



“When You Talk - We Listen!”



MANITOBA PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

re:

MANITOBA HYDRO

2023/24 and 2024/25

GENERAL RATE APPLICATION

Hearing

Before Board Panel:

Robert Gabor, KC - Board Chairperson

Marilyn Kapitany - Board Vice Chair

Carol Bellringer - Board Member

Hamath Sy - Board Member

George Bass, KC - Board Member

HELD AT:

Public Utilities Board

400, 330 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba

May 15th, 2023

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1 APPEARANCES
2
3 Bob Peters) Board Counsel
4 Sven Hombach)
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6 Brent Czarnecki) Manitoba Hydro
7 Odette Fernandes)
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9 Byron Williams) Consumers Coalition
10 Chris Klassen)
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12 Antoine Hacault) MIPUG
13
14 Carly Fox) Assembly of
15 Emily Guglielmin (np)) Manitoba Chiefs
16
17 Markus Buchart) MKO
18
19 Thomas Reimer) GSS and GSM
20 Robert Walichnowski) customer classes
21
22 William Haight) Daymark Energy
23 Bradley McClelland) Advisors
24
25

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3	PUB-4-78	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
4		December 13, 2022. Employee Benefits.	
5	PUB-4-79	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
6		December 13, 2022. O&A Expenses	
7		between 2021/22 Interim and 2023/24 &	
8		2024/25 GRA.	
9	PUB-4-80	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
10		December 13, 2022. Updated PUB-MH I-	
11		19(b) from 2019/20 Interim.	
12	PUB-4-81	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
13		December 13, 2022. Updated Tables -	
14		ASL Rates / ALG and ELG.	
15	PUB-4-82	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
16		December 13, 2022. Depreciation.	
17	PUB-4-83	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
18		December 13, 2022. Maintenance.	
19	PUB-4-84	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
20		December 13, 2022. Hydraulic weighted	
21		forced outage factors (HWFOF).	
22	PUB-4-85	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
23		December 13, 2022. Transmission.	
24	PUB-4-86	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
25		December 13, 2022. HVDC Pole/Bipole.	

1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-4-87	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
4		December 13, 2022. System Average	
5		Interruption Duration Index (SAID) /	
6		System Average Interruption Frequency	
7		Index (SAIFI).	
8	PUB-4-88	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
9		December 13, 2022. Business Operation	
10		Capital.	
11	PUB-4-89	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
12		December 13, 2022. MMTP and Birtle	
13		Transmission.	
14	PUB-4-90	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
15		December 13, 2022. AMCL Report.	
16	PUB-4-91	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
17		December 13, 2022. Bipole I and II.	
18	PUB-4-92	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
19		December 13, 2022. AACE Cost on	
20		project and planning items.	
21	PUB-4-93	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
22		December 13, 2022. Advanced metering	
23		infrastructure (AMI) consultant.	
24			
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-4-94	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
4		December 13, 2022. Grid Modernization	
5		Program.	
6	PUB-4-95	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
7		December 13, 2022. Capital Projects.	
8	PUB-4-96	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
9		December 13, 2022. Turbine Overhaul.	
10	PUB-4-97	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
11		December 13, 2022. Capital Expenditure	
12		Forecast (CEF) - Business Operation	
13		Capital.	
14	PUB-4-98	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
15		December 13, 2022. Business Operation	
16		Capital - CEF18.	
17	PUB-4-99	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
18		December 13, 2022. Business Operations	
19		Capital.	
20	PUB-4-100	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
21		December 13, 2022. GNTL costs.	
22	PUB-4-101	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
23		December 13, 2022. AMCL - asset	
24		management.	
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-4-102	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
4		December 13, 2022. AMCL - Corporate	
5		Value Framework.	
6	PUB-4-103	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
7		December 13, 2022. Asset Management	
8		Analysis in MFR 90.	
9	PUB-4-104	UB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
10		December 13, 2022. Light Emitting	
11		Diode (LED) - Roadway Lighting.	
12	PUB-4-105	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
13		December 13, 2022. Letters dated	
14		November 12, 2018 regarding Directive	
15		15 of Order 59/18.	
16	PUB-4-106	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
17		December 13, 2022. Annual SEP Reports	
18		November 2016 to current.	
19	PUB-4-107	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
20		December 13, 2022. Annual CRP Reports	
21		April 2017 to current.	
22	PUB-4-108	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
23		December 13, 2022. Payments to	
24		Government.	
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-4-109	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
4		December 13, 2022. Order 43/13	
5		Directives 8&9 Section 4.0 updates.	
6	PUB-4-110	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
7		December 13, 2022. Depreciation	
8		Expense under IFRS Complaint ASL and	
9		ELG depreciation methods.	
10	PUB-4-111	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
11		December 13, 2022. 20-year Electric	
12		Operations Operating Statement.	
13	PUB-4-112	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
14		December 13, 2022. Write-off Keeyask	
15		In-Service Deferral.	
16	PUB-4-113	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
17		December 13, 2022. Changes to IFRS ELG	
18		and creation of new deferral account.	
19	PUB-4-114	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
20		December 13, 2022. Loss on Retirement	
21		and Disposal of Assets.	
22	PUB-4-115	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
23		December 13, 2022. Expected Growth in	
24		Depreciation Method Regulatory Deferral	
25		Account Balances.	

1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-4-116	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
4		December 13, 2022. ELG determination	
5		of depreciation over ASL.	
6	PUB-4-117	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
7		December 13, 2022. Deferral accounts.	
8	PUB-4-118	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
9		December 13, 2022. Concentric	
10		Depreciation Study.	
11	PUB-4-119	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
12		December 13, 2022. Balance -	
13		Depreciation Method Deferrals for two	
14		deferral accounts.	
15	PUB-4-120	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
16		December 13, 2022. Amortization.	
17	PUB-4-121	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
18		December 13, 2022. Depreciation Method	
19		Deferrals.	
20	PUB-4-122	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
21		December 13, 2022. IFRS Compliant v.	
22		ELG depreciation procedures.	
23			
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS	
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION
3		PAGE NO.
4	PUB-4-123	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -
5		December 13, 2022. Depreciation Method
6		Deferrals of current assets over full
7		service life.
8	PUB-4-124	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -
9		December 13, 2022. Updated Figure 16 -
10		Appendix 3.3 and additional tables -
11		2014 ASL Rates, ALG - life study and
12		ELG - life rate.
13	PUB-4-125	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -
14		December 13, 2022. Depreciation Rate
15		Schedules for Electric Operations.
16	PUB-4-126	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -
17		December 13, 2022. Depreciation and
18		Amortization - losses.
19	PUB-4-127	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -
20		December 13, 2022. Depreciation and
21		Amortization expense based on the ALG -
22		remaining service life.
23	PUB-4-128	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -
24		December 13, 2022. Directive 8 - Board
25		Order 43/13.

1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-4-129	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
4		December 13, 2022. Compare	
5		depreciation methodologies excluding	
6		gains and losses - Appendix 4.3 Figure	
7		9 / Appendix 9.10 Figure 1, 2 and 6.	
8	PUB-4-130	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
9		December 13, 2022. Losses and	
10		Retirement - ASL IFRS / ELG whole-life	
11		methodology.	
12	PUB-4-131	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
13		December 13, 2022. Equal Life Group	
14		(ELG).	
15	PUB-4-132	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
16		December 13, 2022. IASB Exposure	
17		Draft.	
18	PUB-4-133	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
19		December 13, 2022. Depreciation	
20		expense differences.	
21	PUB-4-134	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
22		December 13, 2022. ASL and ALG	
23		methodologies.	
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-4-135	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
4		December 13, 2022. Concentric Study -	
5		ALG Accrual Rates.	
6	PUB-4-136	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
7		December 13, 2022. Concentric	
8		Depreciation Study - ELG depreciation	
9		rates.	
10	PUB-4-137	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
11		December 13, 2022. Differences in	
12		Alliance Consulting Group Depreciation	
13		Study and Concentric Depreciation	
14		Study.	
15	PUB-4-138	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
16		December 13, 2022. Depreciation	
17		Variance on 2019 ELG Study used in	
18		Alliance ALS Study.	
19	PUB-4-139	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
20		December 13, 2022. Concentric ALG	
21		Study Schedule 4A / ALS Study.	
22	PUB-4-140	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
23		December 13, 2022. Engagement letter	
24		and CV's - ASL Study and Alliance	
25		Study.	

1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-4-141	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
4		December 13, 2022. Revenue to Cost	
5		Coverage Ratio (RCC).	
6	PUB-4-142	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
7		December 13, 2022. Rate design and	
8		Structure to Residential Class.	
9	PUB-4-143	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
10		December 13, 2022. Revenue - General	
11		Service.	
12	PUB-4-144	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
13		December 13, 2022. GSS-GSM -	
14		harmonization.	
15	PUB-4-145	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
16		December 13, 2022. GSL bill impacts.	
17	PUB-4-146	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
18		December 13, 2022. "Missing" outdoor	
19		and flooding lighting.	
20	PUB-4-147	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
21		December 13, 2022. Decorative lighting	
22		rates.	
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-4-148	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
4		December 13, 2022. Seasonal and	
5		Monthly 250 W LED Exclusive Luminaire	
6		tariffs 80 and 82.	
7	PUB-4-149	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
8		December 13, 2022. Area & Roadway	
9		Lighting.	
10	PUB-4-150	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
11		December 13, 2022. High Mast Rates.	
12	PUB-4-151	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
13		December 13, 2022. Diesel General	
14		Service.	
15	PUB-4-152	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
16		December 13, 2022. Curtailable Rate	
17		Program (CRP) Customers.	
18	PUB-4-153	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
19		December 13, 2022. CRP annual test	
20		failures.	
21	PUB-4-154	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
22		December 13, 2022. Curtailment Under	
23		Option A of the CRP.	
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-4-155	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
4		December 13, 2022. Surplus Energy	
5		Program (SEP) in the Integrated	
6		Resource Plan (IRP)	
7	PUB-4-156	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
8		December 13, 2022. SEP Customer notice	
9		period.	
10	PUB-4-157	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
11		December 13, 2022. Export sales - SEP.	
12	PUB-4-158	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
13		December 13, 2022. Curtail SEP Rates.	
14	PUB-4-159	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
15		December 13, 2022. SEP sales revenues.	
16	PUB-4-160	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
17		December 13, 2022. Transmission Lines	
18		/ Projects.	
19	PUB-4-161	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
20		December 13, 2022. Prospective Cost of	
21		Service Studies (PCOSS) - unit costs	
22		from PCOSS21 and PCOSS24.	
23	PUB-4-162	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
24		December 13, 2022. Export.	
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-4-163	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
4		December 13, 2022. LED roadway	
5		lighting - maintenance.	
6	PUB-4-164	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
7		December 13, 2022. Limited Use Billing	
8		Demand customer classes.	
9	PUB-4-165	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
10		December 13, 2022. Models and Data	
11		used for rate and customer impacts in	
12		App.8.5, 8.6, 8.8 and 8.9.	
13	PUB-4-166	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
14		December 13, 2022. Peak periods for	
15		winter, summer and shoulder.	
16	PUB-4-167	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
17		December 13, 2022. Updated Tab 9 /	
18		2003 Drought.	
19	PUB-4-168	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
20		December 13, 2022. Droughts.	
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-4-169	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
4		December 13, 2022. Physically based	
5		Inflow Forecasting Framework (PBIFF).	
6	PUB-4-170	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
7		December 13, 2022. Inflow Forecast -	
8		Weather Forecasts.	
9	PUB-4-171	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
10		December 13, 2022. Environment and	
11		Climate Canada - weather forecasting.	
12	PUB-4-172	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
13		December 13, 2022. Ensemble Streamflow	
14		Prediction forecast.	
15	PUB-4-173	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
16		December 13, 2022. Statistical Flow	
17		Forecasting Model.	
18	PUB-4-174	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
19		December 13, 2022. Forecasted Inflows.	
20	PUB-4-175	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
21		December 13, 2022. Statistical	
22		Forecasts.	
23	PUB-4-176	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
24		December 13, 2022. Teleconnections.	
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-4-177	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
4		December 13, 2022. Annual Average	
5		Hydraulic generation by sub-basin.	
6	PUB-4-178	PUB-MPI Round I Information Requests -	
7		December 13, 2022. Dr. Roy's Review.	
8	PUB-5	PUB letter to MH and Interveners re: MH	
9		2023/24 GRA - MH January 9, 2023	
10		Information Request Letter - January	
11		10, 2023.	
12	PUB-6	Board Order 9/23 - Second Procedural	
13		Order in Respect of Manitoba Hydro's	
14		2023/24 and 2024/25 General Rate	
15		Application - Disputed Information	
16		Requests - January 23, 2023.	
17	PUB-7	PUB letter to MH and Interveners re:	
18		Daymark Retainer - January 31, 2023.	
19	PUB-8	PUB letter to MH and Interveners re:	
20		Round I Information Request Response	
21		Motion - February 9, 2023.	
22	PUB-9	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
23		(1-64) - February 15, 2023.	
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-9	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
4		(1-64) - February 15, 2023.	
5	PUB-9-1	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
6		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
7		10. Average Time - connect, answer and	
8		emergency response.	
9	PUB-9-2	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
10		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
11		5a-c. Operational and infrastructure	
12		investments.	
13	PUB-9-3	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
14		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-7.	
15		Business Case / NPV analysis for the	
16		SAP cloud conversion and the Advanced	
17		Metering Initiative.	
18	PUB-9-4	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
19		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
20		9a-b. Hedging Mechanisms.	
21	PUB-9-5	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
22		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
23		13a-b. Capitalized interest.	
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-9-6	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
4		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
5		19. Keeyask - No long Financial	
6		Burden.	
7	PUB-9-7	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
8		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH-21.	
9		Drought.	
10	PUB-9-8	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
11		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH 1-	
12		23b / CC-MH I-49. Debt Ratio / Debt	
13		Retirement.	
14	PUB-9-9	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
15		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH 1-	
16		24b. Financial Forecast.	
17	PUB-9-10	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
18		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
19		25a-d. Interest rates and forecast as	
20		of February 28, 2023.	
21	PUB-9-11	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
22		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH 1-	
23		28a-e. SAP S/4HANA.	
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-9-12	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
4		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
5		31b. 20-year financial scenario - ELG	
6		with 70-year phase in.	
7	PUB-9-13	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
8		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
9		30a-e. Amortizing interim gains and	
10		losses.	
11	PUB-9-14	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
12		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
13		32a-b. 20-year financial scenarios -	
14		30 and 70 year amortization period for	
15		ASL-ELG Deferral Account.	
16	PUB-9-15	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
17		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
18		35a-b. Payments to Government.	
19	PUB-9-16	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
20		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
21		39. Increased consumption due to the	
22		lower rate increases.	
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-9-17	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
4		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
5		40c/MIPUG-MH I-107/CC-MH I-91c.	
6		Selkirk generating station	
7		decommissioning.	
8	PUB-9-18	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
9		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
10		43. Excess energy rate.	
11	PUB-9-19	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
12		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
13		45, 56/ CC-MH I-60. Export Contracts.	
14	PUB-9-20	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
15		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
16		52a-e. U.S. Energy Information	
17		Administration's (EIA).	
18	PUB-9-21	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
19		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
20		62a-c. Capitalized Overhead, Activity	
21		& Interest Cost.	
22	PUB-9-22	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
23		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
24		62a-c. Preliminary Budget.	
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-9-23	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
4		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
5		62b. Consulting and professional fees.	
6	PUB-9-24	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
7		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
8		64b. FTE reductions.	
9	PUB-9-25	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
10		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
11		69. O&A expenses / KPI's.	
12	PUB-9-26	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
13		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
14		70a-c. FTE's.	
15	PUB-9-27	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
16		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
17		71a, 80. Forecast annual wages.	
18	PUB-9-28	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
19		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
20		78a-c. Vacant FTE.	
21	PUB-9-29	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
22		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
23		82a-c. PUB/MH I-82a-c-Attachment 3 -	
24		Service Life.	
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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	PUB-9-30	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
4		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
5		85. SAIDI and SAIFI.	
6	PUB-9-31	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
7		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
8		92, MIPUG-MH I-83d, CC-MH I-160d-e.	
9		Capital Expenditure Plan.	
10	PUB-9-32	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
11		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
12		95a-c, 92, CC-MH I-160a-e, MIPUG-MH I-	
13		82-h, 79b. Project management and risk	
14		management.	
15	PUB-9-33	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
16		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
17		96, MIPUG-MH I-107. Brandon U6 and U7	
18		combustion turbines.	
19	PUB-9-34	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
20		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
21		101. Asset Management Maturity.	
22	PUB-9-35	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
23		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
24		104. LED roadway lighting.	
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3	PUB-9-36	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
4		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
5		108a-b. PUB-MH 1-108 table b - total	
6		change over the 20-years forecast.	
7	PUB-9-37	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
8		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
9		118a-c. Survey, including a table	
10		identifying each utility.	
11	PUB-9-38	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
12		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
13		122. ALC / ELG Methodologies.	
14	PUB-9-39	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
15		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
16		127. 2019 Concentric Study ASL	
17		Depreciation Rates.	
18	PUB-9-40	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
19		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
20		132d. Regulatory interest rates.	
21	PUB-9-41	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
22		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
23		139c. Asset Accounting Handbook.	
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4		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
5		140a-c. Depreciation Studies - Hydro	
6		One and Yukon Energy.	
7	PUB-9-43	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
8		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. MFR 95.	
9		Amortization - book accumulated	
10		depreciation and the calculated accrued	
11		depreciation.	
12	PUB-9-44	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
13		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
14		144. First 50 kVA of demand	
15		calculation.	
16	PUB-9-45	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
17		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
18		145. Change in billing demand.	
19	PUB-9-46	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
20		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
21		158c, 52e. Winter Storm Uri / SEP	
22		Customers.	
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3	PUB-9-47	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
4		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH I-	
5		160. Birtle Transmission Project	
6		(BTP).	
7	PUB-9-48	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
8		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
9		6-i,27. Cash flow to debt ratio.	
10	PUB-9-49	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
11		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
12		10. 20-year financial scenario.	
13	PUB-9-50	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
14		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
15		24. O&A costs higher for Keeyask than	
16		legacy generating assets.	
17	PUB-9-51	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
18		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
19		27. Hydraulic generation.	
20	PUB-9-52	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
21		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB-MH 1-	
22		39 / CC-MH 1-56. Load forecast.	
23	PUB-9-53	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
24		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
25		85. Corporate Value Framework scores.	

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3	PUB-9-54	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
4		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
5		85. Manitoba Hydro generation and	
6		transmission system.	
7	PUB-9-55	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
8		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
9		85, 109. Pointe du Bois station	
10	PUB-9-56	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
11		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
12		115. Pointe du Bois Renewable Energy	
13		Project.	
14	PUB-9-57	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
15		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
16		160. Capital Investment	
17		Justifications.	
18	PUB-9-58	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
19		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
20		144. Residential customer bills for	
21		1,000 and 2,000 kWh consumption if MH	
22		had a RCC of 83%.	
23	PUB-9-59	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
24		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
25		157. LED Roadway Conversion Program.	

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5		I-7. Corporate Value Framework score	
6		to the vegetation management program.	
7	PUB-9-61	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
8		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. MIPUG-MH	
9		I-99. SEP Load.	
10	PUB-9-62	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
11		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. MKO-MH 1-	
12		7. First Nations Social Process.	
13	PUB-9-63	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
14		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. MKO-MH 1-	
15		9. Energy Affordability Installment	
16		Plan.	
17	PUB-9-64	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
18		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. AMC-MH 1-	
19		30b, MKO-MH I-1. First Nation On-	
20		Reserve.	
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5		Order 24/23 - Third Procedural Order in	
6		Respect of Manitoba Hydro's 2023/24 and	
7		2024/25 General Rate application -	
8		Updated Hearing Timetable - February	
9		23, 2023.	
10	PUB-11	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
11		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB letter	
12		to MH and Interveners re: Pre Hearing	
13		Conference #2 - April 6, 2023 - March	
14		9, 2023.	
15	PUB-12	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
16		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. PUB letter	
17		to All Parties re: Daymark Scope of	
18		Work Confirmation - March 13, 2023.	
19	PUB-13	PUB-MH Round II Information Requests	
20		(1-64) - February 15, 2023. Board	
21		Order 24/23 - Third Procedural Order in	
22		Respect of Manitoba Hydro's 2023/24 and	
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7		Midgard - Vegetation Management	
8		Spending.	
9	PUB-14-2	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
10		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
11		Midgard - SAIDI and SAIFI.	
12	PUB-14-3	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
13		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
14		Midgard - O&A Expenses and Increases in	
15		FTE.	
16	PUB-14-4	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
17		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
18		Midgard - AMCL Assessment.	
19	PUB-14-5	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
20		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
21		Midgard - Capital Expenditures.	
22	PUB-14-6	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
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8		Midgard - Investments in Bipoles I and	
9		II.	
10	PUB-14-9	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
11		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
12		Midgard - Domestic Reliability and	
13		needs / Catastrophic Failure.	
14	PUB-14-10	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
15		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
16		Midgard - T-SAIDI.	
17	PUB-14-11	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
18		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
19		Midgard - Replacement of Assets.	
20	PUB-14-12	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
21		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
22		Midgard - Minimum System.	
23	PUB-14-13	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
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25		Midgard - Recommendations.	

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16	PUB-14-18	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
17		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
18		Derksen - GSL classes.	
19	PUB-14-19	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
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21		Derksen - Zone of reasonableness.	
22	PUB-14-20	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
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24		Derksen - Water / Differentiated Rates.	
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9		Class.
10	PUB-14-23	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information
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12		MPA - Retainer letter and Scope.
13	PUB-14-24	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information
14		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.
15		MPA - reduction in payments to
16		government.
17	PUB-14-25	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information
18		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.
19		MPA - Cash Flows.
20	PUB-14-26	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information
21		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.
22		Rainkie - Interim Rate Increase.
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5		Rainkie - Risks.	
6	PUB-14-29	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
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9	PUB-14-30	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
10		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
11		Rainkie - Financial ratios and targets.	
12	PUB-14-31	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
13		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
14		Rainkie - KPMG recommended targets.	
15	PUB-14-32	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
16		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
17		Rainkie - Extrapolated increase in O&A	
18		expenses.	
19	PUB-14-33	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
20		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
21		Rainkie - Rate Setting Purposes.	
22	PUB-14-34	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
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5		Rainkie - Excess Profits.	
6	PUB-14-36	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
7		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
8		Rainkie - 50% and 100% deferral	
9		analysis.	
10	PUB-14-37	PUB-Coalition Intervener Information	
11		Requests (1-37) - April 14, 2023.	
12		Rainkie - Social discount rate.	
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14		Requests (1-8) - April 14, 2023.	
15	PUB-15-1	PUB-GSS-GSM Intervener Information	
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17		Componentization.	
18	PUB-15-2	PUB-GSS-GSM Intervener Information	
19		Requests (1-8) - April 14, 2023.	
20		Deferral Account.	
21	PUB-15-3	PUB-GSS-GSM Intervener Information	
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6	PUB-15-5	PUB-GSS-GSM Intervener Information
7		Requests (1-8) - April 14, 2023. 60-
8		R3, 65-R5 and 65-R4 low curves.
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11		budgeting exercises.
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18	PUB-16	PUB-MIPUG Intervener Information
19		Requests (1-15) - April 14, 2023.
20	PUB-16-1	PUB-MIPUG Intervener Information
21		Requests (1-15) - April 14, 2023. NFAT
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5		Delay in 2024 rate increase.	
6	PUB-16-4	PUB-MIPUG Intervener Information	
7		Requests (1-15) - April 14, 2023.	
8		Interim Rate increase.	
9	PUB-16-5	PUB-MIPUG Intervener Information	
10		Requests (1-15) - April 14, 2023.	
11		Uncertainty Analysis.	
12	PUB-16-6	PUB-MIPUG Intervener Information	
13		Requests (1-15) - April 14, 2023.	
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15	PUB-16-7	PUB-MIPUG Intervener Information	
16		Requests (1-15) - April 14, 2023.	
17		Losses.	
18	PUB-16-8	PUB-MIPUG Intervener Information	
19		Requests (1-15) - April 14, 2023.	RCC
20		Ratios.	
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22		Requests (1-15) - April 14, 2023.	
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5		Impact of 2024/25 NER on RCC Ratios.	
6	PUB-16-11	PUB-MIPUG Intervener Information	
7		Requests (1-15) - April 14, 2023.	
8		Marginal Value and Allocation of DSM	
9		Costs.	
10	PUB-16-12	PUB-MIPUG Intervener Information	
11		Requests (1-15) - April 14, 2023. Peak	
12		day / Peak hours.	
13	PUB-16-13	PUB-MIPUG Intervener Information	
14		Requests (1-15) - April 14, 2023. RCC	
15		Ratios and the Zone of Reasonableness.	
16	PUB-16-14	PUB-MIPUG Intervener Information	
17		Requests (1-15) - April 14, 2023. Rate	
18		Differentiation Based on 2024/25 NER.	
19	PUB-16-15	PUB-MIPUG Intervener Information	
20		Requests (1-15) - April 14, 2023. Rate	
21		Increase Applied to Demand Rate.	
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17	PUB-17-5	PUB-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
18		Information Request (1-15) - April 21,	
19		2023. Ancillary Services.	
20	PUB-17-6	PUB-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
21		Information Request (1-15) - April 21,	
22		2023. Capacity Price Forecast.	
23	PUB-17-7	PUB-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
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25		2023. MISO PRA Auction.	

