. KEYT: Mr. Kains, could I be heard on that?

MR. KAINS: Yes, you may, Mr. Keyt.

MR. KEYT: There are the various factors listed in the ordinance, one of which relates to health, safety, and welfare, so I think the question would be appropriate as going to that factor.

MR. KAINS: Mr. Hess.

2.1

MR. HESS: Thank you, and perhaps I misspoke,
Mr. Keyt, so thank you for that. Specifically,
Ms. Anderson testified that we met the technical
requirements for a special use permit application. She
walked through Section 5B of the WECS ordinance. There
is nothing in Section 5B of the ordinance about that.
The section that Mr. Keyt just referenced is at the end
about a hearing and factors to be considered during a
hearing. So, I don't disagree with Mr. Keyt that those
factors are at the end, my point is her presentation and
her direct examination was on Section 5B and marching
through each one of those requirements.

MR. KAINS: Mr. Keyt, do you have anything

further?

2.1

MR. KEYT: Well, she did provide testimony that there's certainty, and she did provide testimony that it meets the sound requirements, and she did provide general testimony that it's -- meets the ordinance requirements, so I think it's still a fair question to be asked.

MR. KAINS: Here's what we're going to do. I'm going to overrule the objection to the extent that if Ms. Anderson can speak to issues with respect to an individual's personal health, if she can speak to those issues, then I'm going to direct her to answer the question with respect to that, but I think the question itself comes down to what procedures or policies do you have in place that will be implemented if someone has a health problem.

So, Ms. Anderson, I guess -- I guess the crux of this is, do you have any knowledge with respect to personal health issues that Dr. Wax brought up in the preamble to his question?

MS. ANDERSON: I am not a medical doctor, so I do not have any experience in that area.

MR. KAINS: Okay. Very good. Now, then the question from Dr. Wax is, are you familiar with, and if you are, what procedures are in place in case someone

has some kind of a personal health issue?

2.1

MS. ANDERSON: I'll answer the question maybe in a couple ways. As I testified, turbines are sited to meet setback requirements, sound requirements, and shadow flicker requirements that are consistent with this County's WECS ordinance and the new state law. If there is a complaint of any kind, there will be a hotline and procedures in place to address complaints from the public.

MR. WAX: Okay. Do we have any idea what these procedures would be? Let me rephrase. I'm not trying to rock the boat here in a great way, I've just been -- and I understand where you're coming from. Good presentation. I've had it kind of drummed into me repeatedly here that you folks are here to be good neighbors, real members of the community. You're going to go way overboard in doing far more than you need to do to be good neighbors and listen to people, work with people. So simply saying, if you do get complaints about anything and including some complaints about health issues, what -- what do you do? Is there a plan?

MS. ANDERSON: Apex has complaint-monitoring procedures. As you might recall through this -- the hearings at Goose Creek that there was a permit condition around complaint procedures, the establishment

of a hotline, addressing them within a certain timeline, right? We would be open to having that step outlined again similarly just like we agreed to for Goose Creek Wind. Okay. Is there -- is there somehow --MR. WAX: and I'm not familiar that -- that maybe -- that everyone is aware of did they have to go to their website or call 911 or go to the O&M building? Is there any other way that they can -- I am concerned that some of the citizens may not have immediate access to you folks, but apparently you believe that they do. MS. ANDERSON: I do. I believe that we are going to be a good community partner. It could be a hotline, it could be a website; it could be stopping by the O&M building, or if it's during construction, the construction trailer that Adam outlined. There will be multiple avenues. We will be here in the community if complaints are -- folks have complaints, so that we can record them, log them, address them, and resolve them. MR. WAX: Okay. Thank you. MR. KAINS: Mr. Harrington, do you have questions for Ms. Anderson?

MR. HARRINGTON: Yes, sir.

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Ms. Anderson, thanks for your presentation.

MS. ANDERSON: You're welcome.

MR. HARRINGTON: At the beginning, you referenced some setback numbers, non-residence -- or non-participant residences and non-participant parcels, and then I probably didn't get all of this in the exact order, but I'm going to try and get the gist of it back to you, and you can tell me what you're saying. You made reference to the previous application, right, and you say something along the lines of "could have increased the heights and the setbacks or reduced the setbacks". I guess were you alluding to the fact you have -- have or had interest in doing that, or what was your point there you were trying to make?

2.1

MS. ANDERSON: My point in that was that the setbacks in this County's prior zoning ordinance were more restrictive than those in the state law and that this zoning board adopted in May. So, we could have moved turbines closer to non-participating parcels, non-participating residences, right? There's no longer a 1.5-mile setback from a school. We could have done any of those things and still been in compliance with your ordinance and the state law, but we didn't.

MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. So I see what you're saying, but I guess sort of to Loyd's point, if the premise here is to be a "good neighbor", we would have expected that to be the case, and furthermore, if you

remember, the changes in our zoning ordinance were stimulated by the State, so I think that should be on the record that was -- that was the reason for the change in the ordinance; however, we do appreciate you doing what you did, but I guess when you allude to it in that manner, I am a little confused, you know, as to why you would go down that road, but I hear what you're saying.

2.1

In regards to sound -- so, correct me if I am wrong, you listed 45 dB in your presentation. That is or is not the State mandate, which is it?

MS. ANDERSON: Sound is regulated by the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

MR. HARRINGTON: Uh-huh (affirmative).

MS. ANDERSON: I'm not a sound expert. Eddie

Duncan is here, but the Cliff's Notes version of what I

do know is it is not one single number of decibels,

right? There are eight octave bands, and you need to

meet the sound requirement for turbines in each of those

eight octave bands. That was simply a reference to

approximately how loud is turbine sound --

MR. HARRINGTON: Okay.

MS. ANDERSON: -- and what is the limit.

MR. HARRINGTON: So maybe for us and/or the public reference, you say 45, well, is 45 the IPCB

standard, or is it a different number? 1 MS. ANDERSON: It is eight different numbers 2 depending on the octave band, right? I mean, we can get 3 Eddie up here to help out with that. 4 MR. HARRINGTON: I'm saying why did you mention 5 45 then? What was your point? Where were you going 6 7 with that? MS. ANDERSON: Because that is the approximate 8 9 sound level of the IPCB limit, and it is half as loud as conversational speech. 10 11 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay, the approximate. Gotcha. 12 So, am I correct in understanding when you mentioned that it was based on modeling; is that accurate? 13 MS. ANDERSON: That is correct. 14 15 MR. HARRINGTON: Based on modeling. Okay. Shadow flicker. You mentioned or you 16 17 referenced the previous application did have one waiver 18 in the application. Did I get that right? 19 MS. ANDERSON: That is correct. 20 MR. HARRINGTON: Is that what you were saying? 2.1 And you said in this application there were no waivers needed, correct? 22 23 MS. ANDERSON: That is correct. 24 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. You say in essence you reduced the footprint of the current application; is 25

that right? 1 2 MS. ANDERSON: We've reduced the footprint and the number of turbines, that is correct. 3 4 MR. HARRINGTON: Excellent. My question would be why. What drove that? 5 MS. ANDERSON: Certainty. 6 7 MR. HARRINGTON: Certainty of what? MS. ANDERSON: Last time for the Goose Creek 8 9 hearings, for example, we modeled shadow flicker on 61 10 turbines. That led to confusion because we were only 11 going to build 50, and so in essence while showing that 12 all of our turbine positions were sited to comply with your ordinance, it created confusion as to how much 13 shadow flicker there will be because we're only building 14 15 50. In this case for Prosperity Wind, we've only modeled the 50 turbines that we plan to build, and so we 16 17 can with certainty say this is what the shadow flicker 18 is modeled to be for the 50 turbines that we are planning to build. 19 20 MR. HARRINGTON: Is it correct in saying that the 2.1 footprint -- since you referenced the previous 22 application compared to this one, is it correct to say 23 the footprint has not only shrunk, but it has also moved? 2.4 25 MS. ANDERSON: I don't think -- it's correct to

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say this has shrunk. It has not necessarily moved.
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2
    is a subset of what was a larger project area, right?
    We modeled shadow flicker within a mile of the project
3
    area. All the residences and occupied community
 4
5
    buildings -- that's the state law and your ordinance --
    to model shadow flicker at those receptors, so we did
6
7
    that out to a mile from our project footprint.
8
           MR. HARRINGTON: Gotcha. Just looking at your
9
    map visually, it would appear that it shifted from the
10
    east to the west a tad. That's all I'm getting. It's
11
    neither here nor there, I'm just telling you it appears
12
    that way.
           The water thing you brought up, right? And you
13
    said you're committed, great. We like to hear that.
14
15
    You mentioned well recharging, right? Did you mention
    that?
16
17
           MS. ANDERSON: I don't believe I said those
18
    words.
19
           MR. HARRINGTON: Maybe tell me what you said, or
20
    how you want to say it?
2.1
           MS. ANDERSON: With respect to addressing your
22
    comments from last night specifically?
23
           MR. HARRINGTON: Yep.
24
           MS. ANDERSON: Right. If our well -- if we have
25
    an impact to neighboring wells --
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MR. HARRINGTON: Right.

2.1

MS. ANDERSON: -- we will absolutely work with that landowner to find a solution.

MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. So, you said something about -- maybe it wasn't well recharging, some other term -- and you say "or some other solution", could you delineate what that would be, other solution?

MS. ANDERSON: I'm not a well-water expert, but, you know, working with the landowner, our construction team, right, the parties coming to the table, finding out what is going on, and finding a solution. Whether that is bringing water in or, again, some other solution, I don't know what that is.

 $$\operatorname{MR}.$$  HARRINGTON: Okay. I was just curious how in depth you were there.

Okay. Fire suppression. You did mention in your presentation all turbines have fire detection, fire suppression systems, got that. So, correct me if I am wrong, you mentioned something around 15 years you've been doing this; is that accurate?

MS. ANDERSON: Somewhere in there, yep.

MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. So in that period of time you've been dealing with these, what's your history with fire suppression on these other applications or to whatever extent you dealt with other wind projects?

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MS. ANDERSON: I've permitted probably over 50
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2
    projects just like this all over the country.
                                                    I have
3
    never permitted a project that required fire-suppression
 4
    systems.
5
           MR. HARRINGTON:
                           I guess why not? Why do you
6
    think that hasn't been part of it?
7
           MS. ANDERSON: The risk of fire is so low.
8
           MR. HARRINGTON: Gotcha. No further questions.
9
           MR. KAINS: Very good.
           Dr. Wax?
10
11
           MR. WAX: No.
           MR. KAINS: Okay. All right. We're going to
12
    have questions for Ms. Anderson from members of units of
13
    local government, including school districts.
14
15
           Questions from other interested parties, members
    of the public opposed to the application or neutral on
16
17
    the application?
18
           I see Mr. Hartke's hand. Come on forward,
19
    please.
20
           Courtnay, you have his name and spelling?
2.1
           Mr. Hartke, go ahead and question Ms. Anderson.
22
           MR. HARTKE: Okay. Are we allowed to have the
23
    person asking the questions from -- I think they would
24
    benefit from seeing some of the pages I'm referring to.
25
    Is there another copy we can give her? I'll tell you
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where we're at. Appendix E5. If you could hand her Appendix E5, I'll help to point her to the right page.

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MR. KAINS: Yes, Mr. Hess is going to provide

Ms. Anderson with the -- what I presume is a part of the application. What section, Mr. Hartke?

MR. HARTKE: Okay. We can start out with page number 54. If you -- if the board members have this -the ability to look at this photo, I know a picture says a thousand words. I have questions about on page 54, and this expert might not be able to answer this question. So, if you don't want her to, we can wait for the noise expert, okay? And that will be fine. Are we ready? On page 54, there is an aerial photo of a home parcel. It says the house has been demolished, and I notice that the maximum-noise-limit sound level goes through the middle of this parcel. So, is this piece of land part -- or are they a participating person in the wind farm? Is there an easement for that piece of land -- or if you guys can't answer, we can wait to get those answers. That's no problem. Make a list. I'll have quite a big list, okay? And if you can't answer, it's okay, we'll fly through it and go on.

MS. ANDERSON: That property is a participant in the project.

MR. HARTKE: Okay. Is that piece of land leased

as part of the project, like are they -- does it have an easement for this project?

MS. ANDERSON: Yes.

2.1

MR. HARTKE: Okay. If you could just prepare your acoustician on this page, I have a question for the acoustician, and you can answer if you want to give some input. I'm looking at turbines C12 and C13, and earlier it was said that all the noise was measured downwind from every turbine all the time, okay? In this picture, it looks like the sound level is noisier in between the two turbines, and I would have expected these noise circles to be more circular instead of ellipsoid shaped, and I wonder how it's possible that the noise level is bigger east of the turbine compared to south and east of the turbine at number C13 specifically. Is there any way you can answer that question on this page?

MS. ANDERSON: I'll make a couple comments on this page, but if there are also technical issues that also need addressing from Mr. Duncan, he is here. You know, this is just two turbines on one page. What you can't see is the other turbines around it that might also be influencing the sound-pressure levels from the turbine. The other comment I'll make is that the house has been demolished on that parcel, and with that -- that is there specifically because the ordinance

requires that it is at residential properties at the time of submittal of the special use permit, and so because the aerial has not caught up, right, this aerial is probably a year or two old, that house was recently demolished, we wanted to point that out specifically.

2.1

MR. HARTKE: Since this parcel is a participating landowner, I view that as they have a total waiver for whatever you guys want to do on that land, so I don't have any issue.

MS. ANDERSON: But I'll correct that and say there are no sound waivers. You cannot have sound waivers in the state of Illinois for participants.

Non-participating residential properties are treated exactly the same as participating residential properties.

MR. HARTKE: Okay. So, on this one the house has been demolished, if that person would reconstruct, they have to stay south of that black line that cuts their land in half. That would be your maximum IPCB noise level, which covers about half of this home site?

MR. HESS: Respectfully, I would object to that question. I think how someone would reconstruct -- first of all, is beyond the scope of Ms. Anderson's testimony, but I think more specifically calls for speculation, and, finally, in how to construct a house

to comply with sound-level requirements, that as Ms.

Anderson just stated, are by requirement applied in the moment that the application is submitted. So, how they could construct a build in the future to in hindsight comply with something that no longer complies anymore I think is misleading, calls for a legal conclusion, is speculative, but it's also beyond her testimony.

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MR. KAINS: Two points. I'm going to sustain the objection, because it is speculative. But my second thing that I want to say is I don't think that was even a question. So, I think it was a statement by Mr. Hartke that didn't get -- didn't deserve or require a response from Ms. Anderson. You jumped in and objected, and that's fine, I'm sustaining the objection, but what I'm going to say is, Mr. Hartke, you have a lot of experience in these hearings and a lot of knowledge with respect to your personal experience with wind farms, and I understand that and I respect that, but we want you to ask questions of the witness, and I know you want to say things to preface your question, but if we can do that in more of a question-and-answer form, so go right ahead.

MR. HARTKE: Understood. I didn't realize this was a participating property. That answers that.

MR. KAINS: Go ahead and ask a question, please.

MR. HARTKE: Can the applicant get back to us on 1 2 the -- the portion where I talked about the presenter 3 claimed that all the noise was measured downwind from every turbine, I would have just expected that to be a 4 loud circle downwind from each turbine, a more circular 5 shape, and I want that question answered later. 6 7 All right. Can we --MR. HESS: And I would respectfully for the 8 9 record have the same objection. 10 MR. HARTKE: That's okay. 11 MR. KAINS: It's not even a question. I don't 12 even know how to express --MR. HARTKE: Understood. 13 MR. KAINS: I've sustained the objection, but 14 15 please ask a question. 16 MR. HARTKE: Okay. Earlier in your presentation 17 you said that all the residential properties were going 18 to be with -- under the IPCB noise level, right? All residential -- at the residential properties. 19 20 MS. ANDERSON: I said that the turbines are sited 2.1 so that the -- all residential properties comply with the IPCB limits. 22 23 MR. HARTKE: Okay. In the Illinois State 24 Standards on page number 4 of this Appendix E5, there's 25 a note here that says you can't allow the emission

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beyond the property, as the property is defined in
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    Section 25. So, are all of the noise levels for these
    turbines met at all of the residential property lines?
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           MR. HESS: I'm sorry, I'm not sure -- my
 4
5
    objection, Mr. Kains, is I'm not sure what state law
6
    Mr. Hartke's referring to. If he's referring to Public
    Act 102-1123, which is the new siting law, I have it
7
    here, I don't know what page or note he is referring to.
8
           MR. HARTKE: I can answer.
10
           MR. KAINS: Okay. Mr. Hartke, you said something
11
    about page 4?
12
           MR. HARTKE: Okay. On sheet four of this
    appendix, it lists the State IPCB noise-level standard,
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14
    and it's the Section 900.102 in the code.
           MR. KAINS: Okay. 900.102 --
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16
           MR. HARTKE: Yes.
           MR. KAINS: -- in the Illinois Administrative
17
18
    Code.
19
           MR. HARTKE: Yes, and I can read it if you want
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    me to so everyone can understand.
2.1
           MR. KAINS: How long is it, Mr. Hartke?
22
           MR. HARTKE: It's three lines.
                                           It's short.
23
           MR. KAINS: Go right ahead.
24
           MR. HARTKE: No person shall cause or allow the
25
    emission of sound beyond the boundaries of his property,
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as property is defined in Section 25 of the IEPA Act, so as to cause noise pollution in Illinois or as to violate any provision of this Chapter. So in this --MR. KAINS: What's your question? MR. HARTKE: Are all of the IPCB noise levels, are they met at the property line per the Illinois State Standard IPCB Code? MR. HESS: And I would object that that's a misleading question because Section 902, which is what he just referenced, is a general prohibition on noise. It's not -- I believe it's Section 910 that has the specific requirements. So, to the extent she's asking if he complies -- if we comply with that code of provision, Section 902 is the general provision. this detail comes subsequent to that. MR. KAINS: I'm going to overrule the objection. I understand absolutely that you're talking about -you're talking about Section 902 --MR. HARTKE: 900.102. MR. KAINS: 900.102. You're talking about 910 is the applicable standard, but the question really is,

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the applicable standard, but the question really is,
whatever section we're talking about, does this -- does
this project, to your knowledge, Ms. Anderson, meet all
standards promulgated by the Illinois Pollution Control

1 Board? 2 MS. ANDERSON: Yes. MR. KAINS: Thank you. Go ahead and ask another 3 question. 4 MR. HARTKE: If it meets all the standards from 5 IPCB, why are the acousticians required to set up their 6 equipment in relationship to a property line as compared 7 to the house location? 8 MR. HESS: I'm sorry to keep objecting, 10 Mr. Kains, but I would object that that calls for a 11 legal conclusion, because the legal requirement dictates 12 where you set up those standards. So, if he's asking why the law is written that way, I think it calls for a 13 legal conclusion. Also, speculation, I don't know how 14 15 she could possibly know why the IPCB set up their regulations that way. 16 17 MR. KAINS: I understand your objection. I'm 18 going to overrule it, and I think the issue, if I may, and I'm going to -- I think the issue is relative to the 19 20 property boundary versus the corner of a house. Is that 2.1 what you're getting at? 22 MR. HARTKE: I'm getting at -- if I can state the 23 question again. 24 MR. KAINS: Okay. And I think the question is

why is this done, if you know, Ms. Anderson? Why is it

25

done at the edge of the property rather than at the edge 1 2 of the house? MR. HARTKE: Uh-huh (affirmative). 3 MR. KAINS: Okay. If you know. 4 MS. ANDERSON: I'm not a sound expert, but what I 5 know of the Illinois Pollution Control Board standard is 6 7 that it is at the residential use of the property, not 8 just the home. I work on a lot of projects that are sound modeling at the home site itself, right, not the yard, not the garden, not any other portion of the 10 property that could be considered residential. 11 12 we've done here at Prosperity Wind is site turbines to comply with the IPCB limits at residential use. 13 14 MR. KAINS: Now, just so I'm clear, "residential 15 use", is that the edge of the house, or is that at the 16 edge of the property? 17 MS. ANDERSON: It might not be the end of 18 It might be -- if it's an 80-acre property, right? 19 parcel that has a home and very delineated, mowed yard 20 with a garage, that's where we site turbines to avoid 2.1 the -- to avoid the area that is not row crops, 22 agriculture. 23 MR. KAINS: Thank you for clarifying --24 MS. ANDERSON: You're welcome. MR. KAINS: -- in my mind, and I think in other 25

folks' minds. I'm sorry, Mr. Hartke, I've asked questions, and it's your turn, but you go right ahead.

2.1

MR. HARTKE: Okay. The next paragraph on this sheet number 4, it goes on to part 910, which the applicant has been trying to push me to. And part 910, it gives the basic measurement procedures with references to the ANSI standards, and it says here: Quantitative, meaning the numerical, sound levels that are applicable to the proposed project are defined in part 901, and it lists the octave-band limits, okay? It says here, the Sound Emission Standards and Limitations For Property-Line Noise Sources, okay? This has the octave-band limits. If this mentions "property line", why doesn't it say "residential use" or "homes", which is what you're trying to measure the noise level to, instead of property lines?

MR. HESS: I would make the same objection. I think that Mr. Hartke's sort of being misleading in reading here. What he's not saying in his question is that the phrase "property line" is within quotations. It's the title of 901. I mean, it is -- the entire quote says: Quantitative sound level limits that are applicable to the proposed project are defined in part 1-901, colon, quote, Sound Emission Standards and Limitations For Property-Line Noise Sources, end quote,

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and then it goes on. That is how IPCB has titled
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    Section 901. It's not -- she didn't title it. She's
    not using the phrase "property line".
3
           MR. KAINS: I understand your objection.
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    going to overrule it, and, Ms. Anderson, do you recall
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    Mr. Hartke's question, because he read some of the
7
    Pollution Control Board regulations, but then he asked a
8
    question at the end. Do you recall the question, or do
    you want it read back to you?
           MS. ANDERSON: Better read that one back.
10
11
           MR. HARTKE: Okay. I'll go ahead.
12
           MR. KAINS: No, hang on. The court reporter will
    read back the question, if you could please, Courtnay.
13
           REPORTER ORMAN: Why doesn't it say "residential
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15
    use" or "homes", which is what you're trying to measure
    the noise level to, instead of property lines?
16
17
           MS. ANDERSON: I guess I would reiterate that I
18
    do not why the Illinois Pollution Control Board titled
    their standard "Sound Emission Standards and Limitations
19
20
    For Property-Line Noise Sources".
2.1
           MR. KAINS: Go ahead. Ask another question.
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           MR. HARTKE: Could it have been very important
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    since it's in the title that they intended for it to be
24
    at the property line?
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           MR. HESS: Objection. I think that clearly calls
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for speculation.

2.1

2.4

MR. KAINS: It does. Sustained. Ask another question.

MR. HARTKE: When a person purchases their property, do they get all of the property or -- and use all of it or only where the house and yard is at? Do they get to have all of it when they buy property?

MS. ANDERSON: When a person buys a property, they get all of it, but, again, I will reiterate that the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulations are from agricultural land to residential use, and that is what we have done in this sound study.

MR. HARTKE: Okay. Does Apex acknowledge or wish that the neighbors who are non-participants be able to build a home on their property as they see fit and still be in a zone where it meets the IPCB noise levels?

MS. ANDERSON: Apex wants to be a good neighbor to the participants in our project and the non-participants in our project, but what we have done here is follow the rules that are in the WECS ordinance and the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulations.

So, we've identified residences at the time of this application to determine residential use. The turbines are sited to meet the IPCB limits at residential use.

MR. HARTKE: Okay. That's making it very clear

Thank you for that. Speaking of the state law 1 to me. 2 that we have been given to work with for setbacks and et cetera, was the new law given proper review or hearings 3 for public review and input when it was introduced to 4 the Illinois Legislature? 5 MR. HESS: I would object. That's well beyond 6 7 the scope of her direct testimony. Also, I don't see how it is relevant. Mr. Kains, your instruction at the 8 beginning of the hearing was --10 MR. KAINS: I recall my instruction, Mr. Hess, 11 and I -- I -- I'm going to overrule the objection just 12 simply because I want to know if Ms. Anderson knows 13 about the process in the Illinois Legislature. I'm suspecting she doesn't. 14 15 MS. ANDERSON: I don't. MR. KAINS: Okay, and that's all right. That's 16 not your job. 17 18 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you. 19 MR. HARTKE: Will Apex shut off wind turbines at 20 night to allow people to sleep in their homes if there's 2.1 a complaint? 22 MS. ANDERSON: As I've already outlined with 23 Chairman Wax and Mr. Harrington on complaint procedures, 24 there will be -- there are procedures in place, and I

can almost guarantee that they will be a condition of a

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permit application should this project go forward that
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    outline the specific steps on how to file a complaint,
    and that those complaints are logged, addressed until
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    they're resolved. You're asking a hypothetical
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5
    question.
           MR. HARTKE: Are -- what's the Illinois state
6
7
    procedure, protocol, rules for filing a noise complaint
8
    currently?
           MS. ANDERSON: I don't know of any Illinois state
10
    rule for filing a complaint.
           MR. HARTKE: Okay.
11
12
           MS. ANDERSON: If they would be specific to this
13
    project, if those complaint procedures -- if there's
    some other state protocol that you're maybe referencing,
14
    I'm not aware of it.
15
16
           MR. HARTKE: Okay. Will a turbine placement
17
    encroach into a non-participating vacant property making
18
    it no longer a viable location to build a home?
19
           MS. ANDERSON: Can you repeat the question?
20
           MR. HARTKE: If you -- will a turbine placement
2.1
    encroach into a non-participating vacant property,
22
    making it no longer a viable location to build a home in
23
    regards to noise?
2.4
           MR. HESS: Mr. Kains, I have the same objection.
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    I think that calls for speculation.
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MR. KAINS: It does. Sustained. It calls for 1 2 speculation. You can ask her things within her area of 3 expertise. MR. HARTKE: One second. 4 MR. KAINS: Sure. Absolutely, Mr. Hartke. 5 MR. HARTKE: What's the noise pressure/noise 6 7 level in dBA for the Vestas turbines at the turbine itself, at the nacelle? Do you know the dBA output at 8 the turbine, and this could be answered by the noise expert, if -- this is fine. 10 11 MS. ANDERSON: I don't have that information in 12 front of me. MR. HARTKE: Do you know the noise level which 13 causes sleep inference? 14 MR. HESS: So, I would object for a couple 15 reasons. I think, first of all, calls for speculation. 16 Second of all, she's already said she's not a medical 17 18 doctor, and, third, that assumes that there is some established answer to that question. I know there's a 19 20 lot of strong opinions on that, but it assumes there's a 2.1 medical answer to that question. 22 MR. KAINS: I'm going to overrule the objection 23 and direct Ms. Anderson to answer the question, and in 24 answering your question, if you know the answer, then

please provide it. If you don't know the answer, it's

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okay to say you don't know.
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           MS. ANDERSON: I don't know.
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           MR. KAINS: And is that because you are not a
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    medical doctor?
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           MS. ANDERSON: I am not a medical doctor.
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           MR. KAINS: Very good. All right, Mr. Hartke, go
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7
    ahead.
           MR. HARTKE: Are there any waivers for a noise
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9
    waiver with any of the non-participants near the
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    projects?
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           MS. ANDERSON: As I already mentioned,
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    non-participating residences and participating
    residences by law, by the Illinois Pollution Control
13
    regulation, are treated exactly the same.
14
                                                There are no
    waivers for participants, and there are no waivers for
15
    non-participants.
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           MR. HARTKE: One second.
           MR. KAINS: Sure.
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           MR. HARTKE: I'm trying not to testify instead of
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    asking questions.
2.1
           MR. KAINS: We appreciate that, Mr. Hartke.
22
    take your time in formulating your question.
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           MR. HARTKE: Wouldn't it be a good neighbor to
24
    let people live in their homes and sleep in their homes
25
    at night? Wouldn't that be a "good neighbor"?
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MS. ANDERSON: Generally, yes, but I'll testify again that our turbines are sited to meet this County's setbacks and the state law with respects to setbacks and sound of the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

MR. HARTKE: Do you think that Apex has the right to come into a county and cause discomfort due to noise from wind turbines for children in their homes?

MR. HESS: I mean, I would object. I think Mr. Hartke is testifying now.

MR. HARTKE: I asked a question.

MR. KAINS: It's a question.

2.1

Ms. Anderson, I'm going to overrule the objection. Ms. Anderson, if you know the answer to:

Does Apex have the right to come into this county and disturb -- I believe it was children's sleep, if you know the answer to that, the specific question is does Apex have that right, and the answer -- if you know the answer, please provide the answer. If you don't, then, you know -- I don't know if you know what rights Apex has with respect to this issue.

MS. ANDERSON: What I will say is Apex has the right to apply for a special use permit for a wind energy facility and site turbines that comply with the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulations, and that's what we've done in this application.

MR. HARTKE: Under the threat of a lawsuit against our county board, should the Piatt County Board and this zoning board allow Apex to cause sleep disturbance, discomfort for children or anyone else in their homes in Piatt County?

2.1

MR. HESS: I would make the same objection. I would also object that that assumes facts that are not in evidence and calls for a legal conclusion, the legal decision that will be put before the Piatt County Board.

MR. KAINS: I'm going to sustain the objection.

Yeah, it does call for a legal conclusion, and it also

-- it does assume facts not in evidence, and it is

beyond -- it's beyond the scope of not only

Ms. Anderson's testimony, but Ms. Anderson's expertise

as a permit manager. So, question sustained. Go ahead

and ask another question.

MR. HARTKE: Is there any uncertainty for the turbine placements that are -- do you have an uncertainty amount or a tolerance amount to allow sleep inference for neighbors?

MS. ANDERSON: I'm not sure I understand your question.