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9	PUB-17-10	PUB-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
10		Information Request (1-15) - April 21,	
11		2023. MH's Drought Management Policies	
12		and Processes.	
13	PUB-17-11	PUB-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
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18		2023. Drought Management Actions.	
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7	PUB-18	PUB-DEA Independent Expert Consultant
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14		Confidentiality, and Recommendation of
15		the Manitoba Industrial Power Users
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13	PUB-20	Depreciation issues document - May 10,	
14		2023.	
15	DEA-1	DEA letter re: Formal Information	
16		Requests to MH - March 8, 2023.	
17	DEA-2	Daymark Evidence - April 11, 2023.	
18	AMC-1	AMC Intervener Application - November	
19		24, 2022.	
20	AMC-2	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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22	AMC-2-1	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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6	AMC-2-3	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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9	AMC-2-4	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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16		Continuous Improvement Initiatives.	
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19		engagement and programs.	
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21		34) - December 20, 2022. Exports.	
22	AMC-2-9	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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8		Optimization.	
9	AMC-2-12	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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11		sharing deferral account.	
12	AMC-2-13	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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14		Research - First Nations.	
15	AMC-2-14	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
16		34) - December 20, 2022. Impact of	
17		interim rate increase (3.6%).	
18	AMC-2-15	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
19		34) - December 20, 2022. Capital	
20		Spend.	
21	AMC-2-16	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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6	AMC-2-18	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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10		scenario export values.	
11	AMC-2-20	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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13		lower bounds on price forecasts.	
14	AMC-2-21	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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16		Forecasts.	
17	AMC-2-22	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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19		Assumptions for Purchase Agreements by	
20		fuel type.	
21	AMC-2-23	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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10	AMC-2-27	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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12		Hedging.	
13	AMC-2-28	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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15		Employees.	
16	AMC-2-29	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
17		34) - December 20, 2022. Self-Service	
18		customer assistance.	
19	AMC-2-30	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
20		34) - December 20, 2022. Uncollectible	
21		Accounts.	
22	AMC-2-31	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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5		Opportunity Partnerships.	
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11		Reconciliation.	
12	AMC-2-35 Jan	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
13		34) - December 20, 2022. Proposed rate	
14		by rate class.	
15	AMC-2-36	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
16		34) - December 20, 2022. RCC-PCOSS	
17	AMC-2-37	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
18		34) - December 20, 2022. Year over	
19		year percentage rate increase.	
20	AMC-2-38	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
21		34) - December 20, 2022. Residential	
22		Bill - percentage of Manitoba's median	
23		income.	
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5		Rate Class.	
6	AMC-2-40	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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8		Rate Design for residential class.	
9	AMC-2-41	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
10		34) - December 20, 2022. Net Export	
11		Revenue.	
12	AMC-2-42	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
13		34) - December 20, 2022. Arrears and	
14		bad debt expense.	
15	AMC-2-43	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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17		On-Reserve Residential Rate Class.	
18	AMC-2-44	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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20		Electricity residential usage for each	
21		First Nation in Manitoba.	
22	AMC-2-45	AMC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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24		Energy Use Survey.	
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5		Voices Omnibus Survey.	
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8	AMC-3-1	AMC-MH Round II Information Requests	
9		(1-12) - February 15, 2023. AMC-MH 1-	
10		1. Risks.	
11	AMC-3-2	AMC-MH Round II Information Requests	
12		(1-12) - February 15, 2023. AMC-MH 1-	
13		2a-b. Notification for on site	
14		generation.	
15	AMC-3-3	AMC-MH Round II Information Requests	
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17		4a-b. Cost of self-generation.	
18	AMC-3-4	AMC-MH Round II Information Requests	
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20		10a. Export Contracts.	
21	AMC-3-5	AMC-MH Round II Information Requests	
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23		11a-b. Decreased reliability of assets.	
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5		27a. Hedging.	
6	AMC-3-7	AMC-MH Round II Information Requests	
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8		28a. First Nation Employees.	
9	AMC-3-8	AMC-MH Round II Information Requests	
10		(1-12) - February 15, 2023. AMC-MH 1-	
11		30a-b. Late payment and uncollected	
12		First Nation accounts.	
13	AMC-3-9	AMC-MH Round II Information Requests	
14		(1-12) - February 15, 2023. AMC-MH 1-	
15		30d-e. Uncollectible and disconnected	
16		accounts.	
17	AMC-3-10	AMC-MH Round II Information Requests	
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19		34. Reconciliation with First Nations.	
20	AMC-3-11	AMC-MH Round II Information Requests	
21		(1-12) - February 15, 2023. AMC-MH 1-	
22		38b. Median on-reserve income levels.	
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5		43. Cumulative rate increase former	
6		First Nations on-reserve residential	
7		rate class September 1, 2020 to April	
8		2024.	
9	AMC-4	AMC-CC Intervener Information Requests	
10		(1-6) - April 14, 2023	
11	AMC-4-1	AMC-CC Intervener Information Requests	
12		(1-6) - April 14, 2023. Derksen -	
13		Monthly Basic Charge and Volumetric	
14		Rate.	
15	AMC-4-2	AMC-CC Intervener Information Requests	
16		(1-6) - April 14, 2023. Derksen -	
17		Ranking criteria.	
18	AMC-4-3	AMC-CC Intervener Information Requests	
19		(1-6) - April 14, 2023. Derksen -	
20		Revenue-to-Cost.	
21	AMC-4-4	AMC-CC Intervener Information Requests	
22		(1-6) - April 14, 2023. Derksen - Most	
23		and least impacted customers.	
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5		Marginal Costs.	
6	AMC-4-6	AMC-CC Intervener Information Requests	
7		(1-6) - April 14, 2023. Derksen - Cost	
8		Structure.	
9	AMC-5	AMC letter re: P.Bowman Recommendation	
10		#4 - April 21, 2023.	
11	AMC-6	AMC-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
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13		2023.	
14	AMC-6-1	AMC-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
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16		2023. Drought.	
17	AMC-6-2	AMC-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
18		Information Requests (1-14) - April 21,	
19		2023. MISO Market Conditions.	
20	AMC-6-3	AMC-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
21		Information Requests (1-14) - April 21,	
22		2023. Recent engagement in MISO	
23		Market.	
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3	AMC-6-4	AMC-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
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5		2023. MISO Market - Energy capacity.	
6	AMC-6-5	AMC-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
7		Information Requests (1-14) - April 21,	
8		2023. Flexible Resources.	
9	AMC-6-6	AMC-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
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11		2023. Export Revenue.	
12	AMC-6-7	AMC-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
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14		2023. Heat Rate Approach.	
15	AMC-6-8	AMC-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
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17		2023. Capacity Sales.	
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20		2023. Summer-based capacity sales.	
21	AMC-6-10	AMC-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
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5		2023. Violations.	
6	AMC-6-12	AMC-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
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9	AMC-6-13	AMC-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
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11		2023. Risk.	
12	AMC-6-14	AMC-DEA Independent Expert Consultant	
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14		2023. Hedging Strategy between sales	
15		and purchases.	
16	CC-1-1	CC Intervener Application - November	
17		24, 2022.	
18	CC-2	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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20	CC-2-1	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
21		129) - December 20, 2022. Strategy	
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23	CC-2-2	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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25		Report.	

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5		reliable energy at the lowest possible	
6		cost.	
7	CC-2-4	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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12		Strategic Portfolio Management System.	
13	CC-2-6	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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15		Performance Management (EPM).	
16	CC-2-7	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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19	CC-2-8	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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21		Resource Plan (IRP).	
22	CC-2-9	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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9	CC-2-12	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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11	CC-2-13	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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13		Capital Projects.	
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17	CC-2-15	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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19		Revenues.	
20	CC-2-16	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
21		129) - December 20, 2022. Depreciation	
22		Expense.	
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25		Other Taxes.	

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6	CC-2-19	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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12		Expense.	
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15		and Opportunity Export Energy Sale	
16		Volumes.	
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18		129) - December 20, 2022. Capital to	
19		Operating.	
20	CC-2-23	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
21		129) - December 20, 2022. Priorities.	
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14		Forecast Scenario.	
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19	CC-2-30	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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21		Energy Sales Volumes.	
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5		Deferral Balances.	
6	CC-2-33	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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8		balance.	
9	CC-2-34	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
10		129) - December 20, 2022. Underlying	
11		debt rates and projected refinancing	
12		rates.	
13	CC-2-35	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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15	CC-2-36	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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17		Sensitivities.	
18	CC-2-37	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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20		Regulatory Assets and Liabilities.	
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23		Deferral Accounts and Amortization	
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6	CC-2-40	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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9	CC-2-41	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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11		Depreciation.	
12	CC-2-42	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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14		amortization - Major Capital Projects	
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16	CC-2-43	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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18		Expenditures.	
19	CC-2-44	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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21		Management.	
22	CC-2-45	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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24		Management Objectives.	
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5		Management Objectives - low-cost and	
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7	CC-2-47	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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10	CC-2-48	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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12		Interest Rates.	
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18		Forecast.	
19	CC-2-51	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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21		Growth.	
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5		Load Scenario - Gross Firm Energy.	
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8		Forecast.	
9	CC-2-55	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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11		Basic Energy.	
12	CC-2-56	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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14		Basic energy growth.	
15	CC-2-57	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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17		Vehicle.	
18	CC-2-58	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
19		129) - December 20, 2022. 2021 Load	
20		Scenario.	
21	CC-2-59	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
22		129) - December 20, 2022. Pipeline	
23		Load.	
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3	CC-2-60	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
4		129) - December 20, 2022. Long-term	
5		export contracts.	
6	CC-2-61	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
7		129) - December 20, 2022. Capacity in	
8		Electric Load Scenario.	
9	CC-2-62	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
10		129) - December 20, 2022. 2021	
11		Electric Load Scenario.	
12	CC-2-63	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
13		129) - December 20, 2022. Load	
14		Scenario / Load Forecast.	
15	CC-2-64	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
16		129) - December 20, 2022. Anticipated	
17		Need Dates.	
18	CC-2-65	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
19		129) - December 20, 2022. Resource	
20		needs.	
21	CC-2-66	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
22		129) - December 20, 2022. O&A Budget.	
23	CC-2-67	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
24		129) - December 20, 2022. O&A Costs.	
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3	CC-2-68	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
4		129) - December 20, 2022. O&A Budgets	
5		- top-down and bottom-up approach.	
6	CC-2-69	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
7		129) - December 20, 2022. Improvement	
8		initiatives.	
9	CC-2-70	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
10		129) - December 20, 2022. Trade and	
11		Professional Trainees.	
12	CC-2-71	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
13		129) - December 20, 2022. Customer	
14		Engagement Centre.	
15	CC-2-72	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
16		129) - December 20, 2022. FTE	
17		Decrease.	
18	CC-2-73	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
19		129) - December 20, 2022. Voluntary	
20		attrition.	
21	CC-2-74	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
22		129) - December 20, 2022. Wage	
23		settlements.	
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2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	CC-2-75	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
4		129) - December 20, 2022. Information	
5		Technology Plan.	
6	CC-2-76	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
7		129) - December 20, 2022. Cloud	
8		Computing Arrangements (CCA's).	
9	CC-2-77	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
10		129) - December 20, 2022. O&A Cost -	
11		Major Capital Projects.	
12	CC-2-78	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
13		129) - December 20, 2022. Business	
14		Operations Capital.	
15	CC-2-79	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
16		129) - December 20, 2022. Supply Chain	
17		Cost Savings.	
18	CC-2-80	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
19		129) - December 20, 2022. O&A Cost	
20		pressures.	
21	CC-2-81	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
22		129) - December 20, 2022. Employee	
23		benefits discount rates.	
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4	CC-2-82	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
5		129) - December 20, 2022. Employee	
6		Related expenditures.	
7	CC-2-83	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
8		129) - December 20, 2022. Straight-	
9		time FTE's.	
10	CC-2-84	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
11		129) - December 20, 2022. Capital	
12		Expenditure Forecast (CEF).	
13	CC-2-85	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
14		129) - December 20, 2022. Capital	
15		Project Justifications.	
16	CC-2-86	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
17		129) - December 20, 2022. Operational	
18		Technology Assets.	
19	CC-2-87	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
20		129) - December 20, 2022. Manitoba -	
21		Minnesota Transmission Project.	
22	CC-2-88	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
23		129) - December 20, 2022. Bipole I and	
24		II HVDC Refurbishment Investments.	
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3	CC-2-89	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
4		129) - December 20, 2022. Advancing	
5		Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project.	
6	CC-2-90	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
7		129) - December 20, 2022. Grid	
8		Modernization Project - Electric Power	
9		Research Institute (EPRI).	
10	CC-2-91	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
11		129) - December 20, 2022. Capital	
12		Expenditures Plan.	
13	CC-2-92	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
14		129) - December 20, 2022. 5-Year	
15		Historical Average of SAIDI and SAIFI	
16		Values.	
17	CC-2-93	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
18		129) - December 20, 2022. Generation,	
19		Transmission and Distribution.	
20	CC-2-94	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
21		129) - December 20, 2022. Value	
22		provided by customers.	
23	CC-2-95	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
24		129) - December 20, 2022. Targeted	
25		levels of performance and risk.	

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2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	CC-2-96	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
4		129) - December 20, 2022. Hydraulic	
5		Generation Weighted Forced Outage	
6		Factor (WFOF).	
7	CC-2-97	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
8		129) - December 20, 2022. Transmission	
9		Interruption Percentage.	
10	CC-2-98	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
11		129) - December 20, 2022. 10-Year	
12		history of T-SAIDI and T-SAIFI Values.	
13	CC-2-99	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
14		129) - December 20, 2022. Transmission	
15		and Generation Capacity.	
16	CC-2-100	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
17		129) - December 20, 2022. Asset Health	
18		Indices (AHIs).	
19	CC-2-101	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
20		129) - December 20, 2022. Economic	
21		life.	
22	CC-2-102	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
23		129) - December 20, 2022. Capital	
24		Investment.	
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2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	CC-2-103	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
4		129) - December 20, 2022. Maturity	
5		Barriers.	
6	CC-2-104	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
7		129) - December 20, 2022. Cultural and	
8		Structural changes.	
9	CC-2-105	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
10		129) - December 20, 2022. Asset	
11		Populations.	
12	CC-2-106	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
13		129) - December 20, 2022. Work Orders.	
14	CC-2-107	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
15		129) - December 20, 2022. Assets.	
16	CC-2-108	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
17		129) - December 20, 2022. Generation	
18		Investments.	
19	CC-2-109	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
20		129) - December 20, 2022. End of Life	
21		/ Failed Asset Evaluation.	
22	CC-2-110	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
23		129) - December 20, 2022. System	
24		Efficient Investments.	
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3	CC-2-111	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
4		129) - December 20, 2022. Mandatory	
5		Compliance Investments.	
6	CC-2-112	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
7		129) - December 20, 2022. Sustainment:	
8		Decommissioning.	
9	CC-2-113	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
10		129) - December 20, 2022. System	
11		Capacity Surplus - Keeyask Project.	
12	CC-2-114	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
13		129) - December 20, 2022. MMTP	
14		construction.	
15	CC-2-115	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
16		129) - December 20, 2022. Pointe du	
17		Bois.	
18	CC-2-116	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
19		129) - December 20, 2022. Portage Area	
20		Capacity Enhancement.	
21	CC-2-117	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
22		129) - December 20, 2022. Severe	
23		Outages.	
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3	CC-2-118	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
4		129) - December 20, 2022. Long Spruce	
5		Generating Station Unit Overhauls.	
6	CC-2-119	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
7		129) - December 20, 2022. Kettle	
8		Generating Station Unit Overhauls.	
9	CC-2-120	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
10		129) - December 20, 2022. Advance	
11		Metering Infrastructure.	
12	CC-2-121	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
13		129) - December 20, 2022. MH	
14		Distribution.	
15	CC-2-122	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
16		129) - December 20, 2022. Capital	
17		Expenditure Plan Table.	
18	CC-2-123	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
19		129) - December 20, 2022. Grand Rapids	
20		Generating Status Upgrades.	
21	CC-2-124	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
22		129) - December 20, 2022. MH System	
23		Performance - Best in North America.	
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3	CC-2-125	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-
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5		Spending.
6	CC-2-126	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-
7		129) - December 20, 2022. Customer
8		Values.
9	CC-2-127	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-
10		129) - December 20, 2022. 2022
11		Reputation Study.
12	CC-2-128	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-
13		129) - December 20, 2022. Reduced
14		Reliability.
15	CC-2-129	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-
16		129) - December 20, 2022. Target
17		Reliability.
18	CC-2-130	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-
19		129) - December 20, 2022. Proposed
20		Rate increases by class.
21	CC-2-131	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-
22		129) - December 20, 2022. PCOSS24.
23	CC-2-132	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-
24		129) - December 20, 2022.
25		Functionalization.

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2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	CC-2-133	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
4		129) - December 20, 2022. O&A	
5		Expenses.	
6	CC-2-134	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
7		129) - December 20, 2022. Keeyask -	
8		PCOSS.	
9	CC-2-135	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
10		129) - December 20, 2022. Bipole III -	
11		PCOSS.	
12	CC-2-136	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
13		129) - December 20, 2022. Great	
14		Northern Transmission Line - PCOSS.	
15	CC-2-137	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
16		129) - December 20, 2022. PCOSS24 -	
17		sensitivity analysis.	
18	CC-2-138	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
19		129) - December 20, 2022. Finance	
20		Expenses - Water Rental Fee and	
21		Provincial Guarantee Fee.	
22	CC-2-139	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
23		129) - December 20, 2022. LED Roadway	
24		Lighting.	
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2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	CC-2-140	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
4		129) - December 20, 2022. Proof of	
5		Revenue.	
6	CC-2-141	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
7		129) - December 20, 2022. Agility -	
8		Energy Landscape.	
9	CC-2-142	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
10		129) - December 20, 2022. Flexibility.	
11	CC-2-143	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
12		129) - December 20, 2022. Zone of	
13		Reasonableness.	
14	CC-2-144	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
15		129) - December 20, 2022. Key	
16		considerations.	
17	CC-2-145	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
18		129) - December 20, 2022. Marginal	
19		Costs Causation.	
20	CC-2-146	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
21		129) - December 20, 2022. Declining	
22		block rate structure.	
23	CC-2-147	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
24		129) - December 20, 2022. Demand Rate.	
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2	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
3	CC-2-148	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
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5		changes.	
6	CC-2-149	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
7		129) - December 20, 2022. Engagement	
8		with Customers.	
9	CC-2-150	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
10		129) - December 20, 2022. Price	
11		Signals.	
12	CC-2-151	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
13		129) - December 20, 2022. Integrated	
14		Cost Allocation Methodology (ICAM).	
15	CC-2-152	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
16		129) - December 20, 2022.	
17		Functionalized Rate Base and Revenue	
18		Requirements / Transmission Revenue and	
19		Losses.	
20	CC-2-153	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
21		129) - December 20, 2022. Non-tariff	
22		able transmission.	
23	CC-2-154	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
24		129) - December 20, 2022. Net Export	
25		Revenue.	

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3	CC-2-155	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
4		129) - December 20, 2022. Export	
5		Revenue - PCOSS24.	
6	CC-2-156	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
7		129) - December 20, 2022. RCC Impacts	
8		of Methodology Changes.	
9	CC-2-157	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
10		129) - December 20, 2022. Changes in	
11		load by class.	
12	CC-2-158	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
13		129) - December 20, 2022. System	
14		performance.	
15	CC-2-159	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
16		129) - December 20, 2022. Generation,	
17		Transmission and Distribution.	
18	CC-2-160	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
19		129) - December 20, 2022. Capital	
20		projects/expenditures.	
21	CC-2-161	CC-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
22		129) - December 20, 2022. Capital	
23		Expenditure Plan - Generation,	
24		Transmission and Distribution	
25		portfolio.	

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3	CC-3	CC letter to MH re: Round I Information	
4		Requests - January 13, 2023.	
5	CC-4	CC letter re: Motion - Round I	
6		Information Requests - February 8,	
7		2023.	
8	CC-5	CC letter re: Response to Round I IR	
9		Motion - February 14, 2023.	
10	CC-6	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
11		138) - February 15, 2023.	
12	CC-6-1	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
13		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-1a-	
14		c. SWOT analysis - risks.	
15	CC-6-2	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
16		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-2c /	
17		8a. Manitoba Government Energy Policy.	
18	CC-6-3	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
19		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-3a-	
20		d. Mission Statement.	
21	CC-6-4	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
22		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
23		4d,h. Enterprise Wife Initiatives.	
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3	CC-6-5	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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5		EPMO Costs.	
6	CC-6-6	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
7		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
8		6c,h,l,j. O&A.	
9	CC-6-7	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
10		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
11		7b,f,PUB-MH I-8f,21a. Enterprise Risk	
12		Management (ERM) framework.	
13	CC-6-8	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
14		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-9b,	
15		PUB-MH I-17a. NPV calculation.	
16	CC-6-9	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
17		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-10.	
18		Payments to government.	
19	CC-6-10	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
20		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-11b,	
21		MIPUG-MH I-22c. Government Debt Ratio	
22		Target.	
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3	CC-6-11	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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5		AMC-MH I-37. Cumulative residential	
6		differentiated rate increases for the	
7		last 10 years.	
8	CC-6-12	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
9		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
10		18a,c. Regulatory Cost Forecast.	
11	CC-6-13	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
12		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH	
13		2021/22 Interim Rate Proceedings.	
14	CC-6-14	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
15		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-27b.	
16		EBITDA Interest Coverage Ratio.	
17	CC-6-15	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
18		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-29,	
19		PUB-MH I-25a. Updated chart with	
20		winter 2022 interest rates.	
21	CC-6-16	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
22		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-30b.	
23		Export Volumes / Revenues.	
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3	CC-6-17	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
4		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-34.	
5		Underlying debt rates and projected	
6		refinancing rates.	
7	CC-6-18	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
8		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
9		35a,c,e. Net income/assets.	
10	CC-6-19	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
11		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-36a.	
12		Drought sensitivity.	
13	CC-6-20	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
14		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
15		37b,c, PUB-MH I-132. Regulatory	
16		framework contined in Bill 36.	
17	CC-6-21	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
18		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
19		39b,c, PUB-MH I-112. Depreciation and	
20		finance expense.	
21	CC-6-22	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
22		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-41c-	
23		f. Depreciation deferral accounts.	
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3	CC-6-23	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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5		42f,g. Major capital projects deferral	
6		account.	
7	CC-6-24	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
8		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-43a-	
9		h. Alternate CC Rate Scenario.	
10	CC-6-25	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
11		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-44.	
12		Historical Floating Rate Debt.	
13	CC-6-26	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
14		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-46.	
15		Debt Management Strategy.	
16	CC-6-27	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
17		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-48.	
18		Interest Rates.	
19	CC-6-28	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
20		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-67,	
21		77. O&A Expenses - Major Capital	
22		Projects.	
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5		GSS-GSM-MH I-5, MIPUG-MH I-45. Gross	
6		FTEs.	
7	CC-6-30	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
8		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-70.	
9		O&A - Trainee programs.	
10	CC-6-31	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
11		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-76b.	
12		O&A cloud computing.	
13	CC-6-32	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
14		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-78a.	
15		GREP project.	
16	CC-6-33	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
17		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-80,	
18		PUB-MH I-78. Updated chart with	
19		2019/20 base year.	
20	CC-6-34	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
21		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-81c-	
22		d. Employee benefit costs.	
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3	CC-6-35	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
4		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-83a,	
5		PUB-MH I-71a-c. Year to year variance	
6		in FTE's.	
7	CC-6-36	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
8		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-83c.	
9		Analysis of O&A changes.	
10	CC-6-37	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
11		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-89b,	
12		PUB-MH I-93. AMI Assessment.	
13	CC-6-38	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
14		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-131,	
15		133. PCOSS.	
16	CC-6-39	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
17		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-131e.	
18		Actual Cost of Service Study (ACOSS).	
19	CC-6-40	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
20		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-133a.	
21		Vegetation management costs.	
22	CC-6-41	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
23		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-133a.	
24		PCOSS.	
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5		Consulting & Professional Fees.	
6	CC-6-43	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
7		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I- 62c.	
8		Keeyask investment.	
9	CC-6-44	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
10		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
11		134c,d. Keeyask Revenue.	
12	CC-6-45	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
13		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-135a,	
14		b. Bipole III.	
15	CC-6-46	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
16		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-136c-	
17		e. GNTL, MMTP - PCOSS24.	
18	CC-6-47	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
19		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-136f.	
20		OATT.	
21	CC-6-48	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
22		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-137a.	
23		Reconciliation of Revenue Requirement	
24		between PCOSS18, PCOSS21, and PCOSS24.	
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5		Water rental costs.	
6	CC-6-50	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
7		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
8		138b,g. Water rentals.	
9	CC-6-51	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
10		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-138f-	
11		g. Re-filed responses.	
12	CC-6-52	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
13		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-139.	
14		Full justification associated with the	
15		LED conversion program.	
16	CC-6-53	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
17		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-140.	
18		RCC Impacts by Class.	
19	CC-6-54	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
20		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-142,	
21		143. Zone of Reasonableness.	
22	CC-6-55	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
23		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-142.	
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5		Moving rates to unity.	
6	CC-6-57	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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8		Marginal cost.	
9	CC-6-58	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
10		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-149a.	
11		Rate Objectives.	
12	CC-6-59	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
13		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-	
14		152a,b. Revenue.	
15	CC-6-60	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
16		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-154.	
17		G&T costs / NER.	
18	CC-6-61	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
19		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-154.	
20		High-level assessment.	
21	CC-6-62	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
22		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-156.	
23		RCC.	
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3	CC-6-63	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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5		Customer views.	
6	CC-6-64	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
7		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-126e-	
8		f. Research.	
9	CC-6-65	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
10		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-126w.	
11		Survey questions.	
12	CC-6-66	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
13		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-127b.	
14		MaxDiff trade-off analysis.	
15	CC-6-67	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
16		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-51a,	
17		64a. Load growth.	
18	CC-6-68	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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20		b. Gross Firm Energy.	
21	CC-6-69	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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23		Updated table.	
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6	CC-6-71	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
7		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-63e.	
8		Codes and Standards.	
9	CC-6-72	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
10		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-64.	
11		Re-filed table.	
12	CC-6-73	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
13		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-25a-	
14		d. Debt reduction.	
15	CC-6-74	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
16		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-20a.	
17		Deferral of Capital Expenditures.	
18	CC-6-75	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
19		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-21a.	
20		Bi lateral firming contracts.	
21	CC-6-76	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
22		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-91a-	
23		e. Other category.	
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5		d. Major event days.	
6	CC-6-78	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
7		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-92a-	
8		d. Equipment failures.	
9	CC-6-79	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
10		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-93a-	
11		b. Equipment.	
12	CC-6-80	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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14		b. 26 value measures, and 26	
15		quantified risk values.	
16	CC-6-81	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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18		Desired levels of performance and risk.	
19	CC-6-82	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
20		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-95a.	
21		SAIDI and SAIFI.	
22	CC-6-83	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
23		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-974a-	
24		c. Equipment and asset classes.	
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5		h. Temperatures.	
6	CC-6-85	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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10		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-99a-	
11		h. Outages.	
12	CC-6-87	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
13		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-100a.	
14		AHI methodologies.	
15	CC-6-88	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
16		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-101a.	
17		Depreciation and Economic Life.	
18	CC-6-89	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
19		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-102a-	
20		c. Capital Investment Cost per Year.	
21	CC-6-90	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
22		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-105a.	
23		Generator Rotors, Generator Stators.	
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5		HVDC Converters - Valve Groups.	
6	CC-6-92	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
7		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-105a.	
8		HVDC Converters - Control and	
9		Protection.	
10	CC-6-93	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
11		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-105a.	
12		HVDC Converters - DC Wall Bushings.	
13	CC-6-94	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
14		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-105a.	
15		HVDC Converters - Voltage Divider.	
16	CC-6-95	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
17		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-105a.	
18		HVDC Converters - DC Current Transducer.	
19	CC-6-96	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
20		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-105a.	
21		High speed switches.	
22	CC-6-97	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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24		Cabling associated with DC yard	
25		equipment.	

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5		d. Run to failure assets.	
6	CC-6-99	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
7		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-108a-	
8		e. Investment risk.	
9	CC-6-100	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
10		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-108a-	
11		e. Domestic Peak and Load.	
12	CC-6-101	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
13		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-108a-	
14		e. Excess Capacity payments.	
15	CC-6-102	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
16		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-108a-	
17		e. Domestic load.	
18	CC-6-103	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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20		Pointe du Bois refurbishment.	
21	CC-6-104	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
22		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-109a	
23		Attachment 1. Export Sales.	
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5		b. Efficiency investment.	
6	CC-6-106	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
7		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-113a.	
8		Peak capacity.	
9	CC-6-107	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
10		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-114b-	
11		c. Firm obligations.	
12	CC-6-108	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
13		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-114b-	
14		c. Full technical capability.	
15	CC-6-109	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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17		c. Pointe du Bois Unit Replacement	
18		Project.	
19	CC-6-110	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
20		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-116a-	
21		c. SW Load Duration Curve.	
22	CC-6-111	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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24		c. Dorsey.	
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5		c. Consequences.	
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8		c. Remedial Action Scheme.	
9	CC-6-114	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
10		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-118a-	
11		c. Upgrade costs.	
12	CC-6-115	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
13		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-119a-	
14		c. Long Spruce and Kettle.	
15	CC-6-116	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
16		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-120a-	
17		d. AMI Business Case.	
18	CC-6-117	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
19		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-122a-	
20		m. Pointe du Bois, Wuskwatim.	
21	CC-6-118	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
22		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-122a-	
23		m. Business Cases.	
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5		m. CVF Model	
6	CC-6-120	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
7		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-122a-	
8		m. Consistent basis for comparison.	
9	CC-6-121	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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11		m. Asset Management and Risk	
12		Management processes.	
13	CC-6-122	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
14		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-122a-	
15		m. Resource Plan and Program spending.	
16	CC-6-123	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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18		m. Storage.	
19	CC-6-124	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
20		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-122a-	
21		m, Attachment 1. Value Points were	
22		calculated for Lost Generation Risk and	
23		Financial Risk.	
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5		m, Attachment 1. Lost Generation Risk,	
6		Financial Risk and Generation Revenue	
7		Benefit.	
8	CC-6-126	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
9		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-122a-	
10		m, Attachment 1. Value points	
11		attributed to Generation Revenue	
12		Benefit.	
13	CC-6-127	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
14		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-122a-	
15		m, Attachment 1. Security, Compliance	
16		and Lost Generation Risk.	
17	CC-6-128	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
18		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-122a-	
19		m, Attachment 1. Corporate Value	
20		Framework.	
21	CC-6-129	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
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23		m, Attachment 2. Dorsey Synchronous	
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5		m, Attachment 2. HVDC Wall Bushing	
6		investments.	
7	CC-6-131	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
8		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-123a-	
9		d. Grand Rapids-Kaplan.	
10	CC-6-132	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
11		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-123a-	
12		d. Draft tube.	
13	CC-6-133	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
14		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-124a-	
15		c. T-SAIDI and T-SAIFI.	
16	CC-6-134	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
17		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-129a.	
18		Manitoba priorities.	
19	CC-6-135	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
20		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-158a-	
21		c. Optimized system performance.	
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5		e. Copperleaf asset investment	
6		planning tool (the Corporate Value	
7		Framework ("CVF")).	
8	CC-6-137	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
9		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-160a-	
10		e. Incremental risks due to deferrals.	
11	CC-6-138	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
12		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I-160a-	
13		e. Capital investment justification.	
14	CC-6-139	CC-MH Round II Information Requests (1-	
15		138) - February 15, 2023. CC-MH I--91e	
16		Updated. Advanced Metering	
17		Infrastructure and Grid Modernization.	
18	CC-7	Intervener Evidence - Revenue	
19		Requirement Evidence - Mr. Darren	
20		Rainkie - April 3, 2023.	
21	CC-8	Intervener Evidence - Midgard	
22		Consulting Incorporated - April 3,	
23		2023.	
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4		MH Financial Issues - MPA Morrison Park	
5		Advisors Inc. - April 3, 2023.	
6	CC-9-1	Errata MPA Report - April 28, 2023.	
7	CC-10	Intervener Evidence - Kelly Derksen -	
8		April 3, 2023.	
9	CC-11	Consumers Coalition Comments -	
10		Offsetting 2022/23 Net Income Against	
11		RDA Balances - P. Bowman's	
12		Recommendation 4 - April 21, 2023.	
13	GSS-GSM-1	GSS-GSM Intervener application -	
14		November 24, 2022.	
15	GSS-GSM-2	GSS-GSMMH Round I Information Requests	
16		(1-9) - December 20, 2022.	
17	GSS-GSM-2-1	GSS-GSMMH Round I Information Requests	
18		(1-9) - December 20, 2022.	
19		International Financial Reporting	
20		Standards (IFRS).	
21	GSS-GSM-2-2	GSS-GSMMH Round I Information Requests	
22		(1-9) - December 20, 2022. IFRS-	
23		compliant ASL method.	
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5		Long term trends.
6	GSS-GSM-2-4	GSS-GSMMH Round I Information Requests
7		(1-9) - December 20, 2022. Budgeting.
8	GSS-GSM-2-5	GSS-GSMMH Round I Information Requests
9		(1-9) - December 20, 2022. Vacancy.
10	GSS-GSM-2-6	GSS-GSMMH Round I Information Requests
11		(1-9) - December 20, 2022. SAP and IT
12		Costs.
13	GSS-GSM-2-7	GSS-GSMMH Round I Information Requests
14		(1-9) - December 20, 2022. Vegetation
15		Management.
16	GSS-GSM-2-8	GSS-GSMMH Round I Information Requests
17		(1-9) - December 20, 2022. Forecast.
18	GSS-GSM-2-9	GSS-GSMMH Round I Information Requests
19		(1-9) - December 20, 2022. PCOSS24 RCC
20		Results.
21	GSS-GSM-2-10	GSS-GSMMH Round I Information Requests
22		(1-9) - December 20, 2022. Zone of
23		Reasonableness.
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4		(1-9) - December 20, 2022. General	
5		Service Consumption Profiles.	
6	GSS-GSM-2-12	GSS-GSMMH Round I Information Requests	
7		(1-9) - December 20, 2022. Figure	
8		8.12-8.14 working excel file.	
9	GSS-GSM-2-13	GSS-GSMMH Round I Information Requests	
10		(1-9) - December 20, 2022. Comparison	
11		to other jurisdictions.	
12	GSS-GSM-2-14	GSS-GSMMH Round I Information Requests	
13		(1-9) - December 20, 2022. Proposed	
14		Rates GSS and GSM.	
15	GSS-GSM-3	GSS-GSM letter to MH re: Round I	
16		Information Requests - January 13,	
17		2023.	
18	GSS-GSM-4	GSS-GSM-MH Round II Information	
19		Requests (1-7) - February 15, 2023.	
20	GSS-GSM-4-1	GSS-GSM-MH Round II Information	
21		Requests (1-7) - February 15, 2023.	
22		GSS-GSM-MH I-1i. Attachment - Updated	
23		Table.	
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17	MIPUG-5-12	MIPUG-MH I-112d. Load duration curves	
18	MIPUG-5-13	MIPUG-MH I-112a-b, 54a-d. Substation	
19		cost allocations	
20	MIPUG-5-14	MIPUG-MH I-109. Energy, demand and	
21		supply assumptions	
22	MIPUG-5-15	MIPUG-MH I-16. Hedging strategies	
23	MIPUG-5-16	MIPUG-MH I-18. Improvement initiatives	
24	MIPUG-5-17	MIPUG-MH I-19. SAIFI.	
25	MIPUG-5-18	MIPUG-MH I-10a-b. Inflation	

1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	Exhibit No.	Description	Page No.
3	MIPUG-5-19	MIPUG-MH I-21. Extreme variability	
4		inherent in MH's operations	
5	MIPUG-5-20	MIPUG-MH I-29. Improvement initiatives	
6	MIPUG-5-21	MIPUG-MH I-31a-b. Costs for	
7		implementation	
8	MIPUG-5-22	MIPUG-MH I-34a-b. Cost forecast	
9	MIPUG-5-23	MIPUG-MH I-84a-b. Rolling average	
10		forecast method	
11	MIPUG-5-24	MIPUG-MH I-1, 13. Rate design and price	
12		signals - demand charges	
13	MIPUG-5-25	MIPUG-MH I-90, 55. AMI capital	
14		investment and rate design	
15	MIPUG-5-26	MIPUG-MH I-48. Marginal values	
16	MIPUG-5-27	MIPUG-MH I-94a-d, PUB-MH I-130	
17		attachment. Gains and losses	
18	MIPUG-5-28	MIPUG-MH I-91r. Depreciation - whole	
19		life v. Remaining life comparisons	
20			
21	MIPUG-5-29	MIPUG-MH I-115b. Depreciation - IFRS	
22		restatement	
23	MIPUG-5-30	MIPUG-MH I-53d. Loss of disposal -	
24		Selkirk	
25			

1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	Exhibit No.	Description	Page No.
3	MIPUG-5-31	MIPUG-MH I-81a-e. Depreciation - ALG	
4		comparison concentric v. Alliance	
5	MIPUG-5-32	MIPUG-MH I-50a, 115d. PCOSS methods,	
6		transmission losses	
7	MIPUG-5-33	MIPUG-MH I-52a-d. Risk scenarios	
8	MIPUG-6	Intergroup intervener evidence - April	
9		3, 2023	
10	MIPUG-7	MIPUG letter to PUB re: prehearing	
11		conference number 2 - April 5, 2023	
12	MIPUG-8	MIPUG-CC Intervener Evidence	
13		Information Requests (1-7) - April 14,	
14		2023.	
15	MIPUG-8-1	MIPUG-CC Intervener Evidence	
16		Information Requests (1-7) - April 14,	
17		2023. Cost of service	
18	MIPUG-8-2	MIPUG-CC Intervener Evidence	
19		Information Requests (1-7) - April 14,	
20		2023. Midgard - customer opinions	
21	MIPUG-8-3	MIPUG-CC Intervener Evidence	
22		Information Requests (1-7) - April 14,	
23		2023. Midgard - operations and	
24		maintenance spending	
25			

1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	Exhibit No.	Description	Page No.
3	MIPUG-8-4	MIPUG-CC Intervener Evidence	
4		Information Requests (1-7) - April 14,	
5		2023. Midgard - reliability - impacts	
6		from events outside of MH control	
7	MIPUG-8-5	MIPUG-CC Intervener Evidence	
8		Information Requests (1-7) - April 14,	
9		2023. Midgard - reliability -	
10		transmission and sub- transmission	
11		served customers	
12	MIPUG-8-6	MIPUG-CC Intervener Evidence	
13		Information Requests (1-7) - April 14,	
14		2023. Midgard - reliability -	
15		vegetation management	
16	MIPUG-8-7	MIPUG-CC Intervener Evidence	
17		Information Requests (1-7) - April 14,	
18		2023. Midgard - reliability performance	
19		of generation	
20	MIPUG-9	MIPUG submission in respect of P.	
21		Bollman recommendation number 4, April	
22		21, 2023	
23	MIPUG-10	MIPUG reply in respect of P. Bowman	
24		recommendation number 4, April 26, 2023	
25			

1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	Exhibit No.	Description	Page No.
3	MKO-1	MKO intervener application - November	
4		24, 2022	
5	MKO-2	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
6		12) - December 20, 2022	
7	MKO-2-1	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
8		12) - December 20, 2022. Number of	
9		customers per group	
10	MKO-2-2	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
11		12) - December 20, 2022. Aggregated	
12		amount billed by group	
13	MKO-2-3	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
14		12) - December 20, 2022. Aggregated	
15		amount billed by group/total number of	
16		customers	
17	MKO-2-4	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
18		12) - December 20, 2022. Aggregated	
19		amount of unpaid arrears by group	
20	MKO-2-5	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
21		12) - December 20, 2022. Aggregated	
22		amount of unpaid arrears by group/total	
23		number of customers	
24			
25			

1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	Exhibit No.	Description	Page No.
3	MKO-2-6	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
4		12) - December 20, 2022. Accumulated	
5		aggregate amount of unpaid arrears by	
6		group	
7	MKO-2-7	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
8		12) - December 20, 2022. Accumulated	
9		aggregate amount of unpaid arrears by	
10		group/total number of customers	
11	MKO-2-8	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
12		12) - December 20, 2022. Unpaid arrears	
13	MKO-2-9	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
14		12) - December 20, 2022. Meaningful	
15		solutions	
16	MKO-2-10	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
17		12) - December 20, 2022. Settlement	
18		agreement - diesel zone	
19	MKO-2-11	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
20		12) - December 20, 2022. Rate increase	
21		for residential customers 2023/24	
22	MKO-2-12	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-	
23		12) - December 20, 2022. Rate increase	
24		for residential customers 2024/25	
25			

1		LIST OF EXHIBITS
2	MKO-2-13	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-
3		12) - December 20, 2022. Diesel zone
4		forecast 2023/2024
5	MKO-2-14	MKO-MH Round I Information Requests (1-
6		12) - December 20, 2022. Diesel zone
7		forecast 2024/2025
8	MKO-3	MKO-MH Round II Information Requests
9		(1-2) - February 15, 2023
10	MKO-3-1	MKO-MH I-10a-b. Settlement agreement -
11		diesel zone
12	MKO-3-2	AMC-MH I-30a-3. Disconnected accounts -
13		electricity cost effects on First
14		Nation northern residential customers.
15	MH-26	CV of Jay Grewal - May 15, 2023
16	MH-27	CV of Aurel Tess - May 15, 2023
17	MH-28	Policy presentation - May 15, 2023
18	CC-12	CC opening submissions - a Monopoly at
19		the Crossroads and Captive Consumers -
20		May 15, 2023
21	MIPUG-11	MIPUG opening statement - May 15, 2023
22	PUB-21	Winnipeg Free Press Article - May 3,
23		2023 page A8 - Saskatchewan looking
24		into whether Ottawa's emissions policy
25		can be blocked, Moe says.

1 --- Upon commencing at 9:03 a.m.

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good morning,
4 everyone. I now call this public hearing to order.
5 Welcome to the oral hearing portion of the Public
6 Utility (sic) Board's adjudication of Manitoba Hydro's
7 2023/'24 and '24/'25 General Rate Application.

8 While the hearing is being referred to
9 as a two (2) year General Rate Application, it also
10 includes the finalization of Manitoba Hydro's interim
11 rate -- rates that have been in effect since January
12 1st, 2022.

13 My name is Robert Gabor, and I'm the
14 Chair of the Public Utilities Board. I'm also the
15 Chair of the Panel hearing Manitoba Hydro's
16 application. I just say at the outset I'm going to
17 wear a mask because I have a cold. It is not COVID; I
18 have tested.

19 Ms. Bellringer's going to wear a mask
20 because I have a cold and she's afraid of getting
21 sick.

22 Joining me on the Panel are my
23 colleagues Marilyn Kapitany on my far right, George
24 Bass on my far left, Carol Bellringer on my immediate
25 left, and Hamath Sy on my immediate right.

1 The Board's Panel is assisted by Rachel
2 McMillin, the Associate Secretary to the Public
3 Utilities Board, as well as by Kristen Schubert, the
4 Board's Judicial Hearing Assistant.

5 The Board is also assisted by several
6 technical advisors: Brady Ryall and David Bonin of
7 Ryall Engineering; Roger Cathcart of Cathcart
8 Advisors; and Ian Innis and John Todd of Elenchus
9 Corporation.

10 Bob Peters and Sven Hombach of Fillmore
11 Riley LLP will act as Board counsel.

12 The Board also retained Daymark Energy
13 Advisors as an independent expert consultant to
14 provide evidence on the issues of Manitoba Hydro's
15 experts -- exports, as well as hydrology and drought
16 management. Unlike a hearing advisor that works for
17 the Board, an independent expert consultant is a third
18 party who provides evidence on the record that can be
19 tested by the other parties.

20 Wendy Woodworth from Digi-Tran will be
21 the reporter for this hearing. Digi-Tran will create
22 transcripts of all testimony, and the Board
23 anticipates that each transcript will be posted to the
24 Board's website within one (1) business day.

25 At the outset, we acknowledge the

1 Treaty 1 lands on which we are gathered for this
2 hearing, and the Treaty 2, 3, 4, and 5 lands included
3 in Manitoba Hydro's service territories are the
4 traditional territories of the Anishinaabe Cree, Oji-
5 Cree, Dakota, and Dene people, as well as the homeland
6 of the Metis Nation.

7 I would like to welcome the Manitoba
8 Hydro team to the hearing room, including Ms. Grewal,
9 Manitoba Hydro's CEO, who is joining today's session.
10 I would also like to welcome the five (5) Interveners
11 who were approved to participate in this hearing in
12 Order 130/'22.

13 The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, or
14 AMC, is the political and technical organization for
15 sixty-two (62) of the sixty-three (63) First Nations
16 in Manitoba. In this hearing, it will focus primarily
17 on the impact of rate increases on the First Nations
18 residential and general service customer -- customers.
19 The AMC has not filed evidence but will participate in
20 cross-examination.

21 The Consumers' Coalition is a coalition
22 consisting of the Manitoba branch of the Consumers'
23 Association of Canada, Harvest Manitoba, and the
24 Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg. It represents the
25 interests of residential ratepayers. The Consumers

1 Coalition has filed expert evidence on the record.

2 The representatives of the General
3 Service Small and General Service Medium customer
4 class, or GSS/GSM representative for short, represents
5 small and mid-size commercial customers. Like the
6 Consumers Coalition, it has filed evidence on the
7 record.

8 The Manitoba Industrial Power Users
9 Group, or MIPUG, represents large industrial
10 customers. MIPUG is an association of large energy
11 consumers working together on electricity matters.
12 MIPUG has also filed evidence on the record.

13 Lastly, Manitoba Keewatinowi
14 Okimakanak, or MKO, is a non-profit advocacy
15 association that represents more than sixty-five
16 thousand (65,000) Treaty First Nation citizens in
17 Manitoba. It is governed by the elected Chiefs of the
18 twenty-six (26) First Nations who are signatories to
19 Treaties 4, 5, 6, and 10.

20 MKO's intervention will focus on the
21 impact of rate increases on residential First Nations'
22 customers and on reconciliations -- reconciliation
23 issues. MKO has not filed evidence.

24 This Hearing will be transparently in
25 accordance with the Crown Corporation's Governance and

1 Accountability Act, the Public Utilities Board Act,
2 and the Board's Rule of Practice and Procedure. This
3 means the Hearing is open to the public and will be
4 live streamed on the Board's website.

5 The one (1) exception is an in camera
6 hearing this Friday that will occur behind closed
7 doors. The purpose of that Hearing is deal with
8 confidential information in accordance with rule 13 of
9 the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

10 Only the Board and its advisors,
11 Manitoba Hydro, and Daymark and its counsel may be
12 present for the in camera portion on Friday. This
13 portion of the Hearing will not be live streamed.

14 The Board's mandate is to fixed just
15 and reasonable rates that are in the public interest.
16 The Court of Appeal has defined this as balancing the
17 effect of rates on consumers with the financial health
18 of the utility.

19 Striking the right balance is
20 complicated and the Board expects to hear a number of
21 different and competing perspectives over the next few
22 weeks. The Panel will consider all of the evidence on
23 record, as well as the submissions of the parties
24 before rendering a decision. The Board's ruling will
25 be set out in a formal written Order to be issued

1 after the Hearing.

2 I will now turn the mic over to Board
3 counsel to discuss the procedure for today as well as
4 for the Hearing. Mr. Peters...?

5

6 OPENING COMMENTS BY BOARD COUNSEL:

7 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you. Good
8 morning, Mr. Chair, Madam Vice-chair, and to the new
9 members of the Public Utilities Board Hearing Panel,
10 Ms. Bellringer, Mr. Sy, and Mr. Bass, for whom this is
11 your first Manitoba Hydro Electric General Rate
12 Application.

13 I also extend a good morning to all of
14 Manitoba Hydro's witnesses, representatives of
15 Manitoba Hydro, and representatives of the
16 Interveners, together with their counsel and attendees
17 in this Hearing room.

18 Mindful of the Chair's comments, I also
19 acknowledge and welcome those participating and
20 monitoring the proceedings on the Board's website
21 through the Board's live stream.

22 For the record, my name is Bob Peters.
23 And together with my colleague, Sven Hombach seated to
24 my left, we are counsel to the Board. Roger Cathcart
25 at my far left, David Bonin next to Roger, and Brady

1 Ryall on my right also assist in this application.

2 Today is the beginning of the oral
3 evidentiary phase of Manitoba Hydro's General Rate
4 Application. Board counsel has worked with all of the
5 parties and participants to develop a workable
6 schedule for the next few weeks, and that schedule was
7 recently formalized in the Board's fifth procedural
8 Order, which is Order 57/'23. And Ms. Schubert has
9 appendix A, I believe, of that Order on the screens in
10 front of you.