MR. HARTKE: Previously you testified that there was certainty -- and I think you said certainty a few times during your testimony that you meet all standards,

and I want to know if you have certainty that this 1 project is not going to impact the neighbors negatively 2 with noise. 3 MS. ANDERSON: I'll reiterate again that we have 4 certainty with regard to the turbine placement; we 5 6 comply with the setbacks; the FAA has approved the 7 location and the height of our turbines; we comply with the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulations with 8 respect to sound; we comply with the shadow flicker 10 requirements at 30 hours a year set by this County's 11 ordinance and the state law. There is certainty in 12 these turbine positions. They are sited to meet the law. 13 14 MR. HARTKE: Should the zoning board and the 15 county board completely ignore the word "property lines" 16 in the Illinois Pollution and State Standards that's 17 listed on sheet four in your application? 18 MR. HESS: And I would object to that. That does 19 call for a legal conclusion. MR. KAINS: It does. Sustained. Ask another 20 2.1 question. 22 MR. HARTKE: Is Apex asking the county board to 23 ignore the words "property line" on sheet four? 24 MR. KEYT: Well, I'll object. I think that calls

for a legal conclusion and is speculative.

25

MR. KAINS: It is speculative. Sustained. 1 Ask 2 another question, please. MR. HARTKE: What's the outcome of a family like 3 what I experienced? What's the ultimate outcome for a 4 5 family that has a noise issue if Apex is faced with What do they do, the family? 6 MR. HESS: Respectfully, I would object. I think 7 that calls for speculation. 8 MR. KAINS: It does. It does. Mr. Hartke --Mr. Hartke, when it's your turn to testify, you can --10 MR. HARTKE: Okay. 11 12 MR. KAINS: -- you can tell us how the wind farm 13 in your old county affected you and your family. want to hear that from you. 14 15 MR. HARTKE: Sure. I was just trying to see if Apex would allow any kind of insight into any of this. 16 17 I'll conclude my questions with, can Apex give us some 18 insight, since they're so confident in their noise study, that it's not going to be an issue for our county 19 20 residents? Is there any insight? 2.1 MS. ANDERSON: I think the insight is in the report that you have so detailed reviewed. The project 22 23 turbines are sited to comply with the Illinois Pollution 24 Control Board regulations, and that is clearly 25 demonstrated in this sound report.

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MR. HARTKE: All of the rest of my questions I
1
2
    think I'll wait for the health -- or noise acoustician.
3
           MR. KAINS: Very good.
 4
           MR. HARTKE: Thank you very much. Have good a
5
    evening.
           MR. KAINS: Are there any other questions from
6
7
    the public?
           Mr. Gantz, please come forward.
8
9
           Could you please state your name for the court
    reporter, spelling your first and last names?
10
11
           MR. GANTZ: Steven, S-T-E-V-E-N, Gantz,
12
    G-A-N-T-Z.
           MR. KAINS: Go ahead, Mr. Gantz, questions for
13
    Ms. Anderson.
14
15
           MR. GANTZ: I live just a half a mile east of the
    substation, and earlier in an earlier hearing, we were
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17
    actually above the 45 sound level. It was 46.8. I was
18
    talking to Kent just a while ago about this, but he
    wasn't sure that that was still the case at this point.
19
20
    I'm not for sure about that. Anyway, we're kind of
2.1
    pretty high up there in the noise level. I noticed on
22
    your diagram up there you said landscape plan at the
23
    substation. Is there any chance -- does that include
24
    some kind of a dirt berm or a concrete wall on the east
25
    side of the substation by any chance? That was just
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thrown out by -- I don't remember if it was Alan or maybe it was Kent that I talked to a little bit about that. I don't want to put words in anybody's mouth, but it was thrown out there by you guys at one time just briefly. So, I was wondering if that was going to happen or --

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MS. ANDERSON: So, Mr. Gantz, good to see you again. I will answer your question in two parts. We do include a landscape plan with our application. It's now required as part of the ordinance. It includes landscaping around both the O&M facility and the project substation, which are right next to each other. trees and other things, not a concrete berm or even a dirt berm. But the other thing I want to tell you, because I think this is where you were going when you started your questioning, is that your sound level was pretty high with the Goose Creek Wind project. What has changed since Prosperity Wind is we now have more certainty on the transformers that we're going to use at the project substation. Previously, we hadn't selected that, didn't have it, and so we were using the loudest sound emission from a transformer in the sound modeling report for Goose Creek. For Prosperity Wind now, we know which transformers we're going to use, and we included that now in the sound report, and the sound

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pressure -- the sound levels at your residence have now
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    gone down as a reflection of that certainty. So, I
    think previously you were one of the highest residences
3
    for sound, and that has been rectified with the
4
5
    certainty that we have at -- with the transformer at the
6
    project substation.
7
           MR. GANTZ: Do you know what the sound level is
8
    now at my house?
           MS. ANDERSON: I'd have to look in the report,
    but I can meet with you afterwards and be happy to show
10
11
    it to you.
12
           MR. KAINS: Mr. Gantz, would you want that on the
13
    record, or would you be satisfied with Ms. Anderson just
    telling you?
14
15
           MR. GANTZ: Oh, I'd like it on the record.
           MR. KAINS: Okay. Then what I'll ask counsel to
16
17
    do is if you could provide that information by way of
18
    proffer.
19
           MR. HESS: Yes, sir.
20
           MR. KAINS: Okay. Very good. Thank you,
2.1
    Mr. Hess.
           Mr. Gantz, do you have any other questions?
22
23
           MR. GANTZ: Well, I guess is there any chance
24
    that you would -- if it is up fairly high that you would
    consider doing that, putting a dirt berm or some kind of
25
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concrete wall or something on the east side of that to deflect sound? I mean, you guys kind of threw that out there at one point. If it could be done, I would certainly appreciate it.

2.1

MS. ANDERSON: Sure, and I know that you met with Kent and Alan on our team, our developers. We would probably look into it, but I want to reiterate that your sound levels at your residential property are in compliance with the Illinois Pollution Control Board's regulations, so they have come down. They were in compliance before, don't get me wrong, they were just the louder -- on the louder end. They have come down. I don't think you're in the top four, because when we redid the Prosperity Wind sound report, I looked exactly at your residence to say: Oh, this has changed, why? And that's why I can stand here tonight to tell you with certainty that it has gone down and exactly why. We know the transmission -- the transformer, and we know the sound emission from that transformer.

MR. GANTZ: Okay. Thank you.

MR. KAINS: Thank you, Mr. Gantz.

Are there any other questions from the general public?

Yes, sir. Is that Mr. Reed? Yeah. My eyesight's not that good, and you were hiding under your

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ball cap, Mr. Reed.
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2
           MR. REED: I've been at the Farm Progress Show
    all day.
3
           MR. KAINS: I've hope you've made a lot of
4
    progress. Sorry, couldn't pass up the dad joke.
5
6
           Sir, go ahead and state your name, spelling first
7
    and last for the court reporter.
           MR. REED: Jim Reed, J-I-M R-E-E-D.
8
9
           MR. KAINS: Go ahead with your questions for
    Ms. Anderson.
10
11
           MR. REED: All right. Thank you.
12
           Ms. Anderson, you said a lot of things have a lot
    of certainty behind them, but the flicker and the sound
13
    are really modeling, aren't they?
14
           MS. ANDERSON: I'm sorry, I didn't catch the
15
    first part, did you say flicker?
16
17
           MR. REED: Yes, your shadow flicker and your
18
    noise estimates that are in your plan, they're all done
    on modeling, are they not?
19
20
           MS. ANDERSON: That is right. The turbines
2.1
    aren't built, so it is always done in modeling at this
    point of permitting to use modeling for both sound and
22
23
    shadow flicker to analyze the compliance with
24
    regulations.
25
           MR. REED: Well, that being the case then, should
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after the completion of construction if actual onsite
1
2
    testing shows that you're beyond the compliance levels
3
    that's established, what is your contingency plan to
    deal with those?
 4
           MS. ANDERSON: If that were to happen, we would
5
6
    analyze why that's happening and then take steps to
7
    reduce the sound power emissions to be in compliance
    with the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulations,
8
    for example.
10
           MR. REED: And about shadow flicker?
11
           MS. ANDERSON: I mean same. I've never worked on
12
    a project in my career that has done post-construction
    monitoring for shadow flicker.
13
14
           MR. REED: Okay. Thank you.
           MS. ANDERSON: You're welcome.
15
           MR. KAINS: Thank you, Mr. Reed.
16
17
           Any other questions from the general public?
18
           Mr. Hartke, you've already had your bite at the
19
    apple. I'm sorry.
20
           This nice lady, and I can't remember your name,
2.1
    but come on forward.
22
           MS. RYAN: It's because I'm trying to be
23
    invisible.
24
           MR. KAINS: Fly below the radar. Go ahead and
25
    please state your name, spelling first and last for the
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record.

2.1

MS. RYAN: Susan Ryan, R-Y-A-N. You should've known it's an Irish name.

You brought up the weather radar information.

You said that Piatt County has no impact according to -could you go over that again? Is that from the National
Weather Service?

MS. ANDERSON: Two sources, sure. So let me just pull that out. So, we had a study done by a third-party expert that analyzes radar systems that shows as a function of distance from the weather radar -- we're more the 50 kilometers from the Lincoln Weather Radar -- that we are in a "no-impact zone". Additionally, there is a clearinghouse of federal agencies that -- including the National Weather Service, that use spectrum, including weather radar. They've reviewed the project and said that we will not have an impact. So, it's a third-party expert, and it's also a review by the federal agencies, including the National Weather Service that have said that.

MS. RYAN: So, you asked specifically about this wind complex in Piatt County? You asked the National Weather Service?

MS. ANDERSON: Via the National Telecommunication
Information Administration, yes, the National Weather

Service provided input on Prosperity Wind.

2.1

MS. RYAN: Okay. I guess I'm kind of confused then, because would you agree that the National Weather Service information kind of seems to be evolving as more wind towers get built? For instance, you didn't have any information about weather radar in the previous permit, if I remember correctly, and --

MS. ANDERSON: We did. It was just in the form of this review by federal agencies, this NTIA letter. That letter was in the application last time. We've more clearly spelled it out and provided that map to clearly show this time around. It's a new addition to the ordinance, as I mentioned. So, we wanted to be very clear about our lack of impact, no impact to this weather radar.

MS. RYAN: Okay. But, again, it seems like the National Weather Service information and data seems to be evolving and especially with the increase with height, et cetera.

MS. ANDERSON: But I'll stop you and say that the National Weather Service reviewed this project, our turbine locations, and the height, and that takes into account every other turbine that's already built. We are still in a no-impact zone.

MS. RYAN: Okay. That was my question, and

that's your testimony. I'm looking at an April 2023 article from Channel 3 WCIA in Champaign, and it was -- I believe it was written by Jacob Lighty and -- no, Jacob Dickey and Kevin Lighty, meteorologists, and it quotes the National Weather Service James Auten of Lincoln, and I gather you're not aware of this article. It's in April 2023, where they said, "While in most cases the beam looks above the wind turbine and does not directly block the beam, the wind turbines do create turbulence above them." And, "This is picked up on doppler radar and sometimes can provide false readings," according to James Auten from the National Weather Service in Lincoln.

2.1

MR. KAINS: Ms. Ryan, what's your question?

MS. RYAN: That -- are you not aware of this article, because that's from the National Weather Service information.

MS. ANDERSON: I'm not aware of that specific article, no, but I will reiterate that this project is so far from the -- from the Lincoln Weather Radar that it's not going to impact it, and it -- right? So, what you're talking about, what the reference is of scattering or what have you, that might happen in one of those earlier zones, right? We had a red zone for "no built". We had an orange zone for "mitigation". We

yellow zone for "consultation", and then a light green
-- a dark green zone for "notification". That is to
work through those potential issues of maybe scatter or
any other impact to the National Weather Radar. The
National Weather Service has reviewed this project, and
we will not impact it. We are in a "no-impact zone".

2.1

MS. RYAN: Okay. Thank you. Again, this April 2023 article, you're not aware of, it sounds like, says -- quotes it quite differently.

MS. ANDERSON: Maybe you're misunderstanding me, so let me just back up a little bit. It might impact it if it were in one of those orange or yellow or dark green zones that I showed on the map.

Ray, if you want to bring it back up, but we are so far away from it, right -- so here is the map that shows that, you know, consultation might be needed or notification or mitigation might be needed. That's where those impacts -- if those impacts are occurring, those are the steps. This project is sited outside of any of those zones in a "no-impact zone", and that's from the National Weather Service.

MS. RYAN: Okay. Well, again, that April article kind of says otherwise.

MS. ANDERSON: If the project were in a yellow zone, maybe, but that's my point. I'm not saying it

can't happen for other projects, but for this project, we're sited in an area where it's a "no-impact zone".

2.1

MR. HESS: I'm sorry to interrupt, Ms. Ryan, and I would state an objection mostly for the record since it's already been answered, but, Mr. Kains, your instruction at the outset was that you would be very cautious about internet-sourced information, and I think the caution is well taken here, because if it's an April 2023 article, it can't possibly be about this project that submitted an application in July. So, with all due respect to Ms. Ryan, I don't think those quotes are about Prosperity Wind, in which case they're not relevant.

MR. KAINS: Right, and I believe you are correct, although it could have some relevance if it is related to the previous applicant Goose Creek Wind; however, I said I would be extremely cautious about allowing the admission. Ms. Ryan is not moving for the admission of the article; however, she's referencing it very thoroughly, but what I'm going to say is I don't think, Ms. Ryan, you can ask any more questions to Ms. Anderson about the article because she said she's not familiar with the article. So, that's kind of where we stand on that issue. If you have any other questions about the -- about any of Ms. Anderson's testimony, you may feel

free and go right ahead.

2.1

MS. RYAN: Thank you. You had at the very last slide "this shall be approved", and you are the permit manager, is that correct, is your title?

MS. ANDERSON: Director of project permitting, correct.

MS. RYAN: So, you're probably pretty involved with the legal and legislative issues, and you have to be to make sure that the permit is as it should be as you work through this -- these details, correct?

MS. ANDERSON: Legal and legislative issues, I'm not sure where you're going with that, but my job, as I mentioned, is to make sure that the project and the application comply with the law.

MS. RYAN: Is in compliance?

MS. ANDERSON: Correct.

MS. RYAN: So you talked about exceeding some of these requirements, and I am afraid I can't remember which ones they were, and you mentioned the state law and of course the Piatt County ordinances, but didn't Apex actually lobby for this state law to lower the standards in -- so that counties -- and want counties to not have any say in approval when you're actually saying that you're trying to be a good neighbor and exceed, you know, some requirements? Isn't it true that Apex did

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lobby and help write that law, the state law?
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           MS. ANDERSON: I don't -- I'm not on our
    government affairs team. Personally, I didn't.
3
                                                      Apex
    works with counties and states all across this country
4
5
    to work on ordinances, I'll tell you that.
           MS. RYAN: Okay. She didn't answer my question.
6
7
    That's it. Thank you.
           MR. KAINS: Well, if you know, Ms. Anderson, did
8
9
    Apex lobby the State Legislature, if you know.
10
           MS. ANDERSON: I don't know.
11
           MR. KAINS: Okay, very good.
12
           MS. RYAN: Okay. Thank you.
13
           MR. KAINS: Ms. Ryan, thank you.
           Any other questions for Ms. Anderson from the
14
15
    general public?
16
           All right. Now, questions from Piatt County
    staff and consultants. Mr. Keyt.
17
18
           MR. KEYT: I just have a few, if I may.
19
           MR. KAINS: Yes.
20
           MR. KEYT: Ms. Anderson, I just wanted to
2.1
    understand what exactly you're testifying to and what
22
    the foundation is. So, if I'm understanding it
23
    correctly, is it fair to say you did not perform the
24
    sound study; is that fair?
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           MS. ANDERSON: That's correct.
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MR. KEYT: Is it fair to say you did not perform
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2
    the shadow flicker study?
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           MS. ANDERSON: That's correct.
           MR. KEYT: Is it fair to say you did not perform
4
    the wildlife study?
5
6
           MS. ANDERSON: That's correct.
7
           MR. KEYT: Is it fair to say you did not perform
    the decommissioning plan?
8
           MS. ANDERSON: That's correct.
           MR. KEYT: Is it fair to say you did not perform
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11
    the weather-radar analysis?
12
           MS. ANDERSON: That's correct. My role is to
    review all of those materials and ensure that they meet
13
    the standards that we're talking about here. That's my
14
    role.
15
           MR. KEYT: Yeah, I understand. I'm not trying to
16
17
    hone you about it, I just want to make sure that I
18
    understand there is another witness that can testify as
    to those issues from Apex's team; is that correct?
19
20
           MS. ANDERSON: All of our subject-matter experts
2.1
    are here. I have summarized the application tonight.
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           MR. KEYT: Right. So, what I said is correct?
23
           MS. ANDERSON: Correct.
24
           MR. KEYT: Okay. So, on those issues of sound,
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    shadow flicker, wildlife, decommissioning, weather
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radar, you would rely on the testimony of other
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    witnesses to provide that information to the zoning
    board?
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           MS. ANDERSON: If needed. If you have further
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    questions on any of those topics, again, our
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6
    subject-matter experts are here, but I have summarized
7
    everything tonight.
           MR. KEYT: I understand, but as to the basis of
8
9
    the opinion and where they got it, you would rely on the
    subject-matters experts to provide that information?
10
11
    I understand that correct?
12
           MS. ANDERSON: Yes.
13
           MR. KEYT: Okay. Thank you.
           MR. KAINS: Thank you, Mr. Keyt.
14
15
           Redirect, Ms. Antoniolli, Mr. Hess, Mr. Granholm?
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: Nothing from us.
16
                                              The final
17
           MR. KAINS: Nothing. All right.
18
    questions for this witness come from the members of the
    Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Harrington.
19
20
           MR. HARRINGTON: So, when you began talking to
2.1
    Mr. Gantz, you referenced more certainty, of course,
    about transformers and substations. You said due to
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23
    that increased certainty, the noise level had changed
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    somehow or another. I'm not really clear on which way
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    that went. I assume you're insinuating it got better
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for him, but I don't know that we have any factual
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2
    numbers. What changed? Was it the transformer itself,
    the placement, or what are you insinuating there?
3
 4
    are you telling us?
5
           MS. ANDERSON: Yeah, as I described to Mr. Gantz,
    for Goose Creek Wind, we didn't have a transformer, so
6
7
    we used the loudest one in the library.
8
           MR. HARRINGTON: In your modeling?
9
           MS. ANDERSON: In the modeling.
           MR. HARRINGTON: Modeling, yeah, okay.
10
11
           MS. ANDERSON: We now know our transformer and
12
    can use that specific -- the sound emission specific to
13
    that transformer in the modeling. That's the update,
    and it is quieter.
14
15
           MR. HARRINGTON: So, was it solely the version of
    the transformer and its rated dB-whatever, or was it
16
17
    some other factors, placement, other arrangements in the
18
    project? I don't know.
           MS. ANDERSON: It's precise location within the
19
20
    substation and the equipment itself.
2.1
           MR. HARRINGTON: So, it would be true to say some
22
    of the location changed also then?
23
           MS. ANDERSON: It was modeled -- I'd have to ask
24
    Eddie if it shifted within the substation itself, but --
25
          MR. HARRINGTON: Right, I get it. So, to sort of
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finish that thought out, you know, Mr. Gantz is asking about things you may do as a good neighbor to accommodate him. We know landscaping plans include -- he mentioned a berm or concrete. You -- I got -- I wrote down "will look into it". I guess what -- what do you think -- what can you give Mr. Gantz to work with there? Do you think "look into it" means you'll check on it, or you're going to work something out with him ahead of time?

MS. ANDERSON: I mean to me what that means -- I know Kent and Alan are working directly with him, and I don't know specifics of those conversations, right? I think it's a great improvement for Mr. Gantz that we have more certainty on the transformer and his sound level at his residence -- at his residential use has gone down.

MR. HARRINGTON: Right, no, I always think that's always good.

MS. ANDERSON: Yeah.

2.1

MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you for that. So, there's also -- some questioning provoked another question in my mind in regards to Mr. Reed's question about sound and shadow flicker. It brings -- you mentioned something to the effect that most projects don't have a post-build shadow flicker study or report, am I perceiving that

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right? Did I hear you right?
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2
           MS. ANDERSON: I've never done one in my career.
           MR. HARRINGTON: Right. So being that the case,
3
    is that also true for sound or just flicker?
4
5
           MS. ANDERSON: Maybe restate your question.
           MR. HARRINGTON: A post-construction study.
 6
7
           MS. ANDERSON: A post-construction sound study is
8
    more common. I have seen those in the past. I have
    never seen a shadow flicker study.
           MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. So, whether it be sound
10
11
    or flicker, if a complaint was made, would Apex
12
    voluntarily address it with the non-participant, or
    would there have to be --
13
14
           MS. ANDERSON: Absolutely.
           MR. HARRINGTON: -- there would have to be some
15
16
    other -- so maybe speak to that. If it was
17
    non-voluntary, or I'm sorry, if it was voluntary on your
    part, pardon me, what could that resident expect?
18
    you would -- if it's after construction, what options do
19
20
    you have left? Would you pick certain hours that the
2.1
    turbine doesn't turn, or how does that look in a
22
    resident's eyes?
23
           MS. ANDERSON: Sure. Are you talking about sound
24
    or flicker or both?
25
           MR. HARRINGTON: Both. You can pick either
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topic. 1 2 MS. ANDERSON: I mean, so we treat complaints 3 from participants and non-participants equally, right? So, if we get a complaint, we will address it. You 4 5 know, specific to flicker, we would, you know, or sound, meet with the residents, what are you experiencing? 6 7 know, technicians would go out, are they seeing or hearing something abnormal? And then there's, you know, 8 9 monitoring to, you know, to ensure that like the turbine is operating correctly. Post construction, yeah, maybe 10 11 in certain wind speeds the turbines are noisier for 12 whatever reason, right? There are operational things that we can do to address some of those complaints, you 13 know, as they're warranted. 14 15 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. Very good. That's all 16 I've got. 17 MR. KAINS: Thank you, Mr. Harrington. 18 Mr. Wax, do you have any questions? 19 No. 20 I apologize to Mr. Hendrix. I didn't see you 2.1 with your hand up. There's this post. I love this 22 room, but, Mr. Hendrix, you may approach and ask 23 questions of Ms. Anderson.

MR. HENDRIX: Thank you.

Ms. Anderson, I am sorry, because I had a stroke

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back in February, but I am still the county board
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    chairman, and so I have a concern about the new law if
    this application meets all the requirements shall be
3
    approved, and that was stated very sternly by you.
4
5
    question I have, have we applied a special use permit to
6
    the State? Do we have a special use permit for the
7
    State?
           MS. ANDERSON: We don't. It's the state law in
8
9
    this regard is administered at the county level, and so
    we are applying to Piatt County for the special use
10
11
    permit.
           MR. HENDRIX: But "shall be approved", it was on
12
    the screen the entire time we're -- the break was. Why
13
    are we responsible for approving or not approving the
14
    special use permit when our esteemed governor has
15
    already stated that we shall approve it? I -- will I be
16
17
    forced by law to approve this? Will I?
18
           MS. ANDERSON: I can't -- I don't -- I can't
    speak to, you know, how the Illinois' legislative system
19
20
    works and, you know, this state law. I do know that
2.1
    your -- you know, you guys updated your ordinance --
22
           MR. HENDRIX: I know it.
23
           MS. ANDERSON: -- right, in May, and the same
24
    language is in there, but I'm not going to make a legal
25
    conclusion.
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MR. HENDRIX: I understand that.

MS. ANDERSON: Sure.

2.1

MR. HENDRIX: But I can say that some -- so a little bit of certainty that if this zoning board does not approve this, and it comes before the county board, and the county board -- and the whole thing is I was one of the two votes for Goose Creek, okay? The county board would -- and this, we were to disapprove this again, what would the State force us to do? You -- you would have -- you would have to sue us, don't you? Won't you? Ms. Anderson, do you think your esteemed legal team would sue Apex -- the County? That's a question. Would you think that we would be sued by the County -- by Apex?

MS. ANDERSON: If the -- I'll tell you that the Prosperity Wind project meets the technical requirement of the ordinance and the state law. If the county board denies the permit, Apex would look at our options on a path forward. I can't tell you what we would do in that speculative situation.

MR. HENDRIX: I understand that, and I appreciate that, but my -- my wants right now, I would like to know what the hell are we doing here then? You've got it approved. They have "shall be approved". Why are we here? Why are we here? You guys got a bank of

```
attorneys. I know Alan. I know Kent. Why are we still
1
2
    here in this -- what's the point? What is the point?
3
           MS. ANDERSON: The law requires a public hearing,
    and we are here to answer questions from the community
4
5
    and present this project.
6
           MR. HENDRIX: Thank you. That is correct.
                                                        All
7
    right.
8
           MR. KAINS: Thank you, Mr. Hendrix.
           MR. HENDRIX: You bet.
           MR. KAINS: Any redirect? I think I've already
10
11
    asked you that, but based upon that last question or
12
    questioning.
13
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: No, sir.
           MR. KAINS: Okay. Very good. And we've had
14
15
    final questioning from members of the zoning board.
    Based upon Ms. Hendrix's questions and Ms. Anderson's
16
17
    answers, do we have any other questions from the ZBA?
18
           MR. HARRINGTON: I don't think so.
19
           MR. KAINS: Thank you. Very good.
20
           Ms. Anderson, you may step down from the witness
2.1
    stand, and you will be here for the remainder of the
22
    hearing, so you will be subject to recall if necessary
23
    by your counsel or by the zoning board.
           MS. ANDERSON: You bet.
2.4
           (Whereupon the witness was excused.)
25
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MR. KAINS: All right. Very good. Thank you.
1
    All right. 8:30. Your next witness is Dr. Loomis?
2
3
           MR. HESS: Mr. Kains, we are prepared to call
    Dr. Loomis to address the questions that were raised
4
5
    last night. We're also prepared to call to Mr. Eric
6
    Hansen, one of our consultants from Westwood, solely to
7
    address Mr. Harrington's questions about an SPCC plan
    and how that works. I think that would be pretty brief,
8
    but those would be the next two witnesses.
           MR. KAINS: Two options. How long is Dr.
10
11
    Loomis's presentation?
12
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: Dr. Loomis will answer specific
13
    questions. I estimate his presentation or testimony
    would be about 15 minutes or so based on what we've
14
    heard.
15
16
           MR. KAINS: Okay. So, he doesn't have a
    presentation?
17
18
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: We heard -- yeah, and we have
    some questions just to follow up on questions we heard
19
20
    yesterday that will lead him through in order to answer
2.1
    those specifically.
22
           MR. KAINS: All right. It's your case. I just
23
    am curious how long they would take.
24
          MS. ANTONIOLLI: Sure. We just wanted to give
25
    you an idea of timing, but I think we would then proceed
```

```
with --
1
2
           MR. KAINS: My guess, folks, is Dr. Loomis, if he
3
    takes 15 minutes, the cross-examination of Dr. Loomis
    will take longer than that, which would send us well
4
5
    past nine o'clock.
           You don't want to do that, Mr. Chairman?
6
7
           MR. WAX: No.
8
           MR. KAINS: Okay.
9
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: I think if we call Eric Hansen
    now from Westwood just to talk about the SPCC plan, that
10
11
    would be probably the next best step.
12
           MR. KAINS: Okay. That I think would be the best
    use of time, and you would have Dr. Loomis available
13
    tomorrow night? Okay. Very good.
14
15
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: Okay. Thank you.
           MR. KAINS: Call your next witness.
16
17
           MR. HESS: Thank you, Mr. Kains. We would call
18
    Mr. Eric Hansen.
19
           MR. KAINS: All right. Very good.
20
           Sir, would you please raise your right hand to be
2.1
    sworn?
22
                           ERIC HANSEN
23
    called as a witness, being first duly sworn, was
    examined and testified as follows:
2.4
25
          MR. KAINS: All right. Sir, if you could, please
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```
state your name, spelling first and last names for the
1
2
    record.
3
           MR. HANSEN: Yeah, my name is Eric Hansen,
    E-R-I-C H-A-N-S-E-N.
4
5
           MR. KAINS: Very good. Go ahead, Mr. Hess.
           MR. HESS: Thank you, Mr. Kains.
 6
7
                        DIRECT EXAMINATION
    BY MR. HESS:
8
           Mr. Hansen, can you just briefly introduce
       Q.
    yourself to the ZBA, tell them where you work and little
10
11
    bit just very briefly of your professional background?
12
           Yeah. I'm a senior engineer at Westwood
       Α.
    Professional Services. I have 20 years experience
13
    working with wind projects and 35 years of experience
14
15
    consulting with industrial sites, ground-field
    remediation, contamination clean up, and regulatory
16
17
    compliance.
18
           Does some of your professional experience include
       Ο.
    experience with SPCC plans?
19
           It does.
20
       Α.
2.1
           Would you begin by telling us what that stands
22
    for and explain briefly what that is?
23
       A. Yes, the SPCC is the federal regulation Spill
24
    Prevention and Control and Countermeasures, and it is a
25
    system to target containment of petroleum products and
```

protection of navigable waters and waterways.

- Q. So ultimately does it originate as a federal requirement?
  - A. Yes.

2.1

- Q. And then there are state requirements sort of on that?
  - A. Yes, that is correct.
- Q. All right, and then let's get directly to
  Mr. Harrington's question. Mr. Harrington asked
  Mr. Carlson how we would respond to an oil spill, and I
  want to sort of take that one step at a time and try to
  provide an answer here. In response to an oil spill, is
  that up to Prosperity Wind as far as how we respond?
- A. The response to an oil spill from the turbines -we're talking, I believe, about the turbines
  specifically would be dictated by state guidelines for
  petroleum release, and that would be having to follow
  the guidelines issued by the Illinois EPA.
- Q. And so then in your experience, does an SPCC plan typically incorporate by reference those state guidelines?
- A. It does.
- Q. And then those state guidelines include things such as a notice requirement of state and other authorities if a spill occurs?

- A. Yes, notification of release requirement is part of that statutory rule.
- Q. And then those guidelines would dictate how exactly you would contain the spill and respond to the spill?
  - A. That is correct, yes.

2.1

MR. HESS: Thank you. No further questions.

MR. KAINS: Very good. Thank you, Mr. Hess, and thank you, Mr. Hansen.

Are there questions based upon Mr. Hansen's testimony from the board?

Mr. Harrington.