11 Counsel have requested and have been
12 allocated specific time periods for their questioning,
13 so please adhere to your allocated time. If you are
14 in doubt, please see Board counsel. We have a
15 detailed Excel spreadsheet for you to -- to learn.

16 I will share the Chairman's comments,
17 that it's good to see everyone back in the hearing
18 room. And I see many new faces, and I welcome them.
19 I would like to use this as an opportunity to state
20 that we've not had a full Manitoba Hydro General Rate
21 Application since approximately 2018, a full five (5)
22 years ago.

23 There was an abbreviated 2019 General
24 Rate Application, a legislated rate increase during
25 the pandemic in 2020, and an interim application in

1 late 2021, so we have a bit of catching up to do.

2 And as the Board members are aware,
3 there is an extensive evidentiary record before you.
4 The role of legal counsel for all the parties and the
5 role of all the witnesses is to assist the Board
6 members in confirming and enhancing their
7 understanding of the record and clarifying any aspects
8 and issues on which questions remain.

9 And while I will repeat myself later, I
10 believe I'm speaking on behalf of all counsel and want
11 Board members to know that we welcome your
12 interruptions with questions at any time. By asking
13 your questions, you are assisting the parties in
14 focussing on matters that require clarification.

15 And recognizing that this is the first
16 Manitoba Hydro General Rate Application for some
17 members, I'm asking my legal colleagues and all
18 witnesses to be cautious when using acronyms as
19 electricity regulation has a jargon all onto itself
20 that is not necessarily intuitive.

21 Should the Board members hear of an
22 acronym or some terminology that they want to better
23 understand or have explained, please interrupt at any
24 time to get that clarification.

25 I'll also like to take a moment to

1 remind all counsel that when you are asking your
2 questions and using the technology in the room,
3 including the monitors in front of all of the
4 witnesses and the Board members, that if you are
5 attempting to assist the Board when referencing
6 specific documents, please provide a written list to
7 Ms. Schubert as long in advance as possible so that
8 documents can be sourced from the tens of thousands of
9 pages of the record of this proceeding.

10 Now, in turning to Manitoba Hydro's
11 application, this application is interesting for one
12 reason; that the application before the Board today is
13 not what was originally filed on November 15 of last
14 year.

15 In its original application, Manitoba
16 Hydro sought to finalize the January 1, 2022 3.6
17 percent interim increase and then sought an additional
18 two (2) years with each receiving a 3.5 increase in
19 general consumers revenue.

20 But on November 23rd, 2022, the
21 provincial government announced that it would reduce
22 the transfer payments to the government that Manitoba
23 Hydro is legally required to make by reducing both the
24 water rental fees and the provincial debt guarantee
25 fee each by 50 percent.

1 Manitoba Hydro then revised its
2 application and refiled on December the 9th. And
3 while Hydro continues to seek to finalize the January
4 1, 2022 3.6 percent interim increase, the Utility has
5 reduced its request for the remaining two (2) years.
6 It's reduced it down from 3.5 percent to an average of
7 2 percent increases for each of 2023/24 and 2024/25.
8 Those years will be referred to as the 'test years' in
9 this proceeding.

10 So at this time, the application that
11 is before the Board seeks approval for a finalization
12 of the 3.6 percent January 1, 2022 interim increase.
13 It also seeks an overall increase in general consumers
14 revenue of 2 percent, effective September 1, 2023.
15 And a further overall increase in general consumers
16 revenue of 2 percent on April 1st, 2024.

17 There's also final approval of light
18 emitting diode rates for the area and roadway lighting
19 class that are before the Board.

20 There is final approval of surplus
21 energy program and curtailable rates program interim
22 ex parte orders.

23 And Manitoba Hydro is seeking an
24 endorsement of various existing and proposed
25 regulatory deferral accounts.

1 Now, as the Panel will have noted, the
2 rate increases Manitoba Hydro seeks are not to be
3 applied uniformly across all customer classes.
4 Rather, Manitoba Hydro seeks to differentiate the
5 increases between classes to get some class revenues
6 closer to the amount of costs incurred to serve that
7 class. Whether that should happen or when that should
8 happen are issues before the Board.

9 I note that not all issues in the
10 General Rate Application will be subject to oral
11 evidence. In the Board's fourth procedural Order,
12 which is on the website found as Order 42 of 23, the
13 Board ruled that certain issues would be limited to
14 the written evidence that's been provided and the
15 written submissions that will follow.

16 I'm not going to go through that ruling
17 in detail, but I would remind the parties and refer
18 them to Appendix A of that Order, should they have
19 questions or concerns.

20 Now, as you requested, Mr. Chair,
21 turning to today's procedures, we will begin with a
22 presentation by Manitoba Hydro's President and Chief
23 Executive Officer, Ms. Jay Grewal. And also it's Vice
24 President and Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Aurel Tess.

25 And that will be followed by

1 questioning of the policy panel.

2 And the questioning of the Manitoba
3 Hydro witnesses panels will proceed with Board counsel
4 going first, followed alphabetically by Interveners,
5 unless they strike an arrangement amongst themselves
6 in a different order, and then if there's any reply
7 requested, that'll be the responsibility of Manitoba
8 Hydro to request.

9 Manitoba Hydro's legal counsel has --
10 has advised that Ms. Grewal has a -- a hard deadline
11 at 2:00 p.m. today, so we expect to finish her
12 questioning before then and we won't be requiring any
13 adjournment of her testimony if we do.

14 The remainder of the afternoon is
15 reserved for opening statement from all parties where
16 we will get to introduce ourselves, perhaps again, or
17 some of us will, and introduce the new -- the new
18 people who are joining us.

19 So, Mr. Chair, with that, I would
20 invite -- I would invite you to call upon Manitoba
21 Hydro legal counsel, Mr. Czarnecki to formally
22 introduce Ms. Grewal and Mr. Tess and then to have the
23 witnesses sworn before they begin Manitoba Hydro's
24 presentation.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr.

1 Czarnecki...?

2

3 OPENING COMMENTS BY MANITOBA HYDRO:

4 MR. BRENT CZARNECKI: Thank you Mr.
5 Chairman and good morning. Good morning Vice-Chair
6 Kapitan, members, Bellringer, Sy and Bass and
7 everyone in the room and anyone who's listening via
8 the live-stream.

9 Thank you, Mr. Peters, for the
10 comprehensive review of Manitoba Hydro's application.
11 It's appreciated. And thank you to everyone, Mr.
12 Chair, for the flexibility in accommodating Ms.
13 Grewal's schedule today, it's -- it's appreciated.

14 So, by way of introduction to my far
15 left is Ms. Jay Grewal, who is the President and Chief
16 Executive Officer of Manitoba Hydro. To my immediate
17 left is Mr. Aurel Tess, who is the Vice-President of
18 Finance and Chief Financial Officer of Manitoba Hydro.

19 For the record, I'm Brent Czarnecki and
20 my co-counsel behind me is Ms. Odette Fernandes, we
21 are counsel to Manitoba Hydro for this proceeding.

22 Immediately behind me is Mr. Ryan
23 McCormack, who is a new face to this Board and his
24 title is the Senior Director of Enterprise Excellence.
25 Sitting to the left of Mr. McCormack is Alastair Fogg

1 who is the Corporate Controller of Manitoba Hydro and
2 to his left is Ms. Shannon Gregorashuk, who is the
3 Director of Rates and Regulatory Affairs at Manitoba
4 Hydro.

5 Before I ask that the witnesses be
6 sworn, I just have three (3) housekeeping matters.
7 This morning, we did file the CVs of Ms. Grewal and
8 Mr. Tess, and if my numbering is correct, I think
9 those will be -- Ms. Grewal's will be Manitoba Hydro
10 Exhibit Number 26. Mr. Tess will be Number 27. And
11 the power-point presentation that they will deliver
12 this morning will be Number 28.

13 So, with that I would request that Ms.
14 McMillin, swear in the witnesses please.

15

16 --- EXHIBIT NO. MH-26: CV of Ms. Jay Grewal.

17

18 --- EXHIBIT NO. MH-27: CV of Mr. Aurel Tess.

19

20 --- EXHIBIT NO. MH-28: Manitoba Hydro presentation.

21

22 MANITOBA HYDRO POLICY PANEL:

23 JAY GREWAL, Affirmed

24 AUREL TESS, Affirmed

25

1 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR. CZARNECKI:

2 MR. BRENT CZARNECKI: Thank you. Ms.
3 Grewal, just three (3) questions for you to begin.

4 Can you confirm that the pre-filed
5 written evidence of Manitoba Hydro for this
6 application was prepared under your and Mr. Tess's
7 direction and control?

8 MS. JAY GREWAL: Yes, I confirm.

9 MR. BRENT CZARNECKI: And it is
10 accurate and true to the best of your knowledge and
11 belief?

12 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

13 MR. BRENT CZARNECKI: And do you adopt
14 the pre-filed written evidence of Manitoba Hydro on
15 behalf of the Corporation?

16 MS. JAY GREWAL: I do.

17 MR. BRENT CZARNECKI: Thank you, Ms.
18 Grewal.

19 Mr. Chairman, I -- I would, with your
20 permission, suggest that they proceed directly into
21 their power-point presentation, which is their direct
22 evidence.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Please
24 proceed.

25

1 CONTINUED BY MR. BRENT CZARNECKI:

2 MS. JAY GREWAL: Good morning, and
3 thank you, Mr. Chair, for the Land and Territorial
4 acknowledgment. We, as Manitoba Hydro, acknowledge
5 the lands and pay our respects to the ancestors of
6 these territories.

7 The legacy of the past remains a strong
8 influence on Manitoba Hydro's relationship with
9 Indigenous communities today, and we remain committed
10 to establishing and maintaining strong, mutually
11 beneficial relationships with Indigenous communities.

12 I would like to go to slide 3 of the
13 presentation. So, firstly, thank you for the
14 opportunity to be here today to speak to you about the
15 application before you.

16 This is now my, as well as Aurel's,
17 second time testifying in front of the Public
18 Utilities Board. The first being the Interim Rate
19 Application in 2021.

20 As part of my opening comments, I would
21 first like to discuss the evolving energy landscape
22 that Manitoba Hydro, like utilities around the globe
23 are currently operating in, and how Manitoba Hydro is
24 ensuring it meets customers expectations, not just
25 today, but also in the future.

1 Next, I will provide an update on
2 changes since we were last before the PUB for the
3 Interim Rate Application, and discuss the reasons for
4 the rate increases that bring us all here today.

5 You'll see on the next slide, our
6 mission statement, and we have shared this with --
7 with the PUB in the past.

8 So, since our last comprehensive
9 General Rate Application, though, this is new. And
10 we've implemented a new vision, mission, and developed
11 a new strategic direction, which we call Strategy
12 2040. And this is to guide Manitoba Hydro as we work
13 through the changes occurring in the energy industry.

14 Our Mission and our Mission Statement
15 is to help all Manitobans efficiently navigate the
16 evolving energy landscape, leveraging their clean
17 energy advantage while ensuring safe, clean, reliable
18 energy at the lowest possible cost.

19 This mission statement focusses on
20 providing our customers safe, clean, reliable energy
21 and it is core to our business. It's our focus on
22 helping our customers efficiently navigate the
23 evolving energy landscape so they can make the best
24 decisions for themselves and get the most value from
25 the renewable, dependable hydro electric and natural

1 gas system that they have all invested in.

2 Since I joined Manitoba Hydro over four
3 (4) years ago, I've been focussed on the current, and
4 also the future needs of our customers. And our
5 customers must be at the centre of everything we do.
6 Next slide.

7 Like many utilities around the world,
8 Manitoba Hydro is in a period of unprecedented change
9 and it's spurred by external forces. Continued growth
10 in digital technologies, paired with more industry
11 specific trends towards decom -- carbonization,
12 decentralized energy infrastructure, and choice for
13 utility customers, meaning we must adapt our
14 operations and our way of thinking.

15 The three (3) Ds are expanded in tab 2
16 of the Application. What we know today is that the
17 demand for electricity is growing. And indications
18 are that the demand in Canada is expected to grow by
19 two (2) to three (3) times what it is today.

20 Federal Energy and Climate Policy are
21 accelerating the pace of change, and I will expand on
22 that further in the next slide. We, as Manitoba
23 Hydro, are very closely monitoring the evolving energy
24 landscape and taking proactive steps to ensure we are
25 positioned to respond to the emerging needs and

1 expectations of our customers.

2 So, if we go to the next slide. The
3 three (3) Ds, when I've spoken with here in the past,
4 were the primary drivers of the evolution of the
5 energy landscape.

6 But now Federal Climate and Energy
7 Policy are accelerating the pace of these changes.
8 And I'd like to touch on a few of these.

9 The Canada Net-Zero Accountability Act;
10 it requires national emissions reduction targets be
11 set for 2030, 2035, 2040, and 2045, with the goal of
12 attaining Net-Zero emissions by 2050.

13 In March of 2022, the Government of
14 Canada released its first emission reduction plan,
15 outlining the current and proposed policies, as well
16 as \$9.1 billion in new investment, designed to achieve
17 and support the delivery of Government's 2030 emission
18 reduction targets.

19 There's also the Clean Energy
20 Regulations. Environment and Climate Change Canada
21 has taken multiple steps to develop clean electricity
22 regulations that aim for Canadian electricity
23 generation to achieve net zero greenhouse emissions by
24 2035, which is 12 years from today, by requiring
25 generating units to meet an emissions intensity

1 standard and pay a price for any remaining emissions.

2 This will position Canada to meet its
3 broader goal of achieving net zero emissions economy-
4 wide, by 2050 and, in developing these regulations, it
5 will be important for Government to balance emission
6 reductions with affordability and reliability.

7 In the federal budget for 2023, the
8 Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit was introduced
9 and this tax credit and this budget invests heavily in
10 the clean economy, particularly on clean energy to
11 power a green transition, supporting clean
12 manufacturing and transitioning large industrials to
13 net zero.

14 One example is the proposed Clean
15 Electricity Investment Tax Credit, which will offer a
16 15 percent credit for refurbishment and new projects
17 of non-emitting generation. This includes large
18 hydro, abated natural gas fire generation, inter-
19 provincial transmission, and stationary electric
20 storage, and it's available until 2034.

21 Electricity Canada, where I am the
22 first Vice-Chair, was a strong advocate for this
23 investment tax credit, to apply to all no-taxable
24 entities because when it was originally introduced, it
25 would not apply to non-taxable entities, and Manitoba

1 Hydro specifically and independently lobbied for that
2 15 percent credit to apply.

3 Canada Electricity Advisory Council is
4 the most recent development. Earlier this month, the
5 Minister of Natural Resources launched the Canada
6 Electricity Advisory Council. An independent body of
7 19 experts will provide the Government of Canada with
8 advice on actions needed to achieve the 2035 and 2050
9 net zero emission goals, as they pertain to
10 electricity.

11 This newly-formed electricity council
12 will provide advice to the Minister to accelerate
13 investment and promote sustainable, affordable, and
14 reliable electricity systems. The council's work will
15 cover both the reduction of emissions in the
16 electricity sector that are needed to achieve net zero
17 by 2035 and the rapid growth anticipated of
18 electricity generation needed to power a net zero
19 emissions economy in 2050.

20 Part of the council's mandate is to
21 identify regulatory and policy opportunities to
22 promote and enable sustainable, affordable, reliable
23 electricity systems, optimizing and leveraging
24 regional strengths and clean energy resource
25 endowments.

1 I would now like to speak to Energy
2 Policy Provincial and the Integrated Resource Plan.
3 Manitoba Hydro started the process to develop an IRP a
4 little -- almost two (2) years ago. Development of
5 the IRP and supporting government policy advancement,
6 such as energy policy, are key near-term strategic
7 initiatives in our strategy.

8 Manitoba Hydro's nearing completion of
9 its first-ever IRP. There were four (4) rounds of
10 broad stake-holder engagement and these disengagement
11 informed our analysis of different potential futures
12 and the preliminary outcomes of the IRP and the IRP is
13 anticipated to be published sometime between now and
14 the fall.

15 The future scenarios developed in the
16 IRP are sufficiently broad to incorporate known and
17 potential policy. Successful completion of the IRP
18 has and will continue to inform us on the energy
19 transition underway, including the pace of change.

20 There is opportunities for learnings
21 from the IRP to help inform implications of potential
22 energy policy provincially. Manitoba Hydro has and
23 will continue to offer the Province of Manitoba
24 expertise, data, and insight to support development of
25 energy policy.

1 What we know for certain is that the
2 future will be very different than the past. Strategy
3 2040 helps us to manage these challenges, to minimize
4 risk, and take a proactive step to manage supply,
5 demand, and to maximize the value of existing assets
6 while minimizing costs as we look forward to
7 collaboratively engaging with the PUB, customers, and
8 other interested parties including as we work through
9 transitioning to a new regulatory framework and
10 navigating the evolving energy landscape.

11 We are a combined natural gas and
12 vertically integrated electric utility. Manitoba
13 Hydro is in a unique and advantageous position that we
14 are able to consider and plan for the evolving energy
15 landscape in a much more holistic way than other
16 utilities and in other jurisdictions.

17 With the fully integrated nature of our
18 electric and natural gas operations, we, as Manitoba
19 Hydro, believe there are benefits in pursuing a
20 combined application and regulatory review process to
21 better enable more fulsome discussions of how the
22 evolving energy landscape could impact supply and
23 demand of both electricity and natural gas in the
24 province, how this impacts our costs and ultimately
25 rates for customer.

1 And this is one (1) example of an
2 opportunity where we will be looking forward to
3 engaging with the PUB and Interveners to discuss this
4 approach.

5 Our Strategy 2040 is directional. It
6 looks out past the 2030s. And as I've shared in the
7 past, the reason why we needed to look out that far is
8 the technology that is emerging that will impact the
9 evolving energy landscape, and some of the key pieces
10 of that won't emerge until the 2030s.

11 So what are we doing right now? This
12 is our three (3) year aspiration. This is the view
13 for Manitoba Hydro to take us to 2026. So what we've
14 done is we've prioritized our portfolio of initiatives
15 focussed on setting direction for the next three (3)
16 years.

17 And what we call our three (3) year
18 aspiration and what is at the heart of this is a key
19 phrase which you'll hear me coming back to: Manitoba
20 Hydro is performing while transforming.

21 We truly have amazing people here at
22 Manitoba Hydro. Day in and day out, our people keep
23 the lights on and the gas flowing. They keep this
24 province running, and they are also tasked with
25 preparing Manitoba Hydro for the future, and striking

1 this balance is what 'performing while transforming'
2 is all about.

3 Creating this three (3) year aspiration
4 sets a tone. The near-term view helps us to make
5 choices today and prioritize to ensure we can plan for
6 the future effectively while serving our customers'
7 needs today.

8 Through prioritization, we are better
9 able to manage risks. We can plan for and use our
10 limited resources more effectively to achieve our most
11 important near-term goals.

12 Going a little more in-depth here, the
13 three (3) year aspiration explains and speaks to our
14 need to optimize and improve the efficiency of the
15 current business. This means continuing to optimize
16 our business model in a number of aspects, whether
17 it's people, process, technology, and data.

18 The second part of our three (3) year
19 aspiration speaks to or explains we need to set the
20 organizational foundations and capabilities to
21 accelerate Manitoba Hydro's transformation and journey
22 to realize on Strategy 2040.

23 We like to think of this as, when you
24 build a house, you need to ensure the foundation is
25 solid before you start painting or decorating. We

1 know the energy transition is already underway. The
2 IRP has informed us of that. And we also know that
3 this pace is accelerating. So we, as Manitoba Hydro,
4 need to continue setting the right foundation to
5 prepare: 'performing while transforming'.

6 We remain fully committed to Strategy
7 2040. The three (3) year aspiration I just shared
8 helps clarify what this near-term view is. This
9 means, in the three (3) year view, we see a higher
10 emphasis on three (3) of our five (5) pillars, pillar
11 1, 5, and 2.

12 Pillar 1 provides safe, reliable energy
13 that responsibly meets the evolving energy needs of
14 Manitobans.

15 Pillar 2: serve customers efficiently,
16 responsibly, and digitally.

17 And pillar 5: keeping energy prices as
18 low as possible while providing the level of service
19 Manitobans expect.

20 This means we expect to see a higher
21 emphasis in areas such as safety; employee experience,
22 culture, and inclusion; system reliability; employee
23 effort reduction and efficiency; and customer
24 experience.

25 All of this lines up with and further

1 emphasizes the key drivers of the Application before
2 the PUB today. I'm very excited about our three (3)
3 year aspiration and how it helps to further elaborate
4 on our priorities in the next couple of years.

5 So I've been speaking to what is
6 happening externally to us and policy. I've also
7 spoken to Strategy 2040 and shared with you what we're
8 focussed on in the coming three (3) years. I'd now
9 like to speak to updates since the 2017 full GRA that
10 was before this Board.

11 Since Manitoba Hydro's last full GRA,
12 2017/'18, a number of events have occurred that have
13 had a significant impact on operations and our
14 customers. And this includes the COVID-19 pandemic
15 which had significant impacts on society broadly
16 across the globe, and it changed a number of ways in
17 which we, as Manitoba Hydro, operate, and it continues
18 to impact our O&A costs today.

19 The Keeyask generating -- generating
20 station was placed fully in service in 2022 and is the
21 last of the major capital projects that have been
22 underway in the subject of regulatory proceedings
23 since 2013.

24 All seven (7) units -- generating units
25 at Keeyask are now in service. They came into service

1 ahead of schedule, and the project is trending towards
2 being completed approximately 500 million below the
3 current budget of \$8.7 billion, and this is despite
4 almost two (2) years of pandemic health and travel
5 restrictions and disruption.

6 The Keeyask Project, following the
7 partnership model we established with Wuskwatim,
8 ensures that the communities impacted by the project
9 will derive ongoing, lasting benefits.

10 Manitoba Hydro and its customers, we
11 benefited from record low interest rates during the
12 construction of these major capital projects, and that
13 is both Keeyask and Bipole III. This helped reduce
14 the total cost of these projects.

15 However, the interest rate environment,
16 as we're all well aware, has shifted to a period of
17 multiple interest rate increases in a single year to
18 address inflation which is placing pressure on finance
19 expense.

20 Plus over a two (2) year time frame,
21 Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro experienced both a drought
22 and record high water flows. This is an example of
23 the degree of volatility we face as a province and as
24 Manitoba Hydro every single year, and it impacts our
25 operations, as well as we have many other external

1 factors such as weather that also impacts customer
2 usage and, most recently, what we saw happening in the
3 export prices.

4 Another change: the provincial
5 government introduced Bill 36. This sets out changes
6 to the regulatory framework in Manitoba including the
7 establishment of financial targets and other metrics
8 that will guide rate setting starting April 1st, 2025.

9 And lastly, as has been called out
10 already, the provincial government announced it was
11 reducing by 50 percent both the provincial guarantee
12 fee and the water rental fee charged to Manitoba
13 Hydro, and this reduction was applied retroactively
14 back to April 1, 2022.

15 It is important to note that what has
16 remained the same since our last GRA and the Interim
17 Application is that our customers continue to expect
18 stable and predictable rates, and we remain fully
19 committed to meeting and fulfilling our legislated
20 mandate to provide safe, reliable energy services to
21 customers.

22 Together, the proposed rate increases
23 in this application, reduction in payments to
24 government, and new rate-setting regulatory framework
25 under the Act form part of a plan that will ensure

1 Manitoba Hydro can continue to meet customer
2 expectations with respect to affordable, clean energy,
3 safe, reliable service, and become a finan --
4 financially healthy utility that Manitobans can rely
5 on for their energy needs now and in the future.

6 In terms of Bill 36, this was
7 introduced by the provincial government on November
8 3rd of 2022 as a Manitoba Hydro Amendment and Public
9 Utilities Board Amendment Act. The Act sets out
10 changes to the regulatory framework in Manitoba
11 including the establishment of financial targets and
12 other metrics that will guide rate setting commencing
13 April 1st, 2025.

14 Among these charges are requirements
15 and parameters for rate setting for electric rates, a
16 rate cap on rate increases going forward, which is
17 either at the rate of inflation or 5 percent,
18 whichever is less.

19 The debt ratio target; 80 percent by
20 March 31st, 2035, and 70 percent by March 31st, 2040.

21 While these changes are not fully in
22 effect until April 1, 2025, given these are long-term
23 targets, they are a vital consideration in Manitoba
24 Hydro's long-term financial forecast scenario and the
25 establishment of a smooth rate path.

1 There are other key changes outlined in
2 the legislation to promote efficiency in the
3 regulatory process and to strengthen the role of the
4 PUB, and this includes new requirements for review by
5 the PUB of major new facility, power purchases, and
6 export contracts, requirement for an IRP, and there is
7 a process for review.