MR. HARRINGTON: So, I understand you are going to follow the current overruling guidelines, I get that, but in your experience, your 20-odd years with wind farms, what happens? If there's an oil spill, what happens?

MR. HANSEN: With the release from a turbine, what happens in that case is the nacelle itself contains a large portion of the oil, it's built with a tub to contain most of that oil. If there is a release outside of the turbine that is -- you know, falls to the ground and is evaluated by the site personnel and there are calls to the on-call environmental professionals on-call for the project, and they will come out and evaluate the

extent of the release under the state guidelines. So, has it fallen in a large area on a windy day and then spread out, or is it concentrated directly under the turbine in a pooled area.

2.1

MR. HARRINGTON: Makes sense. So, then do they

-- so let's hypothetically say since you're framing that

up, if there is a pool, for example, do they obviously

clean it up, do they remove any dirt, or do they

backfill, or what happens next?

MR. HANSEN: Yeah, there would be a spill-response protocol, and that could include, you know, mopping up free product that's still on the surface of the ground. It could include scoping up some of the soil, but there would be testing involved to see how far contaminates may have spread and what the extent might be.

MR. HARRINGTON: Right. I guess my concern is you have this concrete base, correct, that the turbine stands on?

MR. HANSEN: Yep.

MR. HARRINGTON: And then you have some oil pooled next to it, you know, that the logic might say, well, where is that oil going to go? It's probably going to go down, so that was my reasoning for asking all that. So, knowing that, what kind of time frame do

```
-- you know, I hear you when you say they're going to
1
2
    report it, but, I mean, that's great reporting it, but
    how quickly are they going to act? Are they going to --
3
    obviously, they're going to assumably contain, you know,
4
5
    the source of it immediately, I would assume, but the
    actual contact of product or free product, as you, say,
6
7
    on the ground, is that -- you know, do they have to wait
8
    for protocol, or will they do that immediately or what
    are we looking at?
           MR. HANSEN: There would be an immediate action
10
11
    taken with a spill-response kit, where they would have
12
    materials at the operating O&M building, and they could
13
    bring out those materials and mop up any free product
    that was still there, and then the concrete -- or, yeah,
14
15
    the concrete could be cleaned. That's not going
    anywhere, and the gravel pad could be assessed to see
16
17
    what type of spread there might be.
18
           MR. HARRINGTON:
                           Right. Out of curiosity, you
19
    know, they're going to do all the check boxes, so to
20
    speak, but will they notify the actual landowner of that
2.1
    or not?
22
           MR. HANSEN:
                        Yes.
```

MR. HANSEN: Yeah, there are requirements for that.

They will?

MR. HARRINGTON:

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MR. HARRINGTON: No further questions.
1
2
           MR. KAINS: Dr. Wax, do you have any questions
3
    for Mr. Hansen?
           MR. WAX: No, I do not.
 4
5
           MR. KAINS: All right. Very good.
           Questions from members of units of local
6
7
    government, including school districts?
           Questions from the public? Any questions for
8
9
    Mr. Hansen regarding his testimony from the general
    public?
10
11
           Questions for Mr. Hansen from Piatt County staff
12
    and consultants?
13
           Based upon Mr. Harrington's questions and Mr.
    Hansen's responses thereto, any redirect for Mr. Hess?
14
15
           MR. HESS: No, sir.
           MR. KAINS: Very good.
16
17
           Mr. Hansen, thank you.
18
           (Whereupon the witness was excused.)
           MR. KAINS: Well, that took eight minutes.
19
20
    was good. All right. Let's kind of map out where we're
2.1
    going. Tomorrow evening we'll be back here at 5:30.
22
    You'll have questions on direct examination from Dr.
23
    Loomis, correct?
2.4
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: That's right.
25
           MR. KAINS: Okay. And then do you have any other
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witnesses that you plan to call after Dr. Loomis?
1
2
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: That's all we have.
           MR. KAINS: Okay. Now, Mr. Keyt, have you
3
    consulted with the zoning board? Do you have any
4
5
    witnesses that you are wishing to call tomorrow evening?
           MR. KEYT: Not tomorrow. In terms of the
6
    County's witnesses, we would only call Mr. Minder.
7
                                                         Ιn
    terms of whether the zoning board wants to call
8
    subject-matter experts, I'll be deferring to the zoning
10
    board, but I think their preference is to call those
11
    subject-matter experts to at least get a feel for what
12
    they have to say.
           MR. KAINS: So, we may hear from -- if the board
13
    so chooses, we may hear from Mr. MaRous. We may hear
14
    from Mr. Duncan.
15
16
           MR. KEYT: I think I have the list --
17
           MR. KAINS: Oh, you have the list?
18
           MR. KEYT:
                     -- if it helps.
19
                       Who do you have, Andy?
           MR. KAINS:
20
           MR KEYT: I think the list is Mr. MaRous, Jacob
2.1
    Runner. Mr. Eric Hansen we've already heard from.
    Eddie Duncan and Jeremy Becker.
22
23
           MR. KAINS: Will all of those witnesses be here
24
    tomorrow evening?
25
           MS. ANTONIOLLI: Yes, that's right.
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MR. KAINS: Okay. Very good. All right.

So, folks, that's kind of the road map for where we're going tomorrow night. We'll start with Dr.

Loomis, and then we may have subject-matter experts testifying after Dr. Loomis. And should we get through all of the subject-matter witnesses, some may be short, some may be long, but if we get through all of them, then we will hear then from individuals who are in support of the application, and I know there are several, perhaps quite a few in the room, either late tomorrow evening or early on Thursday.

Ms. Antoniolli.

2.1

2.4

MS. ANTONIOLLI: If you don't mind, can I take one minute to check if there are any public comments, people who wish to give a public comment that can't make it tomorrow night and have a five-minute presentation?

MR. KEYT: Can I make sure I understand what the question is? Are you talking about public comment or are you talking about testimony?

MS. ANTONIOLLI: So, it would just be public comment. I don't know if that's something that you do out of order. I understand that we go in a certain order, but if there are people here tonight that can't be here tomorrow.

MR. KAINS: Well, public comment is going to come

much later. 1 2 MS. ANTONIOLLI: Okay, why don't we just --MR. KAINS: It would be next week. 3 MS. ANTONIOLLI: -- proceed with witnesses then. 4 5 MR. KAINS: Yeah, I'm just -- we're just 6 referring to witnesses. Yeah, public comment will come 7 hopefully next week, but I do want to use our time 8 wisely. MS. ANTONIOLLI: Right, that's what I was 10 thinking was just for efficiency's sake. 11 MR. KAINS: You know, Chairman, if somebody is 12 here who can't be here and they have something to say, 13 do you want to hear what they have to say? I think I'm 14 inclined. 15 MR. WAX: Yeah, why not. MR. KAINS: Even if we have to take them out of 16 17 order, and I'm a by-the-book, follow-the-order and all 18 of that kind of person, but I quess I'll ask on this side of the room, is there anybody who is not going to 19 20 be here tomorrow night or Thursday night, who -- I'm 2.1 trying to remember what day it is, it's still Tuesday --22 tomorrow or Thursday night who has something -- if 23 you're not going to be here and if you have something to 24 say, you get a three-minute public comment. Anybody on

this side of the room? All right.

How about on this side of the room? 1 2 Do you have one? MS. ANTONIOLLI: No, I understand tomorrow will 3 be just fine. But it was great of you to offer. 4 5 appreciate that if anyone wants to raise their hand. MR. KAINS: Well, I do want to use everyone's 6 7 time wisely here, and -- all right. And I also want to say a thank you to Mr. Ehrat, 8 9 who is still back there waiting patiently. Thank you to you, Mr. Ehrat, for agreeing to be our sound engineer 10 11 tomorrow evening. 12 Do you do it at your church or --13 MR. EHRAT: A long time ago I did it at my 14 church, but, yeah, I do it amateur, but, yes, I can do 15 it. 16 MR. KAINS: Okay. Very good. We really appreciate that. 17 18 So, we have our road map tomorrow night. Loomis, followed by perhaps if the zoning board wishes 19 20 to hear from other subject-matter persons that Mr. Keyt 2.1 just listed, we'll have that tomorrow night. Should we 22 get through all of that, then folks in support of the 23 application be prepared if you have testimony, and 24 testimony is going to be different from public comment.

Public comment will be toward the end of the hearing,

```
1
    and that will be three minutes in length. Testimony is
    if you're going to talk longer than three minutes.
2
3
    Public comment you're not subject to cross-examination.
    Testimony you are subject to cross-examination from the
4
5
    zoning board and others. So, keep that in mind.
6
           All right. Mr. Chairman, are we in recess?
7
           All right. We'll be in recess until 5:30
8
    tomorrow evening in this same room, and we'll go 5:30
9
    until nine tomorrow night, and hopefully we'll get a lot
10
    accomplished tomorrow evening. Thanks. We're in
11
    recess.
12
13
14
       (END OF PROCEEDINGS.)
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#	<b>35-years</b> [1] - 20:14	90:2	acres [4] - 61:24, 62:1,	admit [1] - 48:10
	<b>365</b> [1] - 27:16	<b>902</b> [3] - 86:10, 86:15,	62:4, 62:9	Admitted [1] - 2:17
#084-004628 [1] -	<b>38.76</b> [1] - 62:4	86:19	acronym [1] - 27:11	admitted [2] - 48:15,
135:13	<b>3E</b> [1] - 28:15	<b>910</b> [4] - 86:12, 86:21,	Act [2] - 85:7, 86:1	49:22
#84-004628 [1] - 135:3	<b>3M</b> [1] - 45:3	89:4, 89:5	act [2] - 50:20, 128:3	adopt [1] - 50:7
		<b>911</b> [5] - 7:11, 15:18,	action [3] - 29:15,	adopted [5] - 50:20,
1	4	15:21, 18:19, 72:8	33:3, 128:10	50:23, 50:24, 57:22,
			Action [7] - 14:11,	73:16
<b>1,282</b> [1] - 51:11	<b>4</b> [3] <b>-</b> 84:24, 85:11,	Α	15:4, 21:15, 29:16,	advance [1] - 10:1
<b>1,669</b> [1] - 51:12	89:4		32:21, 33:10, 34:7	aerial [3] - 80:13, 82:3
<b>1-901</b> [1] - 89:24	<b>40-square</b> [1] - 62:4	A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N [1] -	actions [1] - 9:21	<b>affairs</b> [1] - 112:3
<b>1.5-mile</b> [1] - 73:19	<b>400</b> [1] - 51:13	49:14	activate [1] - 38:3	affected [1] - 99:13
<b>10</b> [3] - 39:9, 43:4,	<b>45</b> [6] - 53:9, 74:10,	<b>Abe</b> [2] - 4:16, 4:18	activated [1] - 38:1	affirmative) [3] -
63:16	74:25, 75:6, 100:17	<b>ability</b> [2] - 18:17, 80:8	activates [2] - 35:12,	43:22, 74:14, 88:3
<b>102-1123</b> [1] - 85:7	<b>46.8</b> [1] - 100:17	<b>able</b> [3] - 36:14, 80:10, 91:14	58:25	<b>afraid</b> [1] - 111:18
<b>11</b> [3] - 2:18, 48:13,	<b>48</b> [1] - 2:18	abnormal [2] - 19:7,	active[1] - 61:6	afternoon [1] - 17:22
48:14	<b>49</b> [1] - 2:18	118:8	activity [1] - 57:10	afterwards [1] -
11th [1] - 62:13	E	above-entitled [1] -	actual [4] - 25:7,	102:10
<b>12</b> [5] <b>-</b> 2:18, 42:1,	5	135:5	105:1, 128:6, 128:20	<b>agencies</b> [5] - 60:8,
42:6, 49:21, 49:22 <b>1230</b> [1] - 45:4	<b>5.7.1</b> [1] - 58:23	above-ground [1] -	<b>ADAM</b> [2] - 2:7, 37:3	60:11, 106:14,
<b>12th</b> [1] - 43.4	<b>50</b> [8] - 39:11, 60:1,	61:18	<b>Adam</b> [6] - 36:19,	106:19, 107:9
<b>15</b> [5] - 55:6, 63:16,	76:11, 76:15, 76:16,	aboveground [2] -	37:3, 37:10, 48:11, 54:8, 72:16	agent [1] - 38:14
78:19, 122:14, 123:3	76:18, 79:1, 106:12	62:6, 62:8	add [1] - 62:1	<b>ago</b> [5] - 43:5, 50:1, 55:17, 100:18,
<b>15-feet</b> [1] - 61:25	<b>53</b> [1] - 61:24	absolutely [8] - 31:15,	added [4] - 7:17, 11:4,	133:13
<b>150</b> [2] - 14:13, 26:11	<b>54</b> [3] - 80:7, 80:9,	36:3, 48:9, 57:13,	11:6, 63:14	agree [6] - 17:17,
<b>16</b> [2] - 6:10, 58:24	80:13	78:2, 86:18, 94:5,	addition [5] - 34:22,	43:19, 44:6, 44:7,
<b>18</b> [1] - 42:6	<b>5:30</b> [3] - 129:21,	117:14	58:15, 59:11, 64:17,	44:9, 107:3
<b>18,000</b> [1] <b>-</b> 59:5	134:7, 134:8	access [13] - 7:10,	107:12	agreed [3] - 25:1,
18-foot-wide [1] -	<b>5:35</b> [2] - 1:4, 3:1	7:13, 24:6, 24:8,	additional [3] - 5:13,	54:12, 72:3
61:20	<b>5B</b> [3] <b>-</b> 69:17, 69:18,	24:17, 25:1, 25:8,	56:15, 61:8	agreeing [1] - 133:10
	69:23	57:25, 58:9, 58:11,	additionally [2] -	agreement [6] - 22:15,
2		61:25, 65:4, 72:10	53:19, 106:13	24:18, 62:13, 62:16,
	6	accidents [1] - 24:15 accommodate [1] -	address [7] - 71:8,	62:21, 64:5
<b>20</b> [3] - 61:20, 66:8,	<b>60</b> [1] - 58:5	116:3	72:19, 117:12,	Agreement [1] - 62:12
124:13	<b>61</b> [1] - 76:9	accomplished [1] -	118:4, 118:13,	Agreements [3] -
<b>20-odd</b> [1] - 126:15 <b>200</b> [1] - 14:13	<b>672</b> [1] - 51:15	134:10	122:4, 122:7	56:3, 56:4, 57:19
<b>2023</b> [6] - 62:13,	0.11	according [2] - 106:5,	addressed [1] - 93:3 addresses [2] - 7:11,	agrees [1] - 61:4 agricultural [7] - 50:6,
108:1, 108:7, 109:8,	7	108:12	8:3	62:11, 62:16, 62:18,
110:9, 135:20	-	accordingly [1] -	addressing [3] - 72:1,	62:20, 91:11
<b>21D</b> [1] - 64:4	<b>7</b> [4] <b>-</b> 23:4, 27:15,	26:20	77:21, 81:19	Agricultural [2] -
<b>23</b> [1] - 58:23	39:9, 42:18	account [1] - 107:23	adds [1] - 52:11	62:12, 62:15
<b>24</b> [2] - 23:4, 27:15	<b>75</b> [1] - 58:4	accumulation [1] -	adhere [1] - 60:15	agriculture [2] - 58:7,
<b>24-7</b> [2] - 7:8, 29:12	<b>7:15</b> [1] <b>-</b> 66:8	54:21	adjust [1] - 26:19	88:22
<b>24-hour</b> [1] - 22:17	0	accurate [3] - 75:13,	adjustment [1] - 52:11	ahead [27] - 12:24,
<b>25</b> [3] - 58:2, 85:2,	8	78:20, 135:7	<b>ADLS</b> [6] - 58:20,	19:22, 26:9, 39:20,
86:1	<b>8/29/23</b> [1] - 1:4	achieved [1] - 9:13	58:22, 58:24, 59:5,	39:22, 44:24, 49:4,
<b>27,000</b> [1] - 62:9	<b>80-acre</b> [1] - 88:18	<b>acknowledge</b> [1] <b>-</b> 91:13	59:6, 62:2	49:24, 66:12, 66:17,
<b>29-foot</b> [1] - 61:21	<b>8:30</b> [1] - 122:2	acknowledged [1] -	administer [1] - 60:11	79:21, 83:22, 83:25,
	<b>8:43</b> [1] - 1:4	55:22	administered [1] -	85:23, 87:3, 89:2, 90:11, 90:21, 95:7,
3		acknowledgement [1]	119:9 Administration [2] -	97:15, 100:13,
<b>3</b> [2] - 65:9, 108:2	9	- 61:13	60:5, 106:25	104:6, 104:9,
<b>3.5</b> [2] - 59:1, 59:2	00 50.4	acoustician [3] - 81:5,	Administrative [1] -	105:24, 111:1,
<b>30</b> [5] <b>-</b> 53:12, 53:17,	<b>90</b> [1] - 52:1	81:6, 100:2	85:17	116:9, 124:5
53:23, 59:15, 98:10	<b>90,000</b> [1] <b>-</b> 43:9	acousticians [1] -	administrator [1] -	ahold [2] - 14:24,
<b>300</b> [3] - 14:8, 14:13	<b>900.102</b> [4] - 85:14, 85:15, 86:20, 86:21	87:6	29:18	15:22
<b>31</b> [1] - 62:1	<b>901</b> [3] - 89:10, 89:21,	acre [1] - 61:22	admission [2] -	aided [1] - 135:6
<b>35</b> [1] - 124:14	JJ [0] JJ. 10, JJ. 21,	acreage [1] - 62:5	110:18	<b>AIMA</b> [5] - 63:2, 63:9,

63:23, 64:4, 65:14 air [2] - 46:12, 59:4 Air [1] - 58:15 aircraft [4] - 58:24, 59:1, 59:2, 59:3 Alan [4] - 101:1, 103:6, 116:11, 121:1 alarm [1] - 38:20 Allegiance [1] - 4:11 allegiance [2] - 4:12, 4:14 allow [6] - 84:25, 85:24, 92:20, 97:3, 97:19, 99:16 allowed [1] - 79:22 allowing [1] - 110:17 allows [1] - 53:19 **allude** [1] - 74:5 **alluding** [1] - 73:10 almost [4] - 19:6, 32:14, 49:25, 92:25 alone [4] - 39:9, 41:1, 46:21, 58:1 altitudes [1] - 59:4 **AM** [1] - 5:6 amateur [1] - 133:14 America [1] - 39:8 amount [4] - 38:12, 63:17, 97:19 amy [1] - 1:17 analysis [4] - 53:4, 59:9, 60:10, 113:11 analyze [2] - 104:23, analyzes [1] - 106:10 analyzing [1] - 59:16 Anderson [38] - 48:4, 48:16, 49:10, 49:13, 49:24, 66:4, 66:7, 66:24, 67:2, 67:10, 69:15, 70:10, 70:17, 72:22, 72:24, 79:13, 79:21, 80:4, 83:2, 83:13, 86:24, 87:25, 90:5, 92:12, 94:23, 96:13, 100:14, 102:13, 104:10, 104:12, 110:21, 112:8, 112:14, 112:20, 118:23, 118:25, 120:11, 121:20 ANDERSON [110] -2:9, 48:18, 49:13, 49:25, 67:4, 67:7, 67:17, 70:21, 71:2, 71:22, 72:12, 72:25, 73:13, 74:12, 74:15, 74:23, 75:2, 75:8, 75:14, 75:19, 75:23,

76:25, 77:17, 77:21, 77:24, 78:2, 78:8, 78:21, 79:1, 79:7, 80:23, 81:3, 81:17, 82:10, 84:20, 87:2, 88:5, 88:17, 88:24, 90:10, 90:17, 91:8, 91:17, 92:15, 92:18, 92:22, 93:9, 93:12, 93:19, 94:11, 95:2, 95:5, 95:11, 96:1, 96:21, 97:21, 98:4, 99:21, 101:7, 102:9, 103:5, 104:15, 104:20, 105:5, 105:11, 105:15, 106:8. 106:24. 107:8. 107:20. 108:18, 109:10, 109:24, 111:5, 111:11, 111:16, 112:2, 112:10, 112:25, 113:3, 113:6, 113:9, 113:12, 113:20, 113:23, 114:4, 114:12, 115:5, 115:9, 115:11, 115:19, 115:23, 116:10, 116:19, 117:2, 117:5, 117:7, 117:14, 117:23, 118:2, 119:8, 119:18, 119:23, 120:2, 120:15, 121:3, 121:24 anderson [1] - 96:12 Anderson's [7] - 49:2, 49:19, 82:23, 97:14, 110:25, 121:16 andrew [1] - 1:15 Andy [1] - 130:19 annual [4] - 33:19, 41:24, 64:10, 65:7 anomaly [2] - 19:5, 19.7 ANSI [1] - 89:7 answer [36] - 13:18, 18:14, 22:23, 36:15, 36:18, 39:25, 42:22, 46:2, 46:25, 67:13, 67:14, 70:12, 71:2, 80:10, 80:19, 80:21, 81:6, 81:16, 83:22, 85:9, 94:19, 94:21, 94:23, 94:24, 94:25, 96:13, 96:16, 96:17, 96:18, 101:8, 112:6, 121:4, 122:12,

76:2, 76:6, 76:8,

122:20, 125:12 answered [3] - 84:6, 94:9, 110:5 answering [3] - 46:23, 67:15. 94:24 answers [4] - 38:8, 80:20, 83:24, 121:17 ANTONIOLLI [35] -5:15, 27:5, 27:8, 29:1, 29:21, 36:18, 37:7, 37:9, 39:16, 39:20, 47:21, 48:3, 48:10, 48:21, 48:24, 49:1, 49:6, 49:9, 49:18, 114:16, 121:13, 122:12, 122:18, 122:24, 123:9, 123:15, 129:24, 130:2, 130:25, 131:13, 131:20, 132:2, 132:4, 132:9, 133:3 antoniolli [2] - 39:17, 131:12 Antoniolli [4] - 1:17, 37:6, 49:16, 114:15 anyway [2] - 66:9, 100:20 Apex [35] - 6:8, 6:14, 6:16, 7:4, 8:23, 10:9, 22:16, 23:5, 34:9, 50:1, 55:14, 55:17, 64:25, 71:22, 91:13, 91:17, 92:19, 96:5, 96:14, 96:17, 96:19, 96:21, 97:3, 98:22, 99:5, 99:16, 99:17, 111:21, 111:25, 112:3, 112:9, 117:11, 120:12, 120:14, 120:18 Apex's [1] - 113:19 apologize [1] - 118:20 apparent [1] - 41:22 Appeals [9] - 2:4, 2:6, 2:8, 2:10, 2:12, 2:14, 4:23, 67:11, 114:19 appear [1] - 77:9 appendices [2] -28:15, 51:6 appendix [1] - 85:13 Appendix [10] - 28:15, 52:22, 53:14, 56:20, 59:14, 61:4, 63:5, 80:1, 80:2, 84:24 apple [1] - 105:19 applicable [3] - 86:22, 89:9, 89:23 Applicant [1] - 4:21 **APPLICANT**[1] - 1:16

applicant [5] - 56:20, 60:15, 84:1, 89:5, 110:16 applicant's [1] - 48:14 Applicant's [4] - 2:18, 2:18, 48:12, 49:21 application [45] -14:2, 14:6, 19:16, 19:17, 28:13, 31:19, 50:2, 50:12, 51:2, 51:7, 52:4, 52:23, 55:8, 56:16, 56:17, 57:2, 58:23, 59:14, 63:5, 65:19, 65:21, 66:1, 69:16, 73:7, 75:17, 75:18, 75:21, 75:25, 76:22, 79:16, 79:17, 80:5, 83:3, 91:23, 93:1, 96:25, 98:17, 101:9, 107:10, 110:10, 111:14, 113:21, 119:3, 131:9, 133:23 APPLICATION[1] applications [1] -78:24 applied [2] - 83:2, 119:5 apply [1] - 96:22 applying [1] - 119:10 appreciate [9] - 4:19, 21:11, 26:22, 74:4, 95:21, 103:4, 120:21, 133:5, 133:17 approach [1] - 118:22 appropriate [2] - 50:5, 69:11 approval [1] - 111:23 approve [5] - 50:25, 51:1, 119:16, 119:17, 120:5 approved [12] - 50:18, 58:13, 58:18, 58:20, 59:6, 65:21, 66:3, 98:6, 111:3, 119:4, 119:12, 120:24 approved" [1] -120:24 approving [2] - 119:14 approximate [2] -75:8, 75:11 April [5] - 108:1, 108:7, 109:7, 109:22, 110:8 Aquaphor [3] - 56:22, 57:3, 57:5 Area [1] - 60:21

area [14] - 18:17, 20:5,

47:9, 59:23, 60:1, 60:23, 70:22, 77:2, 77:4, 88:21, 94:2, 110:2, 127:2, 127:4 areas [4] - 22:13, 45:8, 50:6, 60:10 arrangements [2] -18:6, 115:17 article [10] - 108:2, 108:6, 108:16, 108:19, 109:8, 109:22, 110:9, 110:19, 110:22, 110:23 assessed [1] - 128:16 **Assessment** [1] - 56:5 assistant [1] - 20:15 associated [3] -20:20, 22:15, 65:11 assumably [1] - 128:4 assume [5] - 23:15, 68:6, 97:12, 114:25, 128:5 assumes [5] - 52:15, 52:17, 94:18, 94:20, 97:7 assumptions [2] -52:10, 52:20 assurance [2] - 64:2, 64:22 attach [1] - 13:7 attempted [1] - 14:20 attention [1] - 38:22 attorney [1] - 57:3 attorneys [1] - 121:1 audience [1] - 14:7 Auten [2] - 108:5, 108:12 authorities [1] -125:25 Authority [2] - 56:22, 57:3 authority [1] - 26:17 available [2] - 11:7, 123:13 avenues [1] - 72:17 avoid [2] - 88:20, 88:21 avoidance [2] - 56:19, 61:3 aware [7] - 11:17, 72:7, 93:15, 108:6, 108:15, 108:18, 109:8 awesome [1] - 6:5

## В

**B3** [1] - 51:6 **B4** [1] - 51:6

**B5** [2] - 56:20, 61:4 backfill [1] - 127:9 background [2] -31:10, 124:11 **ball** [1] - 104:1 **band** [3] - 75:3, 89:10, 89:13 bands [2] - 74:18, 74:20 bank [1] - 120:25 **bankruptcy** [1] - 64:25 base [2] - 58:5, 127:18 based [12] - 29:22, 35:24, 63:19, 65:18, 75:13, 75:15, 121:11, 121:16, 122:14, 126:10, 129:13 **basic** [1] - 89:6 basis [4] - 17:13, 17:15, 41:25, 114:8 bat [2] - 61:9, 61:11 bats [1] - 61:6 battle [1] - 20:25 beam [2] - 108:8, 108:9 beans [1] - 47:8 Becker [1] - 130:22 becomes [1] - 66:14 beem [1] - 3:24 Beem [1] - 1:11 **BEEM** [1] - 3:25 began [1] - 114:20 begin [1] - 124:21 beginning [2] - 73:1, 92:9 behalf [3] - 4:21, 5:15, 48:3 behind [1] - 104:13 Bellflower [2] - 24:7, 25:5 below [2] - 52:24, 105:24 beneficiary [2] - 65:3, 65:5 benefit [2] - 64:8, 79:24 berm [5] - 100:24, 101:13, 101:14, 102:25, 116:4 best [4] - 7:4, 32:2, 123:11, 123:12 **bet** [3] - 21:18, 121:9, 121:24 better [4] - 29:3, 53:25, 90:10, 114:25 between [1] - 81:10 beyond [13] - 7:25, 8:23, 25:20, 26:2, 34:10, 82:23, 83:7,

85:1, 85:25, 92:6, 97:13, 105:2 big [2] - 25:15, 80:21 bigger [1] - 81:14 billions [1] - 43:1 birds [1] - 49:5 bit [8] - 29:9, 58:17, 63:2, 63:6, 101:2, 109:11, 120:4, 124.11 **bite** [1] - 105:18 black [1] - 82:18 blades [1] - 25:15 blob [2] - 59:18 block [1] - 108:9 blocked [1] - 24:10 board [45] - 6:6, 7:21, 8:3, 10:19, 14:7, 19:12, 29:18, 29:24, 34:11, 36:7, 47:6, 47:23, 50:22, 50:24, 53:2, 57:22, 59:8, 62:24, 63:10, 65:15, 66:3, 73:16, 80:7, 97:2, 97:3, 98:14, 98:15, 98:22, 114:3, 119:1, 120:4, 120:5, 120:6, 120:8, 120:17, 121:15, 121:23, 126:11, 130:4, 130:8, 130:10, 130:13, 133:19, 134:5 BOARD [4] - 1:1, 1:9, 1:11, 1:14 Board [28] - 2:4, 2:4, 2:6, 2:8, 2:10, 2:12, 2:12, 2:14, 3:18, 4:23, 52:8, 55:24, 67:11, 74:13, 87:1, 88:6, 90:7, 90:18, 91:10, 91:21, 96:4, 96:24. 97:2. 97:9. 98:8, 99:24, 105:8, 114:19 Board's [1] - 103:9 board-certified [1] -53:2 boat [1] - 71:12 bond [12] - 64:5, 64:11, 64:16, 64:18, 64:19, 65:1, 65:3, 65:7, 65:8, 65:9, 65:13 Bond [2] - 65:11

book [1] - 132:17

boom [1] - 45:24

Botanical [1] - 60:23

boundary [1] - 87:20

**boundaries** [1] - 85:25

boxes [2] - 55:23, 128:19 brand [2] - 13:1 break [10] - 23:18, 66:6, 66:8, 66:10, 66:13, 66:15, 66:16, 66:18, 119:13 **BRIE** [3] - 2:9, 48:18, 49:13 **Brie** [3] - 48:4, 48:7, 49:13 brief [3] - 11:14, 41:12, 122:8 briefly [4] - 101:5, 124:9, 124:11, 124:22 bring [2] - 109:14, 128:13 bringing [2] - 20:22, 78:12 brings [1] - 116:23 brought [3] - 70:19, 77:13, 106:4 bucket [1] - 16:14 **buddy** [1] - 10:2 build [12] - 33:5, 55:13, 59:18, 60:10, 76:11, 76:16, 76:19, 83:4, 91:15, 93:18, 93:22, 116:24 **building** [7] - 4:18, 21:13, 29:14, 72:8, 72:15. 76:14. 128:12 buildings [4] - 53:12, 53:16, 54:1, 77:5 built [10] - 11:23, 21:15, 25:7, 32:20, 34:6, 40:3, 104:21, 107:5, 107:23, 126:20 built" [1] - 108:25 burn [1] - 32:3 bus [1] - 66:22 buses [2] - 25:12, 26.11 business [6] - 6:17, 6:18, 7:1, 10:8, 10:9, 21:5 **buy** [1] - 91:7 **buys** [1] - 91:8 **BY** [3] - 27:8, 37:9, 124:8 by-the-book [1] -132:17

C C-A-R-L-S-O-N [1] -C-O-N-L-E-Y [1] - 6:2

37.4

C12 [1] - 81:7 C13 [2] - 81:7, 81:15 cabinet [1] - 37:24 cabinets [1] - 37:21 calm [1] - 17:21 canister [1] - 45:20 canister/cylinder [1] -40:25 cannot [1] - 82:11 cap [1] - 104:1 capability [1] - 18:25 caps [1] - 59:11 career [2] - 105:12, 117:2 CARLSON [27] - 2:7, 36:24, 37:3, 39:25, 40:9, 40:11, 40:15, 40:20, 41:8, 41:14, 41:17, 42:4, 42:9, 42:15, 42:22, 43:3, 43:22, 44:7, 44:9, 45:2, 45:14, 45:19, 46:1, 46:7, 46:15, 46:17, 47:25 carlson [1] - 26:15 Carlson [16] - 4:24, 5:4, 5:7, 10:16, 36:19, 36:21, 37:3, 37:10, 39:18, 41:19, 44:12, 44:17, 47:17, 47:24, 48:11, 125:10 carried [2] - 16:19, 16:20 carries [1] - 7:4 case [13] - 13:14, 20:10, 23:24, 54:21, 70:25, 73:25, 76:15, 100:19, 104:25, 110:12, 117:3, 122:22, 126:19 cases [2] - 43:8, 108:8 catch [2] - 8:9, 104:15 catching [1] - 32:14 caught [1] - 82:3 caused [3] - 38:23, 43:11, 68:3 causes [3] - 45:12, 57:10, 94:14 caution [1] - 110:8 cautious [2] - 110:7, 110:17 caveated [1] - 58:18 cell [1] - 23:16 Center [6] - 9:15, 23:4, 23:22, 27:13, 38:17, 54:24 center [2] - 29:12, 61:21 central [1] - 43:20

certain [7] - 22:22,

25:14, 55:4, 72:1, 117:20, 118:11, 131:22 certainly [2] - 68:22, 103:4 certainty [32] - 10:9, 54:3, 55:3, 55:12, 56:13, 57:18, 58:13, 58:19, 65:14, 65:22, 65:23, 65:24, 66:2, 70:3, 76:6, 76:7, 76:17, 97:24, 98:1, 98:5, 98:11, 101:19. 102:2, 102:5, 103:17, 104:13, 114:21, 114:23, 116:14, 120:4 CERTIFICATE[1] -135.1 certification [1] - 6:9 certified [1] - 53:2 certify [1] - 135:6 cetera [2] - 92:3, 107:19 Chairman [4] - 1:9, 92:23. 123:6. 132:11 chairman [5] - 3:3, 4:10, 66:21, 119:2, 134:6 chairmen [1] - 66:21 **Chambers** [1] - 8:8 chambers [3] - 3:17, 14:3, 20:10 chambers' [2] - 17:16, 31:17 Champaign [1] -108:2 chance [4] - 13:1, 100:23, 100:25, 102:23 chances [1] - 17:20 change [2] - 50:14, 74.4 changed [6] - 32:10, 101:18, 103:15, 114:23, 115:2, 115:22 changes [1] - 74:1 Channel [1] - 108:2 Chapter [1] - 86:3 charged [1] - 42:3 Charlottesville [1] -27:13 check [3] - 116:7, 128:19, 131:14 **checked** [1] - 55:23 chemical [1] - 35:24 chemicals [1] - 36:1 chief [1] - 20:15 children [2] - 96:7,

97:4 children's [1] - 96:15 chooses [1] - 130:14 Chris [1] - 22:4 CHRIS [1] - 22:5 church [2] - 133:12, 133:14 circle [1] - 84:5 circles [1] - 81:12 circular [2] - 81:12, citizens [2] - 6:6, 72:10 City [1] - 60:24 claim [1] - 64:21 claimed [1] - 84:3 **clarifying** [1] - 88:23 class [1] - 59:4 Class [1] - 59:4 clean [3] - 30:6, 124:16, 127:8 Clean [4] - 6:8, 6:14, 6:16, 50:1 cleaned [2] - 40:17, 128:15 clear [8] - 50:5, 54:3, 56:19, 62:22, 88:14, 91:25, 107:14, 114:24 clearinghouse [2] -60:5, 106:14 clearly [7] - 52:4, 52:23, 53:15, 90:25, 99:24, 107:11, 107:12 Cliff's [1] - 74:16 climb [1] - 7:12 close [2] - 17:8, 17:23 closer [2] - 51:23, 73:17 closest [2] - 51:12, 51:15 closing [1] - 10:7 CO2 [4] - 38:4, 41:22, 45:1, 45:3 Code [3] - 50:9, 85:18, 86:8 code [3] - 50:21, 85:14, 86:14 collaboratively [1] -21:1 colon [1] - 89:24 combination [1] -54.19 combined [1] - 6:11 comfortable [1] -40.18 coming [5] - 6:25, 30:13, 46:24, 71:13, 78:10

comment [10] - 81:23, 131:15, 131:18, 131:21, 131:25, 132:6, 132:24, 133:24, 133:25, 134:3 comments [3] - 77:22, 81:17, 131:14 commercial [2] - 50:7, 50.17 commitment [2] -54:6, 54:14 commitments [2] -52:3, 57:20 committed [2] - 57:12, 77:14 common [1] - 117:8 communicated [1] communication [6] -10:12, 21:6, 23:14, 26:16, 33:19, 34:14 communications [1] -7:20 communities [1] -26:16 community [12] - 8:4, 8:6, 53:12, 53:16, 54:1, 58:7, 65:25, 71:16, 72:13, 72:17, 77:4, 121:4 company [15] - 5:8, 9:21, 12:15, 18:5, 18:13, 24:8, 27:18, 27:25, 38:6, 41:4, 45:5, 55:16, 64:6, 65:2, 68:9 comparable [1] -27:20 compared [4] - 38:13, 76:22, 81:14, 87:7 comparison [1] - 53:4 complains [1] - 68:24 complaint [11] - 71:7, 71:22, 71:25, 92:21, 92:23, 93:2, 93:7, 93:10, 93:13, 117:11, 118:4 complaintmonitoring [1] -71:22 complaints [10] -68:10, 68:12, 71:8, 71:19, 71:20, 72:18, 93:3, 118:2, 118:13 complete [1] - 56:3 completed [1] - 64:16 completely [1] - 98:15

completion [1] - 105:1

complex [1] - 106:22

compliance [10] -50:19, 64:3, 73:20, 103:9, 103:11, 104:23, 105:2, 105:7, 111:15, 124:17 compliant [2] - 55:12, 55:16 complies [5] - 52:9, 53:18, 54:4, 83:5, 86.14 comply [15] - 50:11, 52:7, 63:1, 76:12, 83:1, 83:5, 84:21, 86:14, 88:13, 96:23, 98:6, 98:7, 98:9, 99:23, 111:14 computer [1] - 135:6 computer-aided [1] -135:6 concentrated [1] -127:3 concept [1] - 55:12 concern [4] - 18:16, 64:22, 119:2, 127:17 concerned [4] - 32:18, 43:24, 67:24, 72:9 concerning [6] - 7:7, 18:8, 41:6, 67:14, 67:16, 67:23 concerns [3] - 25:24, 60:9, 63:20 conclude [1] - 99:17 conclusion [8] - 83:6, 87:11, 87:14, 97:8, 97:11, 98:19, 98:25, 119:25 concrete [7] - 100:24, 101:13, 103:1, 116:4, 127:18, 128:14, 128:15 condition [3] - 54:13, 71:25, 92:25 conditions [2] - 50:19, 50:21 conduct [5] - 10:2, 16:23, 21:6, 33:18 conducted [1] - 53:3 conducting [2] - 9:5, 20:24 confident [1] - 99:18 confused [2] - 74:6, 107:2 confusing [1] - 25:8 confusion [2] - 76:10, 76:13 Conley [20] - 5:16, 5:19, 6:1, 6:3, 6:7, 10:17, 10:18, 19:11, 19:13, 19:18, 21:21,

22:7, 27:1, 27:9, 29:8, 29:24, 36:6, 47:1, 47:4, 48:11 **CONLEY** [85] - 2:3, 5:21, 6:1, 6:5, 11:2, 11:8, 11:21, 12:2, 12:10. 12:17. 12:22. 13:3. 13:5. 13:8. 13:12, 13:15, 13:18, 13:22, 14:3, 14:10, 14:20, 14:25, 15:3, 15:10, 15:18, 15:23, 16:3, 16:16, 16:19, 16:23, 17:2, 17:5, 17:7, 17:10, 17:14, 17:18, 17:25, 18:10, 18:14, 19:2, 19:9, 20:7, 20:19, 21:14, 21:18, 22:14, 23:3, 23:12, 23:21, 24:4, 24:18, 24:23, 26:15, 30:7, 30:12, 30:17, 30:20, 30:24, 31:2, 31:5, 31:9, 31:15, 31:21, 31:24, 32:4, 32:7, 32:12, 32:20, 33:2, 33:4, 33:9, 33:18, 33:24, 34:3, 34:6, 34:13, 34:16, 34:23, 35:1, 35:3, 35:11, 35:19, 35:25, 36:3, 36:9 conley [1] - 20:3 Conley's [3] - 25:21, 26:2, 29:23 connected [3] - 38:16, 40:11, 40:13 connection [1] - 23:17 conservative [2] -52:10. 52:19 consider [1] - 102:25 considered [2] -69:20, 88:11 consistent [6] - 50:20, 52:20, 60:12, 63:8, 65:14, 71:5 constant [10] - 6:23, 9:6, 9:10, 9:12, 10:11, 11:9, 21:6, 26:16, 33:18, 34:13 construct [2] - 82:25, 83.4 construction [20] -6:12, 21:16, 25:10, 25:23, 26:1, 26:8, 26:13, 29:19, 57:8, 57:17, 60:9, 72:15, 72:16. 78:9. 105:1. 105:12, 117:6, 117:7, 117:19,

118:10 Construction [3] - 5:5, 5:6, 5:8 Consultant [1] - 2:11 consultants [7] -19:19, 21:22, 27:3, 47:19, 112:17, 122:6, 129:12 consultation [2] -109:1, 109:16 consultation" [1] -59:22 consulted [1] - 130:4 consulting [2] - 59:15, 124:15 contact [11] - 7:8, 14:18, 16:7, 16:9, 18:17, 23:23, 29:14, 33:21, 33:25, 34:15, 128:6 contacting [1] - 23:5 contain [4] - 30:5, 126:4, 126:21, 128:4 contained [1] - 30:21 containment [1] -124:25 contains [1] - 126:19 contaminates [1] -127:15 contamination [1] -124:16 contingency [2] -63:16, 105:3 **continually** [1] - 43:14 contract [1] - 41:25 contracted [1] - 42:8 Control [22] - 9:15, 23:3, 23:21, 27:12, 30:9, 52:8, 54:24, 74:13, 86:25, 88:6, 90:7, 90:18, 91:10, 91:21, 95:13, 96:4, 96:24, 98:8, 99:24, 103:9, 105:8, 124:24 control [3] - 29:11, 52:21, 53:3 controlled [2] - 32:19, 65:8 conversation [1] -32:8 conversational [3] -53:5, 53:8, 75:10 conversations [3] -32:22, 53:5, 116:12 conversion [2] -62:10, 62:20 **cool** [2] - 46:4, 46:6 cooling [1] - 46:12 coordinate [2] - 8:11, 10:2

coordination [5] - 8:2, 9:7, 10:12, 14:12, 14:14 copies [3] - 15:3, 33:4, 33.6 copy [2] - 56:21, 79:25 core [1] - 6:16 corn [2] - 8:9, 20:12 corner [1] - 87:20 correct [56] - 11:4, 12:22, 13:5, 19:9, 23:12, 24:2, 24:4, 27:19, 28:1, 28:3, 28:16, 31:18, 31:21, 31:24, 32:2, 32:3, 32:8, 34:3, 35:1, 35:3, 35:19, 36:8, 36:9, 37:14, 41:21, 74:9, 75:12, 75:14, 75:19, 75:22, 75:23, 76:3, 76:20, 76:22, 76:25, 78:18, 82:10, 110:14, 111:4, 111:6, 111:10, 111:16, 112:25, 113:3, 113:6, 113:9, 113:12. 113:19. 113:22, 113:23, 114:11, 121:6, 125:7, 126:6, 127:18, 129:23 correctly [3] - 107:7, 112:23, 118:10 cost [2] - 63:11, 63:15 costs [1] - 64:2 counsel [5] - 5:14, 47:5, 47:20, 102:16, 121:23 Counsel [1] - 6:5 COUNSEL [2] - 1:14, 1.16 Countermeasures [2] - 30:9. 124:24 counties [4] - 50:6, 111:22, 112:4 country [5] - 41:5, 43:9, 55:7, 79:2, 112:4 county [20] - 4:14, 29:18, 50:24, 60:15, 64:18, 65:8, 65:15, 96:6, 96:14, 97:2, 98:15, 98:22, 99:13, 99:19, 119:1, 119:9, 120:5, 120:6, 120:7, 120:17 County [49] - 2:4, 2:11, 2:12, 3:18, 5:9, 6:6, 6:19, 6:21, 7:11, 7:19, 8:20, 10:14,

15:24, 19:18, 21:22, 22:12, 23:2, 27:2, 47:18, 50:9, 50:10, 51:1, 54:3, 55:2, 55:20, 55:24, 62:24, 63:25, 64:1, 64:8, 64:12, 64:15, 64:17, 65:1, 65:3, 65:12, 65:15, 65:19, 97:2, 97:5, 97:9, 106:5, 106:22, 111:20, 112:16, 119:10, 120:12, 120:14, 129:11 COUNTY [5] - 1:1, 1:6, 1:9, 1:11, 1:14 County's [10] - 7:5, 50:3, 50:14, 51:19, 69:4, 71:6, 73:14, 96:2, 98:10, 130:7 couple [5] - 9:3, 55:17, 71:3, 81:17, 94:15 course [3] - 18:4, 111:20, 114:21 Court [1] - 135:12 court [8] - 4:17, 5:20, 44:21, 48:17, 49:12, 90:12, 100:9, 104:7 COURT [1] - 1:18 Courtnay [7] - 1:18, 4:17, 36:25, 79:20, 90:13, 135:3, 135:11 coverage [1] - 22:10 covered [1] - 45:24 covers [1] - 82:20 create [2] - 8:11, 108:9 created [1] - 76:13 Creek [35] - 50:2, 51:22, 52:25, 53:22, 54:11, 54:12, 55:19, 55:20, 55:22, 55:25, 56:2. 56:4. 56:9. 56:12. 56:17. 56:24. 57:20, 58:16, 60:23, 61:1, 61:8, 61:14, 63:8, 63:14, 63:22, 64:22, 64:24, 71:24, 72:3, 76:8, 101:17, 101:23, 110:16, 115:6, 120:7 crop [1] - 63:18 crops [1] - 88:21 cross [4] - 47:13, 123:3, 134:3, 134:4 cross-examination [4] - 47:13, 123:3, 134:3, 134:4 cruising [1] - 59:4 crux [1] - 70:17

CSP [1] - 6:9
CSR [2] - 1:18, 135:3
culvert [1] - 56:6
curiosity [2] - 34:20, 128:18
curious [2] - 78:14, 122:23
current [3] - 63:20, 75:25, 126:14
curtailing [1] - 61:5
cut [3] - 38:20, 39:5, 43:6
cuts [1] - 82:18

D

dad [1] - 104:5 damage [3] - 35:8, 38:7, 63:18 damaged [2] - 38:11, 41:2 damp [1] - 17:21 dark [3] - 59:23, 109:2, 109:12 data [2] - 10:22, 107:17 date [1] - 29:19 Dated [1] - 135:19 days [3] - 23:4, 27:15, 27:16 **dB** [2] - 74:10, 115:16 dB-whatever [1] -115:16 **dBA** [2] - 94:7, 94:8 deal [1] - 105:4 dealing [1] - 78:23 dealt [1] - 78:25 decibel [1] - 52:11 decibels [3] - 52:13, 53:9, 74:17 decision [1] - 97:9 decommission [1] -62:23 decommissioning [20] - 62:17, 62:25, 63:1, 63:4, 63:7, 63:8, 63:11, 63:13, 63:15, 63:18, 64:2, 64:3, 64:7, 64:11, 64:13, 64:16, 64:20, 65:16, 113:8, 113:25 defer [1] - 67:20 deferring [1] - 130:9 defined [4] - 85:1, 86:1, 89:9, 89:23 definitely [3] - 39:5, 41:14. 66:22 definition [1] - 14:6 deflect [1] - 103:2 degree [1] - 18:7

delineate [1] - 78:7 delineated [1] - 88:19 demolished [4] -80:14, 81:24, 82:5, 82.17 demonstrate [3] - 7:3, 9:4. 55:9 demonstrated [3] -52:4, 56:19, 99:25 demonstrates [3] -52:23, 53:15, 57:4 denied [1] - 55:24 denies [1] - 120:18 Department [1] -62:14 department [2] -20:14, 20:15 department's [1] -33:21 depth [1] - 78:15 describe [3] - 14:8, 30:10, 63:6 described [1] - 115:5 deserve [1] - 83:13 design [6] - 6:22, 7:3, 7:16, 9:1, 38:16, 65:24 designated [1] - 60:9 designed [7] - 6:19, 6:20, 8:13, 12:3, 55:2, 55:15, 64:12 desk [1] - 29:12 detail [2] - 66:1, 86:16 detailed [3] - 11:18, 62:17, 99:22 details [2] - 13:1, 111:10 detected [2] - 35:6, 54:18 detecting [1] - 41:7 detection [23] - 7:18, 7:24, 8:16, 10:25, 11:3, 11:19, 15:12, 18:23, 18:24, 27:20, 28:5, 32:13, 37:11, 37:15, 38:19, 39:12, 40:12, 41:20, 44:13, 47:17, 54:17, 78:17 **Detection** [1] - 58:16 detectionsuppression [1] -15:12 detector [1] - 39:1 detects [2] - 12:8, 58:24 determine [2] - 54:20, 91:23

developed [2] - 55:1,

**developers** [1] - 103:6

55:25

development [2] -62:19, 62:21 diagnosed [2] - 68:1, 68:7 diagram [1] - 100:22 Dickey [1] - 108:4 dictate [1] - 126:3 dictated [1] - 125:16 dictates [2] - 31:12, 87:11 difference [1] - 34:20 different [8] - 7:23, 10:24. 32:11. 33:23. 41:9. 75:1. 75:2. 133:24 differently [1] - 109:9 direct [7] - 12:6, 20:3, 69:23, 70:12, 92:7, 94:23, 129:22 Direct [2] - 2:7, 2:14 **DIRECT** [2] - 37:8, 124:7 directly [5] - 65:9, 108:9, 116:11, 125:8, 127:3 director [2] - 48:5, 111:5 dirt [5] - 31:7, 100:24, 101:14, 102:25, 127:8 disagree [1] - 69:21 disapprove[1] - 120:8 disbursed [1] - 38:4 discomfort [2] - 96:6, 97:4 dissipate [1] - 46:13 distance [2] - 14:15, 106:11 distribute [1] - 48:7 district [1] - 20:20 districts [7] - 19:14, 20:5, 21:3, 34:5, 44:16, 79:14, 129:7 disturb [1] - 96:15 disturbance [1] - 97:4 doctor [4] - 70:21, 94:18, 95:4, 95:5 document [1] - 49:5 documentation [1] -18:11 dollars [1] - 43:1 done [17] - 43:17, 47:4, 52:2, 57:1, 73:19, 87:25, 88:1, 88:12, 91:12, 91:19, 96:25, 103:3, 104:18, 104:21, 105:12, 106:9, 117:2 doppler [1] - 108:11 **dot** [1] - 59:17

		-		-
doubled [1] - 60:25	<b>E4</b> [1] - 53:15	Emission [3] - 89:11,	<b>especially</b> [1] - 107:18	example [12] - 8:22,
doubt [4] - 8:3, 44:2,	<b>E5</b> [4] - 52:23, 80:1,	89:24, 90:19	Esq [4] - 1:8, 1:15,	14:1, 15:6, 23:14,
	80:2, 84:24	emissions [1] - 105:7	1:16, 1:17	45:4, 51:10, 53:10,
44:3, 57:9			· ·	56:2, 57:10, 76:9,
down [21] - 9:18,	<b>E7</b> [1] - 63:5	emphasize [1] - 6:13	essence [3] - 17:17,	105:9, 127:7
20:24, 23:19, 24:1,	early [1] - 131:11	<b>EMS</b> [6] - 8:11, 9:7,	75:24, 76:11	•
29:8, 36:6, 47:2,	easement [2] - 80:18,	14:18, 32:25, 33:15,	establish [1] - 7:11	<b>examples</b> [2] - 7:3, 43:16
54:17, 54:22, 54:23,	81:2	33:20	established [3] -	
54:24, 70:14, 74:7, 102:2, 103:10,	easier [1] - 63:3	encroach [2] - 93:17,	31:23, 94:19, 105:3	<b>exceed</b> [3] - 7:5, 51:12, 111:24
103:12, 103:17,	east [8] - 43:20, 59:19,	93:21 END::: 124:14	establishing [1] - 9:2	exceeded [1] - 53:23
116:5, 116:16,	77:10, 81:14,	END [1] - 134:14	establishment [1] -	• •
121:20, 127:24	100:15, 100:24,	end [10] - 15:8, 38:12,	71:25	exceeding [1] - 111:17
downwind [4] - 52:18,	103:1	65:17, 69:19, 69:22,	<b>esteemed</b> [2] - 119:15,	excellent [1] - 76:4
81:8, 84:3, 84:5	east-central [1] -	88:17, 89:25, 90:8,	120:11	
<b>Dr</b> [23] - 10:20, 18:4,	43:20	103:12, 133:25	estimate [1] - 122:13	exchange [1] - 64:9
34:18, 66:5, 68:13,	EcoCAT <sub>[1]</sub> - 60:16	ended [2] - 25:4, 25:5	estimates [1] - 104:18	excuse [3] - 4:22,
68:15, 68:22, 70:19,	<b>Eddie</b> [5] - 53:2,	Energy [3] - 6:8, 6:14,	et [2] - 92:2, 107:19	19:20, 28:21
70:24, 79:10, 122:2,	74:15, 75:4, 115:24,	50:1 energy [5] - 6:10,	evacuation [1] - 47:9	<b>excused</b> [5] - 36:10,
122:4, 122:10,	130:22		evaluate [1] - 126:25	47:1, 48:1, 121:25, 129:18
122:12, 123:2,	<b>edge</b> [4] <b>-</b> 88:1, 88:15, 88:16	50:7, 50:18, 55:6, 96:23	evaluated [1] - 126:23	executed [2] - 9:21,
123:3, 123:13,		90:23 engineer [3] - 53:3,	evaluation [1] - 56:6	62:12
129:2, 129:22,	Edwards [1] - 3:23 effect [1] - 116:24	engineer [3] - 53:3, 124:12, 133:10	evening [11] - 6:6,	<b>Exhibit</b> [5] - 2:18,
130:1, 131:3, 131:5,	effective [3] - 12:16,	engineered [2] - 55:2,	6:13, 47:14, 100:5,	2:18, 48:12, 48:14,
133:18	• • • • • •	55:15	129:21, 130:5,	49:21
draft [2] - 55:8, 64:5	18:8, 41:6		130:24, 131:11,	exhibit [2] - 48:21,
drain [2] - 5:4, 5:8	effectiveness [1] -	<b>engineering</b> [1] <b>-</b> 52:21	133:11, 134:8,	49:22
drainage [2] - 56:9,	18:9	Engineering [3] -	134:10	exhibits [1] - 48:8
56:10	effects [1] - 8:6	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	event [10] - 8:18,	
draw [1] - 64:15	efficiency's [1] -	55:22, 63:10, 63:22	13:25, 14:16, 15:10,	<b>existing</b> [2] - 40:12, 40:24
drawdown [1] - 57:4	132:10	ensure [6] - 7:17,	16:23, 23:5, 23:10,	
drawed [1] - 14:11	Ehrat [2] - 133:8,	64:13, 64:16, 64:20, 113:13, 118:9	35:12, 54:9, 63:17	<b>expect</b> [2] <b>-</b> 53:9, 117:18
drawndown [1] - 57:1	133:10	ensures [1] - 55:8	events [2] - 35:4,	expected [4] - 57:5,
drills [3] - 10:3, 21:6,	EHRAT <sub>[1]</sub> - 133:13	entire [4] - 22:17,	54:18	73:25, 81:11, 84:4
33:19	eight [4] - 74:18,	64:10, 89:21, 119:13	<b>evidence</b> [2] - 97:8, 97:12	experience [12] - 6:10,
drive [3] - 24:11, 66:22	74:20, 75:2, 129:19	entirely [1] - 34:19		6:11, 59:16, 70:22,
driver [1] - 51:5	either [10] - 12:15,	entities [2] - 10:13,	evolving [2] - 107:4,	83:16, 83:17,
drove [1] - 76:5	16:19, 19:3, 45:22,	34:14	107:18 exact [5] - 12:2, 21:2,	124:13, 124:14,
drummed [1] - 71:14	54:21, 57:14, 68:1, 69:3, 117:25, 131:10	entitled [1] - 135:5	22:14, 43:25, 73:4	124:18, 124:19,
dry [3] - 8:8, 17:22,	electrical [4] - 16:16,	environmental [2] -	exactly [10] - 12:7,	125:19, 126:15
57:11	37:21, 38:7, 38:15	31:10, 126:24	21:2, 38:23, 49:25,	experienced [1] - 99:4
<b>due</b> [3] - 96:6, 110:10,		EPA [1] - 125:18	82:14, 95:14,	experiencing [1] -
114:22	<b>electrically</b> [1] - 40:13 <b>electronic</b> [1] - 45:6	equally [1] - 118:3	103:14, 103:17,	118:6
<b>duly</b> [3] - 5:22, 48:19,	electronic [1] - 45.6	equally [1] - 116.3 equipment [33] - 6:23,	112:21, 126:4	expert [8] - 74:15,
123:23	18:22, 19:4, 40:7	7:7, 7:18, 7:22, 8:1,	EXAMINATION[3] -	78:8, 80:10, 80:12,
Duncan [5] - 53:2,	ellipsoid [1] - 81:12	8:13, 8:15, 9:1, 9:6,	27:7, 37:8, 124:7	88:5, 94:10, 106:10,
74:16, 81:19,	emergency [16] - 7:8,	9:11, 9:16, 9:18,	examination [6] -	106:18
130:15, 130:22	7:22, 8:3, 10:3, 10:4,	9:23, 9:24, 10:10,	47:13, 69:23, 123:3,	expert's [1] - 60:4
during [14] - 7:19,	14:12, 14:14, 14:21,	11:10, 11:11, 16:6,	129:22, 134:3, 134:4	expertise [3] - 10:11,
25:11, 26:13, 49:2,	14.12, 14.14, 14.21, 15:23, 15:24, 16:5,	16:17, 19:2, 23:25,	Examination	94:3, 97:14
52:25, 54:11, 57:7,	16:7, 20:24, 29:17,	28:7, 29:20, 33:12,	124 [1] -	experts [6] - 113:20,
57:8, 57:20, 58:16,	32:22, 33:11	35:15, 38:7, 38:11,	2:14	114:6, 114:10,
63:18, 69:20, 72:15,	Emergency [9] - 6:16,	38:13, 38:15, 87:7,	Examination	130:9, 130:11, 131:4
97:25	14:11, 15:4, 21:15,	115:20	<b>37</b> [1] - 2:7	<b>explain</b> [2] - 27:10,
duties [1] - 22:21	28:11, 29:16, 32:21,	equipped [3] - 8:15,	Examination	124:22
duty [1] - 20:16	33:10, 34:6	11:9, 32:12	<b>27</b> [1] - 2:5	explanation [1] -
dynamic [1] - 32:11	emersed [1] - 45:6	ERIC [3] - 2:13,	EXAMINATIONS[1] -	11:15
	emission [6] - 52:16,	123:22, 124:4	2:2	express [1] - 84:12
E	84:25, 85:25,	Eric [4] - 122:5, 123:9,	examined [3] - 5:23,	extent [7] - 68:15,
<u> </u>	101:22, 103:19,	124:3, 130:21	48:20, 123:24	68:25, 70:9, 78:25,
<b>E2</b> [1] - 59:14	115:12	eric [1] - 123:18	examining [1] - 56:8	86:13, 127:1, 127:15
	1		Samming [1] - 50.0	

extinguish [1] - 38:25 extinguisher [2] -11:16, 11:22 extinguishing [1] -38:14 extra [1] - 63:24 extremely [2] - 43:5, 110:17 eyes [1] - 117:22 eyesight's [1] - 103:25

#### F

FAA [5] - 58:13, 58:19, 59:5, 98:6 FAA" [1] - 58:19 face [2] - 34:15 face-to-face [1] -34:15 faced [1] - 99:5 FACILITATOR[1] -1:7 facilities [5] - 50:8, 61:18, 62:2, 62:6, 62:8 facility [7] - 27:14, 33:24, 50:18, 56:18, 62:3, 96:23, 101:11 fact [2] - 51:20, 73:10 factor [2] - 52:11, 69:11 factors [4] - 69:8, 69:20, 69:22, 115:17 facts [2] - 97:7, 97:12 factual [1] - 115:1 fail [1] - 23:17 fair [9] - 25:25, 68:24, 70:6, 112:23, 112:24, 113:1, 113:4, 113:7, 113:10 fairly [1] - 102:24 fall [4] - 8:8, 15:7, 17:22, 20:11 fallen [1] - 127:2 falls [1] - 126:22 false [1] - 108:11 familiar [4] - 28:11, 70:24, 72:6, 110:22 family [4] - 99:3, 99:5, 99:6, 99:13 fan [1] - 46:5 fans [2] - 46:10, 46:12 far [12] - 23:7, 24:23, 25:22, 26:1, 32:17, 55:1, 71:17, 108:20, 109:15, 125:13, 127:15 Farm [1] - 104:2 farm [6] - 10:13, 12:15, 15:19, 68:4,

80:18, 99:12 Farmer [1] - 60:24 farmers [1] - 63:17 farmland [1] - 58:6 farms [2] - 83:18, 126:16 feature [6] - 7:16, 8:19, 8:21, 41:22, 42:21, 68:3 features [6] - 8:14, 9:1, 9:20, 10:11, 10:24, 11:2 February [1] - 119:1 federal [8] - 50:22, 60:6, 60:11, 106:14, 106:19, 107:9, 124:23, 125:2 feedback [1] - 53:1 feet [11] - 14:9, 51:12, 51:13, 51:15, 51:16, 51:25, 58:4, 58:5, 59:5, 61:20 FEMALE[1] - 28:21 fencing [4] - 57:24, 58:1, 58:5, 58:9 few [8] - 14:24, 27:5, 39:7, 43:10, 97:24, 112:18, 131:10 Fi [2] - 23:15, 23:16 field [5] - 8:9, 8:10, 51:14, 51:17, 124:15 fighter [1] - 39:2 figure [3] - 30:13, 56:11. 61:3 figured [1] - 57:15 **file** [1] - 93:2 filed [1] - 50:3 files [1] - 64:25 filing [2] - 93:7, 93:10 final [2] - 114:17, 121:15 finally [2] - 47:23, 82:25 financial [2] - 64:2, 64:22 fine [5] - 67:20, 80:12, 83:14, 94:10, 133:4 finer [1] - 57:8 finish [1] - 116:1 finished [1] - 25:16 fire [82] - 7:18, 7:24, 8:5, 8:9, 8:12, 8:16, 10:24, 11:3, 11:15, 11:16, 11:18, 11:22, 12:13, 13:2, 13:25, 15:6, 15:9, 15:12, 15:19. 16:16. 18:23. 20:5, 20:13, 20:14, 20:15, 20:20, 21:3,

21:8, 21:12, 22:10,

27:20, 27:22, 28:5, 31:16, 31:19, 32:10, 32:13, 32:14, 32:16, 32:17, 35:6, 35:14, 37:11, 37:15, 37:17, 37:20, 37:23, 38:9, 38:19, 39:1, 39:3, 39:4, 39:10, 40:6, 40:12, 41:19, 41:23, 43:6, 44:2, 44:13, 44:17, 44:25, 45:4, 45:9, 45:10, 45:11, 45:12, 46:18, 47:16, 54:7, 54:10, 54:13, 54:16, 54:21, 57:19, 78:16, 78:17, 78:24, 79:3, 79:7 fire-protection [1] -45.4 fire-suppression [5] -37:15, 37:17, 54:7, 57:19, 79:3 firefighters [1] - 20:22 fires [6] - 7:22, 8:16, 12:9, 38:23, 41:7, 43:10 Firetrace [11] - 13:3, 13:7, 27:17, 34:23, 37:11, 37:13, 37:17, 38:6, 39:7, 40:21, 41:25 firetrace [1] - 13:4 first [26] - 5:22, 5:25, 7:2, 16:17, 19:24, 22:2, 22:4, 22:8, 37:2, 39:5, 44:21, 48:19, 49:11, 52:10, 54:16, 60:20, 63:15, 67:10, 82:23, 94:16, 100:10, 104:6, 104:16, 105:25, 123:23, 124:1 fit [1] - 91:15 five [5] - 59:2, 66:6, 66:15, 66:23, 131:16 five-minute [3] - 66:6, 66:15, 131:16 fixes [1] - 35:9 flag [3] - 4:12, 4:14, 4:15 flames [1] - 15:16 flicker [31] - 53:10, 53:13, 53:14, 53:17, 53:20, 53:24, 54:4, 67:23, 71:5, 75:16, 76:9, 76:14, 76:17, 77:3, 77:6, 98:9, 104:13, 104:16, 104:17. 104:23. 105:10, 105:13,

113:2, 113:25, 116:23, 116:25, 117:4, 117:9, 117:11, 117:24, 118:5 flow [2] - 15:8, 15:22 fluid [4] - 38:5, 45:4, 45:6, 45:24 fly [2] - 80:22, 105:24 flying [1] - 59:3 folks [9] - 33:1, 33:15, 34:10, 71:15, 72:10, 72:18, 123:2, 131:2, 133:22 folks' [1] - 89:1 follow [10] - 18:3, 34:17, 60:20, 61:14, 63:3, 91:20, 122:19, 125:17, 126:14, 132:17 follow-the-order [1] -132:17 follow-up [2] - 18:3, 34:17 followed [1] - 133:19 follows [3] - 5:23, 48:20, 123:24 football [2] - 51:14, 51:17 footprint [9] - 53:25, 58:2, 61:17, 62:2, 75:25, 76:2, 76:21, 76:23, 77:7 FOR [3] - 1:3, 1:14, 1:16 foran [1] - 4:5 Foran [1] - 1:12 **FORAN** [1] - 4:6 force [1] - 120:9 forced [1] - 119:17 Ford [2] - 5:9, 23:2 forested [2] - 61:9, 61:11 forgot [1] - 30:2 forgotten [1] - 22:1 form [3] - 41:12, 83:22, 107:8 formulate [2] - 66:6, 66:15 formulating [1] -95:22 forth [1] - 50:9 forward [5] - 79:18, 93:1, 100:8, 105:21, 120:19 foundation [2] - 56:1, 112:22 four [6] - 61:1, 62:5, 85:12, 98:17, 98:23,

103:13

four-tenths [1] - 62:5 frame [1] - 127:25 framing [1] - 127:6 free [4] - 111:1, 127:12, 128:6, 128:13 frequency [1] - 42:5 front [1] - 94:12 fuel [1] - 39:2 full [1] - 27:10 fully [1] - 42:3 function [1] - 106:11 functioning [1] - 42:3 fundamental [1] -50:14 furthermore [2] - 65:4, 73:25 future [1] - 83:4

## G

**G-A-N-T-Z**[1] - 100:12 Gail [1] - 1:13 gained [1] - 14:18 gantz [2] - 100:8, 102:12 **GANTZ** [6] - 100:11, 100:15, 102:7, 102:15, 102:23, 103:20 Gantz [10] - 100:11, 100:13, 101:7, 102:22, 103:21, 114:21, 115:5, 116:1, 116:6, 116:13 garage [1] - 88:20 garden [1] - 88:10 gas [5] - 6:11, 41:22, 45:1, 45:16 gate [1] - 24:16 gates [5] - 24:19, 24:20, 57:25, 58:10, 58.11 gather [1] - 108:6 gearbox [1] - 37:22 general [8] - 68:16, 70:5, 86:11, 86:15, 103:22, 105:17, 112:15, 129:9 generally [2] - 69:2, 96:1 gentleman [3] - 26:6, 46:23, 46:24 gentlemen [2] - 7:23, 51:1 **qist** [1] - 73:5 given [5] - 29:18, 38:21, 53:4, 92:2, 92:3 go-to [1] - 34:1

Goose [33] - 50:2, 51:22, 52:25, 53:22, 54:11, 54:12, 55:19, 55:22, 55:24, 56:2, 56:4, 56:8, 56:11, 56:17, 56:24, 57:20, 58:16. 61:8. 61:13. 63:8. 63:14. 63:22. 64:22, 64:24, 71:24, 72:3, 76:8, 101:17, 101:23, 110:16, 115:6, 120:7 gotcha [3] - 75:11, 77:8, 79:8 government [5] -19:14, 44:15, 79:14, 112:3, 129:7 governor [1] - 119:15 Granholm [1] - 114:15 gravel [2] - 61:20, 128:16 great [9] - 36:20, 40:20, 42:4, 49:25, 71:12, 77:14, 116:13, 128:2, 133:4 green [5] - 59:23, 59:24, 109:1, 109:2, 109:13 ground [6] - 30:19, 61:18, 124:15, 126:22, 127:13, 128:7 ground-field [1] -124:15 grounding [1] - 43:12 **group** [1] - 35:8 Group [5] - 2:18, 2:18, 48:12, 48:14, 49:21 guarantee [1] - 92:25 guaranteed [1] - 39:11 guarantees [1] - 64:6 **guaranty** [1] - 64:9 guess [18] - 16:3, 17:12, 17:19, 22:20, 34:19, 70:17, 73:10, 73:23, 74:5, 79:5, 90:17, 102:23, 107:2, 116:5, 123:2, 127:17, 132:18 guidelines [7] -125:16, 125:18, 125:21, 125:23, 126:3, 126:14, 127:1 guy [3] - 26:8, 33:22, 47:10 guys [13] - 14:6, 22:11, 22:24, 25:10, 26:11, 26:22, 51:21, 80:19, 82:8, 101:4, 103:2, 119:21,

120:25

124:4

44:23

20:1

61:11

Н

H-A-N-S-E-N [1] -

H-A-R-T-K-E [1] -

habitat [2] - 58:4,

habitats [1] - 61:9

82:20, 100:15

80:1, 118:21,

123:20, 133:5

hang [1] - 90:12

123:9, 123:18,

129:9, 129:11,

129:17, 130:21

123:22, 124:3,

126:18, 127:10,

127:20, 128:10,

128:22, 128:24

129:14

32:16

hard [1] - 20:16

harms [1] - 57:10

3:12, 4:23, 5:2,

114:19, 118:17,

15:20, 16:1, 16:12,

16:18, 16:21, 16:24,

125:9, 126:12

68:24

17:3, 17:6, 17:8, 17:11, 17:15, 17:19, 18:1, 30:1, 30:10, 30:15, 30:18, 30:23, 30:25, 31:4, 31:6, 31:14, 31:16, 31:22, 31:25, 32:5, 32:9, 32:15, 32:25, 33:3, H-E-N-R-I-C-K-S [1] -33:6, 33:14, 33:20, 34:1, 34:4, 34:8, 35:22, 36:2, 36:4, 41:21, 42:7, 42:12, 42:16, 42:24, 43:19, 43:23, 44:8, 44:10, half [7] - 22:22, 53:7, 66:12, 66:17, 72:23, 60:22, 75:9, 82:19, 73:1, 73:22, 74:14, 74:22, 74:24, 75:5, half-mile [1] - 60:22 75:11, 75:15, 75:20, **Halon** [2] - 38:4, 45:3 75:24. 76:4. 76:7. hand [9] - 5:20, 12:9, 76:20, 77:8, 77:19, 17:8, 48:17, 79:18, 77:23, 78:1, 78:4, 78:14, 78:22, 79:5, 79:8, 114:20, 115:8, handheld [1] - 11:16 115:10, 115:15, handle [2] - 68:11, 115:21, 115:25, 116:17, 116:20, handling [1] - 68:9 117:3, 117:6, 117:10, 117:15, Hansen [10] - 122:6, 117:25, 118:15, 121:18, 126:13, 124:3, 126:9, 129:3, 127:5, 127:17, 127:21, 128:18, 128:23, 129:1 HANSEN [9] - 2:13, harrington's [1] -18:15 Harrington's [4] -36:15, 122:7, 125:9, 129:13 hansen [1] - 124:9 Hartke [16] - 44:19, Hansen's [2] - 126:10, 44:22, 47:15, 79:21, 80:5, 83:12, 83:15, happenstance [1] -85:10, 85:21, 89:1, 94:5, 95:6, 95:21, happy [1] - 102:10 96:9, 99:10, 105:18 HARTKE [65] - 44:22, 44:25, 45:10, 45:15, Harrington [17] - 1:10, 45:25, 46:3, 46:8, 46:16, 46:22, 47:3, 12:24, 20:11, 29:25, 47:7, 47:14, 79:22, 35:21, 41:18, 57:6, 80:6, 80:25, 81:4, 66:5, 72:21, 92:23, 82:6. 82:16. 83:23. 84:1. 84:10. 84:13. 84:16, 84:23, 85:9, HARRINGTON [110] -85:12, 85:16, 85:19, 3:13, 12:25, 13:4, 85:22, 85:24, 86:6, 13:6, 13:10, 13:13, 86:20, 87:5, 87:22, 13:16, 13:20, 13:24, 88:3, 89:3, 90:11, 14:5, 14:17, 14:23, 90:22, 91:4, 91:13, 15:1, 15:5, 15:14, 91:25, 92:19, 93:6,

93:11, 93:16, 93:20,

94:4, 94:6, 94:13,

95:8, 95:17, 95:19, 95:23, 96:5, 96:10, 97:1, 97:17, 97:23, 98:14, 98:22, 99:3, 99:11, 99:15, 100:1, 100:4 hartke [2] - 44:24, 99:9 Hartke's [4] - 79:18, 85:6, 89:18, 90:6 harvest [1] - 20:11 health [17] - 5:17, 6:7, 67:14, 67:16, 67:18, 67:21, 68:2, 68:16, 68:19, 69:3, 69:9, 70:11, 70:16, 70:19, 71:1, 71:21, 100:2 hear [12] - 25:23, 74:7, 77:14, 99:14, 117:1, 128:1, 130:13, 130:14, 131:8, 132:13, 133:20 heard [9] - 54:8, 54:12, 63:9, 64:21, 69:6, 122:15, 122:18, 122:19, 130:21 **HEARING** [1] - 1:7 Hearing [1] - 4:9 hearing [21] - 3:2, 7:19, 8:7, 9:12, 28:22, 36:8, 52:25, 53:6, 55:22, 57:20, 63:9, 63:22, 64:24, 69:20, 69:21, 92:9, 100:16, 118:8, 121:3, 121:22, 133:25 hearings [9] - 51:22, 54:11, 56:24, 58:17, 63:14, 71:24, 76:9, 83:16, 92:3 heat [2] - 39:3, 46:20 height [5] - 52:1, 58:14, 98:7, 107:19, 107:22 heights [2] - 51:24, 73:9 hell [1] - 120:23 hello [1] - 21:24 help [6] - 7:17, 16:15, 33:5, 75:4, 80:2, 112:1 helps [1] - 130:18 Hendrix [3] - 118:20, 118:22, 121:8 HENDRIX [8] - 118:24, 119:12, 119:22, 120:1, 120:3, 120:21, 121:6, 121:9

Hendrix's [1] - 121:16 HENRICKS [7] - 3:22, 19:21, 19:25, 20:4, 20:8, 21:11, 21:17 Henricks [4] - 1:12, 3:21, 19:25, 20:2 henricks [1] - 21:19 hereby [1] - 135:6 HESS [28] - 5:1, 25:16, 25:19, 36:13, 68:13, 69:13, 82:21, 84:8, 85:4, 86:9, 87:9, 89:17, 90:25, 92:6, 93:24, 94:15, 96:8, 97:6, 98:18, 99:7, 102:19, 110:3, 122:3, 123:17, 124:6, 124:8, 126:7, 129:15 Hess [14] - 1:16, 4:24, 5:11, 25:18, 36:12, 69:5, 69:12, 80:3, 92:10, 102:21, 114:15, 124:5, 126:8, 129:14 hi [1] - 21:25 hiding [1] - 103:25 high [5] - 43:25, 63:21, 100:21, 101:17, 102:24 higher [1] - 52:13 highest [1] - 102:3 highlight [1] - 58:12 hindsight [1] - 83:4 historically [2] -22:16, 31:11 history [6] - 12:13, 13:13, 18:8, 18:9, 41:6, 78:23 HLR [2] - 56:6, 56:7 hold [1] - 6:9 home [8] - 80:13, 82:20, 88:8, 88:9, 88:19, 91:15, 93:18, 93:22 homes [7] - 89:14, 90:15, 92:20, 95:24, 96:7, 97:5 hone [1] - 113:17 honest [1] - 42:17 honor [1] - 57:19 honoring [1] - 52:3 hope [1] - 104:4 hopefully [3] - 20:9, 132:7, 134:9 hose [4] - 45:18, 45:20, 45:21, 45:23 hoses [1] - 45:12 hosting [1] - 58:8 hotline [3] - 71:8,

72:1, 72:13 hour [1] - 22:22 hours [8] - 23:4, 25:14, 27:15, 53:12, 53:17, 53:23, 98:10, 117:20 house [11] - 80:14, 81:23, 82:4, 82:16, 82:25, 87:8, 87:20, 88:2, 88:15, 91:6, 102.8 human [1] - 69:3 hundred [1] - 51:25 hundredths [2] -61:22, 61:23 hypothetical [3] -64:23, 65:6, 93:4 hypothetically [2] -30:11, 127:6

#### ı

ice [5] - 54:16, 54:17, 54:20, 54:22 ice-detection [1] -54:17 icing [1] - 54:18 ID [1] - 29:10 idea [4] - 15:2, 55:11, 71:10, 122:25 ideas [1] - 14:9 identification [1] - 7:8 identified [4] - 25:1, 60:20, 63:21, 91:22 identify [1] - 24:25 identifying [1] - 33:13 IDNR [5] - 60:15, 60:17, 60:18, 60:20, 61:13 **IDNR's** [3] - 60:16, 61:7, 61:14 **IEPA**[1] - 86:1 ignore [2] - 98:15, 98:23 Illinois [32] - 10:14, 39:9, 42:19, 43:20, 50:9, 52:7, 60:21, 62:14, 74:12, 82:12, 84:23, 85:17, 86:2, 86:7, 86:25, 88:6, 90:18, 91:10, 91:21, 92:5, 92:13, 93:6, 93:9, 95:13, 96:4, 96:24, 98:8, 98:16, 99:23, 103:9, 105:8, 125:18 **ILLINOIS** [1] - 1:1 Illinois' [1] - 119:19 illustrated [1] - 11:16

imagine [1] - 64:24

immediate [7] - 18:16, 18:18, 38:24, 40:7, 46:13, 72:10, 128:10 immediately [5] -19:6, 23:23, 38:24, 128:5. 128:8 Impact [2] - 56:5, 62:12 impact [22] - 32:23, 57:5, 58:6, 59:12, 59:24, 60:3, 60:13, 77:25, 98:2, 106:5, 106:13, 106:17, 107:14, 107:24, 108:21, 109:4, 109:6, 109:11, 109:20, 110:2 impacts [3] - 57:7, 109:18 implementation [2] -57:23, 58:18 implemented [1] -70:15 important [6] - 43:14, 58:7. 59:10. 61:7. 62:9. 90:22 imposed [2] - 50:19, 50:21 **improve** [1] - 43:15 improvement [2] -61:12, 116:13 improving [1] - 43:17 INAI [1] - 60:21 **Inc** [2] - 5:6, 5:8 inclined [1] - 132:14 include [12] - 7:5, 29:10, 30:8, 54:6, 56:17, 100:23, 101:9, 116:3, 124:18, 125:23, 127:11, 127:13 included [11] - 52:22, 57:1, 59:8, 59:13, 61:8, 63:5, 63:13, 63:24, 64:3, 64:4, 101:25 includes [3] - 10:1, 56:6, 101:10 including [11] - 19:14, 44:16, 60:6, 61:23, 62:7, 71:20, 79:14, 106:14, 106:16, 106:19, 129:7 incorporate [1] -125:20 increase [3] - 51:24, 58:1, 107:18 increased [4] - 63:15, 63:17, 73:9, 114:23

incurred [1] - 18:21

incurring [1] - 64:1 Indemnity [1] - 65:2 independent [7] -7:24, 8:16, 11:21, 11:23, 27:19, 34:23, 34:25 individual's [1] -70:11 individuals [1] - 131:8 industrial [1] - 124:15 industry [8] - 6:11, 8:21, 12:15, 13:17, 13:19, 13:23, 43:15, 59:15 inference [2] - 94:14, 97:20 influencing [1] - 81:22 information [26] -4:25, 5:4, 7:9, 12:20, 15:24, 16:7, 21:15, 28:19, 29:5, 29:6, 29:14, 34:11, 40:8, 41:4, 41:9, 56:15, 94:11, 102:17, 106:4, 107:4, 107:6, 107:17, 108:17, 110:7, 114:2, 114:10 **Information** [2] - 60:5, 106:25 initiating [1] - 29:16 input [3] - 81:7, 92:4, 107:1 inside [4] - 11:10, 11:23, 37:24, 38:5 insight [4] - 99:16, 99:18, 99:20, 99:21 insinuating [2] -114:25, 115:3 inspect [3] - 30:12, 35:15, 35:18 **inspected** [1] - 35:16 **inspection** [1] - 9:14 inspections [1] - 9:5 install [2] - 37:13, 37:16 installed [9] - 8:1, 11:22, 12:1, 12:4, 13:10, 15:11, 19:3, 37:18. 39:13 installing [1] - 8:16 instance [1] - 107:5 instantaneous [1] -46:18 instead [5] - 52:2, 81:12, 89:16, 90:16, 95:19 instruction [3] - 92:8, 92:10, 110:6 **instrument** [1] - 65:1