8 And these changes align with the
9 evolving energy landscape, for example, enabling the
10 retain sale of power for electric vehicle charging
11 infrastructure.

12 Additionally, as the evolving energy
13 landscape evolves, the regulation also speaks to the
14 need for the PUB to be appropriately resourced so that
15 it is best positioned to play the role it needs to as
16 we collectively navigate the evolving energy
17 landscape.

18 I'd now specifically like to turn to
19 what we're here to discuss today, which is our General
20 Rate Application.

21 Tab 3 of our application outlines key
22 reasons why Manitoba Hydro has brought forward an
23 application to the PUB with respect to rate increases
24 in the current and next fiscal year.

25 Our Revenue Requirement Panel will

1 review those in detail when they appear before this
2 Panel in the coming weeks. However, as part of my
3 opening comments today, there are a few key matters
4 from our application that are summarized on this slide
5 that I would like to address as part of my opening
6 comments, and these truly highlight the importance of
7 our application to all Manitobans.

8 The rate increases and rate path put
9 forward in this application incorporates the reduction
10 in payments to government.

11 As was pointed out earlier, we have
12 amended the application from our original 3 1/2
13 percent to 2 percent increases for fiscal '23/'24 and
14 '24/'25. And this allowed us to pass savings to our
15 customers in the form of lower rate increases. And
16 this was especially important as we know customers are
17 struggling with the cost of living.

18 Through surveys and other engagement
19 initiatives, our customers, who are being represented
20 by Intervener groups here today, have told us that
21 their preferences for Manitoba Hydro to find a balance
22 between making the necessary investments that are
23 needed to maintain service levels, needed to maintain
24 reliability while keeping rates affordable.

25 Our customers have also told us that

1 our service levels are not in line with their
2 expectations, including wait times in our call centre
3 time-for-service connections.

4 In tab 3 of our application we've
5 outlined our rate proposal was guided by a number of
6 key priorities that give consideration to the best
7 interests of all Manitobans today and in the future
8 with the intention being to balance the impact on our
9 customers, compliance with new legislation, and
10 resources needed to continue to provide safe,
11 reliable, and responsive service.

12 As providing safe reliable energy to
13 customers is in our mandate, it is essential that we
14 increase our FTE levels and make the investments in
15 our systems to ensure we are being responsive to our
16 customers and we can continue to meet our mandate.

17 Our application outlines our plan on
18 how we intend to do that even with inflationary rate
19 caps and how we will continue to keep our customers'
20 bills amongst the lowest in Canada.

21 So, on November 23rd, 2022, when the
22 province announced that it was changing the provincial
23 guarantee fee and water rental fee that it charges
24 Manitoba Hydro by 50 percent, over the 20-year
25 financial forecast scenario, the direct savings from

1 the reduction of these fees is estimated to total
2 approximately \$4 billion.

3 Savings are to be applied to debt and
4 reducing debt, and it will also minimize new debt to
5 help financially stabilize Manitoba Hydro while
6 simultaneously keeping rates low for customers.

7 This material change allowed us to
8 amend the rate increase we are seeking for fiscal
9 '23/'24 and '24/'25, as well as the proposed long-term
10 rate path.

11 The figure on this slide shows the
12 impact of this on the revenue collected from our
13 customers, and it shows a difference between the 2
14 percent rate path compared to the rate path that was
15 in our original application. It also shows that the
16 reduction in payments to government means that less
17 revenue needs to be collected from customers, and that
18 is totalling \$4 billion.

19 Bill 36 and the decision by government
20 to reduce the provincial debt guarantee fee and water
21 rentals have significant impact on our finances, and
22 you can see that on the next slide.

23 While establishing the rate path, we
24 considered these changes while keeping in mind what is
25 in the best interests of all Manitobans today and in

1 the future.

2 Stable and predictable rate growth for
3 customers while keeping rates low compared to other
4 jurisdictions is a priority for Manitoba Hydro.
5 Additionally, providing safe and reliable service to
6 customers requires a solid foundation of financial
7 strength. Gradually improving our financial health
8 will benefit Manitobans.

9 Our focus is on balancing each of these
10 priorities. Focussing on maximizing any -- any single
11 priority could impact the achievement of the other
12 priorities. The 2 percent rate path we believe
13 strikes an appropriate balance in achieving each of
14 the outlying priorities, and it is the lower rate
15 trajectory for Manitoba Hydro for several years.

16 So, if we go to the next slide, I'd
17 like to share and speak to what our customers are
18 telling us because we've proactively and repeatedly
19 been engaging with our customers.

20 The balance between low predictable
21 rate increases and ensuring system reliability is not
22 just a Manitoba Hydro priority, it is also something
23 we hear from all of our customer classes, and we hear
24 from them directly.

25 And we're committed to continuously

1 engaging with and learning from our customers. This
2 was foundational in the development of our long-term
3 strategy, and it will be foundational how we will
4 continue to meet our customer needs in the evolving
5 energy landscape.

6 Through these direct engagements with
7 our customers and these research projects we've
8 undertaken, we are hearing that customers are asking
9 us for a balanced approach.

10 In a 2019 customer survey value
11 perception study we did we say a customer preference
12 for spending what was needed to decrease the number of
13 outages and the duration of outages. Again, they are
14 asking us for a balanced approach.

15 These survey findings are further
16 validated through the evidence that was filed by MIPUG
17 when it -- they say in their evidence:

18 "It is far more costly to industrial
19 customers to be delayed in getting
20 their new service connected or to
21 suffer from outages or voltage
22 instability or other power quality
23 issues that arise than it is
24 beneficial to have the lowest rates."

25 We take these comments to heart.

1 Reliability is at the core of everything we do. And
2 as we continue to operate our aging assets and observe
3 the downward trend of our reliability indicators, with
4 declining reliability performance, we see that, in
5 order to honour our customer request for balance, we
6 must take action now.

7 Our reliability and responsiveness
8 cannot continue to decline and still meet the needs
9 and expectations of our customers.

10 We know reliability is important to our
11 customers, but we also know responsiveness is
12 important. Related to this issue, the PUB have asked
13 Manitoba Hydro in an Information Request about how we
14 currently track and measure performance with respect
15 to customer responsiveness.

16 What we know, from the service levels
17 we track, is that our performance has deteriorated
18 over the last number of years. For example, a
19 customer engagement centre is currently answering the
20 phone, on average, after eleven (11) minutes. And
21 that increased from a little over one (1) minute in
22 2017 to over eleven (11) minutes today.

23 In 2022, over 30 percent of calls were
24 not answered because customers abandoned the call,
25 rather than wait. And less than half of surveyed

1 customers indicated that the wait time of eleven (11)
2 minutes was reasonable.

3 If we speak to our commercial and
4 industrial customers, what our commercial and
5 industrial customers are telling us is that
6 reliability and responsiveness are critical to their
7 business effectiveness based on consistent qualitative
8 feedback from our developers and home builders,
9 telling us that our service levels are unacceptable
10 and declining.

11 So the Customer Journey Optimization
12 Initiative prioritized two (2) commercial industrial
13 processes to better understand the customer service
14 satisfaction level and expectations. And in that
15 work, we discovered that our complex service
16 connection durations have increased in the last four
17 (4) years, which is consistent with what our customers
18 have been telling us.

19 Additionally, we've developed a Voice
20 of the Customer Program for our commercial service
21 connection process, where 33 percent of customers
22 indicated it was not easy to complete their project,
23 and 49 percent of customers told us that the project
24 was not completed in a reasonable amount of time.

25 We hear consistently from repeat

1 customers, like our developers and home builders, that
2 our time lines have increased in duration over the
3 last five (5) to six (6) years, and that is negatively
4 impacting their business.

5 Increasing FTE, as outlined in this
6 GRA, will support maintaining reliability, ensure
7 service levels do not further decline, and support the
8 investment of new initiatives for the implementation,
9 for example, of digital self-serve options, customer
10 research, and processing continuous evaluation to
11 ensure we understand our customers' needs specific to
12 our service and prioritize improvements based on their
13 input.

14 I'd also like to speak to the operating
15 and admin costs, our O&A costs. They are increasing
16 and they are increasing because we need to ensure we
17 continue to provide safe, clean, reliable energy,
18 operating as efficiently and effectively as possible.

19 The largest component of Manitoba
20 Hydro's O&A costs is related to wages, salaries,
21 overtime, and benefits. And that makes up 70 to 75
22 percent of our O&A in fiscal years 2023 to 2025.

23 The increases in these fiscal years are
24 a combination of increasing FTEs to post-VDP levels.
25 And are also related to wages and salaries increasing

1 not only through negotiation with bargaining units,
2 but also as mandated by Labour Board and labour
3 arbitrators.

4 The FTE increases are required.

5 While we committed to the 15 percent
6 reduction in staffing levels through the VDP, which
7 started in 2017, and when we were hit with the
8 pandemic and the need to reduce costs further to
9 assist government in cost-saving measures, the hiring
10 freeze that was put in place at that time stalled
11 hiring our trainee programs. All while we experienced
12 higher attrition levels coming out of the pandemic.

13 This further reduced our FTEs by about
14 almost another 10 percent or a total FTE reduction of
15 25 percent.

16 What we have seen through these
17 reductions is that our customer service levels have
18 been impacted. And that, I highlighted in my earlier
19 slides.

20 But this is having even greater
21 impacts. This is -- the reduced FTE is only allowing
22 us to complete 75 percent of planned maintenance on
23 our assets with the resources that we have.

24 We are also significantly behind
25 industry standards on our Vegetation Management

1 Program. The industry standard is to maintain a tree
2 trimming cycle time of six (6) years. At Manitoba
3 Hydro, it is seventeen (17) years. This contributes
4 to increased outages and we cannot continue on this
5 trend.

6 Our primary focus for recruitment is on
7 building the trades and technical trainee programs.
8 These programs take two (2) to four (4) years before
9 individuals are deemed qualified to work
10 independently. Therefore, adding to our FTE levels
11 now does not mean we will see an improvement
12 overnight. But over the longer term, as we increase
13 our technical capability and our technical FTE,
14 problems should not continue to get worse.

15 There's also the digital and technology
16 costs that are contributing to our increased O&A.
17 We've spoken about digitalization as one of the three
18 (3) D's that is a driving force in the evolving and
19 changing energy landscape. Utilities have generally
20 lagged broader industry in adopting cloud-based
21 services, but the shift is now well underway.

22 As highlighted in tab 6 of the
23 application, in a 2021 end user cloud study that was
24 done by Gartner, 71 percent of utility respondents
25 cited that their organizations will increase their

1 cloud spend over the next twelve (12) months. And
2 Gartner, in '21, also found that utility response --
3 respondents reported the top outcomes achieved by
4 adopting cloud include improved productivity, improved
5 efficiency, cost optimization, and enabled digital
6 business strategy.

7 I'd also like to highlight that the
8 shift to cloud computing was accelerated with remote
9 work requirements. And the shift was from on premise
10 to cloud computing.

11 We also are seeing an increased spend
12 on cyber security because utilities are a top target
13 of cyber criminals. And we have to continually,
14 constantly ensure that our system is not threatened by
15 cyber criminals.

16 Rising inflation has also had an impact
17 on O&A cost, overall increasing particularly on motor
18 vehicles, fuel, equipment, and material costs,
19 contracted services, and travel expenditure.

20 So let's also just speak about our
21 Capital Expenditure Plan. Manitoba Hydro is an asset
22 intensive organization. We have approximately 29
23 billion in electric assets that span the entire
24 province.

25 We have, in the last decade, doubled

1 our assets in terms of the book value. These assets
2 are core to our business and some of these assets are
3 very complex. And while we have added these new large
4 assets to our systems, we also have many aging assets
5 that are in need of investment with some of our assets
6 being over one hundred (100) years old.

7 Sustainment of our existing assets is
8 the primary focus of our capital plan and this is
9 shown in the chart because over half of our Capital
10 Expenditure Plan is related to sustainment, related to
11 sustaining these aging assets.

12 Increased investments related to the
13 replacement and refurbishment of aging assets is
14 required. It's required to maintain the required
15 levels of performance and mitigate risk related to
16 safety, reliability, compliance, and that includes
17 regulatory compliance to third parties and the
18 environment.

19 The Capital Expenditure Plan also
20 includes future plans, which are shown starting in
21 around 2035. And these are identified based on need
22 stake, new sources of generation.

23 I also want to highlight that the
24 capital planning process and the resulting Capital
25 Expenditure Plan follow a rigorous planning review and

1 testing process.

2 I'd now like to speak to more broadly
3 what is happening with electricity rates in Canada.
4 What this slide shows you is that some of the
5 increases that have recently been approved in other
6 Canadian jurisdictions.

7 Similar to Manitoba, other utilities
8 are facing inflationary pressure, rising interest
9 rates and the need to make investments in aging
10 infrastructure in order to provide safe and reliable
11 service to customers.

12 Manitoba Hydro's proposed 2 percent
13 rate increase is the lowest among the utilities and is
14 in line with B.C. Hydro.

15 The graph on the right side of this
16 chart shows that even with the 2 percent rate
17 increases, that we've proposed for September 1, 2023
18 and April 1, 2024, and by -- and we hold the rates of
19 other utilities at their April 1st, 2022 levels. And
20 we know increases have recently been approved.
21 Manitobans will continue to have the lowest
22 electricity rates in Canada.

23 So, in conclusion, in developing our
24 application that is before the PUB today, we put a
25 concerted effort and focus on being open, transparent

1 and supportive, with the goal to build trust and
2 confidence in the face of uncertainty.

3 We have tried to honour these
4 principles throughout the review process and over the
5 coming weeks, we will continue to honour that.

6 We will be presenting a series of
7 panels with subject matter expert, that will speak to
8 the issues relevant in this GRA. And we are looking
9 forward to appearing before this panel to provide
10 information that will assist the PUB in making a
11 decision on our application.

12 Going forward, we remain committed with
13 and supporting the PUB in transitioning to new
14 regulatory frameworks and understanding and addressing
15 the evolving energy landscape.

16 This concludes my remarks and I look
17 forward to and would be pleased to answer any policy-
18 related questions. Thank you.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Just a
20 second, please.

21 Mr. Peters, any idea how long your
22 cross will take? Well, no, the only reason I say is,
23 I don't like interrupting crosses. You -- you know,
24 where you're half way through and then we'll take the
25 morning break.

1 MR. BOB PETERS: Well, Mr. Chair, as I
2 mentioned earlier, counsel had put in their time
3 requests and we looked at our schedules, and I -- I
4 will be eighty-five (85) minutes. And that's the time
5 I have allotted. I have seven (7) topics to cover. I
6 can be interrupted along the way on those topics, if
7 it suits the Board, but your breaks are welcome
8 whenever the Panel chooses.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, you know what,
10 I think we're going to take ten (10) minutes now.
11 Here -- here is what I would ask. I don't have the
12 schedule. So, I would ask from you, if you could --
13 unless you have already discussed with counsel, give
14 me the order and the time allotment, because if
15 counsel agreed to it, I'll keep them to it.

16 We'd like to complete Ms. Grewal's
17 testimony today, but as we indicated earlier, if we
18 run out of time, we're going to have to ask you to
19 return.

20 Questions should focus on policy. I'd
21 ask the questions be directed on policy; the answers
22 just be succinct so that we could complete. If we
23 need to go into the lunch hour we're going to the
24 lunch hour, but the Interveners and all the parties
25 need a full opportunity to -- to complete their cross-

1 examination and counsel requires time to do a re-
2 direct as well and we want to make sure it's -- the
3 record's complete.

4 So, with that, we'll take ten (10)
5 minutes now. Thank you.

6

7 --- Upon recessing at 10:10 a.m.

8 --- Upon resuming at 10:22 a.m.

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sorry. Two (2)
11 things before we start cross-examination. Number 1,
12 we will be going into the -- into the lunch break
13 because I have the time allocations which Mr. Peters
14 will be enforcing ruthlessly.

15 And secondly, the -- the Board -- I
16 neglected to say that the Board Panel members will
17 also be asking questions at any time during the cross-
18 examination period, so thank you.

19 Mr. Peters...?

20

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. BOB PETERS:

22 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. Thank
23 you, Mr. Chair, and good morning, Ms. Grewal and Mr.
24 Tess. I have some housekeeping and some background
25 that I'm going to take the liberty of doing on behalf

1 of all counsel to hopefully facilitate not just this
2 panel, but also your colleagues. And I will ask that
3 your legal counsel either share the transcript or the
4 sentiment.

5 As you will know, my name is Bob
6 Peters, and as counsel to the Board, I'll have some
7 questions for you. I have approximately seven (7)
8 topics that I want in my eighty-five (85) minutes or
9 less, and your assistance in your responses will be
10 appreciated.

11 To the board members, and while counsel
12 will have questions of these witnesses and all
13 witnesses, the most important questions are the ones
14 you will have. And I want to repeat that. And
15 because of that, and on behalf of the counsel who will
16 be asking questions, we want you to interject your
17 questions as and when they arise.

18 Now, questions from the Panel members
19 will also assist counsel in understanding whether
20 their point is understood and they should move on, or
21 whether the witness's responses have been helpful to
22 the Panel or not.

23 All right. Turning to you, Ms. Grewal
24 and Mr. Tess, and also on behalf of all who will be
25 asking questions, I wanted to remind you that not only

1 you but all Manitoba Hydro witnesses when they are
2 asked questions, none of those questions are designed
3 to elicit responses that would put confidential or
4 commercially sensitive information on the public
5 record.

6 Would that be understood and agreed?

7 MR. AUREL TESS: Yes.

8 MR. BOB PETERS All right.

9 MS. JAY GREWAL: Yes.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you. And
11 should any Manitoba Hydro witness believe that to
12 fully answer any questions and to assist this Board,
13 that that witness needs to provide the Board with
14 confidential information, then that witness should
15 speak with Ms. Fernandes or Mr. Czarnecki, and that
16 information can be provided to the Board in an
17 appropriate fashion.

18 Is that understood and agreed?

19 MS. JAY GREWAL: Yes.

20 MR. AUREL TESS: Yes.

21 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you very much.

22 And lastly, by way of preliminary questions, Ms.
23 Grewal and Mr. Tess, is it understood that even if a
24 question is addressed to one (1) particular Manitoba
25 Hydro witness, any other witness can also supplement

1 the response so that this Board has the full evidence
2 from Manitoba Hydro?

3 MS. JAY GREWAL: Yes.

4 MR. AUREL TESS: Yes.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. Thank you
6 for that.

7 Let's turn then to Board counsel book
8 of documents which is marked as PUB Exhibit 19-1. I
9 think that was provided to your counsel a week ago,
10 and I'm not suggesting you will have memorized it, but
11 it'll guide our discussion this morning.

12 On page 6 of that document, there is
13 Appendix 4.1 Amended from the December 9th, 2022, GRA
14 filing, correct?

15 MS. JAY GREWAL: Yes.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: And, Ms. Grewal, you
17 mentioned in your evidence this morning that prior to
18 this amended version, Manitoba Hydro also had a
19 November 15th, 2022, version of a twenty (20) year
20 Appendix 4.1 forecast, correct?

21 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: And that November
23 15th version has been replaced by this version, and
24 this version that's before you underpins Manitoba
25 Hydro's General Rate Application that's currently

1 before the Board, correct?

2 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. On page
4 15 of Board counsel's book of documents is an extract
5 from a previous Board Order 77/'22. And there has
6 been some highlighting to help focus our attention.
7 You, of course, are welcome to any aspects of the
8 document that you decide you need.

9 But would you agree that back in the
10 2021/'22 Interim GRA which, Ms. Grewal, you indicated
11 was your first appearance for yourself and Mr. Tess
12 before the Board, Manitoba Hydro did not have a twenty
13 (20) year financial forecast at that time.

14 MS. JAY GREWAL: I believe what I
15 stated at that time is that a long-term financial
16 forecast, we knew it would change, and therefore we
17 didn't want to present a long-term financial forecast
18 for the PUB consideration and rate setting, that we --
19 one (1) thing we knew is that it would not accurately
20 reflect what a long-term forecast would be.

21 MR. BOB PETERS: Fair. Fair enough.
22 And the simple reality is Manitoba Hydro wasn't using
23 a twenty (20) year financial forecast at that time.

24 MS. JAY GREWAL: That would be fair.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And following the

1 interim hearing in '21/'22, the Board wanted Manitoba
2 Hydro to provide a long-term financial forecast at
3 this GRA, correct?

4 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: And -- and Manitoba
6 Hydro wasn't necessarily planning on filing a twenty
7 (20) year financial forecast because Manitoba Hydro
8 was operating with a two (2) or a three (3) year
9 forecast at this time.

10 MS. JAY GREWAL: I -- I would say
11 that's incorrect, that we knew that when we would be
12 coming back in and filing for a full GRA, that we
13 would come in with a long-term financial forecast
14 reflecting the best information we know at this point
15 in time.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. Let me
17 understand that, please. Since you have been
18 president and CEO, Ms. Grewal, Manitoba -- and that
19 was in 2019, I believe you indicated, Manitoba Hydro
20 has not had a -- had its board approve a twenty (20)
21 year financial forecast.

22 Would that be true?

23 MS. JAY GREWAL: The Board approved a
24 20 year financial forecast that we worked with them -
25 - this -- in fall of 2022.

1 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: So Appendix 4.1
2 that's filed before the Board is approved by the
3 Manitoba Hydro Electric Board?

4 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MR. BOB PETERS: And in addition to
9 the Appendix 4.1, Manitoba Hydro's board has also
10 approved the 2 percent rate increases for the '23/'24
11 test year, as well as a 2 percent increase for the
12 '24/'25 test year, correct?

13 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: But no other forward
15 years have been -- have been a subject of any
16 approval, and those would happen in the normal course
17 when a General Rate Application comes back before the
18 Board.

19 MS. JAY GREWAL: They have approved
20 the long-term financial forecast which showed the 2
21 percent rate trajectory which would inform future
22 applications.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: But your Board, Ms.
24 Grewal, has not approved a 2 percent rate increase for
25 the years beyond the test years?

1 MS. JAY GREWAL: They approved a long-
2 term financial forecast that showed a 2 percent rate
3 trajectory for 20 -- for 19 years.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: And, Ms. Grewal, have
5 the individual budgets for the years in appendix 4.1
6 amended been approved by the Manitoba Hydro Electric
7 Board of Directors?

8

9

(BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 MS. JAY GREWAL: The Board has seen
12 what we've submitted to the -- in this application,
13 including what was presented for the test years. We
14 are continuing to refine our business planning
15 processes, so formal approval will be coming, as is
16 always the case with our Board, while we fill longer
17 term views with the Public Utilities Board.

18 Our Board every year reviews our
19 budgets and financial forecasts to ensure that it's
20 reflecting the most current information at that point
21 in time.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: And as we sit here
23 today, the budgets for the '23/'24 test year have not
24 been approved by the Board -- by your Board?

25 MS. JAY GREWAL: As we sit today,

1 '23/'24 has been approved.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: And what about the
3 budget for '24/'25?

4 MS. JAY GREWAL: '24/'25 has been
5 approved as part of our long-term financial forecast,
6 but we will be undergoing a more detailed discussion
7 with our Board starting in the coming months.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: And, Ms. Grewal,
9 Manitoba Hydro, when you last testified in the interim
10 proceeding, asked for a 5 percent average revenue
11 increase in the '21/'22 interim GRA, correct?

12 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And Manitoba Hydro
14 did apply to review and vary the Board Order that
15 awarded 3.6 percent on January 1 of 2022, correct?

16 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: Why did Manitoba
18 Hydro not seek in this GRA to increase the 3.6 percent
19 interim rate increase awarded on January 1 of 2022?

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 MS. JAY GREWAL: To clarify, your
24 question is: Why did we not come back and -- and
25 request the 5 percent for that 3.6 interim?

1 MR. BOB PETERS: That's another way of
2 stating it, sure.

3 MS. JAY GREWAL: Thank you. The --
4 the reality is that when we came in and applied for
5 the interim rate increase, we were forecasting
6 negative net income of \$190 million. What we actually
7 had as negative net income was 260ish \$59 million
8 (sic).

9 Our intent in coming back and not
10 revisiting the 3.6 that was awarded is our customers
11 have told us again and again they would like to see a
12 stable, predictable rate path. And our modelling and
13 analysis indicated, rather than going back and -- and
14 asking to increase the 3.6 to the 5 which the PUB had
15 already indicated they were not comfortable with and
16 our -- we would look at the forward rate path as how
17 to ensure our financial health and stability.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: So, I take from that
19 answer, Ms. Grewal, that it was Manitoba Hydro's
20 response to its customer -- customer concerns that it
21 didn't seek a higher rate increase for January 1,
22 2022?