insurance [2] - 64:19,

intended [1] - 90:23 intense [1] - 46:20 interest [1] - 73:11 interested [2] - 19:15, 79:15 internally [1] - 43:11 internet [1] - 110:7 internet-sourced [1] -110.7 interrupt [2] - 68:13, 110:3 intertwined [1] - 39:6 introduce [1] - 124:9 introduced [1] - 92:4 invalidate [1] - 65:11 Inventory [1] - 60:21 investigate [1] - 38:10 invisible [1] - 105:23 involve [1] - 11:25 involved [4] - 11:18, 32:11, 111:7, 127:14 IPCB [16] - 52:24, 53:7, 74:25, 75:9, 82:19, 84:18, 84:22, 85:13, 86:6, 86:8, 87:6, 87:15, 88:13, 90:1, 91:16, 91:24 Irish [1] - 106:3 isolate [3] - 9:18, 16:10, 16:17 isolation [1] - 9:24 issue [9] - 17:1, 71:1, 82:9, 87:18, 87:19, 96:20, 99:5, 99:19, 110:24 issued [2] - 60:8, 125:18 issues [12] - 38:18, 56:11, 70:10, 70:12, 70:19, 71:21, 81:18, 109:3, 111:8, 111:11, 113:19, 113:24 it" [1] - 116:5 itself [11] - 23:19, 24:1, 55:14, 62:16, 70:14, 88:9, 94:8, 115:2, 115:20, 115:24, 126:19

64:21

integrity [1] - 62:15

# J

Jacob [3] - 108:3, 108:4, 130:20 James [2] - 108:5, 108:12 January [1] - 50:4 JASON [3] - 2:3, 5:21,

6:1 **Jason** [7] - 5:16, 6:1, 6:7, 39:4, 48:11, 54:8, 67:17 Jerald [1] - 1:16 **Jeremy** [1] - 130:22 JIM [1] - 104:8 **Jim** [2] - 1:10, 104:8 **job** [3] - 55:7, 92:17, 111:12 joined [1] - 55:17 joke [1] - 104:5 Jones [2] - 1:13, 4:1 JONES [1] - 4:2 July [1] - 110:10 jumped [1] - 83:14 **jumping** [1] - 49:4

### Κ

KAINS [161] - 3:1, 4:10, 5:11, 5:18, 5:24, 6:3, 10:16, 12:24, 18:2, 18:4, 19:11, 19:22, 20:2, 21:19, 21:25, 22:6, 25:18, 26:4, 26:23, 26:25, 28:24, 29:8, 29:22, 34:18, 35:21, 36:5, 36:11, 36:17, 36:20, 36:25, 37:5, 39:17, 39:21, 41:18, 44:11, 44:20, 44:24, 47:1, 47:4, 47:12, 47:15, 47:22, 48:2, 48:9, 48:14, 48:23, 48:25, 49:4, 49:8, 49:10, 49:15, 49:22, 66:4, 66:14, 66:19, 66:21, 67:2, 67:5, 67:8, 69:5, 69:7, 69:12, 69:25, 70:8, 70:23, 72:21, 79:9, 79:12, 80:3, 83:8, 83:25, 84:11, 84:14, 85:10, 85:15, 85:17, 85:21, 85:23, 86:5, 86:17, 86:21, 87:3, 87:17, 87:24, 88:4, 88:14, 88:23, 88:25, 90:4, 90:12, 90:21, 91:2, 92:10, 92:16, 94:1, 94:5, 94:22, 95:3, 95:6, 95:18, 95:21, 96:11, 97:10, 98:20, 99:1, 99:9, 99:12, 100:3, 100:6, 100:13, 102:12, 102:16, 102:20, 103:21, 104:4,

104:9, 105:16, 105:24, 108:14, 110:14, 112:8, 112:11, 112:13, 112:19, 114:14, 114:17, 118:17, 121:8, 121:10, 121:14, 121:19, 122:1, 122:10, 122:16, 122:22, 123:2, 123:8, 123:12, 123:16, 123:19, 123:25, 124:5, 126:8, 129:2, 129:5, 129:16, 129:19, 129:25, 130:3, 130:13, 130:17, 130:19, 130:23. 131:1. 131:25, 132:3, 132:5, 132:11, 132:16, 133:6, 133:16 Kains [16] - 1:8, 4:9, 5:1, 25:19, 36:13, 68:14, 69:6, 85:5, 87:10, 92:8, 93:24, 110:5, 122:3, 123:17, 124:6 Kathleen [1] - 1:13 keep [6] - 39:3, 46:3, 46:4, 59:19, 87:9, 134.5 keeping [1] - 46:6 Kenny [1] - 4:16 Kent [5] - 100:18, 101:2, 103:6, 116:11, 121:1 kept [1] - 55:25 **Keri** [2] - 1:6, 60:18 **Kevin** [1] - 108:4 key [2] - 9:2, 39:1 **KEYT** [20] - 69:6, 69:8, 70:2, 98:24, 112:18, 112:20, 113:1, 113:4, 113:7, 113:10, 113:16, 113:22, 113:24, 114:8, 114:13, 130:6, 130:16, 130:18, 130:20, 131:17 Keyt [10] - 1:15, 69:7, 69:14, 69:19, 69:21, 69:25, 112:17, 114:14, 130:3, 133:20 kids [2] - 25:13, 26:10 kill [1] - 49:4 kilometers [2] - 60:1,

106:12 kind [23] - 19:7, 22:20, 41:11, 45:21, 68:8, 68:11, 71:1, 71:7, 71:14, 99:16, 100:20, 100:24, 102:25. 103:2. 107:2. 107:4. 109:23, 110:23, 127:25, 129:20, 131:2, 132:18 kinds [1] - 68:9 kit [1] - 128:11 knowing [1] - 127:25 knowledge [9] - 12:6, 12:13, 13:22, 18:12, 35:5, 41:3, 70:18, 83:17, 86:24 known [2] - 64:6, 106:3 knows [2] - 38:20, 92:12

### L

labeled [1] - 7:10 lack [1] - 107:14 ladies [2] - 7:23, 51:1 lady [1] - 105:20 land [11] - 62:3, 62:11, 62:16, 62:17, 62:20, 80:17, 80:18, 80:25, 82:8, 82:19, 91:11 landowner [8] - 24:19, 24:22, 25:2, 58:8, 78:3, 78:9, 82:7, 128:20 landowners [2] - 65:4, 65:23 lands [3] - 56:19, 60:21, 61:3 landscape [3] - 56:17, 100:22, 101:9 landscaping [2] -101:11. 116:3 language [2] - 50:24, 119:24 large [3] - 46:18, 126:20, 127:2 larger [1] - 77:2 Larson [1] - 3:11 last [31] - 4:20, 5:25, 7:19, 8:7, 19:24, 21:25, 22:2, 22:5, 24:9, 26:15, 36:22, 37:2, 43:20, 44:21, 49:11, 57:6, 58:12, 58:17, 58:21, 59:23, 68:22, 76:8, 77:22, 100:10, 104:7,

53:19, 54:5, 60:14, 68:20, 69:4, 71:6, 73:15, 73:21, 77:5, 85:5, 85:7, 87:13, 92:1, 92:3, 95:13, 96:3, 98:11, 98:13, 111:14, 111:19, 111:21, 112:1, 119:2, 119:8, 119:17, 119:20, 120:17, 121:3 lawsuit [1] - 97:1 laydown [4] - 25:9, 25:25, 26:7, 26:12 layout [4] - 6:22, 7:15, 8:25, 10:10 lead [1] - 122:20 leader [1] - 59:15 leak [2] - 30:13, 30:15 leaks [3] - 30:4, 30:5, 30.11 learn [1] - 43:14 learned [1] - 10:5 learning [1] - 43:17 leased [1] - 80:25 least [3] - 24:8, 59:2, 130:11 led [1] - 76:10 left [2] - 59:17, 117:20 **legal** [15] - 64:5, 65:1, 83:6, 87:11, 87:14, 97:8, 97:11, 98:19, 98:25, 111:8, 111:11, 119:24, 120:12 legislative [3] - 111:8, 111:11, 119:19 Legislature [3] - 92:5, 92:13, 112:9 legs [1] - 29:1 length [1] - 134:1 less [2] - 53:17, 61:19 lesson [1] - 10:4 letter [5] - 60:8, 60:17, 60:18, 107:9, 107:10 letting [1] - 20:23 level [22] - 52:12, 53:8, 75:9, 80:15, 81:10, 81:13, 82:20, 83:1, 84:18, 85:13, 89:15, 89:22, 90:16, 94:7, 94:13, 100:17, 100:21, 101:16,

105:25, 107:10,

late [2] - 8:8, 131:10

law [39] - 50:4. 50:6.

50:10. 50:11. 50:13.

50:15, 52:9, 53:11,

111:2, 121:11,

122:5, 124:1

102:7, 114:23, 116:15, 119:9 levels [9] - 52:13, 81:22, 85:2, 86:6, 89:8, 91:16, 102:1, 103:8, 105:2 library [1] - 115:7 License [1] - 135:13 life [3] - 33:15, 62:19, 65:17 light [3] - 59:1, 59:24, 109:1 **Lighting** [1] - 58:16 lightning [2] - 43:12, lights [1] - 58:25 Lighty [2] - 108:3, 108:4 likelihood [2] - 32:14, 44:2 likely [1] - 54:21 limit [8] - 51:25, 53:7, 54:2, 68:4, 68:5, 74:23, 75:9, 80:15 Limitations [3] -89:11, 89:25, 90:19 limited [2] - 7:13, 13.14 limits [8] - 52:24, 53:20, 84:22, 88:13, 89:10, 89:13, 89:22, 91:24 Lincoln 151 - 60:2. 106:12, 108:6, 108:13, 108:20 line [7] - 82:18, 86:7, 87:7, 89:13, 89:20, 90:24, 98:23 Line [3] - 89:12, 89:25, 90:20 line" [1] - 90:3 lines [6] - 73:8, 85:3, 85:22, 89:16, 90:16, 98:15 liquid [2] - 45:2, 46:13 list [6] - 61:10, 80:20, 80:21, 130:16, 130:17, 130:20 listed [8] - 41:9, 65:3, 65:5, 67:22, 69:8, 74:10, 98:17, 133:21 listen [1] - 71:18 **lists** [2] - 85:13, 89:10 live [3] - 17:23, 95:24, 100:15 LLC [3] - 1:2, 4:21, 5:12 lobby [3] - 111:21, 112:1, 112:9 local [25] - 8:2, 8:4,

8:11, 9:7, 10:3, 10:13, 14:12, 14:14, 14:18, 14:21, 19:14, 26:16, 26:17, 29:17, 32:17, 32:22, 33:11, 34:4, 34:14, 44:15, 52:9, 53:18, 54:22, 79:14, 129:6 localized [1] - 46:2 locals [1] - 15:15 located [3] - 20:20, 21:3, 27:13 location [10] - 29:20, 33:23, 43:25, 58:14, 87:8, 93:18, 93:22, 98:7, 115:19, 115:22 locations [1] - 107:22 log [1] - 72:19 logged [1] - 93:3 logic [1] - 127:22 logically [1] - 13:20 look [24] - 12:2, 12:6, 14:10, 14:11, 16:25, 20:19, 20:25, 21:9, 22:14, 26:19, 33:13, 33:17, 35:25, 41:12, 42:25, 51:21, 53:10, 80:8, 102:9, 103:7, 116:5, 116:7, 117:21, 120:18 looked [2] - 24:9, 103:14 looking [5] - 10:22, 77:8, 81:7, 108:1, 128:9 looks [3] - 21:9, 81:10, 108:8 Loomis [11] - 122:2, 122:4, 122:12, 123:2, 123:3, 123:13, 129:23, 130:1, 131:4, 131:5, 133:19 **Loomis's** [1] - 122:11 lose [1] - 23:17 loses [2] - 23:13, 23:22 loud [4] - 53:7, 74:21, 75:9, 84:5 louder [2] - 103:12 loudest [2] - 101:21, 115:7 love [1] - 118:21 Lovin [1] - 3:14 low [5] - 8:5, 43:5, 44:3, 61:5, 79:7 lower [1] - 111:21 **Loyd** [1] - 1:9 Loyd's [1] - 73:23

### М

ma'am [1] - 37:12 machine [1] - 135:4 Mahomet [3] - 56:22, 57:3, 57:5 main [2] - 10:25, 25:4 maintain [1] - 26:13 maintaining [1] - 9:3 maintenance [4] - 9:5, 41:24, 42:5, 42:11 major [1] - 51:5 manage [2] - 21:5, 31:13 managed [1] - 17:20 Management [1] -28:12 management [2] -9:22, 10:4 manager [5] - 5:16, 6:8, 33:24, 97:15, 111:4 managers [1] - 67:15 mandate [1] - 74:11 manned [1] - 27:14 manner [3] - 17:10, 32:23, 74:6 Mansfield [2] - 24:7, 60:23 manufacture [1] -24:24 manufactured [1] -39:24 manufacturer [4] -12:18, 12:20, 13:8, 52:14 manufacturers [1] -22:19 map [11] - 29:19, 59:13, 59:17, 59:20, 77:9, 107:11, 109:13, 109:15, 129:20, 131:2, 133:18 maps [1] - 51:6 marching [1] - 69:23 marked [1] - 24:9 MaRous [2] - 130:14, 130:20 material [1] - 46:11 materials [4] - 63:19, 113:13, 128:12, 128:13 matt [1] - 55:21 matter [14] - 8:19, 9:18, 15:13, 15:14, 16:15, 42:20, 69:3, 113:20, 114:6, 130:9, 130:11, 131:4, 131:6, 133:20 matters [1] - 114:10 maximum [3] - 52:16, 80:15, 82:19 maximum-noiselimit [1] - 80:15 mean [15] - 13:20, 16:3, 17:20, 23:1, 24:11, 24:15, 43:8, 75:3, 89:21, 96:8, 103:2, 105:11, 116:10, 118:2, 128:2 meaning [1] - 89:8 means [5] - 18:25, 27:10, 52:12, 116:7, measure [2] - 89:15, 90:15 measured [2] - 81:8, 84:3 measurement [1] -89:6 measures [1] - 62:17 mechanism [1] - 24:3 medical [5] - 70:21, 94:17, 94:21, 95:4, 95:5 meet [13] - 51:9, 51:18, 51:20, 71:4, 74:19, 86:24, 91:24, 96:2, 97:25, 98:12, 102:10, 113:13, 118:6 meeting [1] - 40:21 meets [13] - 51:2, 55:4, 55:9, 55:10, 65:19, 65:22, 65:24, 70:4, 70:5, 87:5, 91:16, 119:3, 120:16 members [16] - 7:21, 10:18, 19:13, 19:15, 29:18, 44:15, 44:18, 56:25, 67:11, 71:16, 79:13, 79:15, 80:7, 114:18, 121:15, 129:6 MEMBERS [2] - 1:9, 1:11 memorized [2] -30:25, 42:13 mention [3] - 75:5, 77:15, 78:16 mentioned [19] - 9:1, 9:10, 9:20, 13:16, 27:9, 32:2, 41:21, 42:17, 43:20, 75:12, 75:16, 77:15, 78:19, 95:11, 107:13,

111:13, 111:19,

mentions [1] - 89:13

116:4, 116:23

met [8] - 14:25, 50:3, 55:20, 67:22, 69:15, 85:3, 86:7, 103:5 metal [1] - 63:20 meteorological [1] -54:20 meteorologically [1] -52:19 meteorologists [1] -108.4 meters [1] - 14:13 method [1] - 23:5 metrics [1] - 41:10 mic [2] - 28:23, 28:24 Michael [1] - 1:11 middle [1] - 80:16 might [19] - 36:14, 39:9, 43:9, 43:10, 45:8, 53:22, 67:24, 71:23, 80:10, 81:21, 88:17, 88:18, 108:23, 109:11, 109:16, 109:17, 127:16, 127:22, 128:17 mile [4] - 60:22, 77:3, 77:7, 100:15 miles [4] - 58:25, 59:1, 59:3, 62:4 millions [1] - 42:25 mind [5] - 39:14, 88:25. 116:22. 131:13, 134:5 minder [2] - 63:21, 130:7 Minder [1] - 55:21 minds [1] - 89:1 minimal [2] - 38:12, 57:5 minimize [2] - 21:10, 32:23 minute [9] - 48:6, 48:24, 66:6, 66:15, 66:16, 66:18, 131:14, 131:16, 132:24 minutes [8] - 9:19, 59:2, 66:8, 122:14, 123:3, 129:19, 134:1, 134:2 misleading [3] - 83:6, 86:10, 89:18 misspoke [1] - 69:13 mistake [1] - 25:6 misunderstanding [1] - 109:10 mitigate [1] - 21:9 mitigation [2] - 59:21, 109:17 **Mitigation** [1] - 62:12

mitigation" [1] -108:25 model [6] - 13:2, 13:6, 52:15, 52:17, 52:19, 77:6 modeled [6] - 52:12, 76:9, 76:16, 76:18, 77:3, 115:23 modeling [16] - 52:10, 52:21, 53:14, 75:13, 75:15, 88:9, 101:22, 104:14, 104:19, 104:21, 104:22, 115:8, 115:9, 115:10, 115:13 moment [4] - 36:13, 36:14, 36:16, 83:3 monitor [2] - 11:11, 23:10 monitored [2] - 19:3, 24:1 monitoring [10] - 6:23, 8:14, 9:6, 9:10, 9:13, 10:11. 11:9. 71:22. 105:13. 118:9 months [3] - 42:2, 42:6 **mop** [1] - 128:13 mopping [1] - 127:12 morning [1] - 22:24 most [4] - 43:24, 108:7, 116:24, 126:21 mostly [1] - 110:4 mouth [1] - 101:3 move [3] - 49:20, 51:23, 59:20 moved [3] - 73:17, 76:24, 77:1 movement [1] - 25:14 moving [3] - 25:11, 59:19, 110:18 mowed [1] - 88:19 MR [589] - 3:1, 3:5, 3:9, 3:13, 3:16, 3:18, 3:22, 3:25, 4:6, 4:8, 4:10, 5:1, 5:11, 5:18, 5:24, 6:1, 6:3, 6:5, 10:16, 10:21, 11:2, 11:5, 11:8, 11:14, 11:21, 11:25, 12:2, 12:5, 12:10, 12:12, 12:17, 12:19, 12:22, 12:23, 12:24, 12:25, 13:3, 13:4, 13:5, 13:6, 13:8, 13:10, 13:12, 13:13, 13:15, 13:16, 13:18, 13:20, 13:22, 13:24, 14:3, 14:5, 14:10, 14:17,

14:20, 14:23, 14:25, 15:1, 15:3, 15:5, 15:10, 15:14, 15:18, 15:20, 15:23, 16:1, 16:3, 16:12, 16:16, 16:18, 16:19, 16:21, 16:23, 16:24, 17:2, 17:3, 17:5, 17:6, 17:7, 17:8, 17:10, 17:11, 17:14, 17:15, 17:18, 17:19, 17:25, 18:1, 18:2, 18:3, 18:4, 18:5, 18:10, 18:12, 18:14, 18:15, 19:2, 19:7, 19:9, 19:10, 19:11, 19:21, 19:22, 19:25, 20:2, 20:4. 20:7. 20:8. 20:19. 21:11. 21:14. 21:17, 21:18, 21:19, 21:24, 21:25, 22:4, 22:6, 22:8, 22:14, 22:20, 23:3, 23:9, 23:12, 23:13, 23:21, 24:3, 24:4, 24:5, 24:18, 24:21, 24:23, 25:3, 25:16, 25:17, 25:18, 25:19, 26:4, 26:10, 26:15, 26:21, 26:23, 26:24, 26:25, 28:24, 29:8, 29:22, 30:1, 30:7, 30:10, 30:12, 30:15, 30:17, 30:18, 30:20, 30:23,  $30{:}24,\,30{:}25,\,31{:}2,$ 31:4, 31:5, 31:6, 31:9, 31:14, 31:15, 31:16, 31:21, 31:22, 31:24, 31:25, 32:4, 32:5, 32:7, 32:9, 32:12, 32:15, 32:20, 32:25, 33:2, 33:3, 33:4, 33:6, 33:9, 33:14, 33:18, 33:20, 33:24, 34:1, 34:3, 34:4, 34:6, 34:8, 34:13, 34:16, 34:17, 34:18, 34:19, 34:23, 34:25, 35:1, 35:2, 35:3, 35:4, 35:11, 35:17, 35:19, 35:20, 35:21, 35:22, 35:25, 36:2, 36:3, 36:4, 36:5, 36:9, 36:11, 36:13, 36:17, 36:20, 36:24, 36:25, 37:3, 37:5, 39:14, 39:17, 39:19, 39:21, 39:23, 39:25, 40:1, 40:9, 40:10, 40:11, 40:14, 40:15, 40:16, 40:20,

41:3, 41:8, 41:11, 41:14, 41:16, 41:17, 41:18, 41:21, 42:4, 42:7, 42:9, 42:12, 42:15, 42:16, 42:22, 42:24, 43:3, 43:19, 43:22, 43:23, 44:7, 44:8, 44:9, 44:10, 44:11, 44:20, 44:22, 44:24, 44:25, 45:2, 45:10, 45:14, 45:15, 45:19, 45:25, 46:1, 46:3, 46:7, 46:8, 46:15, 46:16, 46:17, 46:22, 47:1, 47:3, 47:4, 47:7, 47:12, 47:14, 47:15, 47:22, 47:25. 48:2. 48:9. 48:14. 48:23. 48:25. 49:4. 49:8. 49:15. 49:22, 66:4, 66:12, 66:14, 66:17, 66:19, 66:20, 66:21, 67:2, 67:5, 67:8, 67:12, 67:19, 68:13, 69:5, 69:6, 69:7, 69:8, 69:12, 69:13, 69:25, 70:2, 70:8, 70:23, 71:10, 72:5, 72:20, 72:21, 72:23, 73:1, 73:22, 74:14, 74:22, 74:24, 75:5, 75:11, 75:15, 75:20, 75:24, 76:4, 76:7, 76:20, 77:8, 77:19, 77:23, 78:1, 78:4, 78:14, 78:22, 79:5, 79:8, 79:9, 79:11, 79:12, 79:22, 80:3, 80:6, 80:25, 81:4, 82:6, 82:16, 82:21, 83:8, 83:23, 83:25, 84:1, 84:8, 84:10, 84:11, 84:13, 84:14, 84:16, 84:23, 85:4, 85:9, 85:10, 85:12, 85:15, 85:16, 85:17, 85:19, 85:21, 85:22, 85:23, 85:24, 86:5, 86:6, 86:9, 86:17, 86:20, 86:21, 87:3, 87:5, 87:9, 87:17, 87:22, 87:24, 88:3, 88:4, 88:14, 88:23, 88:25, 89:3, 89:17, 90:4, 90:11, 90:12, 90:21, 90:22, 90:25, 91:2, 91:4, 91:13, 91:25, 92:6, 92:10, 92:16, 92:19, 93:6, 93:11, 93:16, 93:20, 93:24,

94:1, 94:4, 94:5, 94:6, 94:13, 94:15, 94:22, 95:3, 95:6, 95:8, 95:17, 95:18, 95:19, 95:21, 95:23, 96:5, 96:8, 96:10, 96:11, 97:1, 97:6, 97:10, 97:17, 97:23, 98:14, 98:18, 98:20, 98:22, 98:24, 99:1, 99:3, 99:7, 99:9, 99:12, 99:15, 100:1, 100:3, 100:4, 100:6, 100:11, 100:13, 100:15, 102:7, 102:12, 102:15, 102:16, 102:19, 102:20, 102:23, 103:20. 103:21. 104:2, 104:4, 104:8, 104:9, 104:11, 104:17, 104:25, 105:10, 105:14, 105:16, 105:24, 108:14, 110:3, 110:14, 112:8, 112:11, 112:13, 112:18, 112:19, 112:20, 113:1, 113:4, 113:7, 113:10, 113:16, 113:22, 113:24, 114:8, 114:13, 114:14, 114:17, 114:20, 115:8, 115:10, 115:15, 115:21, 115:25, 116:17, 116:20, 117:3, 117:6, 117:10, 117:15, 117:25, 118:15, 118:17, 118:24, 119:12, 119:22, 120:1, 120:3, 120:21, 121:6, 121:8, 121:9, 121:10, 121:14, 121:18, 121:19, 122:1, 122:3, 122:10, 122:16, 122:22, 123:2, 123:7, 123:8, 123:12, 123:16, 123:17, 123:19, 123:25, 124:3, 124:5, 124:6, 124:8, 126:7, 126:8, 126:13, 126:18, 127:5, 127:10, 127:17, 127:20,

127:21, 128:10,

128:18, 128:22, 128:23, 128:24, 129:1, 129:2, 129:4, 129:5, 129:15, 129:16, 129:19, 129:25, 130:3, 130:6, 130:13, 130:16, 130:17, 130:18, 130:19, 130:20, 130:23, 131:1, 131:17, 131:25, 132:3, 132:5, 132:11, 132:15, 132:16, 133:6, 133:13, 133:16 MS [169] - 3:11, 3:14, 3:17, 3:20, 3:23, 4:1, 4:2, 4:3, 4:4, 4:5, 4:7, 5:15, 27:5, 27:8, 29:1, 29:21, 36:18, 37:7, 37:9, 39:16, 39:20, 47:21, 48:3, 48:10, 48:21, 48:24, 49:1, 49:6, 49:9, 49:13, 49:18, 49:25, 67:4, 67:7, 67:17, 70:21, 71:2, 71:22, 72:12, 72:25, 73:13, 74:12, 74:15, 74:23, 75:2, 75:8, 75:14, 75:19, 75:23, 76:2, 76:6, 76:8, 76:25, 77:17, 77:21, 77:24, 78:2, 78:8, 78:21, 79:1, 79:7, 80:23, 81:3, 81:17, 82:10, 84:20, 87:2, 88:5, 88:17, 88:24, 90:10, 90:17, 91:8, 91:17, 92:15, 92:18, 92:22, 93:9, 93:12, 93:19, 94:11, 95:2, 95:5, 95:11, 96:1, 96:21, 97:21, 98:4, 99:21, 101:7, 102:9, 103:5, 104:15, 104:20, 105:5, 105:11, 105:15, 105:22, 106:2, 106:8, 106:21, 106:24, 107:2, 107:8, 107:16, 107:20, 107:25, 108:15, 108:18, 109:7, 109:10, 109:22, 109:24, 111:2, 111:5, 111:7, 111:11, 111:15, 111:16, 111:17, 112:2, 112:6,

112:10, 112:12, 112:25, 113:3, 113:6, 113:9, 113:12, 113:20, 113:23, 114:4, 114:12, 114:16, 115:5, 115:9, 115:11, 115:19, 115:23, 116:10, 116:19, 117:2, 117:5, 117:7, 117:14, 117:23, 118:2, 119:8, 119:18, 119:23, 120:2, 120:15, 121:3, 121:13, 121:24, 122:12, 122:18. 122:24. 123:9. 123:15. 129:24, 130:2, 130:25, 131:13, 131:20, 132:2, 132:4, 132:9, 133:3 multiple [1] - 72:17 must [2] - 52:7, 64:19

### Ν

nacelle [12] - 11:23, 37:19, 37:22, 37:23, 38:5, 38:25, 45:8, 45:24, 46:5, 46:9, 94:8, 126:19 nacelles [1] - 46:3 name [23] - 5:25, 6:1, 6:7, 13:1, 19:24, 19:25, 22:1, 22:2, 22:4, 22:5, 37:2, 44:20, 44:22, 49:11, 79:20, 100:9, 104:6, 105:20, 105:25, 106:3, 124:1, 124:3 names [6] - 5:2, 5:25, 22:2, 49:11, 100:10, 124:1 National [17] - 60:4, 60:7, 106:6, 106:15, 106:19, 106:22, 106:24, 106:25, 107:3, 107:17, 107:21, 108:5, 108:12. 108:16. 109:4, 109:5, 109:21 native [1] - 43:21 Natural [2] - 56:5, 60:21 nautical [3] - 58:25, 59:1, 59:3 navigable [1] - 125:1 near [2] - 62:4, 95:9

nearly [3] - 51:13, 51:16, 59:15 necessarily [1] - 77:1 necessary [1] - 121:22 need [8] - 21:12, 40:5, 40:6, 55:9, 71:17, 74:18. 81:19 needed [11] - 16:9, 29:16, 35:16, 39:3, 53:21, 59:21, 75:22, 109:16, 109:17, 114:4 needs [4] - 18:16, 28:25, 38:11, 38:13 negatively [1] - 98:2 neighbor [9] - 57:10, 57:12, 57:16, 73:24, 91:17, 95:23, 95:25, 111:24, 116:2 neighbor's [1] - 57:11 neighboring [1] -77:25 neighbors [6] - 57:7, 71:16, 71:18, 91:14, 97:20, 98:2 neutral [2] - 19:16, 79:16 never [5] - 56:13, 79:3, 105:11, 117:2, 117:9 new [18] - 7:24, 25:7, 37:1, 40:25, 50:4, 50:6, 50:10, 50:13, 50:16, 53:11, 55:25, 59:8, 60:14, 71:6, 85:7, 92:3, 107:12, 119:2 next [28] - 5:14, 6:15, 7:1, 7:13, 8:24, 9:3, 9:9, 9:19, 10:6, 40:19, 47:7, 47:8, 47:9, 48:2, 50:15, 52:5, 59:6, 62:22, 89:3, 101:12, 122:2, 122:9, 123:11, 123:16, 127:9, 127:22, 132:3, 132:7 nice [1] - 105:20 **night** [19] - 4:12, 4:20, 43:20, 57:6, 58:17, 58:22, 77:22, 92:20, 95:25, 122:5, 123:14, 131:3, 131:16, 132:20, 132:22, 133:18, 133:21, 134:9 night's [1] - 36:23 nil [1] - 32:14 nine [3] - 25:12, 123:5,

134:9

no-build [1] - 59:18

no-impact [6] - 59:24, 106:13, 107:24, 109:6, 109:20, 110:2 nobody [1] - 68:5 noise [32] - 52:21, 53:3, 80:12, 80:15, 81:8, 81:11, 81:13, 82:19, 84:3, 84:18, 85:2, 85:13, 86:2, 86:6, 86:11, 89:15, 90:16, 91:16, 93:7, 93:23, 94:6, 94:9, 94:13, 95:8, 96:6, 98:3, 99:5, 99:18, 100:2, 100:21, 104:18, 114:23 Noise [3] - 89:12, 89:25, 90:20 noise-level [1] - 85:13 noisier [2] - 81:10, 118:11 non [20] - 51:11, 51:15, 51:23, 62:11, 73:2, 73:3, 73:17, 73:18, 82:13, 91:14, 91:19, 93:17, 93:21, 95:9. 95:12. 95:16. 117:12, 117:17, 118:3 non-agricultural [1] -62:11 non-participant [3] -73:3, 117:12 non-participants [5] -91:14, 91:19, 95:9, 95:16, 118:3 non-participating [9] -51:11, 51:15, 51:23, 73:17, 73:18, 82:13, 93:17, 93:21, 95:12 non-residence [1] non-voluntary [1] -117:17 none [2] - 27:3, 63:22 nonetheless [1] -63:24 nonpayment [1] -65:10 north [1] - 24:7 note [4] - 12:25, 14:17, 84:25, 85:8 notes [1] - 32:1 Notes [1] - 74:16 nothing [3] - 69:18, 114:16, 114:17 notice [3] - 56:21, 80:15, 125:24 noticed [1] - 100:21 notification [3] -

59:23, 109:17, 126:1 notification" [1] -109:2 notified [3] - 16:5, 17:2. 40:7 notify [1] - 128:20 notifying [2] - 18:25, 29.15 Novec [1] - 45:4 nozzles [1] - 45:17 **NTIA** [2] - 60:5, 107:9 number [14] - 10:24, 13:6, 15:16, 18:18, 23:6, 29:10, 29:11, 74:17, 75:1, 76:3, 80:7, 81:15, 84:24, 89.4 numbers [3] - 73:2, 75:2, 115:2 numerical [1] - 89:8 NUSBAUM [9] - 3:11, 3:14, 3:17, 3:20, 3:23, 4:1, 4:3, 4:5, 4:7 Nusbaum [3] - 1:6, 3:10, 60:18

### 0

**O&M** [10] - 7:9, 18:19, 29:13, 34:7, 56:18, 62:3, 72:8, 72:14, 101:11, 128:12 o'clock [2] - 22:23, 123:5 oath [2] - 36:22, 67:6 object [11] - 25:20, 82:21, 86:9, 87:10, 92:6, 94:15, 96:8, 97:7, 98:18, 98:24, 99.7 **objected** [1] - 83:14 objecting [1] - 87:9 objection [21] - 26:5, 68:15, 68:25, 70:9, 83:9, 83:15, 84:9, 84:14, 85:5, 86:17, 87:17, 89:17, 90:4, 90:25, 92:11, 93:24, 94:22, 96:13, 97:6, 97:10, 110:4 objective [1] - 9:7 obligated [1] - 65:12 obligations [1] - 64:8 obligee [1] - 65:12 obtain [1] - 12:17 obviously [5] - 41:23, 43:7, 43:24, 127:7, 128.4 occasion [1] - 67:25

occur [3] - 8:18, 37:20, 44:4 occurred [1] - 18:20 occurring [1] - 109:18 occurs [2] - 64:20, 125:25 octave [5] - 74:18, 74:20, 75:3, 89:10, 89:13 octave-band [2] -89:10. 89:13 OEM [1] - 23:23 **OF** [3] - 1:1, 134:14, 135:1 offer [2] - 48:22, 133:4 office [2] - 18:19, 18:25 Officer [1] - 4:9 **OFFICER** [1] - 1:6 Official [1] - 135:12 officially [1] - 49:20 offline [2] - 35:15, 35:17 **oil** [11] **-** 6:11, 30:4, 30:18, 125:10, 125:12, 125:14, 126:16, 126:20, 126:21, 127:21, 127:23 **old** [2] - 82:4, 99:13 older [1] - 33:17 on-call [11] - 17:3, 17:5, 22:10, 22:11, 22:12, 22:16, 22:19, 22:21, 29:15, 126:24 once [6] - 15:21, 32:21, 33:18, 42:1, 45:23 one [71] - 8:18, 10:25, 14:16, 16:7, 16:19, 16:22, 18:3, 20:4, 20:12, 20:19, 21:3, 22:8, 22:11, 22:12, 22:16, 23:5, 25:5, 25:7, 28:7, 30:2, 30:11, 31:4, 32:14, 34:17, 37:12, 38:25, 40:25, 42:18, 43:16, 46:13, 47:8, 48:6, 48:21, 48:24, 49:5, 50:1, 51:13, 51:16, 53:5, 53:22, 55:6, 55:13, 61:7, 61:22, 61:23, 62:5, 63:3, 67:12, 68:10, 69:9, 69:24, 74:17, 75:17,

occasionally [1] - 30:3

occupied [2] - 53:16,

occupy [1] - 61:24

77:4

76:22, 81:20, 82:16, 90:10, 94:4, 95:17, 101:4, 102:3, 103:3, 108:23, 109:12, 115:7, 117:2, 120:6, 122:6, 125:11, 131:14, 133:2 one-hundredths [2] -61:22, 61:23 one-time [1] - 46:13 ones [2] - 31:25, 111:19 onsite [4] - 9:12, 19:4, 23:7, 105:1 open [4] - 4:22, 10:12, 46:12, 72:2 opened [1] - 10:7 operate [4] - 6:19, 6:21, 10:13, 55:13 operates [2] - 12:11, 23:4 operating [5] - 22:15, 45:7, 52:15, 118:10, 128:12 operation [4] - 9:8, 9:23, 29:11, 29:12 Operation [3] - 9:15, 23:21, 38:17 operational [1] -118:12 operations [4] - 6:13, 10:5, 11:13, 61:5 **Operations** [3] - 23:3, 27:12, 54:24 operator [1] - 29:15 opinion [2] - 32:10, 114.9 opinions [1] - 94:20 **opportunity** [1] - 5:12 opposed [3] - 18:18, 19:16, 79:16 option [3] - 18:6, 34:21, 37:14 options [5] - 10:24, 11:6, 117:19, 120:18, 122:10 orange [3] - 59:20, 108:25, 109:12 order [8] - 12:19, 46:22, 73:5, 122:20, 131:22, 131:23, 132:17 ordinance [36] - 50:4, 50:11, 50:14, 50:20, 50:23, 51:9, 51:19, 51:21, 52:6, 53:11, 56:20, 59:9, 59:11,

62:25, 63:23, 68:17,

68:19, 69:4, 69:9,

69:17, 69:18, 70:5,

71:6, 73:14, 73:21, 74:1, 74:4, 76:13, 77:5, 81:25, 91:20, 98:11, 101:10, 107:13, 119:21, 120:17 **Ordinance** [1] - 65:19 ordinances [2] -111:20, 112:5 organization [1] -16:25 originate [1] - 125:2 **ORMAN**[1] - 90:14 Orman [3] - 1:18, 135:3, 135:11 otherwise [1] - 109:23 outcome [2] - 99:3, 99:4 outline [1] - 93:2 outlined [3] - 72:2, 72:16, 92:22 outlines [1] - 62:16 output [1] - 94:8 outset [1] - 110:6 outside [4] - 58:4, 68:5, 109:19, 126:21 overall [2] - 7:2, 9:7 overboard [1] - 71:17 overheating [1] - 46:4 overrule [7] - 70:9, 86:17, 87:18, 90:5, 92:11, 94:22, 96:12 overruling [1] - 126:14 oversees [1] - 27:14 own [1] - 55:13 owner [2] - 24:25, 53:13 owner's [1] - 29:11 oxygen [3] - 38:25, 39:2, 45:7

### Р

**P.M** [2] - 1:4 pad [1] - 128:16 **PAGE** [1] - 2:2 page [15] - 20:8, 20:16, 58:23, 65:9, 80:2, 80:6, 80:9, 80:13, 81:5, 81:16, 81:18, 81:20, 84:24, 85:8, 85:11 page-out [1] - 20:8 pages [1] - 79:24 painted [1] - 8:8 paragraph [1] - 89:3 parcel [5] - 80:14. 80:16, 81:24, 82:6, 88:19 parcels [6] - 51:15,

51:24, 62:5, 62:7, 73:3, 73:17 pardon [1] - 117:18 part [24] - 6:17, 10:8, 28:8. 28:12. 30:20. 31:20. 33:9. 34:13. 50:16, 55:16, 68:22, 79:6, 80:4, 80:17, 81:1, 89:4, 89:5, 89:10, 89:23, 101:10, 104:16, 117:18, 126:1 partial [1] - 68:15 participant [4] - 73:3, 80:23, 117:12 participants [9] -82:12, 91:14, 91:18, 91:19, 95:9, 95:15, 95:16, 118:3 participating [15] -51:11, 51:15, 51:23, 53:16, 73:17, 73:18, 80:17, 82:6, 82:13, 82:14, 83:24, 93:17, 93:21, 95:12 particular [4] - 12:13, 12:14. 28:6. 39:23 parties [3] - 19:15, 78:10, 79:15 partner [1] - 72:13 parts [5] - 11:18, 11:25, 12:1, 12:7, 101:8 party [5] - 34:21, 37:16, 60:3, 106:9, 106:18 pass [1] - 104:5 passed [1] - 50:5 past [7] - 18:9, 38:18, 38:23, 43:18, 59:3, 117:8, 123:5 path [1] - 120:19 patiently [1] - 133:9 Patrick [3] - 55:21, 63:10, 63:22 pattern [1] - 45:21 Paul [1] - 1:12 pause [1] - 54:10 pay [3] - 64:17, 64:21, 65:16 paying [2] - 38:22, 65:7 payment [1] - 65:13 payments [1] - 63:17 **pays** [1] - 64:9 pedestal [1] - 61:20 people [14] - 17:3, 17:5, 17:23, 18:17, 24:11, 43:4, 67:24, 67:25, 71:18, 71:19,

92:20, 95:24, 131:15, 131:23 per [5] - 53:13, 53:17, 53:24, 61:22, 86:7 perceiving [1] -116:25 percent [5] - 39:10, 42:19, 62:5, 63:16 perform [5] - 112:23, 113:1, 113:4, 113:7, 113:10 performance [2] -64:5, 64:11 performing [1] - 9:17 performs [1] - 64:7 perhaps [3] - 69:13, 131:10, 133:19 perimeter [6] - 8:12, 14:7, 15:2, 57:24, 58:5, 58:9 perimeters [2] - 11:12, 17:20 period [3] - 22:17, 42:10, 78:22 permanent [1] - 62:20 permit [22] - 50:2, 50:12, 50:17, 54:13, 55:8, 55:18, 55:25, 56:12, 69:16, 71:24, 82:2, 93:1, 96:22, 97:15, 107:7, 111:3, 111:9, 119:5, 119:6, 119:11, 119:15, 120:18 **PERMIT** [1] - 1:3 permitted [2] - 79:1, 79:3 permitting [5] - 48:5, 55:5, 56:14, 104:22, 111.5 person [13] - 4:17, 16:24, 22:11, 22:12, 22:16, 67:24, 79:23, 80:17, 82:17, 85:24, 91:4, 91:8, 132:18 personal [5] - 67:21, 70:11, 70:19, 71:1, 83:17 personally [1] - 112:3 personnel [12] - 7:13, 7:17, 9:2, 9:14, 10:6, 10:12, 16:20, 19:4, 26:18, 33:7, 33:19, 126:23 persons [1] - 133:20 perspective [1] -25:24

pertains [1] - 6:14

124:25, 125:17

petroleum [2] -

Philadelphia [1] - 65:2 phone [3] - 15:16, 16:4, 29:11 photo [2] - 80:8, 80:13 phrase [2] - 89:20, 90.3 physically [1] - 16:25 **PIATT** [6] - 1:1, 1:6, 1:9, 1:11, 1:14, 4:4 Piatt [43] - 1:13, 2:4, 2:11, 2:12, 4:3, 6:6, 6:19, 6:21, 7:19, 10:14, 19:18, 21:22, 22:12, 27:2, 47:18, 50:10, 51:1, 51:19, 54:3, 55:2, 55:20, 55:24, 62:24, 63:25, 64:1, 64:8, 64:11, 64:15, 64:17, 65:1, 65:2, 65:12, 65:15, 65:18, 97:2, 97:5, 97:9, 106:5, 106:22, 111:20, 112:16, 119:10, 129:11 pick [2] - 117:20, 117:25 picked [1] - 108:10 **picture** [3] - 45:5, 80:8, 81:9 piece [5] - 16:6, 37:15, 80:16, 80:18, 80:25 pieces [1] - 39:1 placards [1] - 29:7 place [7] - 44:1, 54:9, 54:15, 70:15, 70:25, 71:8, 92:24 placed [3] - 29:13, 41:5, 45:21 placement [6] - 28:25, 93:16, 93:20, 98:5, 115:3, 115:17 placements [1] -97:18 places [2] - 37:18, 37:19 Plan [8] - 14:11, 15:4, 21:15, 28:12, 29:17, 32:21, 33:10, 34:7 plan [28] - 30:8, 30:21, 31:2, 31:12, 33:3, 34:8, 56:9, 56:18, 56:22, 62:25, 63:1, 63:4, 63:8, 63:13, 64:3, 64:13, 68:11, 71:21, 76:16, 100:22, 101:9, 104:18, 105:3, 113:8, 122:7, 123:10, 125:19, 130:1

planning [2] - 44:1, 76.19 plans [3] - 31:7, 116:3, 124:19 planting [1] - 58:3 **play** [1] - 9:2 pleasure [1] - 66:9 Pledge [1] - 4:11 pledge [2] - 4:12, 4:14 point [26] - 4:8, 13:23, 16:24, 35:7, 35:10, 35:17, 43:2, 46:22, 54:10, 57:8, 58:22, 61:7, 61:21, 69:22, 73:12, 73:13, 73:23, 75:6, 80:2, 82:5, 100:19, 103:3, 104:22, 109:25, 121:2 points [4] - 6:25, 65:21, 83:8 policies [1] - 70:14 **pollinator** [1] - 58:4 Pollution [16] - 52:7, 74:13, 86:25, 88:6, 90:7, 90:18, 91:10, 91:21, 95:13, 96:4, 96:24, 98:8, 98:16, 99:23, 103:9, 105:8 pollution [1] - 86:2 **pool** [1] - 127:7 pooled [2] - 127:4, 127:22 portion [3] - 84:2, 88:10, 126:20 positions [3] - 52:1, 76:12, 98:12 possessive [1] - 9:17 possible [6] - 18:21, 21:1, 21:10, 52:19, 56:7, 81:13 possibly [3] - 44:3, 87:15, 110:9 post [8] - 7:8, 29:6, 105:12, 116:24, 117:6, 117:7, 118:10, 118:21 post-build [1] - 116:24 post-construction [3] - 105:12, 117:6, 117:7 posted [1] - 34:7 poster [2] - 51:8, 52:5 potential [3] - 35:13, 57:7, 109:3 powder [1] - 45:1 power [7] - 9:17, 38:20, 39:6, 43:6, 52:11, 52:13, 105:7 practices [2] - 7:4,

9:25 preamble [1] - 70:20 precise [1] - 115:19 preface [1] - 83:20 preference[1] -130.10 premise [1] - 73:24 **premium** [1] - 64:10 premiums [2] - 65:7, 65:10 prepare [1] - 81:4 prepared [3] - 122:3, 122:5. 133:23 present [3] - 7:25, 46:11, 121:5 presentation [21] -6:4, 10:7, 10:21, 25:21, 25:22, 26:3, 49:3, 49:17, 49:18, 67:10, 67:18, 69:22, 71:14, 72:24, 74:10, 78:17, 84:16, 122:11, 122:13, 122:17, 131:16 presentation..... .....49 [1] -2:10 presentation..... .....6 [1] -2:3 presenter [1] - 84:2 preserve[1] - 62:15 pressure [4] - 37:25, 38:3, 81:22, 102:1 pressure/noise [1] -94:6 presume [1] - 80:4 pretty [5] - 38:16, 100:21, 101:17, 111:7, 122:8 prevent [3] - 8:12, 8:15, 25:9 prevention [2] - 7:12, 10:25 **Prevention** [2] - 30:9, 124.24 prevents [1] - 12:8 previous [11] - 8:7, 9:12, 14:2, 14:5, 31:19, 31:25, 73:7, 75:17, 76:21, 107:6, 110:16 previously [9] - 8:10, 8:20, 9:10, 9:20, 32:4, 32:5, 97:23, 101:20, 102:3 pricing [1] - 63:20 prides [1] - 55:14 primary [2] - 33:25, 53:23

prime [1] - 43:16 private [1] - 56:10 probability [3] - 8:5, 43.5 46.17 problem [8] - 19:1, 33:16, 35:9, 68:2, 68:3, 68:6, 70:16, 80.50 problems [1] - 67:23 procedure [2] - 68:8, procedures [13] -9:25, 54:9, 68:23, 70:14, 70:25, 71:8, 71:11, 71:23, 71:25, 89:6, 92:23, 92:24, 93:13 proceed [4] - 6:4, 37:5, 122:25, 132:4 proceedings [2] -135:4, 135:7 PROCEEDINGS [1] -134:14 process [2] - 33:1, 92:13 produce [1] - 56:21 product [4] - 127:12, 128:6, 128:13 products [1] - 124:25 professional [3] - 6:9, 124:11, 124:18 Professional [1] -124:13 professionals [4] -6:24, 9:22, 52:22, 126:24 proffer [2] - 4:25, 102:18 Progress [1] - 104:2 progress [1] - 104:5 prohibition [1] - 86:11 project [104] - 5:9, 6:15, 6:18, 6:22, 6:24, 7:3, 8:25, 9:3, 14:22, 20:5, 20:21, 22:17, 23:8, 24:24, 26:14, 28:6, 28:10, 29:13, 30:7, 31:3, 33:15, 33:17, 33:22, 33:25, 42:7, 42:25, 48:5. 50:2. 50:12. 51:18, 52:8, 53:18, 53:20, 54:4, 54:19, 55:7, 55:8, 55:10, 55:11, 55:12, 55:18, 55:19, 56:1, 56:7, 56:8, 56:13, 56:18, 56:21, 57:4, 58:20, 59:6, 59:25, 60:2, 60:7, 60:17, 61:12,

62:3, 62:8, 62:10, 62:19, 62:23, 65:16, 65:20, 65:22, 65:23, 65:25, 66:2, 66:3, 77:2, 77:3, 77:7, 79:3, 80:24, 81:1, 81:2, 86:24, 89:9, 89:23, 91:18, 91:19, 93:1, 93:13, 98:2, 99:22, 101:11, 101:17, 101:20, 102:6, 105:12, 106:16, 107:21, 108:19, 109:5, 109:19, 109:24, 110:1, 110:9, 111:5, 111:13, 115:18, 120:16, 121:5, 126:25 project's [1] - 62:18 projects [13] - 13:11, 21:4, 50:5, 55:6, 55:14, 62:14, 78:25, 79:2, 88:8, 95:10, 110:1, 116:24, 124:14 promulgated [1] -86:25 prop [1] - 20:13 proper [1] - 92:3 properly [1] - 42:2 properties [8] - 22:25, 52:25, 82:1, 82:13, 82:15, 84:17, 84:19, 84:21 Property [3] - 89:12, 89:25, 90:20 property [32] - 68:8, 80:23, 83:24, 85:1, 85:3, 85:25, 86:1, 86:7, 87:7, 87:20, 88:1, 88:7, 88:11, 88:16, 88:18, 89:13, 89:16, 89:20, 90:3, 90:16, 90:24, 91:5, 91:7, 91:8, 91:15, 93:17, 93:21, 98:15, 98:23, 103:8 Property-Line [3] -89:12, 89:25, 90:20 proposed [3] - 61:24, 89:9, 89:23 PROSPERITY [1] - 1:2 Prosperity [53] - 4:21, 5:12. 5:16. 6:14. 6:18, 6:20, 29:6, 39:12, 47:5, 48:4,

50:12, 51:18, 52:8,

53:24, 54:4, 54:14,

55:1, 55:4, 56:1,

60:12, 60:17, 60:19, 60:24, 61:4, 61:10, 61:12, 61:14, 63:13, 64:4, 64:7, 64:9, 64:15, 64:25, 65:7, 65:25, 76:15, 88:12, 101:18, 101:23, 103:14, 107:1, 110:12, 120:16, 125:13 protect [4] - 61:6, 62:15, 63:25, 64:11 protected [5] - 56:19, 60:20, 61:3, 64:1, 65:1 protection [10] -11:15, 11:18, 11:19, 12:14, 18:23, 20:5, 44:18, 45:4, 64:18, 125:1 protections [1] -63:25 protects [1] - 38:6 protocol [7] - 15:7, 16:2, 30:5, 93:7, 93:14, 127:11, 128:8 protocols [2] - 30:2, 33:13 proud [1] - 4:14 prove [2] - 68:19, 69:2 provide [16] - 34:4, 36:14, 41:15, 57:14, 67:18, 70:2, 70:3, 70:4, 80:3, 94:25, 96:18, 102:17, 108:11, 114:2, 114:10, 125:12 provided [10] - 14:4, 15:3, 15:24, 16:8, 23:7, 28:20, 57:2, 60:17, 107:1, 107:11 provides [3] - 64:18, 65:14, 66:1 provision [3] - 86:3, 86:15 provoked [1] - 116:21 proximity [1] - 17:23 Public [5] - 2:5, 2:8, 2:11, 4:9, 85:6 public [31] - 3:2, 10:6, 19:16, 21:20, 26:25, 29:20, 32:24, 44:18, 56:10, 56:25, 71:9, 74:25, 79:16, 92:4, 100:7, 103:23, 105:17, 112:15, 121:3, 129:8,

56:2, 56:5, 56:9,

56:16, 58:14, 58:20,

59:6, 59:25, 60:2,

129:10, 131:14, 131:15, 131:18, 131:20, 131:25, 132:6, 132:24, 133:24, 133:25, 134:3 **pull** [1] - 106:9 purchase [1] - 18:6 purchases [1] - 91:4 purpose [2] - 28:4, 64:10 **purposes** [1] - 7:8 push [1] - 89:5 put [9] - 8:18, 15:12, 40:5, 40:25, 41:11, 43:7, 57:8, 97:9, 101:3 puts [1] - 35:13 putting [1] - 102:25

# Q quantitative [2] - 89:8,

queens [1] - 5:5 Queens [1] - 5:7 question-andanswer [1] - 83:22 questioning [4] -101:16, 116:21, 121:12, 121:15 questions [78] - 7:20, 9:11, 10:18, 17:16, 19:11, 19:13, 19:15, 19:18, 20:3, 21:20, 22:7, 26:7, 26:25, 27:3, 27:6, 29:23, 29:24, 36:19, 39:18, 41:18, 44:12, 44:14, 44:17, 46:23, 47:16, 47:18, 47:23, 49:16, 58:21, 66:6, 66:7, 66:10, 66:15, 66:24, 67:9, 67:16, 72:21, 79:8, 79:13, 79:23, 80:9, 83:19, 89:2, 95:20, 99:17, 100:1, 100:6, 100:13, 102:22, 103:22, 104:9, 105:17, 110:21, 110:24, 112:14, 112:16, 114:5, 114:18, 118:18, 118:23, 121:4. 121:16. 121:17, 122:4, 122:7, 122:13, 122:19, 126:7, 126:10, 129:1, 129:2, 129:6, 129:8,

129:11, 129:13, 129:22 Questions [1] - 79:15 Questions..... .....21 [1] - 2:5 Questions..... .....44 [1] - 2:8 Questions..... .....79 [1] - 2:11 Questions..... 118[1] - 2:12 Questions..... **19**[1] - 2:4 Questions.....10 [1] - 2:4 Questions..... **114** [1] - 2:12 Questions..... **126** [1] - 2:14 Questions.....30 [1] - 2:6 Questions.....39 [1] - 2:8 Questions.....67 [1] - 2:10 Questions..112 [1] -2:11 quick [1] - 58:24 quickly [1] - 128:3 quieter [1] - 115:14 quite [5] - 14:23, 28:25, 80:21, 109:9, 131:10 quotations [1] - 89:20 quote [3] - 89:22, 89:24, 89:25 quotes [3] - 108:5, 109:9, 110:11

# R

**R-E-E-D** [1] - 104:8 R-O-C-C [1] - 27:10 **R-Y-A-N**[1] - 106:2 radar [18] - 58:24, 59:10, 59:13, 59:16, 59:24, 60:2, 60:13, 62:2, 105:24, 106:4, 106:10, 106:11, 106:16, 107:6, 107:15, 108:11, 113:11, 114:1 Radar [3] - 106:12, 108:20, 109:4 radio [2] - 60:6, 60:11 radius [1] - 61:21 raise [4] - 5:19, 48:16, 123:20, 133:5 raised [2] - 38:20, 122:4

rapidly [1] - 44:5 rated [1] - 115:16 rather [2] - 64:20, 88:1 ray [1] - 109:14 Reach [1] - 60:24 reach [1] - 29:2 read [9] - 18:10, 28:18, 29:4, 58:23, 85:19, 90:6, 90:9, 90:10, 90:13 reading [1] - 89:19 readings [1] - 108:11 ready [4] - 40:18, 56:3, 67:3, 80:13 Ready [1] - 67:4 real [2] - 58:24, 71:16 realize [1] - 83:23 really [5] - 25:21, 86:22, 104:14, 114:24, 133:16 reason [2] - 74:3, 118:12 reasoning [1] - 127:24 reasons [1] - 94:16 recalled [2] - 47:5, 47.6 recanting [1] - 14:2 receive [3] - 53:12, 53:17, 54:1 received [1] - 52:25 recently [1] - 82:4 receptors [2] - 52:17, recess [5] - 66:23, 66:25, 134:6, 134:7, 134.11 Recess [1] - 67:1 recharge [3] - 40:17, 40:24, 41:24 recharged [1] - 57:14 recharging [2] -77:15, 78:5 recognize [1] - 67:21 recommendation [4] -60:25, 61:2, 61:5, 61:8 recommendations [3] - 60:16, 60:19, 61:15 reconstruct [2] -82:17, 82:22 reconvene [1] - 3:2 record [16] - 5:25, 19:23, 22:3, 37:2, 48:12, 48:15, 49:20, 49:23, 72:19, 74:3, 84:9, 102:13, 102:15, 106:1, 110:4, 124:2 rectified [1] - 102:4 red [4] - 59:17, 59:18,

108:24 redid [1] - 103:14 Redirect [1] - 2:5 redirect [5] - 27:4, 47:20, 114:15, 121:10, 129:14 **REDIRECT** [1] - 27:7 reduce [2] - 21:1, 105:7 reduced [5] - 53:25, 63:19, 73:9, 75:25, 76:2 redundant [2] - 54:8, 54:15 reed [3] - 103:24, 104:1, 104:8 REED [6] - 104:2, 104:11, 104:17, 104:25, 105:10, 105:14 Reed [2] - 104:8, 105:16 reed's [1] - 116:22 refer [2] - 8:6, 49:2 reference [5] - 73:7, 74:20, 74:25, 108:22, 125:20 referenced [8] - 31:17, 32:1, 69:19, 73:1, 75:17, 76:21, 86:11, 114:21 references [1] - 89:7 referencina [2] -93:14, 110:19 referring [5] - 79:24, 85:6, 85:8, 132:6 reflection [1] - 102:2 regard [5] - 7:21, 8:23, 36:1, 98:5, 119:9 regarding [2] - 67:10, 129:9 regards [12] - 8:4, 11:2, 14:19, 21:4, 24:6, 30:1, 30:24, 31:12, 58:13, 74:9, 93:23, 116:22 regulated [1] - 74:12 regulation [2] - 95:14, 124:23 regulations [12] -50:22, 52:8, 87:16, 90:7, 91:10, 91:21, 96:24, 98:8, 99:24, 103:10, 104:24, 105:8 regulatory [1] - 124:16 reiterate [6] - 57:16, 90:17, 91:9, 98:4,

103:7, 108:19

related [3] - 52:3,

63:10, 110:15 relates [1] - 69:9 relating [1] - 53:1 relation [1] - 29:20 relationship [1] - 87:7 relative [1] - 87:19 release [5] - 125:17, 126:1, 126:18, 126:21, 127:1 relevance [1] - 110:15 relevant [2] - 92:8, 110:13 reliable [1] - 9:8 rely [2] - 114:1, 114:9 **remain** [1] - 67:6 remainder [1] - 121:21 remediation [1] -124:16 remember [9] - 21:25, 24:7, 42:6, 74:1, 101:1, 105:20, 107:7, 111:18, 132:21 reminder [2] - 36:21, 67:5 Remote [6] - 9:15, 23:3, 23:21, 27:12, 38:17, 54:24 remotely [1] - 43:7 remove [4] - 31:7, 39:4, 57:9, 127:8 renewable [1] - 55:5 renewals [1] - 6:12 repair [1] - 30:14 repaired [2] - 5:8, 35:16 repairing [1] - 5:3 repeat [2] - 6:20, 93:19 repeatedly [1] - 71:15 rephrase [1] - 71:11 replace [2] - 40:22, 41:2 replaced [2] - 38:11, 38:13 replacement [1] - 41:1 report [10] - 52:22, 53:14, 99:22, 99:25, 101:23, 101:25, 102:9, 103:14, 116:25, 128:2 reported [1] - 135:3 Reporter [1] - 135:12 reporter [8] - 4:17, 5:20, 44:21, 48:17, 49:12, 90:12, 100:10, 104:7 **REPORTER** [3] - 1:18, 90:14, 135:1 reporting [1] - 128:2

represents [3] - 59:18, 59:20, 59:22 request [3] - 3:3, 50:17. 50:18 require [6] - 53:24, 57:23, 60:15, 60:22, 62:10, 83:13 required [15] - 8:20, 30:7, 51:13, 51:17, 54:2, 54:13, 62:14, 62:23, 63:23, 68:17, 68:19, 68:20, 79:3, 87:6, 101:10 requirement [10] -59:8, 68:18, 74:19, 83:2, 87:11, 120:16, 125:3, 125:24, 126:1 requirements [30] -7:6, 28:8, 51:3, 51:20, 55:5, 55:9, 55:10, 55:21, 58:3, 65:20, 65:23, 65:24, 67:22, 68:16, 68:22, 69:16, 69:24, 70:4, 70:6, 71:4, 71:5, 83:1, 86:13, 98:10, 111:18, 111:25, 119:3, 125:5, 128:24 requires [4] - 53:11, 56:20, 82:1, 121:3 rescue [4] - 10:1, 10:2, 10:3 residence [4] - 73:2, 102:1, 103:15, 116:15 residences [12] -51:11, 51:24, 53:11, 53:15, 54:1, 73:3, 73:18, 77:4, 91:22, 95:12, 95:13, 102:3 resident [1] - 117:18 resident's [1] - 117:22 residential [20] -52:24, 82:1, 82:13, 82:14, 84:17, 84:19, 84:21, 85:3, 88:7, 88:11, 88:13, 88:14, 89:14, 90:14, 91:11, 91:23, 91:24, 103:8, 116:15 residents [5] - 32:18, 53:2, 65:15, 99:20, 118.6 resolve [1] - 72:19 resolved [1] - 93:4 **Resource** [1] - 56:5 respect [13] - 26:7, 41:19, 44:12, 47:16, 70:10, 70:13, 70:18, 77:21, 83:17, 83:18,

96:20, 98:9, 110:11 respectfully [5] -25:20, 68:14, 82:21, 84:8, 99:7 respects [1] - 96:3 respond [12] - 16:10, 16:11, 16:13, 17:9, 20:10, 30:14, 30:22, 32:23, 44:5, 125:10, 125:13, 126:4 responders [7] - 8:3, 14:12, 14:15, 14:21, 29:17, 32:22, 33:11 response [17] - 7:22, 8:11, 15:23, 15:24, 20:24, 21:8, 22:22, 30:20, 31:12, 33:13, 58:21, 63:11, 83:13, 125:12, 125:14, 127:11, 128:11 responses [2] - 29:23, 129.14 responsible [2] - 5:3, 119:14 rest [1] - 100:1 restart [1] - 35:18 restate [1] - 117:5 restrictive [2] - 50:8, 73:15 result [2] - 50:10, 54:2 retrofitting [1] - 39:8 returned [1] - 62:18 review [7] - 60:11, 60:16, 92:3, 92:4, 106:18, 107:9, 113:13 reviewed [5] - 60:7, 99:22, 106:16, 107:21, 109:5 reviewing [1] - 60:8 rights [1] - 96:19 risk [1] - 79:7 River [1] - 60:24 road [10] - 24:13, 25:4, 25:13, 26:17, 57:25, 58:10, 58:11, 74:7, 131:2, 133:18 Road [3] - 56:3, 56:4, 57:18 roads [9] - 7:10, 24:6, 24:8, 24:17, 25:6, 25:7, 25:8, 29:20, 61:25 **ROCC** [9] - 16:20, 19:4, 23:11, 23:12, 23:13, 27:9, 27:12, 29:12, 54:23 rock [1] - 71:12 role [3] - 9:2, 113:12, 113:15

roll [4] - 3:4, 3:6, 3:9, 3.18 room [11] - 37:22, 37:25. 39:2. 45:22. 57:9. 118:22. 131:10, 132:19, 132:25, 133:1, 134:8 **rope** [1] - 24:16 roped [1] - 24:10 routine [2] - 9:5, 42:11 row [2] - 4:12, 88:21 rubber [6] - 38:2, 40:23, 45:12, 45:14, 46:21 ruin [1] - 38:15 rule [2] - 93:10, 126:2 rules [4] - 20:24, 57:23, 91:20, 93:7 run [3] - 18:19, 22:16, 57:11 Runner [1] - 130:21 running [1] - 46:4 runs [1] - 37:24 Rupiper [2] - 56:24, 57.2 rupture [3] - 45:12, 45:15, 46:21 ruptures [2] - 38:2, 45.23 **RYAN**[15] - 105:22, 106:2, 106:21, 107:2, 107:16, 107:25, 108:15, 109:7, 109:22, 111:2, 111:7, 111:15, 111:17, 112:6, 112:12 **Ryan** [7] - 106:2, 108:14, 110:3, 110:11, 110:18, 110:21, 112:13

# S

# **S-T-I-L-L-A-B-O-W-E -R** [1] - 22:5

safe [13] - 6:22, 7:15, 8:25, 9:8, 9:23, 9:24, 11:12, 14:15, 32:23, 33:8, 55:15, 69:2 safely [3] - 6:19, 6:21, 10:13 safer [1] - 10:5 safety [25] - 5:17, 6:7, 6:8, 6:13, 6:16, 7:1, 7:4, 7:17, 8:23, 9:3, 10:8, 24:3, 25:24, 26:7, 26:13, 28:7, 30:1, 46:23, 47:10, 65:24, 67:15, 67:16,

scatter [1] - 109:3 **scattering** [1] - 108:23 scenario [11] - 8:7, 8:8, 8:13, 14:3, 15:6, 17:17, 21:8, 32:3, 35:10, 45:11, 57:13 scenario/synopsis [1] - 31:17 scenarios [1] - 21:7 schedule [4] - 25:23, 26:1, 26:8, 42:11 scheduled [1] - 66:7 schedules [2] - 26:17, 26:19 school [7] - 19:14, 25:13, 26:11, 44:16, 73:19, 79:14, 129:7 scope [6] - 25:20, 26:2, 44:14, 82:23, 92:7, 97:13 scoping [1] - 127:13 Scott [1] - 1:8 scrap [2] - 63:19, 63:20 screen [2] - 59:13, 119:13 screening [4] - 57:24, 58:1, 58:3, 58:9 season [1] - 61:6 seat [1] - 19:23 second [10] - 4:11, 5:6, 18:15, 40:9, 54:19, 59:12, 83:10, 94:4, 94:17, 95:17 secondary [1] - 65:5 **seconds** [3] - 8:19, 15:13, 15:14 section [6] - 28:18, 29:4, 45:23, 69:19, 80:5, 86:23 Section [13] - 58:23, 64:4, 69:17, 69:18, 69:23, 85:2, 85:14, 86:1, 86:10, 86:12, 86:15, 86:19, 90:2 see [17] - 9:15, 13:21, 15:15. 21:8. 23:24. 30:3. 59:25. 73:22. 79:18, 81:21, 91:15, 92:7, 99:15, 101:7, 118:20, 127:14,

67:18, 67:21, 69:10

Salt [2] - 60:23, 60:25

Sangamon [1] - 60:24

satisfied [2] - 68:21,

102:13

saw [1] - 15:19

scale [1] - 42:25

salvage [1] - 63:19

sake [1] - 132:10

128:16 seeing [2] - 79:24, 118:7 seek [1] - 34:5 selected [1] - 101:20 self [1] - 10:1 self-rescue [1] - 10:1 send [1] - 123:4 senior [1] - 124:12 sense [2] - 38:8, 127:5 sensors [3] - 23:17, 54:20, 54:22 separate [1] - 64:6 September [1] -135:20 **Service** [14] - 60:7, 106:7, 106:15, 106:19, 106:23, 107:1, 107:4, 107:17, 107:21, 108:5, 108:13, 108:17, 109:5, 109:21 Services [1] - 124:13 services [4] - 10:4, 15:25, 16:5, 16:7 set [10] - 12:3, 37:24, 49:8, 50:9, 56:3, 63:3, 87:6, 87:12, 87:15, 98:10 setback [9] - 7:5, 51:11, 51:13, 51:14, 60:22, 61:2, 71:4, 73:2, 73:19 setbacks [11] - 51:4, 51:6, 51:10, 52:3, 61:9, 73:9, 73:14, 92:2, 96:3, 98:6 setbacks" [1] - 73:10 seven [2] - 25:12, 66:23 several [2] - 56:25, 131:10 shadow [25] - 53:10, 53:13, 53:14, 53:17, 53:20, 53:23, 54:3, 67:23, 71:5, 75:16, 76:9, 76:14, 76:17, 77:3, 77:6, 98:9, 104:17, 104:23, 105:10, 105:13, 113:2, 113:25, 116:23, 116:25, 117:9 shall [13] - 50:18, 50:24, 51:1, 63:1, 65:12, 65:20, 66:3, 85:24, 111:3, 119:3, 119:12, 119:16,

120:24

shape [1] - 84:6 **shaped** [1] - 81:12 shared [1] - 7:21 sheet [6] - 10:22, 35:25, 85:12, 89:4, 98:17, 98:23 sheets [2] - 12:3, 12:10 shifted [2] - 77:9, 115:24 short [2] - 85:22, 131:6 shorter [1] - 29:2 **shorthand** [1] - 135:4 **should've**[1] - 106:2 **show** [8] - 28:17, 33:7, 51:3, 56:15, 59:12, 68:20, 102:10, 107:12 **Show** [1] - 104:2 **showed** [1] - 109:13 showing [2] - 29:19, 76:11 shown [2] - 51:6, 61:3 shows [4] - 45:5, 105:2, 106:10, 109:16 shrunk [2] - 76:23, 77:1 shut [9] - 9:18, 16:13, 23:18, 24:1, 54:17, 54:22, 54:23, 54:24, 92.19 side [6] - 59:17, 100:25, 103:1, 132:19, 132:25, 133:1 signage [3] - 7:6, 28:19, 29:12 signal [1] - 23:16 signed [4] - 53:13, 56:3, 58:8, 62:7 significant [1] - 58:6 signs [4] - 24:14, 29:5, 29.7 similarly [2] - 51:14, 72:3 simple [1] - 41:1 simpler [1] - 40:22 simply [7] - 16:13, 38:19, 62:25, 64:21, 71:19, 74:20, 92:12 single [1] - 74:17 site [23] - 7:13, 9:14, 9:22. 10:2. 16:20. 20:21. 20:23. 21:7. 22:18. 26:18. 33:9. 33:11, 33:19, 33:22, 56:7, 56:8, 56:21, 82:20, 88:9, 88:12,

88:20, 96:23, 126:23 sited [15] - 51:5, 51:9, 51:18, 53:21, 61:1, 61:16, 71:3, 76:12, 84:20, 91:24, 96:2, 98:12, 99:23, 109:19. 110:2 sites [4] - 27:14, 60:21, 61:2, 124:15 siting [6] - 50:16, 51:10, 51:19, 52:6, 65:18, 85:7 situation [6] - 9:19, 16:10, 19:8, 64:23, 65:6, 120:20 situations [1] - 38:21 six [3] - 42:2, 61:22 size [1] - 42:25 sleep [9] - 68:2, 68:16, 68:18, 92:20, 94:14, 95:24, 96:15, 97:3, 97:19 sleep-study [1] -68:18 **slide** [14] - 6:15, 7:1, 7:14, 8:24, 9:9, 9:19, 10:6, 50:15, 52:5, 58:12, 59:7, 62:22, 65:10, 111:3 **slides** [4] - 9:4, 48:11, 49:2, 49:19 slow [1] - 29:8 **small** [1] - 46:19 smart [2] - 23:18, 38:16 **SMITH**[1] - 3:7 **Smith** [1] - 4:16 snake [1] - 45:21 so-call [1] - 40:16 soil [1] - 127:14 solely [2] - 115:15, 122:6 solution [6] - 57:15, 78:3, 78:6, 78:7, 78:11, 78:13 someone [3] - 70:15, 70:25, 82:22 sometime [1] - 4:16 sometimes [1] -108:11 somewhere [2] -27:24, 78:21 **soon** [2] **-** 4:16, 17:2 sorry [14] - 10:16, 29:1, 29:10, 39:19, 68:13, 85:4, 87:9, 89:1, 104:5, 104:15, 105:19, 110:3, 117:17, 118:25 **sort** [10] - 14:18, 18:7,

18:16, 25:24, 69:2,
73:23, 89:18, 115:25, 125:5,
125:11
soul [1] - 33:22
sound [61] - 52:7,
52:11, 52:13, 52:16, 52:20, 52:22, 52:24,
53:3, 53:8, 55:12,
67:23, 70:4, 71:4,
74:9, 74:12, 74:15,
74:19, 74:21, 75:9,
80:15, 81:10, 81:22, 82:11, 83:1, 85:25,
88:5, 88:9, 89:8,
89:22, 91:12, 96:4,
98:9, 99:25, 100:17,
101:16, 101:22,
101:25, 102:1,
102:4, 102:7, 103:2, 103:8, 103:14,
103:19, 104:13,
104:22, 105:7,
112:24, 113:24,
115:12, 116:14, 116:22, 117:4,
117:7, 117:10, 117:23, 118:5,
133:10
<b>Sound</b> [3] - 89:11,
89:24, 90:19
<b>sound-level</b> [1] - 83:1
sound-pressure [1] -
81:22 sounds [2] - 53:1,
109:8
<b>source</b> [1] - 128:5
sourced [1] - 110:7
<b>Sources</b> [2] - 89:12,
89:25
sources [1] - 106:8
<b>Sources"</b> [1] - 90:20 <b>south</b> [2] - 81:14,
82:18
<b>space</b> [1] - 59:4
<b>spare</b> [1] - 61:23
<b>SPCC</b> [9] - 30:8,
30:21, 31:2, 31:11,
122:7, 123:10, 124:19, 124:23,
124.19, 124.23,
<b>SPEAKER</b> [1] - 28:21
<b>speaking</b> [1] - 92:1
<b>spec</b> [3] - 12:3, 12:10, 35:25
35:25 <b>special</b> [10] - 50:1,
50:12, 50:17, 69:16,
82:2, 96:22, 119:5,
119:6, 119:10,
119:15

```
SPECIAL[1] - 1:3
                           standard [11] - 8:22,
specific [12] - 23:8,
                             13:17, 13:19, 13:23,
 38:5, 62:13, 86:13,
                             42:21, 52:21, 75:1,
 93:2, 93:12, 96:16,
                             85:13, 86:22, 88:6,
 108:18. 115:12.
                             90:19
                           standards [11] - 50:7.
                             50:8, 50:19, 63:3,
specifically [9] -
 69:14, 77:22, 81:15,
                             86:25, 87:5, 87:12,
 81:25, 82:5, 82:24,
                             89:7, 97:25, 111:22,
 106:21, 122:21,
                             113:14
                           Standards [5] - 84:24,
specifications [1] -
                             89:11, 89:24, 90:19,
                             98:16
specifics [1] - 116:12
                           standing [1] - 54:14
spectrum [2] - 60:6,
                           standpoint [1] - 27:15
                           stands [2] - 124:21,
                             127:19
speculation [8] -
 51:22, 82:25, 87:14,
                            start [7] - 21:13,
 91:1, 93:25, 94:2,
                             46:19, 46:20, 51:4,
                             66:10, 80:6, 131:3
                           started [3] - 53:6,
 42:23, 83:7, 83:9,
                             56:8, 101:16
 98:25, 99:1, 120:20
                           starts [5] - 21:16,
speech [3] - 53:5,
                             35:9, 45:10, 45:11,
                             48.7
speeds [2] - 61:6,
                           state [47] - 5:24,
                             19:23, 22:2, 23:1,
spelled [1] - 107:11
                             44:20, 49:11, 50:4,
                             50:10, 50:13, 50:21,
spelling [11] - 5:25,
                             52:9, 53:11, 53:19,
 19:24, 22:2, 37:2,
                             60:14, 68:20, 69:3,
 44:21, 49:11, 79:20,
                             71:6, 73:15, 73:21,
                             77:5, 82:12, 85:5,
                             87:22, 92:1, 93:6,
Spill [2] - 30:9, 124:23
                             93:9, 93:14, 96:3,
                             98:11, 100:9, 104:6,
 125:10, 125:12,
                             105:25, 110:4,
 125:14, 125:25,
                             111:19, 111:21,
 126:16, 127:11,
                             112:1, 119:8,
                             119:20, 120:17,
                             124:1, 125:5,
spill-response [2] -
                             125:16, 125:20,
 127:11, 128:11
                             125:23, 125:24,
                             127:1
sprayed [1] - 45:16
                           State [12] - 62:21,
spread [5] - 8:12,
                             63:4, 74:2, 74:11,
 44:5, 127:3, 127:15,
                             84:23, 85:13, 86:7,
                             98:16, 112:9, 119:6,
spreadsheet [1] -
                             119:7, 120:9
                           STATE [1] - 1:1
squirt [1] - 46:14
                           statement [1] - 83:12
staff [9] - 9:12, 19:18,
                           states [3] - 50:16,
 21:22, 27:2, 47:18,
                             62:25, 112:4
                           stating [1] - 60:8
                           stations [1] - 21:12
                           statistic [1] - 42:18
                           statistics [2] - 39:7,
                             41:10
 103:16, 110:23,
                           status [1] - 9:17
                           statute [5] - 50:16,
```

118:5, 122:12

125:16

52.14

106:15

94:16, 99:8

53:8, 75:10

100:10, 104:6,

105:25, 124:1

spill [10] - 47:8,

126:4, 126:5,

**spills** [1] - 31:12

54:23, 112:17,

Staff [1] - 2:11

stage [1] - 56:14

stand [4] - 47:2,

Standard [1] - 86:8

128:11

128:17

10:22

129:11

121:21

118.11

speculative [6] -