23 MS. JAY GREWAL: And we also knew what
24 our results were for last fiscal. So, we're always
25 trying to balance and look at what we're putting

1 forward, recognizing the volatility that we face in
2 our business, which we had significant volatility both
3 to the positive and negative in the last two (2)
4 fiscal years.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: And so, when you say
6 you -- you knew the results in your last fiscal, what
7 you're saying is the 2022/'23 fiscal year, Manitoba
8 Hydro knew that it already had record net income
9 coming in that year, and that was a factor in not
10 seeking a higher interim award?

11 MS. JAY GREWAL: The -- the way I
12 would -- I would frame it is that -- that the results
13 were not finalized. Particularly, we did not know
14 what would be happening in the export markets with
15 spot prices because when you look at last fiscal,
16 where we had record water levels, from a year before,
17 where we had a drought, and Mr. Tess will be able to -
18 - to remind me of what the number is, there was the
19 increase in our net income that was due to water.

20 But the -- one (1) of the largest
21 variabilities that we've never seen before was what
22 was happening in the spot market prices, what was
23 happening in the US. And that volatility -- that
24 degree to which spot market prices contributed to that
25 unanticipated net income we've never seen before. And

1 we've seen already that the markets have come off of
2 that.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: Does that suggest a
4 higher rate increase or a lower increase would be
5 preferable?

6 MS. JAY GREWAL: Are you specifically
7 referring to the 3.6?

8 MR. BOB PETERS: Yes.

9 MS. JAY GREWAL: That would suggest
10 that we believe the 3.6 is still valid. It was a
11 decision made at that point in time based on our
12 financial performance. And we actually had 70 million
13 greater negative net income than when we'd originally
14 come in with 4 -- 5 percent.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: Did the Manitoba
16 Hydro Electric Board also approve management not
17 seeking more than 3.6 percent for the interim rate
18 increase awarded on January 1 of 2022?

19 MS. JAY GREWAL: The Manitoba Hydro
20 Board approved what -- the application as you see
21 before you, which included 3.6 percent, for that
22 interim application.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 MR. BOB PETERS: So, Ms. Grewal, with
2 those answers, if we turn to the book of documents,
3 pages 19 to 25, you had -- this is some of your
4 testimony before, and I'm not going to focus on any
5 specific parts. But the thrust of it was, and you can
6 tell us if it's correct, that at the interim hearing
7 where you testified, you told the Board that:

8 "Long-term financial targets are of
9 great value to the Utility as it
10 measures whether the Utility is
11 achieving its financial performance
12 and the objectives in the business
13 plan."

14 Do you accept that as correct?

15 MS. JAY GREWAL: If that is what the
16 testimony states, yes.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. On page
18 21 of the book of documents you also indicate that:

19 "The financial plan, if it's
20 grounded in appropriate data, facts,
21 and assumptions, that would cause
22 the long-term financial forecast to
23 be of value in making decisions as a
24 regulatory body."

25 You see those words, do you?

1 MS. JAY GREWAL: I do see those words.
2 And it was within the context of we'd started our work
3 on Strategy 2040. We understood that the evolving
4 energy landscape would have a material impact on the
5 demand for electricity and, therefore, a material
6 impact on any financial forecast Manitoba Hydro
7 prepared.

8 So, it was very specific to at that
9 point in time, in my personal view, a long-term
10 financial forecast that did not reflect the work we
11 were still undertaking, would have had limited value
12 for the PUB to rely on as it made long-term -- made
13 decisions considering the long-term financial
14 landscape for Manitoba Hydro.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: And that applies
16 today, does it, Ms. Grewal?

17 MS. JAY GREWAL: The -- the statement
18 applies today, but the information we have today is
19 very different than when we came forward with the
20 interim rate application.

21 I know it is out of scope, but the IRP
22 work and analysis that we've undertaking has been
23 informing the long-term financial forecast we put
24 forward, and it informed it on the basis of what we
25 knew at that point in time, recognizing we have not

1 yet finalized our Integrated Resource Plan, our first
2 ever, which looks out twenty (20) years, and considers
3 both supply and demand and policy.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: What was that point
5 of time, Ms. Grewal, where the IRP understanding is
6 now embedded in Appendix 4.1?

7 MS. JAY GREWAL: I would -- as I said,
8 what was reflected there is what we understood at that
9 point in time, recognizing we were a year into a two
10 (2) year IRP process.

11 We are now in the last months of
12 finalizing our Integrated Resource Plan. There was
13 still Board consultation happening, modelling
14 occurring, additional views, consideration on policy
15 at the federal level.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you. Do I take
17 from that answer then that, as of December the 9th,
18 2022, Appendix 4.1 amended put forward all of Manitoba
19 Hydro's knowledge with respect to the IRP and all
20 other matters for a long-term forecast?

21 MS. JAY GREWAL: I do not believe that
22 would be a fair statement because we used it to get an
23 understanding of supply and demand and directionally
24 where it was headed. To state that it reflected our
25 full understanding of the IRP, I believe, would not be

1 factual.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: And Manitoba Hydro's
3 understanding of the IRP, as you've indicated, is
4 still evolving. Would that be true?

5 MS. JAY GREWAL: I would say that
6 we've just -- we're finalizing the fourth stage of
7 consultation on what we've heard and what we
8 understand. And we are in the process of finalizing
9 what that means in terms of near-term actions, which -
10 - and those actions, none of them are decisions on
11 making any investments, near-term actions on where we
12 need to prioritize for additional analysis.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And just to not leave
14 -- the time line with the IRP in your slide deck, I
15 think it mentioned the summer of 2023. I think your
16 answer a few minutes ago suggested another month.

17 Can -- can you provide the Board with a
18 -- a tighter time line as to when Manitoba Hydro
19 expects to release its IRP?

20 MS. JAY GREWAL: We had always
21 originally planned to release it in the fall of this
22 fiscal. As to when -- the specific day also depends
23 on when we are in a position to take it to our Board
24 for approval. It also then goes to government.

25 And so, while we are getting ready to

1 honour those time lines, I can't speak to government
2 engagement and when they would support it being
3 released.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: And you haven't
5 mentioned much about the energy policy of the
6 Province, Ms. Grewal, but that's another policy level
7 decision being made that will affect the Appendix 4.1
8 numbers?

9 MS. JAY GREWAL: As Manitoba Hydro,
10 we've always said that our IRP proceeding prior to
11 energy policy, we would always have the opportunity to
12 adjust the IRP to reflect anything that comes forward
13 and emerges in energy policy that would require the
14 IRP to look or analyze something differently.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: And would it be
16 correct, Ms. Grewal, that Appendix 4.1 that's before
17 the Board was designed to achieve certain debt to
18 capitalization targets by certain dates, as prescribed
19 in legislation?

20 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct. And
21 I believe we spoke in our application, saying though
22 it does not apply until April 1, 2025, understanding
23 that those targets will be law for Manitoba Hydro, we
24 considered it from the perspective of ensuring stable
25 predictable rate path, which is what our customers

1 wanted.

2 If we did not consider it, there might
3 have been higher -- higher rates being asked for. But
4 we wanted to look at meeting those with a consistent
5 stable rate path over the coming years for which the
6 debt equity targets are set.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: If we can just turn
8 back, please, Ms. Schubert, to page 6 of Board
9 counsel's book of documents just for a snapshot of
10 Appendix 4.1.

11 Ms. Grewal, has -- from your answers
12 then, I take it that Manitoba Hydro has adopted all of
13 the assumptions that currently underpin Appendix 4.1.

14 Would that be correct?

15 MR. AUREL TESS: Can you clarify that,
16 please?

17 MR. BOB PETERS: Well, let me ask it
18 this way, Mr. Tess. I know you're the numbers
19 gentleman.

20 And -- what are examples of major
21 assumptions that are not embedded in Appendix 4.1?

22 MR. AUREL TESS: The -- the forecast
23 contains all of our traditional inputs that go into
24 the forecast.

25 I'm really pressed to try to find

1 something that's not included in here. As -- as Jay
2 mentioned, there's uncertainty with regard to the
3 evolving energy landscape and -- and what we -- you
4 know, we'll know when the IRP is finalized.

5 But apart from that, this represents a
6 traditional financial forecast with all of the
7 traditional inputs that the PUB has seen in the past.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: Is it -- is it your
9 assumption and expectation that the assumptions that
10 underpin the last seventeen (17) years of Appendix 4.1
11 will change, but Manitoba Hydro doesn't yet know where
12 those changes will be and how much they will be?

13 MR. AUREL TESS: Yeah, I'm just going
14 to caucus with Mr. Fogg for a second. Thank you.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 MR. AUREL TESS: So Mr. Peters, thanks
19 for the question.

20 So in terms of the -- the financial
21 forecast, as you well know, any financial forecast
22 that we put forward has degrees of assumptions and
23 uncertainty built into it. But we feel this is -- has
24 very solid assumptions that -- that the PUB can rely
25 on at this particular time.

1 But there's always the caveat of the
2 uncertainty that we just talked about. And, you know,
3 those are things that we don't have necessarily
4 perfect insight into in the future.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: Would it be fair for
6 Manitoba Hydro to suggest that the message to the
7 Public Utilities Board is that the Board should pay
8 the most attention to the first two (2) to three (3)
9 years out -- out to '24/'25 -- but after that, stay
10 tuned for the next General Rate Application?

11 MR. AUREL TESS: That's actually what
12 we've stated in the application is that we have more
13 certainty, for example, around our capital plan in the
14 initial few years. So that's a fair statement.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: And it's also fair,
16 Mr. Tess, because the next General Rate Application
17 will be after Manitoba Hydro, presumably, publically
18 releases its Integrated Resource Plan and, presumably,
19 after the Province has announced the Provincial Energy
20 Policy?

21 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct. I
22 believe publically our Minister has stated that their
23 intention is for energy policy to be released -- or
24 some energy policy framework at some point this
25 summer.

1 MR. BOB PETERS: I'm sorry, Ms.
2 Grewal, does that answer suggest that the energy
3 policy will be released this summer? Or some working
4 document related to it will be released this summer?

5 MS. JAY GREWAL: I can't speak to
6 actually what government will be releasing. But I
7 believe the Minister has gone on the record to say
8 something around energy policy will be released by the
9 Province this summer.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: Turning to the
11 debt/equity ratios, if I could.

12 Ms. Grewal, would it be correct to
13 conclude that the -- with respect to the upcoming
14 debt-to-capitalization targets, that will be in the
15 amended Manitoba Hydro Act, the scenario before this
16 Board hits the legislated target in 2040, correct?

17 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: From a policy
19 perspective, Ms. Grewal, Manitoba Hydro has not built
20 in a safety margin or a cushion into this Appendix 4.1
21 scenario, has it?

22 MS. JAY GREWAL: Could you please
23 clarify what you mean by 'cushion'?

24 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. If we
25 turn to page 26 of Board counsel's book of documents,

1 maybe that can help us.

2 We see on this sensitivity analysis
3 from Manitoba Hydro that by 2040 Manitoba's --
4 Manitoba Hydro's debt-to-capitalization will be at 70
5 percent as highlighted in the yellow.

6 Do you see that?

7 MS. JAY GREWAL: I do.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: And Manitoba Hydro
9 hasn't -- hasn't built in any, I say cushion, such
10 that that debt-to-capitalization target could be maybe
11 lower than 70 percent by that point in time, to have a
12 bit of room if Manitoba Hydro hits some unfavourable
13 events along the way.

14 MS. JAY GREWAL: What I can say, is
15 that consistent with how Manitoba Hydro submitted
16 applications in the past, we assume average water.
17 So, we've used the same assumptions that have been
18 presented in terms of the principles to -- to the PUB
19 in the past. We use those same principles and
20 assumptions.

21 Some of them would -- may have been
22 updated relative to working with third parties, on --
23 like the forty (40) year view of water flows, all of
24 those things, but there is -- it's based on the
25 assumptions on how we run and operate the business

1 based on average water.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: And Manitoba Hydro's
3 Appendix 4.1 was designed to determine an equal annual
4 rate that would get Manitoba Hydro to a 70 percent
5 debt ratio by 2040.

6 Was that the policy that underpinned
7 it?

8 MS. JAY GREWAL: Our approach to the
9 rate trajectory was to respect what our customers, in
10 all customers classes, are saying which is they'd like
11 to see predictable rate increases versus increases
12 that are unpredictable, which is why we went with the
13 2 percent, but it also did allow and solve for meeting
14 what we will be required to meet under our Act.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: And while we're
16 looking, Ms. Grewal, at that first line, the amended
17 financial forecast scenario, if we look to the year
18 2023 -- I'm sorry, if we look to 2035, Manitoba
19 Hydro's current forecast of its debt ratio will be 76
20 percent on that day, correct?

21 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: And the legislated
23 target is 80 percent. Correct?

24 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: So, Manitoba Hydro

1 has built in a cushion for the 2035 target.

2 MS. JAY GREWAL: There is no cushion
3 built in. We solved for a predictable, stable rate
4 path, which is what the rate path then resulted in
5 this.

6 If we did not solve for a predictable
7 rate path, what you would see is greater rate
8 increases in that time frame between 2035 to 2040.
9 Because it is not a -- because of how this works and
10 with the compounding, it's not a -- a straight line
11 that will necessarily get us there, but the 2 per --
12 the 2 percent does.

13 If it was less than 2 percent, we would
14 not achieve the 70 percent in 2040 that we're required
15 to under the amendments to the Act.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: And a consequence of
17 that, Ms. Grewal, is that Manitoba Hydro's 80 percent
18 debt ratio is achieved some six (6) years earlier than
19 the upcoming legislation requires?

20 MS. JAY GREWAL: As we said, we solved
21 for stable, predictable rates, rather than variability
22 in the rates and the rate increases in response to
23 what our customers are saying they want, whether it's
24 our large industrial customers for their planning
25 purposes, or whether it's our residential customers.

1 MR. BOB PETERS: And Manitoba Hydro
2 acknowledges, Ms. Grewal, that there can be some
3 unforeseen events, such as this sensitivity table shows
4 us and a five (5) year drought, beginning in '25/'26
5 is -- is the high -- is one of the ones that's
6 highlighted in green?

7 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: If that happens, Ms.
9 Grewal, I understand this table to be telling the
10 Board, that if we go out to 2040 instead of a 70
11 percent debt ratio, there will be eight (8) percentage
12 points or 800 basis points, I suppose, more and it
13 will be more like 78 percent in 2040 if that
14 sensitivity arises.

15 Is that under -- have we understood the
16 table correctly?

17 MS. JAY GREWAL: You've understood the
18 table correctly, but what I want to point out is we
19 always assume average water and the risk you're
20 identifying is a risk we consistently face in -- at
21 any year at any point in time.

22 Whereas, also, there could be a
23 scenario which, like we experienced, we have higher
24 water than normal. But this approach to the 2
25 percent, was based on average water because we have no

1 ability to forecast the -- when there would be drought
2 or when there would be higher water. So we go with
3 average, which has always been our methodology.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: And by using average
5 water flows after the third year of the forecast, Ms.
6 Grewal, an unfavourable sensitivity, such as a five
7 (5) year drought, will cause Manitoba Hydro to miss
8 the legislated target. Correct?

9 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: Well, in one of the
11 Information Requests posed of Manitoba Hydro, and it's
12 reproduced on page 27 of the Book of Documents.

13 Manitoba provided a couple of
14 alternative rate scenarios, where instead of a 2
15 percent rate increase for each of the current test
16 years, the rate was increased to 3.5 percent.

17 Ms. Grewal, I'm not sure if you're
18 familiar with that level of detail of the IRs or not,
19 or Mr. Tess, but are you generally familiar with that
20 -- that scenario.

21 MS. JAY GREWAL: Either -- either Mr.
22 Tess or I can speak to it.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. So,
24 Manitoba Hydro was asked what if Manitoba Hydro's rate
25 increases were not 2 percent, but were 3 1/2 percent

1 for the 2023/'24, plus the '24/'25 test years.

2 Correct?

3 MR. AUREL TESS: That's correct.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: And then if that was
5 the case, Mr. Tess, then going forward once the
6 legislation became operative, Manitoba Hydro could go
7 forward with rate increases that were lower than the
8 expected 2 percent inflation rate. Correct?

9 MR. AUREL TESS: Yes.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And from a policy
11 perspective, why didn't Manitoba Hydro seek a higher
12 rate increase during the test years, that are not
13 subject to the legislation's rate cap?

14 MR. AUREL TESS: Well, Mr. Peters, I
15 think we've talked about having those stable
16 predictable rates; that was one of our primary
17 priorities and principles that we moved forward with
18 on formulating the rate path.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: And those stable
20 rates will only occur if average water occurs, Mr.
21 Tess?

22 MR. AUREL TESS: Correct. Yes.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: Speaking of rate
24 increases, Ms. Grewal, there was a matter back in 2020
25 -- 2021 when you last appeared before this Board, I

1 think earlier in that same year, you also appeared
2 before a Standing Committee of the Legislature, would
3 that be correct?

4 MS. JAY GREWAL: I believe that is an
5 annual event, so I'm certain I did.

6 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. Would it
7 be correct, Ms. Grewal, that for the 2021/'22 year,
8 Manitoba Hydro was expecting a legislated rate
9 increase for electricity rates?

10 MS. JAY GREWAL: That -- that is
11 correct.

12 MR. BOB PETERS: Pardon me?

13 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: Yes, thank you. And
15 would it be correct, Ms. Grewal, that the rate
16 increase included in your submission to Treasury
17 Board, which I think you spoke of before the Standing
18 Committee, made a 3.5 percent rate increase assumption
19 for the 2021/'22 test year. Do you recall that?

20 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct.

21 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you. And would
22 it also be correct, Ms. Grewal, that a Ministerial
23 Directive on or about September 22 of 2021, which
24 directed Manitoba Hydro to go to the Public Utilities
25 Board for an interim rate increase, was unexpected

1 during that year?

2 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: Now, turning to
4 Strategy 2040, Ms. Grewal, and you've talked about it
5 already, so I want to just get some of the higher
6 notes if I could.

7 The current stage of Strategy 2040, Ms.
8 Grewal, is that it's been released and it's now
9 operational. Correct?

10 MS. JAY GREWAL: Strategy 2040 is
11 directional. It's our long-term strategy. What we
12 are focussed on right now, as I spoke to earlier, is
13 the coming three (3) years, as well as creating the
14 foundations in place, to ensure that we will be
15 successful in ensuring reliability with the
16 anticipated increase in, potentially, two (2) to three
17 (3) times the amount of electricity in the province.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: Strategy 2040 is
19 driving costs in this application before the Public
20 Utilities Board. Is that true?

21 MS. JAY GREWAL: I think it's unfair
22 to characterize it that the strategy is driving the
23 costs as we see them. If -- if you look back and,
24 specifically what we spoke to, on the O&A side, 70 to
25 75 percent is labour.

1 Of that component, on the increases in
2 the labour costs, some of that relates to third
3 parties. We experienced two -- two (2) strikes in
4 that time-frame, and third parties determined what the
5 increases would be for -- for our employees.

6 There's also the cloud computing
7 change, which I want to just highlight, that it's a
8 cost that we always incurred, whether it was server
9 farms of our own versus we're moving to cloud, it's
10 the accounting treatment that moved it from a capital
11 cost to now an O&A cost that is being reflected. So,
12 it was always a cost. It's just where is it showing
13 up. Was it capital or is it O&A?

14 The other reason why I -- I think we
15 need to just step back and -- and -- and be careful of
16 how we are -- how we frame this is, on the FTE side,
17 as I've pointed out, after the pandemic, we were down
18 from the pre-VDP level -- post-VDP levels by 25
19 percent.

20 And what we've heard, and what we've
21 provided evidence for, so that the PUB could
22 understand this, is that we are only successful in
23 completing 75 percent of our planned maintenance and
24 what does that mean? We use a Copper Leaf C55 model
25 for life-cycle asset management and life-cycle costs

1 and that model tells us, when is it optimal to
2 maintain assets at the lowest possible cost to ensure
3 reliability.

4 The implication of not completing that
5 work is not only a risk on reliability and we are
6 seeing, unfortunately, a negative trend in our -- our
7 measures that we use for reliability but, secondly,
8 that work will have to be done and, if we're not able
9 to complete it when it's optimal, at the lowest
10 possible cost, we will still have to do that work, but
11 it will be at a higher cost, because the model solves
12 for that. The model solves for that.

13 So, this is not cost increases that are
14 driven by Strategy 2040. These are the costs to
15 ensure we deliver safe, reliable power and meet our
16 customers' expectations and they're telling us we are
17 not. This is what is the foundation of what you see
18 happening in our application.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: So, Strategy 2040 is
20 the umbrella that -- oh, I'm sorry.

21 VICE-CHAIR KAPITANY: Can I interrupt
22 just for -- with a question, just a clarification,
23 well, actually two (2) questions of clarification, I
24 guess.

25 So, one of -- one of them is around the

1 -- when you're talking about the -- the trade-off
2 between reliability and rates, and you've mentioned
3 that quite a number of times and I've read many, many
4 pages and I may have missed it but do you -- could you
5 point me to a place where you would have laid out the
6 information customers would need to make an informed
7 choice on the difference between reliability and
8 rates?

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 MS. JAY GREWAL: It would be in tab 6,
13 where we speak to the investments that we need to make
14 and -- and, also, what that -- what our current
15 reliability is and how that would improve our
16 reliability.

17 VICE-CHAIR KAPITANY: So, I didn't see
18 any place, though, where it said, like for this amount
19 of ri -- reliability, it's going to cost you this much
20 money, just so the people could make a really informed
21 choice. So, that's what I just wondered, if there was
22 that kind of detail somewhere that I had missed?

23 MS. JAY GREWAL: It -- it's a very
24 good question and -- and, quite frankly, it's - it's a
25 conversation that it would be great to have with

1 customers 'cause how much do you want to pay for
2 reliability.

3 The reality is, though, because of the
4 Act, the Manitoba Hydro Act, and we're accountable for
5 reliability, what our customers are telling us, not in
6 a definitive way, which is this cost for this level of
7 reliability, is that they would choose reliability
8 over lower costs, but -- but we don't have that
9 directly in that way, but I -- I -- I understand the -
10 - the nature of the question, and I would be helpful
11 to have.

12 VICE-CHAIR KAPITANY: Thank you, and
13 my other question was from Slide 19 of your
14 presentation, and it was what Mr. Peters was just
15 discussing, in terms of -- and what you were saying,
16 about the number of employees that had been reduced
17 during the Voluntary Departure Program and, then, what
18 -- I got a bit confused on your point where you said
19 the 15 percent reduction in FTE committed to through
20 the VDP is maintained through the test years.

21 So, I got confused between that and,
22 then, when you're saying you need additional people to
23 do the reliability work that you said has been
24 slipping.

25 And I also wondered if you could tell

1 me have -- has the province given direction to
2 Manitoba Hydro in terms of holding the line on FTEs
3 subsequent to the Voluntary Departure Program
4 Direction?

5 MS. JAY GREWAL: So, thank you. I can
6 try to clar that -- clarify that for you. So, the
7 VDP, Voluntary Departure Program, occurred in 2017
8 and, as a result of that, we reduced our FTE across
9 the entire business by 15 percent.

10 Subsequent to that, during the
11 pandemic, when we were asked to provide costs savings
12 back, we also froze all hiring.

13 Also, what was unanticipated, which has
14 occurred in many industries, is we had higher
15 attrition, a greater number of employees that were
16 eligible for employment saying, I'm not coming back,
17 I'll take my retirement now.

18 So, all of that has contributed to
19 this. What we are saying is we need to be able to
20 build up our FTE, where we're still below that 15
21 percent VDP cap, but we need to build it back up to
22 that level, particularly in the trades, in the
23 technical, in the professional areas.

24 In terms of the second part of your
25 question, no, we have not received any direction from

1 government to hold our FTEs at this level and I would
2 say, on the contrary, government hears from our
3 customers directly about the current challenges we
4 have, in terms of the timeliness of our ability,
5 particularly on the industrial-commercial customers,
6 and the home build, our ability to meet their time-
7 lines, given our constraints, and they have actually
8 said to government that they believe we need more
9 resources to be able to deliver that, because it does
10 impact them and it impacts their employees and they're
11 not able to -- they're not able to do the work the way
12 they have planned, because we're not able to meet
13 those time-lines.

14 VICE-CHAIR KAPITANY: Thank you.

15 MR. AUREL TESS: Ms. Kapitany, maybe I
16 -- we could bring up MFR-12. There is -- you asked to
17 point to some of the information regarding the trade-
18 offs between reliability and rates and we did respond
19 to some of this in MFR-12. It might be helpful to
20 bring it up right now, if we could.

21 I believe it's on page 2, where we --
22 we point to some of the studies that were done and
23 they talked about the priorities and the trade-off
24 between reliability and -- and rates, and you can see
25 the results there of the study, that the majority of

1 our customers are -- are looking at reliability as a
2 very important factor in -- in deciding, and trading
3 off with higher rates is something that we found they
4 were definitely open to and would -- this would
5 suggest that, you know, that -- that we should do
6 this, from their perspective. Okay.