```
51:10, 51:20, 52:6,
 65:18
statutes [1] - 50:22
statutory [1] - 126:2
stay [3] - 21:5, 58:2,
 82.18
staying [1] - 46:11
stays [1] - 11:12
step [10] - 15:21,
 16:21, 16:22, 34:9,
 36:6, 55:3, 72:2,
 121:20, 123:11,
 125:11
stepped [1] - 47:2
steps [4] - 56:23, 93:2,
 105:6, 109:19
sternly [1] - 119:4
Steven [1] - 100:11
STEVEN [1] - 100:11
still [17] - 32:9, 36:22,
 45:7, 46:24, 65:8,
 67:25, 70:6, 73:20,
 91:15, 100:19,
 107:24, 119:1,
 121:1, 127:12,
 128:14, 132:21,
 133:9
STILLABOWER [14] -
 21:24, 22:4, 22:8,
 22:20, 23:9, 23:13,
 24:3, 24:5, 24:21,
 25:3, 25:17, 26:10,
 26:21, 26:24
stillabower [4] -
 25:23, 26:6, 26:23,
 58:10
Stillabower [2] - 22:5,
 22:6
stimulated [1] - 74:2
stop [2] - 30:15,
 107:20
stopping [1] - 72:14
stops [1] - 65:7
streams [1] - 60:23
strike [1] - 43:12
striving [1] - 10:5
stroke [1] - 118:25
strong [2] - 56:1,
 94:20
structure [2] - 53:23,
 65:13
studies [1] - 68:16
study [13] - 57:1, 57:4,
 68:18, 91:12, 99:19,
 106:9, 112:24,
 113:2, 113:5,
 116:25, 117:6,
 117:7, 117:9
stuff [4] - 25:11,
 25:15, 26:11, 46:10
```

```
subcontractors [1] -
subject [12] - 36:7,
 113:20, 114:6,
 114:10. 121:22.
 130:9. 130:11.
 131:4, 131:6,
 133:20, 134:3, 134:4
subject-matter [7] -
 113:20, 114:6.
 130:9, 130:11,
 131:4, 131:6, 133:20
subject-matters [1] -
 114:10
submittal [1] - 82:2
submitted [7] - 28:12,
 28:15, 50:1, 50:13,
 63:7, 83:3, 110:10
subsequent [1] -
 86:16
subset [1] - 77:2
substation [17] - 7:9,
 9:16, 9:24, 11:10,
 20:23, 29:13, 33:12,
 56:18, 62:3, 100:16,
 100:23, 100:25,
 101:12, 101:20,
 102:6, 115:20,
 115:24
substations [1] -
 114:22
suck [1] - 45:7
suddenly [1] - 45:16
sue [2] - 120:10,
 120:12
sued [1] - 120:13
suggesting [1] - 69:1
summarized [2] -
 113:21, 114:6
support [2] - 131:9,
 133:22
supporting [3] - 6:10,
 6:24, 62:2
supposed [1] - 35:13
suppressed [1] - 35:7
suppresses [1] - 12:8
suppressing [2] -
 41:7, 41:22
suppression [32] -
 7:18, 7:24, 8:17,
 11:3, 13:2, 15:12,
 18:24, 27:21, 28:5,
 31:19, 32:11, 32:13,
 32:16, 35:12, 35:23,
 37:11, 37:15, 37:17,
 39:10, 39:12, 41:20,
 44:13, 44:18, 44:25,
 47:17, 54:7, 54:13,
 57:19, 78:16, 78:18,
 78:24, 79:3
```

suppression/ detection [1] - 27:22 surety [5] - 64:6, 64:10, 64:18, 64:19, 65.2 surface [1] - 127:13 surrounded [2] -59:17, 61:20 surrounding [2] -18:17, 22:13 susan [1] - 106:2 suspecting [1] - 92:14 sustain [3] - 26:4, 83:9. 97:10 sustained [6] - 84:14, 91:2, 94:1, 97:15, 98:20, 99:1 sustaining [1] - 83:14 swing [1] - 3:7 switch [2] - 38:1, 38:3 switchgear [3] -37:20, 41:2, 45:22 sworn [6] - 5:20, 5:22, 48:17, 48:19, 123:21, 123:23 system [51] - 7:19, 7:25, 8:1, 8:17, 8:18, 10:25, 11:3, 11:15, 11:19, 11:21, 11:23, 12:14, 12:18, 12:21, 13:9. 15:12. 18:23. 18:24, 27:21, 27:23, 27:25, 28:5, 32:13, 34:22, 34:24, 34:25, 35:12, 35:18, 35:23, 37:11, 37:13, 37:15, 37:17, 37:23, 39:13, 39:23, 40:3, 40:4, 40:12, 40:17, 41:20, 43:13, 44:13, 44:25, 45:3, 46:5, 46:10, 47:17, 119:19, 124:25 Systems [1] - 58:16 systems [13] - 8:14, 11:6, 11:9, 54:7, 54:8, 54:15, 54:17, 56:10, 57:19, 59:16, 78:18, 79:4, 106:10

### Т

table [1] - 78:10 tad [1] - 77:10 target [1] - 124:25 team [5] - 78:10, 103:6, 112:3, 113:19, 120:12 tech [1] - 10:22 technical [9] - 27:15,

51:2, 55:5, 55:20, 56:11, 68:21, 69:15, 81:18, 120:16 technician [1] - 29:16 technicians [5] - 9:4. 9:22, 22:18, 30:12, 118.7 technology [2] -18:21, 61:17 Ted [1] - 44:22 **TED**[1] - 44:22 **Telecommunication** [1] - 106:24 Telecommunication s [1] - 60:4 telecommunications [1] - 60:12 temporarily [1] - 57:11 ten [2] - 66:16, 66:18 ten-minute [2] - 66:16, 66:18 tenths [1] - 62:5 term [2] - 38:8, 78:6 terms [4] - 63:1, 67:23, 130:6, 130:8 test [1] - 20:25 testified [6] - 5:23, 48:20, 69:15, 71:3, 97:23, 123:24 testify [4] - 95:19, 96:1, 99:10, 113:18 testifying [3] - 96:9, 112:21, 131:5 testimony [22] - 6:4, 36:23, 44:14, 70:2, 70:3, 70:5, 82:24, 83:7, 92:7, 97:14, 97:25, 108:1, 110:25, 114:1, 122:13, 126:11, 129:9, 131:19, 133:23, 133:24, 134:1, 134:4 testing [2] - 105:2, 127:14 thawing [1] - 54:18 **THE** [2] - 1:14, 1:16 theory [1] - 12:8 therefore [3] - 50:13, 53:18, 65:4 thereof [1] - 65:13 thereto [1] - 129:14 they've [4] - 37:16, 60:7, 68:7, 106:16 thin [2] - 45:13, 45:14 thinking [3] - 17:12. 43:4. 132:10 third [6] - 34:21, 37:16, 60:3, 94:18, 106:9, 106:18

third-party [4] - 34:21, 60:3, 106:9, 106:18 thoroughly [2] -35:18. 110:20 thousand [2] - 51:16, 80.9 threat [1] - 97:1 three [17] - 4:20, 22:23, 37:18, 37:19, 52:9, 52:17, 56:23, 60:20, 61:23, 61:24, 63:12, 63:18, 63:21, 85:22, 132:24, 134:1, 134:2 three-minute [1] -132:24 threw [1] - 103:2 throughout [1] - 23:1 thrown [2] - 101:1, 101:4 Thursday [3] - 131:11, 132:20, 132:22 **tile** [2] - 5:4, 5:9 timeline [1] - 72:1 timely [1] - 17:10 timing [1] - 122:25 title [4] - 89:21, 90:2, 90:23, 111:4 titled [2] - 90:1, 90:18 **TODD** [1] - 20:1 Todd [2] - 1:12, 19:25 together [1] - 6:25 tolerance [1] - 97:19 tomorrow [18] -123:14, 129:21, 130:5, 130:6, 130:24, 131:3, 131:11, 131:16, 131:24, 132:20, 132:22, 133:3, 133:11, 133:18, 133:21, 134:8, 134:9, 134:10 tonight [9] - 4:15, 37:1, 44:14, 53:7, 54:12, 103:16, 113:21, 114:7, 131:23 took [2] - 46:24, 129:19 tool [1] - 16:14 tools [1] - 16:14 **top** [1] - 103:13 topic [1] - 118:1 topics [1] - 114:5 total [2] - 62:1, 82:7 toward [1] - 133:25 towards [1] - 3:7 tower [2] - 10:1, 37:18 towers [1] - 107:5

trade [1] - 6:9 Traffic [1] - 58:15 trailer [1] - 72:16 train [1] - 32:25 trained [6] - 6:24, 9:21, 9:23, 9:25, 33:7, 33:15 transcribed [1] - 135:5 transcript [1] - 135:7 transcription [1] transformation [1] -55:11 transformer [13] -37:21, 37:25, 45:22, 101:22, 102:5, 103:18, 103:19, 115:2, 115:6, 115:11, 115:13, 115:16, 116:14 transformers [3] -101:19, 101:24, 114:22 transmission [1] -103:18 treat [1] - 118:2 treated [2] - 82:13, 95.14 trees [2] - 58:4, 101:13 trigger [1] - 59:5 trouble [1] - 28:22 Trucking [2] - 5:5, 5:7 true [4] - 111:25, 115:21, 117:4, 135:7 **try** [4] - 30:14, 67:17, 73:5, 125:11 trying [14] - 25:8, 29:2, 67:13, 71:11, 73:12, 89:5, 89:15, 90:15, 95:19, 99:15, 105:22, 111:24, 113:16, 132:21 tub [1] - 126:20 tubing [6] - 37:24, 38:2, 40:23, 46:21 Tuesday [1] - 132:21 Turbine [1] - 51:5 turbine [69] - 7:16, 7:22, 8:2, 8:5, 8:9, 8:17, 9:16, 11:3, 11:8, 11:10, 11:24, 15:9, 15:11, 19:5, 22:18, 23:14, 29:7, 29:10, 30:13, 51:4, 51:12, 51:16, 51:24, 51:25, 52:1, 52:3, 52:7, 52:14, 52:18, 52:20, 52:24, 53:1, 54:7, 54:22, 58:1, 58:5, 58:8, 58:15,

60:9, 61:4, 61:9, 61:17, 61:19, 61:22, 61:25, 74:21, 76:12, 81:9, 81:14, 81:15, 81:23, 84:4, 84:5, 93:16, 93:20, 94:7, 94:9, 97:18, 98:5, 98:12, 107:22, 107:23, 108:8, 117:21, 118:9, 126:18, 126:22, 127:4, 127:18 turbine's [1] - 20:12 turbines [76] - 7:5, 7:11, 7:12, 8:14, 8:22, 9:6, 9:23, 10:23, 11:4, 12:4, 12:11, 19:3, 20:23, 21:4, 23:1, 23:22, 23:25, 24:23, 24:25, 30:3, 30:8, 32:12, 33:12, 39:8, 39:10, 39:11, 42:19, 43:9, 51:5, 51:9, 51:18, 51:23, 52:12, 52:15, 54:16, 54:18, 54:22, 54:23, 54:25, 57:25, 59:3, 60:22, 61:1, 61:5, 61:16, 61:23, 61:24, 71:3, 73:17, 74:19, 76:3, 76:10, 76:16, 76:18, 78:17, 81:7, 81:11, 81:20, 81:21, 84:20, 85:3, 88:12, 88:20, 91:23, 92:19, 94:7, 96:2, 96:7, 96:23, 98:7, 99:23, 104:20, 108:9, 118:11, 125:14, 125:15 turbulence [1] -108:10 turn [6] - 3:3, 24:13, 60:14, 89:2, 99:10, 117:21 turn-around [1] -24:13 turned [1] - 28:23 turns [1] - 59:1 two [21] - 5:5, 16:21, 49:5, 52:11, 52:13, 52:14, 57:21, 60:18, 60:23, 61:2, 63:16, 81:11, 81:20, 82:4, 83:8, 101:8, 106:8, 120:7, 122:9, 122:10 two-decibel [1] -52:11 type [6] - 10:23, 35:11, 36:1, 38:5, 38:14,

128:17

types [2] - 11:5, 62:21

typical [1] - 15:7

typically [4] - 8:10,

14:13, 35:8, 125:20

### U

ultimate [1] - 99:4 ultimately [1] - 125:2 uncertainty [4] -63:10, 63:12, 97:17, 97:19 under [16] - 36:22, 50:3, 50:6, 50:13, 50:21, 60:14, 64:19, 67:6, 68:17, 68:19, 68:20, 84:18, 97:1, 103:25, 127:1, 127:3 underscore [1] - 6:25 understood [5] -17:25, 21:14, 69:5, 83:23, 84:13 unexpected [1] -64:14 unfortunate [3] - 15:5, 32:15. 64:14 UNIDENTIFIED [1] -28:21 unit [1] - 12:14 units [4] - 19:13, 44:15, 79:13, 129:6 unless [2] - 47:4, 53:13 unlikely [4] - 8:18, 14:15, 15:10, 54:9 unquestionably [1] -66.1 unusually [1] - 63:20 **up** [49] - 12:3, 12:6, 14:13, 18:3, 18:22, 19:22, 21:23, 23:2, 24:6, 24:21, 25:3, 25:4, 25:5, 28:17, 29:19, 30:6, 34:17, 37:18, 40:17, 41:12, 54:11, 63:6, 65:10, 66:6, 70:19, 75:4, 77:13, 82:3, 87:6, 87:12, 87:15, 100:21, 100:22, 102:24, 104:5, 106:4, 108:10, 109:11, 109:14, 118:21, 122:19, 124:16, 125:13, 127:7, 127:8, 127:12, 127:13,

128:13

up-to-date [1] - 29:19

update [1] - 115:13 updated [6] - 50:11, 50:14, 50:23, 59:9, 62:24, 119:21 upgraded [2] - 8:21, 10:10 upwards [1] - 52:1 USE [1] - 1:3 useful [2] - 62:19, 65:17 users [1] - 60:6 uses [2] - 38:6, 62:11 utilize [1] - 54:19

#### V

vacant [2] - 93:17, 93:21 Valley [2] - 56:22, 57:3 value [2] - 6:16, 63:19 various [2] - 21:7, 69:8 vegetative [4] - 57:24, 57:25, 58:3, 58:9 vein [1] - 13:25 ventilation [2] - 46:5, 46:10 version [2] - 74:16, 115:15 versus [1] - 87:20 Vestas [9] - 18:7, 23:24. 27:17. 27:19. 27:20, 27:23, 34:21, 37:14, 94:7 via [1] - 106:24 viable [2] - 93:18, 93:22 vice [1] - 66:21 view [1] - 82:7 violate [1] - 86:2 Virginia [1] - 27:13 visibility [2] - 23:22, 23:24 visible [1] - 7:6 visual [2] - 9:14, 16:23 visually [1] - 77:9 voltage [1] - 7:7 voluntarily [1] -117:12 voluntary [2] - 117:17 volunteer [6] - 20:6, 20:10, 20:14, 20:22, 32:25, 33:21 volunteers [1] - 20:9

votes [1] - 120:7

vulnerability [1] -

43:25

### W

wait [4] - 80:11, 80:19,

100:2, 128:7

waiting [1] - 133:9 waiver [6] - 53:14, 53:24, 58:8, 75:17, 82:7, 95:9 waivers [10] - 53:20, 53:21, 54:2, 57:22, 75:21, 82:11, 82:12, 95:8, 95:15 walk [1] - 20:23 walked [1] - 69:17 walkthrough [1] -33:11 walkthroughs [4] -10:3, 20:22, 21:7, 33:10 wall [2] - 100:24, 103:1 wants [5] - 25:2, 91:17, 120:22, 130:8, 133:5 warrant [1] - 9:19 warranted [1] - 118:14 warrantee [1] - 42:10 Water [2] - 56:22, 57:3 water [5] - 35:24, 57:14, 77:13, 78:8, 78:12 waters [1] - 125:1 waterways [1] - 125:1 **WAX** [46] - 3:5, 3:9, 3:16, 3:18, 4:8, 10:21, 11:5, 11:14, 11:25, 12:5, 12:12, 12:19, 12:23, 18:3, 18:5, 18:12, 18:15, 19:7, 19:10, 34:17, 34:19, 34:25, 35:2, 35:4, 35:17, 35:20, 39:14, 39:19, 39:23, 40:1, 40:10, 40:14, 40:16, 41:3, 41:11, 41:16, 66:20, 67:12, 67:19, 71:10, 72:5, 72:20, 79:11, 123:7, 129:4, 132:15 **Wax** [12] - 1:9, 10:20, 18:4. 34:18. 66:5. 68:13, 68:15, 70:19, 70:24, 79:10, 92:23, 129:2 wax [4] - 3:15, 10:20, 39:22, 118:18 Wax's [1] - 68:23 ways [2] - 21:9, 71:3 WCIA [1] - 108:2

Weather [17] - 60:7,

106:7, 106:12, 106:15, 106:19, 106:23, 106:25, 107:3, 107:17, 107:21, 108:5, 108:12, 108:16, 108:20, 109:4, 109:5, 109:21 weather [15] - 23:15, 59:10, 59:13, 59:16, 59:24, 60:2, 60:11, 60:13, 106:4, 106:11, 106:16, 107:6, 107:15, 113:11, 113:25 weather-radar [1] -113:11 website [6] - 15:17, 34:12, 41:9, 41:13, 72:7, 72:14 WECS [9] - 50:23, 51:9, 51:19, 59:9, 62:24, 68:17, 69:17, 71:6, 91:20 week [4] - 23:4, 27:15, 132:3, 132:7 welcome [4] - 41:17, 72:25, 88:24, 105:15 welfare [1] - 69:10 well-water [1] - 78:8 wells [1] - 77:25 west [1] - 77:10 Westslope [2] - 59:14, 60:10 Westwood [3] - 122:6, 123:10, 124:12 whole [4] - 36:8, 45:24, 59:25, 120:6 Wi [2] - 23:15, 23:16 Wi-Fi [2] - 23:15, 23:16 wide [1] - 62:1 wildlife [3] - 60:14, 113:5, 113:25 wind [31] - 10:13, 11:24, 12:15, 50:3, 50:5, 50:7, 50:16, 50:17, 51:10, 51:19, 52:6, 52:20, 61:6, 62:10, 62:13, 65:18, 68:4, 78:25, 80:18, 83:18, 92:19, 96:7, 96:22, 99:12, 106:22, 107:5, 108:8, 108:9, 118:11, 124:14, 126:15 Wind [56] - 4:21, 5:12, 5:16, 6:14, 6:18, 6:20, 29:6, 39:12,

47:5, 48:4, 50:12, 51:18, 52:8, 54:4, 54:14, 55:1, 55:4, 55:19, 56:1, 56:2, 56:5, 56:9, 56:16, 58:14, 58:20, 59:6, 59:25, 60:2, 60:13, 60:17, 60:19, 60:25, 61:4, 61:12, 61:14, 63:13, 64:4, 64:7, 64:9, 64:15, 64:25, 65:7, 65:25, 72:4, 76:15, 88:12, 101:17, 101:18, 101:23, 103:14, 107:1, 110:12, 110:16, 115:6, 120:16, 125:13 WIND [1] - 1:2 windy [2] - 17:22, 127:2 wired [1] - 18:22 wisely [2] - 132:8, 133:7 wish [2] - 91:13, 131:15 wishes [1] - 133:19 wishing [1] - 130:5 witness [15] - 5:14, 5:22, 36:10, 48:1, 48:2, 48:19, 83:19, 113:18, 114:18, 121:20, 121:25, 122:2, 123:16, 123:23, 129:18 witnesses [11] - 4:20, 5:13, 114:2, 122:9, 130:1, 130:5, 130:7, 130:23, 131:6, 132:4, 132:6 wonder [1] - 81:13 wondered [1] - 56:25 wondering [6] - 17:24, 22:10, 22:21, 24:15, 26:12, 101:5 word [1] - 98:15 words [4] - 77:18, 80:9, 98:23, 101:3 workings [1] - 41:19 works [11] - 12:7, 18:8, 22:11, 32:16, 37:11, 55:16, 58:22, 64:23, 112:4, 119:20, 122:8 write [1] - 112:1 writer [2] - 55:18, 56:12 written [2] - 87:13, 108:3

wrote [1] - 116:5

# X

**XYZ**[1] - 15:9

# Υ

yard [6] - 25:10, 26:7, 26:12, 88:10, 88:19, 91:6 year [8] - 27:16, 43:24, 50:1, 53:13, 53:18, 53:24, 82:4, 98:10 **years** [11] - 6:10, 9:8, 10:14, 43:4, 55:6, 55:17, 59:15, 78:19, 124:13, 124:14, 126:15 yellow [4] - 59:21, 109:1, 109:12, 109:24 yesterday[1] - 122:20 yesterday's [1] - 25:22 yield [1] - 24:14 yourself [1] - 124:10

## Ζ

**ZBA** [2] - 121:17, 124:10 zero [2] - 44:3, 46:18 **zone** [9] - 59:24, 91:16, 107:24, 108:24, 108:25, 109:1, 109:2, 109:20, 109:25 zone" [4] - 59:19, 106:13, 109:6, 110:2 zones [3] - 108:24, 109:13, 109:20 zoning [22] - 10:19, 19:12, 29:17, 29:24, 47:6, 47:23, 50:20, 63:9, 73:14, 73:16, 74:1, 97:3, 98:14, 114:2, 120:4, 121:15, 121:23, 130:4, 130:8, 130:9, 133:19, 134:5 **ZONING** [3] - 1:1, 1:6, 1:9 **Zoning** [9] - 2:4, 2:6, 2:8, 2:10, 2:12, 2:14, 4:23, 67:11, 114:19