7 VICE-CHAIR KAPITANY: Thanks, Mr.
8 Tess. I was really just looking for any more detailed
9 background information that had been provided to
10 survey respondents that would help them make an
11 informed choice.

12 MR. AUREL TESS: Okay. Thank you. We
13 can maybe take that away and see if there's something
14 we can up with there.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: We'll take that as an
16 Undertaking that'll be provided, Mr. Tess. Would that
17 be acceptable?

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MR. BRENT CZARNECKI: Before we
22 undertake, I think it is acceptable, but I know their
23 -- one of the subsequent panels on acid management
24 will have a witness that could speak to those types of
25 questions.

1 So, maybe I would suggest holding off
2 on the undertaking, pending questions of her because I
3 think she can respond to Ms. Kapitany's questions.

4

5 CONTINUED BY MR. BOB PETERS:

6 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. Thank
7 you, Mr. Czarnecki, we'll -- we'll jot it down in
8 pencil, not ink.

9 On -- to followup, Ms. Grewal, on a
10 matter you were talking with the Vice Chair about, at
11 page 39 of Board counsel's book of documents is a,
12 what -- what I'll call a mandate letter from the
13 Government of Manitoba.

14 Is that what you would call it?

15 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: Is April 24, 2019,
17 the most current mandate letter from the government?

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: And on page 39 of the
23 Book of Documents, there's that highlighted phrase:

24 "The -- the old way of doing things

25 where government just got bigger and

1 more expensive is over."

2 Do you see that, do you?

3 MS. JAY GREWAL: I do.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: Does that, and did
5 that apply at the time to Crown corporations, as well
6 as the government?

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 MS. JAY GREWAL: It did apply to all
11 parts of government. But what I want to clarify is
12 that once we received this mandate letter, we had
13 discussions with government and shared with them and -
14 - with them that we had undertaken the Voluntary
15 Departure Plan, and we reduced our FTEs by 15 percent
16 and that we were continuing to ensure that we were at
17 that 15 percent or less.

18 And government audited us and confirmed
19 that we had taken actions already as Manitoba Hydro to
20 address some of the concerns noted in this letter.

21 MR. BOB PETERS: And have you anything
22 in writing from the government that you can provide to
23 this Board that says, essentially, that those mandates
24 put forward in the April 24th letter were -- were
25 temporary and are not to be followed long term?

1 MS. JAY GREWAL: Well, I wouldn't
2 characterize it the way you did, Mr. Peters, which --
3 what I would like to -- to make everybody aware of is
4 every year we appear in front of Treasury Board with
5 our budgets.

6 And we start this process early in the
7 fall with final approval occurring, I believe,
8 typically Decemberish. And so, every year government
9 who issued this mandate letter reviews our capital,
10 our O&A, our cost structure, and they also review our
11 business plans. And it is subject to not only our
12 Board approval, but also Treasury Board's approval and
13 Treasury Board has approved our budgets every single
14 year.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: And so, you're saying
16 that by their approving your budgets, they are then
17 telling you that the mandates that came out in this
18 letter are no longer operative with respect to
19 Manitoba Hydro?

20 MS. JAY GREWAL: I can not speak for
21 government. What I can share with you is the process
22 that is in place, because this letter was issued in
23 early 2019 for government's oversight over our
24 business plan, our O&A costs, our capital costs.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And there's nothing

1 further in writing from the government that you can
2 produce at this time?

3 MR. AUREL TESS: I -- I could offer,
4 Mr. Peters, that as part of the process that Ms.
5 Grewal is -- is speaking of is really a review of the
6 mandate letter and whether or not Manitoba Hydro, and
7 I believe other Crowns, are compliant with their
8 mandate.

9 MR. BOB PETERS: And does that review
10 yield anything in writing that you can provide?

11 MR. AUREL TESS: I can't -- I don't
12 think we can provide it. It's cabinet confidence, but
13 I...

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 MR. BOB PETERS: What we do have is on
18 page 42 of the Book of Documents an indication that
19 many of the full-time equivalent or FTEs, I'll be
20 careful with the -- with the terminology, they're
21 related to the Strategic Initiatives under Strategy
22 2040.

23 Would you agree with that?

24 MS. JAY GREWAL: I -- I'd like to
25 clarify that the Strategic -- our Strategy 2040 speaks

1 to how we operate and run our business today, as well
2 as what we need to do in the future.

3 So, I -- I wouldn't want anyone to --
4 to assume, or -- or to -- I wouldn't want anyone to
5 interpret that Strategy 2040 is independent of, and is
6 not directly related to how we deliver our services
7 today to our customers.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: If I have time, I'll
9 come back to that. But, you will agree with me, Ms.
10 Grewal, that in the president and CEO business unit,
11 which is shown halfway down the page on this Consumer
12 Coalition Information Request, that the president and
13 CEO business unit seeks to increase with thirteen (13)
14 full-time equivalent people, correct?

15 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct, but
16 I also want to clarify, that is not thirteen (13) new
17 people being hired from outside of Manitoba Hydro.
18 That is thirteen (13) roles that some of which existed
19 in different forms and different ways in the business
20 that are being pulled together to create this
21 enterprise excellent group that is focussed on, among
22 other things, continuous evaluation, and continuous
23 improvement, change management, and ensuring and
24 monitoring, are we performing while transforming and
25 balancing how we do that.

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MR. BOB PETERS: In the...

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 MR. BOB PETERS: If we turn to page 47
8 of the book of documents, we look, Ms. Grewal, at the
9 O&A expenses that you were talking about in terms of
10 what's -- what's happened at -- at various points in
11 time and we've seen a number of graphs.

12 Is it correct that for the 2023/'24
13 test year, that those O&A expenses will increase
14 approximately 11.6 percent and then a further 4.6 in
15 the second test year, which is 2024/'25?

16 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct, but
17 I'd like to point out the context which is, we're
18 playing catchup relative to what we experienced during
19 the pandemic.

20 So again, these O&A expenses and the
21 FTEs in particular, are still trying to get back to
22 the level that we need to deliver the service and
23 still remaining with that 15 percent reduction that we
24 -- we -- that occurred in 2017.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And the levels that

1 are shown on page 47 of Board counsel's book of
2 documents for the two (2) test years, those levels of
3 operating and administrative expenses exceed what
4 Manitoba Hydro was spending back in 2016 and '17,
5 correct?

6 MS. JAY GREWAL: That -- that would be
7 correct. But I'd also like to point out that what has
8 happened to inflation between twenty second -- 2016 to
9 what is currently the case, so that -- how much of
10 that increase is driven by CPI and inflation versus
11 how much is -- are those factors that we absolutely
12 control.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And so, for those
14 thirteen (13) new hires to the CEO's business unit,
15 you're telling the Board some of those won't be new to
16 Manitoba Hydro, they'll be coming from other -- other
17 places in Manitoba Hydro?

18 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct. And
19 secondly, what I want to state is that -- is also by -
20 - those roles are part of the remaining within the 15
21 percent VDP cap.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: Maybe I don't
23 understand that, but are you saying when these
24 thirteen (13) positions, and they're new positions,
25 are they not?

1 MS. JAY GREWAL: Some are new
2 positions. Some are consolidating positions or roles
3 that were in different areas, such as change
4 management, such as the business planning side of
5 things, such as look -- overall portfolio management
6 from an enterprise level.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: So, how many new
8 hires are you looking at for the president and CEO's
9 business unit, Ms. Grewal?

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 MS. JAY GREWAL: Well, I want to make
14 sure I respond to your question. Can you clarify
15 exactly what your question is for me, because I can't
16 say how many are internal or external, because we have
17 not actually done the work to say, are we able to
18 resource, do we have those capabilities internally, or
19 do we have to go external for it.

20 But again, recognizing we're still
21 staying within that 15 percent VDP cap, and we always
22 within Manitoba Hydro are re-allocating resources
23 based on the near-term priorities and needs.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: So, Ms. Grewal, is
25 that number thirteen (13) a placeholder, or are there

1 Manitoba Hydroelectric board-approved plans to fill
2 thirteen (13) positions?

3 MS. JAY GREWAL: Our '23/'24 numbers
4 reflect what has been approved by our board in terms
5 of our O&A costs.

6 MR. BOB PETERS: I'm sorry, I didn't
7 hear the answer to my question in that response.

8 Is this number thirteen (13) a
9 placeholder, or is it actual new positions that have
10 been filled?

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MS. JAY GREWAL: They -- the roles are
15 not in place today. We are working to fill them.
16 Some of the roles are there. Some we are actively
17 working to -- to fill.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: Mr. Tess, not to be
19 outdone, on page 42 of the book of documents, we see
20 that the Chief Financial Officer Business Unit -- and
21 that would be the one you're responsible for, sir?

22 MR. AUREL TESS: That's correct.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: You are looking to
24 increase by twenty (20) full-time equivalent
25 positions, correct?

1 MR. AUREL TESS: That's correct.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: So maybe the same as
3 the last questions I asked of Ms. Grewal:

4 Is that a placeholder number, or has
5 there been approval to hire those twenty (20) new
6 positions?

7 MR. AUREL TESS: So the twenty (20)
8 positions relate to some new functions that we -- we
9 had added, enterprise risk management positions.
10 Regulatory -- rates and regulatory, sorry, had an
11 increase, and enterprise planning, that's really a new
12 function, so positions were added for that.

13 And subject to check, I'm going to say
14 some of those positions were related to transfers from
15 MHI, but I'm just going to check on that for you.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: And when you say, Mr.
17 Tess, that these positions may be transfers, does that
18 mean that the -- where they're coming from, that
19 position is not being filled, or is that position
20 going to be filled after they -- they come to your
21 business unit?

22 MR. AUREL TESS: I think it could be
23 both. I mean, if -- if someone is -- is moved as a
24 result of business model change, and there could be a
25 change in function, they may not refill or backfill

1 the position. In some cases they do, so I can't
2 comment exactly on each position, but...

3 MS. JAY GREWAL: I -- I would like to
4 add in the context, though, is when you look at what
5 we've been doing in Manitoba Hydro, what we have been
6 doing is where some of this work would have been done
7 by specific business unit by business unit, we're
8 creating enterprise groups that do that work across
9 the organization.

10 So some of these roles that existed at
11 a business unit level are now at an enterprise level,
12 enabling this work on strategic and enterprise
13 planning as an example, to be done on an enterprise
14 basis and supporting the business units in -- versus
15 those people were specifically embedded in each
16 business unit. It's -- it's a much more optimal and
17 efficient way to do it.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. I've got
19 your point. I want to turn to page 54 of the book of
20 documents, please. This is another government
21 directive to Manitoba Hydro. This one relates to the
22 report from Commissioner Wall.

23 You're familiar with this, are you?

24 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And following the

1 government's response, there was a directive to
2 Manitoba Hydro to support the province's assessment of
3 the fifty-one (51) recommendations from Commissioner
4 Wall, correct?

5 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

6 MR. BOB PETERS: And in doing that,
7 can you provide an update as to where Manitoba Hydro
8 is relative to completing this policy directive?

9 MS. JAY GREWAL: So specifically, the
10 policy directive was to work with government and to
11 support them in the assessment, and we've completed
12 that work.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: Were there any steps
14 foreseen or involving the Public Utilities Board?

15 MS. JAY GREWAL: I can't speak for
16 government relative to the Public Utilities Board.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: But Manitoba Hydro's
18 involvement has ended? You've done your work?

19 MS. JAY GREWAL: We have done the work
20 to support government in the assessment of the fifty-
21 one (51) recommendations.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: Ms. Grewal, in your
23 slides earlier today, you talked about federal clean
24 electric -- or electricity standards, correct?

25 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

1 MR. BOB PETERS: Is there currently a
2 policy of the federal government for electric
3 utilities to be carbon-emitting net zero by 2035?

4 MS. JAY GREWAL: They have stated that
5 that is their intention, but they are also revisiting
6 that -- that is my understanding based on my
7 engagement with Electricity Canada -- because of
8 recognizing the challenge to deliver on that by 2035.

9 MR. BOB PETERS: So there's no formal
10 federal policy in place today as far as you're aware?

11 MS. JAY GREWAL: My understanding --
12 and I'm not a legislative expert -- is there is what
13 is stated as the intent, and then they develop the
14 regulations, and the regulations are what we work
15 with.

16 And as I spoke earlier, the -- these
17 regulations are part of what this Canadian council
18 that was meeting last week on Thursday and Friday have
19 a role to play in how that moves forward.

20 What I would say is there's a lot of
21 dialogue that I am aware of that utilities are having
22 with government around is net zero by 2035 achievable,
23 and secondly, what are the implications of that.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: Is Manitoba Hydro net
25 zero as of today?

1 MS. JAY GREWAL: Manitoba Hydro has
2 never been net zero, and the reason why we are not net
3 zero is, for scenarios where we experience a drought,
4 we do have some gas plants.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: You also have diesel-
6 generating stations in four (4) communities in
7 Manitoba?

8 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct. For
9 remote communities, there is diesel.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: Manitoba Hydro
11 imports electricity almost daily. Would that be true?

12 MS. JAY GREWAL: Not being daily
13 involved with the -- the group that executes on this
14 work, I -- what I -- the way I would characterize it,
15 daily and hourly we are looking to optimize our system
16 relative to our water levels so that we deliver
17 electricity reliably and at the lowest possible cost.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: And some of those
19 exports from other sources, or imports to Manitoba
20 Hydro, are for -- from thermal generating sources, are
21 they, Ms. Grewal?

22 MS. JAY GREWAL: I can't speak to what
23 the source of that generation is through the MISO
24 grid. What we do know on the MISO grid is that there
25 is a lot of renewable energy there, particularly wind.

1 MR. BOB PETERS: Manitoba Hydro
2 doesn't have any bilateral contracts for wind or
3 solar, does it?

4 MS. JAY GREWAL: Could you clarify
5 what you mean by 'bilateral'?

6 MR. BOB PETERS: I'll ask it this way:
7 On the MISO grid, there's also thermal generating
8 resources.

9 Do you accept that?

10 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is my
11 understanding, yes.

12 MR. BOB PETERS: And when Manitoba
13 Hydro imports from MISO, you don't get to pick and
14 choose which electrons were born under a windmill and
15 which one were born in a coal plant, just to put it --

16 MS. JAY GREWAL: I don't believe in
17 any jurisdiction that's possible when there's a
18 consolidation of different sources of electricity. We
19 also don't know what sys -- what source of generation
20 is operating at any particular point in time.

21 MR. BOB PETERS: Okay. Thank you for
22 that. Now, Manitoba Hydro receives renewable energy
23 credits. Are you familiar with those?

24 MS. JAY GREWAL: I'm aware that there
25 are renewable energy credits, but it would be a

1 stretch to say I know a lot more beyond that.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. We'll ask
3 -- we'll ask others of that.

4 And does Manitoba Hydro know, from a
5 policy perspective, whether those renewable energy
6 credits can be applied against Manitoba Hydro's
7 imports that are coming from neighbouring markets?

8 MS. JAY GREWAL: As I stated, I
9 believe we've got a panel that can speak to this. I
10 would not want to misstate the facts.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you. On page
12 48 of the book of documents, there was a -- another
13 directive to Manitoba Hydro to pause its working with
14 crypto currency companies.

15 Are you familiar with that?

16 MS. JAY GREWAL: I am.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: Is the concern of
18 Manitoba Hydro that these crypto currency customers
19 will use a lot of electricity and pay low rates?

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 MS. JAY GREWAL: This is a directive
24 from government to Manitoba Hydro. What government
25 observed, and we shared the information and data with

1 them, is that if every single crypto currency operator
2 that showed an interest that spoke with Manitoba Hydro
3 in the previous sixteen (16) months was to become a
4 customer and use our generation transmission and
5 distribution, that would be 4,600 megawatts.

6 And our current total electric system
7 capacity today is 6,100 megawatts.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: So, the concern of
9 Manitoba Hydro is you don't have enough capacity to
10 support all of the crypto currency operators who may
11 want to locate in Manitoba?

12 MS. JAY GREWAL: I would say that the
13 issue with -- with this is there's a huge material
14 demand, and we would not be able to support it.

15 Secondly, it was demand that was
16 emerging at a time when we were conducting our IRP
17 work to understand the evolving energy landscape and
18 the increase in demand for electricity that might
19 materialize from our existing Manitoba customers.

20 MR. BOB PETERS: Does that tell this
21 Board that during your integrated resource planning
22 process you will have a scenario that'll be presented
23 that addresses crypto currency operators?

24 MS. JAY GREWAL: The directive is for
25 sixteen (16) months. And as I indicated, our IRP will

1 be coming forward in the next number of months. The -
2 - I anticipate that energy policy will inform this
3 directive, so I couldn't speak to that.

4 What I can say though is in our IRP
5 work what we will be bringing forward is -- is a few
6 different scenarios that we will be sharing and having
7 discussions about, but there is not a specific
8 scenario on this. It's scenarios around supply and
9 demand and how both may evolve and emerge.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. Let's end
11 on page 50 of Board counsel's book of documents. We
12 see the winter supply demand scenario for winter peak
13 capacity.

14 And, again, Ms. Grewal, I -- I will
15 accept that you're not intimately familiar with this,
16 but generally speaking, are you aware that Manitoba
17 Hydro's supply and demand on capacity is -- is
18 something that is calculated by your firm, and so you
19 know on an annual basis what your expected surplus
20 will be?

21 MS. JAY GREWAL: That would be fair.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: So, when I look to
23 this table and I look down to the 2023/'24 years and
24 the '24/'25 years, which are the two (2) test years
25 before this Board, we go down to the bottom and we see

1 that Manitoba Hydro forecasts 164 megawatts of surplus
2 capacity in the winter for the first test year and 153
3 megawatts in the second test year, correct?

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: And so, in terms of
9 what's available for Manitoba Hydro customers if there
10 were new crypto currency customers, Manitoba Hydro has
11 some capacity constraints even in the test years that
12 are before this Board?

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 MS. JAY GREWAL: That's correct.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: And highlighted just
18 for the edification of the Board if it helps, Mr.
19 Grewal and Mr. Tess, in the 2020 -- I'm sorry, in the
20 2033/'34 year we see that Manitoba Hydro is going to
21 bring on some new wind resources, correct?

22 MS. JAY GREWAL: I believe what we're
23 saying is that we will bring -- it's -- it's a
24 placeholder that it is wind, and it -- probably most
25 likely it would be wind, but no decisions have been

1 made on the -- on the technology of the generation but
2 that we will need new additional generation at that
3 time.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: But the costs
5 included in appendix 4.1 were premised on it being
6 wind in that year. Would that be correct?

7 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct.
8 That was the assumption. And we went with wind
9 because we always solve for lowest possible cost
10 relative to reliability.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: And ending on the
12 year 2038/'39, we see some new thermal resource coming
13 in for some capacity. And that would be Manitoba
14 Hydro's current placeholder to have a natural gas
15 fired turbine added to the fleet?

16 MS. JAY GREWAL: As I -- I said with
17 respect to the wind, it is a placeholder. And at the
18 point in time when we prepared this, natural gas was
19 the most reliable for capacity at the lowest possible
20 cost.

21 MR. BOB PETERS: Mr. Chair and Board
22 members, I'd like to thank Ms. Grewal and Mr. Tess for
23 their responses to my questions. That does conclude
24 my questioning.

25 And I would suggest, Mr. Chair, that

1 you call on Intervener counsel, starting with Ms. Fox,
2 for AMC. Ms. Fox had spoken for approximately forty
3 (40) minutes, and her turn is next.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.
5 Before we do that, Ms. Fox, Ms. Bellringer has a few
6 questions.

7 BOARD MEMBER BELLRINGER: Thanks. I
8 just -- I was waiting to see if they would get
9 covered, but a couple of specifics. I'm going to
10 start with just on assumptions.

11 So, it's -- it's my understanding that
12 you've built the twenty (20) year forecast assuming no
13 new fixed export contracts to replace any that are
14 expiring. And if you could just confirm that I've got
15 that straight.

16 But my question is: What's your
17 current assessment of the likelihood of that?

18 MS. JAY GREWAL: So, when we look at
19 what's happening in the energy landscape, what there
20 is a surplus of is energy. There is -- the constraint
21 is capacity that you can rely on, that you can depend
22 upon.

23 What -- the other thing that is
24 happening that we see in the markets that we're
25 connected with, such as MISO, where in the past we

1 would peak at different times, with the amount of
2 renewable energy coming into the system, our peaks and
3 our -- our winter peaks are both start -- our peaks
4 are starting to both occur in the winter whether in
5 the MISO grid or here.

6 So, the opportunity is -- for diversity
7 agreements, it does not exist. In terms of firm
8 contracts on capacity, we believe -- we know and these
9 charts tell us that we will require additional
10 capacity in Manitoba and, therefore, we would not have
11 surplus green dependable capacity to sell to other
12 parties because we will need that electricity and that
13 generation here, plus other sources, plus other
14 sources.

15 BOARD MEMBER BELLRINGER: Thank you.
16 Totally unrelated questions. On the commercial
17 service connection experience, do you have a KPI on
18 that one? Like, I -- you -- I've noted the decline,
19 but do you have an actual goal set for that?

20 MS. JAY GREWAL: Through the work that
21 we're doing on our customer journey mapping and
22 customer optimizations, we're actually going to -- to
23 -- part of the work and the evidence and data we
24 submitted is we were understanding how we're actually
25 performing now. And we'll be working with our

1 customers to determine what is a level of service they
2 want.

3 And it -- and it ties back not
4 directly, but similar to -- to what the Vice Chair's
5 question was, which is, if you want increases service
6 and you want it at this level, here is the cost, and
7 if you want it at this level, here is the cost.

8 So, we'll be engaging with our
9 customers as to what it is that they want so that we
10 can appropriately resource and try to be as
11 transparent as possible and what that might mean for
12 costs.

13 BOARD MEMBER BELLRINGER: Thanks. So,
14 a future activity with that.

15 The last thing, just on the O&A, do
16 anticipate being actually able to hire the various
17 positions you're planning for?

18 MS. JAY GREWAL: You hit on a very
19 material issue for us as Manitoba Hydro, which is our
20 -- so, we have every year about three hundred (300)
21 positions that we have to fill. The ability to fill
22 those positions in the current market where there is a
23 huge demand for skilled resources is challenging.

24 So, we've done a number of different
25 things to try to address that, including having third

1 parties help us with the recruitment process. The
2 real issue, though, is in the trades and the technical
3 and two (2) to four (4) years for them to become fully
4 provisioned that they can -- they can operate
5 independently.

6 But it -- it absolutely is a catch-up
7 challenge that our Human Resources team is focused on.
8 And we're looking at how -- how best -- how best to do
9 that.

10 Because we -- just like we planned for
11 our systems over the long term, we really need to plan
12 for our FTE the same way.

13 BOARD MEMBER BELLRINGER: Okay. Thank
14 you. And my last question is just on the -- the cloud
15 and SAP and cyber.

16 Is there any coordination happening
17 with central government, who should, of course, be
18 having parallel issues?

19 MS. JAY GREWAL: There is actually a
20 group of CIOs that meet together to discuss cyber, as
21 well as, I believe, government is going forward and --
22 particularly, with the recent Auditor General Report,
23 where they've got a technical deficit on their
24 technology. So there -- there is a group.

25 I believe different -- the different

1 Crowns and government where -- they do get together
2 and our VP Digital and Technology is involved in those
3 discussions.

4 That being said, the level of cyber
5 security required, if you are a utility, is material.
6 We not only test ourselves, we get tested by NERC
7 because we are connected to the US grid. We also get
8 tested periodically by the -- the federal Canadian
9 government also as they observe what's happening in
10 those markets.

11 We participate in the Grid X (phonetic)
12 discussions and councils, where we do mock simulations
13 about cyber attacks, to ensure that -- and it engages
14 the federal government, both in Canada and in the US,
15 and we work with the MISO grid and the like, so that
16 we do the simulations and tabletop exercises.

17 And where we are today on cyber
18 security -- I'm -- I'm very pleased to say that we
19 continue to increase our level of capability in this
20 area. And it is an area where we believe we're doing
21 everything possible and the third parties that test us
22 confirm that.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Fox, just a
24 second. I have a -- I have a question or a couple of
25 questions.

1 Kristen, can you bring up the Daymark
2 redacted report, page 50?

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Ms. Grewal,
7 is Manitoba Hydro looking for more export contracts?

8 MS. JAY GREWAL: Manitoba Hydro is
9 looking at opportunities for diversity agreements
10 where it will be for energy that we won't require at
11 any -- at a particular point in time in the year.

12 We are not actively pursuing any long-
13 term export capacity contracts.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. So SaskPower,
15 you have two (2) contracts, correct?

16 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is correct.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Do you envisage
18 those are the only capacity contracts you'll have with
19 SaskPower?

20 MS. JAY GREWAL: At this point in
21 time, we are not engaged in any discussions with
22 SaskPower on anything beyond what is in place today.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. So I just
24 want to be clear about that. I don't know, Mr.
25 Peters, did you give them this? Okay.

1 So Kristen, if you could bring up the
2 newspaper story, which I believe your counsel has.

3 So I just want to go to the newspaper
4 story from the -- from the Free Press, which is -- I
5 would point out, which is a good reason that you
6 actually read the news -- the hard copy because it
7 wasn't in the online version.

8 If you could scroll down, Premier Moe
9 made the comment right there -- said:

10 "SaskPower, the Crown utility
11 responsible for electricity in the
12 province is prepared to meet net
13 zero emissions by 2050."

14 He said: (as read)

15 "Saskatchewan can use nuclear,
16 natural gas, solar, and wind energy
17 in the future to lower the
18 province's overall emissions and
19 meet targets."

20 Do you know why Hydro isn't mentioned
21 as being an alternative for Saskatchewan?

22 MS. JAY GREWAL: I -- I believe that -
23 - when I look at that and I read it, he's talking to
24 what will be new that they will be adding, versus what
25 they already have in place, which is these two (2)

1 export contracts. They're already part of their mix
2 and their planning.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Right. So you don't
4 envisage Saskatchewan as being a party for additional
5 electricity then?

6 MS. JAY GREWAL: We don't envision
7 that with anyone because we need the capacity here in
8 the province.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Okay. Thank
10 you. Ms. Fox...?

11

12 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY AMC:

13 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 As an aside, thank you to Board counsel, I don't
15 anticipate that I'll have to use up all of my time. I
16 think he covered a lot of my questions very well.

17 So thank you, Ms. Grewal and Mr. Tess.
18 I think most of my questions will be directed to Ms.
19 Grewal.

20 Also I should introduce myself. My
21 name is Carly Fox. I'm counsel for the Assembly of
22 Manitoba Chiefs, or AMC.

23 Ms. Schubert, can I have you pull up
24 Order 59/18 at page 230 of the PDF. Thank you.

25 So we're going to go back about five

1 (5) years to this Order. There's just some follow-up
2 questions I have on it.

3 If you move down, Ms. Schubert to --
4 right here:

5 "Given Manitoba Hydro's expertise
6 regarding its customers' billing
7 system and affordability issues."

8 One of the things that the Board had
9 mentioned back then was that the Utility should take
10 initiative to work with the Provincial Government and
11 other stakeholders to assist in the development of a
12 comprehensive program to -- based on affordability of
13 bills.

14 I just wanted to ask you if Manitoba
15 Hydro agrees that bill affordability and issues of
16 energy poverty are still relevant for low income
17 customers in Manitoba?

18 MS. JAY GREWAL: We know that
19 particularly with what's been experienced over the
20 last few years, that affordability generally --
21 whether it's related to energy, whether it's related
22 to food -- that -- that we have customers that are
23 struggling, which is why we have programs such as the
24 Equal Payment Plan, the Home Energy Efficiency Loan.
25 We've got an Energy Finance Plan. And we're also

1 active and support Neighbours Helping Neighbours as --
2 as avenues to support those that -- that are -- are
3 challenged at this point in time.

4 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. And does
5 Manitoba Hydro agree that First Nations customers, in
6 particular, especially those on reserve, face
7 significant issues of energy poverty?

8 MS. JAY GREWAL: What I would say is
9 that we have many customers that are -- that are
10 facing challenges on that front, with First Nations
11 Indigenous being part of that group. But there --
12 there are many others also.

13 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. Has
14 Manitoba Hydro worked directly with the new First
15 Nation governments to assist in the development of any
16 bill affordability programs?

17 MS. JAY GREWAL: As I shared, we have
18 these programs that exist for all customers, such as
19 the Equal Payment Plan, Home Energy Efficiency Loan,
20 Energy Finance Plan, Neighbours Helping Neighbours.

21 We're also very active with Efficiency
22 Manitoba, which has many programs that would allow
23 customers to actually reduce the amount of energy or
24 electricity they use as a -- as a vehicle or
25 opportunity to reduce the amount that they would then

1 have to pay.

2 MS. CARLY FOX: Thanks. But to be
3 clear, there's nothing specifically for First Nation
4 customers?

5 MS. JAY GREWAL: Under Bill 36, it
6 specifically states that rates for different customers
7 or classes of customers must not differ based on
8 affordability or other socioeconomic factors. And so,
9 we're obligated to comply with that.

10 MS. CARLY FOX: I understand. I was
11 more looking to see if you had any bill affordability
12 programs designed for First Nations; not classes.

13 MS. JAY GREWAL: We have programs that
14 are defined -- designed for all -- all customers
15 across the Board. Anybody who -- who needs support
16 from programs like that.

17 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. Has
18 Manitoba Hydro communicated or worked with the Federal
19 Government for bill affordability in any way?
20 Programs?

21 MS. JAY GREWAL: We've not been
22 approached directly by the Federal Government on that
23 topic.

24 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. Ms.
25 Schubert, can you -- the same Order, page 27.

1 In this -- in this page, the Board
2 noted that there were new sources of revenue flowing
3 to the Provincial government. And the Board
4 reiterated the recommendation in the NFAT report that
5 the Provincial government should use some of the
6 revenues it receives from Keeyask to fund a
7 comprehensive bill affordability program.

8 So as you know, the Manitoba Government
9 has since decided to reduce what it collects from
10 Manitoba Hydro annually in provincial debt guarantee
11 and water rental payments, which resulted in Manitoba
12 Hydro updating its General Rate Application to reduce
13 its request for a rate increase.

14 So, my question to you is that: Did
15 Manitoba Hydro have any discussions with the
16 provincial government prior to the announcement about
17 the reduction of water rental fees and the provincial
18 debt guarantee, in particular, about reducing the
19 burden for low income customers.

20 MS. JAY GREWAL: The conversations
21 that we had with government is they asked us to do
22 some modeling and analysis that would inform -- which
23 resulted in our 3 1/2 percent for all customers being
24 amended to 2 percent for all customers.

25 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. Ms.

1 Schubert, can you go to Exhibit MH-1 and this is the
2 application at tab 8, page 5. And if you just scroll
3 down to figure 8.1 here.

4 So, Manitoba Hydro's application would
5 result in residential customers facing a 2.4 percent
6 increase in 2023 and '24 and '24/'25, while all other
7 customers face a 1 percent to 2.1 percent increase.

8 Now, my question to you is: Do you
9 agree that the most vulnerable customers facing issues
10 of energy poverty are those that are in the
11 residential class?

12 MS. JAY GREWAL: I would actually say
13 we see it in a number of different areas as a result
14 of COVID and the pandemic, where we have customers in
15 numerous categories that have been impacted by the
16 reduced revenue and are also struggling to get back on
17 their feet.

18 MS. CARLY FOX: Okay. Since First
19 Nation's customers face higher incidents of energy
20 poverty, do you agree that First Nations residential
21 customers, particularly those who live on reserve,
22 will face a higher burden from increased bills
23 compared to other customers?

24 MS. JAY GREWAL: When I look at this
25 table, any of the customers in any of these categories

1 and -- and for example, in the residential category,
2 all residential customers will be impacted by that.

3 But -- but what I do want to call out
4 though, I -- I'm not a -- a cost allocation
5 methodology expert. I believe this is based on the
6 principles that are used in regulatory hearings to
7 say, here is a cost structure and for each segment, or
8 customer class, to pay the proportionate share of cost
9 that are related directly to the service they provide.

10 So, my understanding is what we -- what
11 is being proposed here, is to try to honour that
12 criteria, that principle, to ensure that the rates
13 collected from the different customer classes is a
14 reflection of the cost of delivering that service
15 which is a -- a -- a utility best practice, a
16 regulatory best practice.

17 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. Ms.
18 Schubert, can you move to AMC-2-34 at page 2.

19 As a Crown corporation, Manitoba
20 Hydro's approach is guided by Manitoba's path to
21 Reconciliation Act. And then we have the definition of
22 reconciliation in the Act here, in italics.

23 And then, in the next page, I don't
24 think we need to turn to it, but page 3 here, Manitoba
25 Hydro has listed a number of specific actions that it

1 has taken to address reconciliation.

2 What -- my -- my question to you is:
3 Does Manitoba Hydro consider enhancing bill
4 affordability for First Nations customers a means of
5 recognition and, as such, part of the creation of a
6 more equitable society?

7 MS. JAY GREWAL: What I would say in
8 this document, does a good job of -- of articulating
9 everything we are doing with our First Nations
10 partners and the Indigenous.

11 That being said, concepts such as
12 energy policy -- energy poverty are social policy and
13 Bill 36 precludes us from doing anything that is
14 different for one class or set of customers versus
15 another set of customers that would be in the same
16 class.

17 MS. CARLY FOX: Okay. Does Manitoba
18 Hydro believe it has a role in advancing the Crown
19 First Nations Treaty relationship as part of its
20 mandate regarding reconciliation?

21 MS. JAY GREWAL: Manitoba Hydro
22 honours reconciliation and the number of different
23 ways we do this, and it's outlined here, so, I am very
24 proud to say that in the northern communities in the
25 north, where we operate our major generating stations

1 and we know and recognize we've had an impact, 40
2 percent of our employees are Indigenous.

3 On the Keeyask Project which is coming
4 in half a billion dollars under, at approximately \$8.2
5 billion, the direct contracts, negotiated contracts
6 that went to First Nations, to our partners, the
7 Keeyask Cree Nation partners, was 800 to \$900 million.

8 Including, there was significant
9 training, education, community engagement, community
10 programs, scholarships. So, I believe, as Manitoba
11 Hydro, on a number of fronts, we are honouring the
12 spirit and intent of reconciliation.

13 And -- and it's also something that we
14 share publicly in our corporate social responsibility
15 report that is posted on our external website.

16 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. Let's move
17 to procurement and employment then. We'll come back
18 to this page, but first, Ms. Schubert, can you -- take
19 us to Exhibit AMC-3-10 at page 2. This one, maybe
20 down a little bit, yeah -- other measures that --
21 perfect.

22 So, at the bottom here, the last
23 sentence, there are examples where Manitoba Hydro has
24 implemented community-specific approaches.

25 For example, community-specific

1 agreements, initiatives to support activities that
2 promote operational employment at Manitoba Hydro.

3 So, regarding the implementation of
4 community specific approaches, can you confirm that
5 Manitoba Hydro's initiatives are applicable only to
6 operational employment and not to professional
7 employment?

8 MS. JAY GREWAL: I can categorically
9 say that is not the case, that it -- we do not
10 differentiate between operational employment versus
11 employment in other areas and -- and other ways within
12 Manitoba Hydro.

13 And on the community-specific
14 agreements, we have over eight hundred (800)
15 agreements with communities, First Nations and
16 Indigenous.

17 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. So, back to
18 the previous AMC-2-34, Ms. Schubert at page 3, I just
19 had a few follow-up questions here about the equitable
20 representation of Indigenous people in your workforce.

21 So, it states here that as of September
22 2022, all statistics are by self identification. Does
23 Manitoba Hydro currently use self identification to
24 confirm Indigenous identity?

25 MS. JAY GREWAL: We use self

1 identification, but I -- and I don't want to mis-state
2 this, but I believe we also where -- where individuals
3 do have third-party documentation, that we're also
4 provided with that.

5 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. And are
6 you aware, generally, of the current issues or
7 controversies regarding false claims to Indigenous
8 identity?

9 MS. JAY GREWAL: I -- I have observed
10 that in the media, yes.

11 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. What steps
12 does Manitoba Hydro take to ensure that non-Indigenous
13 employees and contractors do not falsely claim
14 Indigenous identity in order to benefit from
15 employment equity or other programs designed for
16 Indigenous people?

17 MS. JAY GREWAL: As -- as I said
18 earlier, we do ask if you have third-party
19 documentation that you can provide that, but I can't
20 speak specifically to those instances where an
21 individual does not have that documentation as to
22 whether we would or would not take the individual's
23 representations at face value.

24 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. Well, I'm
25 not sure if this is the case at Manitoba Hydro, but do

1 you have any policies or consequences or penalties if
2 you found that an -- an individual falsely claims an
3 Indigenous identity and is later found that it does
4 not?

5 MS. JAY GREWAL: Because I'm not close
6 enough to this subject matter, if you're comfortable
7 with it, we can take that as an Undertaking and come
8 back and share with you the facts.

9 MS. CARLY FOX: That would be great.
10 Thank you.

11

12

13 --- UNDERTAKING NO. 1: Manitoba Hydro to advise if
14 Manitoba Hydro has any policies or
15 consequences or penalties if you
16 found that an individual falsely
17 claims an Indigenous identity and is
18 later found that it does not.

19

20 CONTINUED BY MS. CARLY FOX:

21 MS. CARLY FOX: Okay, I only have a --
22 a few questions left, so if we can move, Ms. Schubert,
23 to Exhibit AMC-2-6 on page 1.

24 This Information Request speaks to the
25 Executive Leadership Team Continuous Improvement

1 Initiatives. Since April 20, 2002 -- '22, sorry,
2 okay, there have been several initiatives presented at
3 the Executive Leadership Team that will help make
4 Manitoba Hydro serve our customers more efficiently
5 and effectively, and those improvements are in
6 Appendix 2.4.

7 So, what I wanted to ask you about this
8 is that can you confirm that the Executive Leadership
9 Team Continuous Improvement Initiatives have a cost
10 for Manitoba Hydro?

11 MS. JAY GREWAL: The approach that
12 we're taking in terms of continuous improvement is
13 actually something we're calling continuous evaluation
14 and improvement. What we are focussed on is operating
15 as efficiently as effectively as possible and, so,
16 what we are asking all of our employees to do in
17 finding ways and avenues to support them is for them
18 to identify, of those things that we do today, is
19 there anything we can stop doing that does not add
20 value.

21 And then, the second thing is, in terms
22 of the work you are doing, what are your suggestions
23 and ideas to improve it because if we can remove
24 roadblocks, if we can do things differently to make it
25 easier for them to serve our customers, that is what

1 is important.

2 So, the customers are ultimately the
3 benefit (sic) of the work and effort we're undertaking
4 but our initiatives are focussed internally because if
5 we can improve how our cu -- our employees go about
6 serving customers and doing the work directly, that
7 has an impact on -- on the customers, but there isn't
8 a big program on any specific initiative.

9 Our opportunity is on all the small
10 stuff and actually engaging with our employees and --
11 and supporting them, to say how can we do this better,
12 'cause they are the ones who know what we can do.

13 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. If you
14 just scroll down a little bit, Ms. Schubert, here,
15 there's the list. Sorry. Go up a bit, onto the other
16 page. Yep, on B -- well A and B. There's no specific
17 initiatives targets toward First Nations customers,
18 there's upcoming initiatives, specifically targeted
19 towards First Nations customers, but there is a list
20 of current and planned initiatives.

21 Has Manitoba Hydro considered whether
22 or not these current and planned initiatives would be
23 accessible to First Nations customers?

24 MS. JAY GREWAL: So, just even looking
25 at the first one, metre reading accuracy, we improved

1 the accuracy of the metre reads. That means that,
2 when our customers receive bills, it's directly tied
3 to how much electricity they consumed versus reach --
4 re -- receiving a bill, where the reading wasn't
5 accurate, whether it was higher or -- or lower.

6 So, what -- the way I look at this is
7 any improvement would impact all of our customers
8 because that's an example of one process that affects
9 all customers.

10 MS. CARLY FOX: Okay. And just moving
11 to the next page there, Ms. Schubert, the other ones
12 that you have listed, automating the moves process,
13 self-schedule, schedule -- self-service scheduling
14 functionality, customer journey optimization, web chat
15 deployment, channel strategy.

16 Have you considered those and whether
17 they would be accessible for First Nations customers?

18 MS. JAY GREWAL: We don't,
19 specifically, look at any particular customer class,
20 but they're all the different channels and ways we're
21 engaging with our customers. That being said, we also
22 still maintain where, if technology is not an enabler,
23 you can still call into our contact centre.

24 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. Can we
25 move to Exhibit AMC-2-32, at page 1, and Board Counsel

1 has already discussed the Wall Report with you.

2 I understand, from your response, that
3 Manitoba Hydro has done work to support the government
4 in the assessment of the project but, to clarify, has
5 Manitoba Hydro taken any steps to implement these
6 recommendations, such as establishing a committee to
7 examine opportunities for reconciliation and economic
8 partnerships?

9 MS. JAY GREWAL: So, what I will say
10 is that Manitoba Hydro already has economic
11 partnerships with First Nations. We were the first
12 utility in Canada to have an equity partnership model
13 and that was on Wuskwatim, and we've done the same
14 thing on -- on the Keeyask Project.

15 So, we've already undertaken that, and
16 many of the recommendations, and I can't speak to all
17 51, since we -- we were already moving forward in a
18 number of these areas where it made -- where it
19 aligned with our accountabilities and responsibilities
20 on relying on reliability at the lowest possible cost.

21 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. Can we go
22 -- my last few questions, I think. Manitoba Hydro
23 One, so the application at tab 2, page 9, Ms.
24 Schubert.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MS. CARLY FOX: Going back to Manitoba
4 Hydro's new Mission statement, help all Manitobans
5 efficiently navigate the evolving energy landscape.

6 Are you familiar with the concept of
7 substantive equality?

8 MS. JAY GREWAL: I wouldn't want to
9 assume what substantive equality -- what you're
10 referencing, 'cause I -- I am familiar with equity
11 versus --

12 MS. CARLY FOX: Equality?

13 MS. JAY GREWAL: -- equality.

14 MS. CARLY FOX: The -- the definition
15 that I would use is that the concept is, basically,
16 the recognition that not all people start off from the
17 same position due to inequality. So, treating
18 everybody the same doesn't necessarily result in
19 fairness.

20 Would you, generally, agree with that
21 as a definition?

22 MS. JAY GREWAL: That -- that isn't
23 (sic) my understanding of how that term is defined.
24 Yes.

25 MS. CARLY FOX: Okay. Thank you. So,

1 would you, then, agree that energy poverty issues
2 where -- excuse me -- First Nations residential
3 customers, living on reserve, which arise from issues
4 like poor housing, lack of access to natural gas,
5 those are equality issues?

6 MS. JAY GREWAL: For -- for any of our
7 customers, where there are those kinds of challenges,
8 I would say that it is an issue for those customers,
9 but many of those topics that you just referred to are
10 outside, I would say, our social policy versus our
11 accountability under our Act to deliver reliable power
12 at the lowest possible cost.

13 MS. CARLY FOX: Okay. So, Manitoba
14 Hydro's current approach, then, it's not to
15 differentiate First Nations customers for the purposes
16 of policy initiatives associated with Strategy 2040 or
17 other new initiatives. Is that correct?

18 MS. JAY GREWAL: I would say Bill 36
19 provides us direction on that, that I referred to
20 earlier and, so, we comply with Bill 36.

21 MS. CARLY FOX: Thank you. Just a few
22 follow-up questions for you, then.

23 Does Manitoba Hydro have any plans to
24 engage with First Nations' governments, specifically,
25 to address any issues, such as bill affordability,

1 reconciliation, for example?

2 MS. JAY GREWAL: I -- I would say
3 Manitoba Hydro's very active on reconciliation, as
4 reflected by the over 800 agreements that we have, all
5 of the -- the different programs that are referred to
6 in our Corporate Social Responsibility Report. So, I
7 actually believe Manitoba Hydro is engaging on many
8 different fronts on reconciliation.

9 MS. CARLY FOX: Okay. Thank you.
10 Those are all my questions.

11 MS. JAY GREWAL: Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Mr.
13 Williams...?

14 BOARD MEMBER BASS: Before we do, Mr.
15 Chair, if I could just --

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah.

17 BOARD MEMBER BASS: Yes, ask a
18 follow-up question, and I think it'll be for Mr. Tess,
19 but the questions that Ms. Fox was asking around
20 social policy caused me to think about the Bonbright --
21 Bonbright Principles of rate-regulated accounting, and
22 there's one of them that refers to Benefit-Cost
23 Assessments, BCAs.

24 Of course, there'd be an acronym for
25 it, but that principle is along the following lines.

1 It's that the consideration of all present and future
2 private and social costs of service is a Bonbright
3 Principle. I can't even get my word around Bonbright
4 Principle.

5 So, it -- to -- are you aware, in any
6 of the -- the accounting, that Manitoba Hydro has
7 provided, or in any references from the -- the Board's
8 viewpoint, has that principle been taken into account
9 to deal with the social issues that Ms. Fox had
10 questioned about?

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MR. AUREL TESS: I -- I would say -- I
15 would go back to what Ms. Grewal mentioned in terms of
16 social policy and compliance with -- with our
17 legislation.

18 And, you know, we -- we do use the --
19 the cost of service model to allocate costs to
20 different rate classes, and I think Ms. Grewal spoke
21 to that at a high level.

22 That is essentially our driver for
23 setting the rates and, you know, looking at the cost
24 allocation between these different rate classes, but
25 I'm not aware of any, you know, imputed social

1 affordability mechanisms that go into that
2 calculation.

3 BOARD MEMBER BASS: Okay. We'll leave
4 it at that. Thank you.

5 MR. AUREL TESS: Okay.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Will --
7 Williams, before you start, we're going to take a five
8 (5) minute break, okay.

9 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: I was just going
10 to suggest that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 --- Upon recessing at 12:11 a.m.

13 --- Upon resuming at 12:18 a.m.

14

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. If -- if we
17 can -- if we can resume, Mr. Williams.

18

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY CONSUMERS COALITION:

20 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Good afternoon,
21 members of the Public Utilities Board panel. It's
22 been a -- a few weeks. Nice to see you again. And
23 welcome, Manitoba Hydro. It's been a few years, so
24 it's nice to see you as -- as well.

25 Ms. Grewal, Manitoba Hydro has

1 identified five (5) pillars underlying Strategy 2040,
2 correct?

3 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

4 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And those five
5 (5) pillars translate into sixteen (16) strategic
6 objectives over the next three (3) to five (5) years,
7 agreed?

8 MS. JAY GREWAL: The strategic
9 objectives extend over more than the -- the next three
10 (3) to five (5) years. They're the longer term ones,
11 but we do have sixteen (16) strategic objectives.

12 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Okay. And then
13 focussing on just the '23/'24 year, Hydro is
14 undertaking twenty-one (21) strategic initiatives
15 associated with these pillars and objectives under the
16 framework of Strategy 2040, agreed?

17 MS. JAY GREWAL: Actually, again, the
18 twenty-one (21) strategic initiatives are part of
19 Strategy 2040, looking out over a longer time frame.
20 Not all of those initiatives will we be actioning in
21 the near term.

22 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: So, to the
23 extent, for example, that you're chapter 2 -- or tab 2
24 of your documents seem to suggest that these twenty-
25 one (21) strategic initiatives are associated with the

1 '23/'24 year, we should read that more carefully?

2 MS. JAY GREWAL: I -- I would suggest
3 that in some way they may be there or materializing,
4 but I wouldn't want anyone to think that we are solely
5 focussed on those twenty-one (21) strategic
6 initiatives.

7 Equally, to the same degree at this
8 point in time, it depends on the sequencing, logics,
9 resourcing capabilities, and over the longer term.

10 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Okay. And it
11 would be fair to say, though, that you are juggling a
12 lot of things under the banner of Strategy 2040,
13 agreed?

14 MS. JAY GREWAL: I would say that
15 every utility is faced with the challenges of the
16 evolving energy landscape. And we, like all other
17 utilities, are doing our best to be responsive to meet
18 our customer needs not only today, but in the future.

19 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you. And
20 one (1) of the things you're juggling with is fully
21 establishing and maturing your Enterprise Risk
22 Management Program, correct?

23 MS. JAY GREWAL: I -- I want to
24 differentiate between a program versus what Manitoba
25 Hydro does on enterprise risk management. We have a

1 very rigorous risk management culture, and that's
2 evident in -- in how we actually manage our system.

3 And whether it's risk related to safety
4 of our employees or the public, whether it's risk
5 related to an outage, whether it's risk related to
6 what we've shared in our application on how we manage
7 our system and optimize it relative to high water,
8 relative to low water, relative to financial from a
9 interest rate, all -- all of those different areas we
10 manage risks.

11 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: So just further
12 to my actual question, there is an Enterprise Risk
13 Management Program at Manitoba Hydro which is under a
14 multi-year journey, agreed?

15 MS. JAY GREWAL: The Enterprise Risk
16 Management Program that we are undertaking is where
17 we've traditionally had risk management looked at and
18 managed specifically in business unit.

19 And what we want to do is, because of
20 the evolving energy landscape, to have that enterprise
21 view and lens so we can look at all the risks
22 holistically across the business -- existing risks,
23 but also how we look at new and emerging risks because
24 of the evolving energy landscape.

25 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And Manitoba

1 Hydro, in its own words, is establishing and maturing
2 your Enterprise Risk Management Program on a multi-
3 year program -- multi-year journey, agreed?

4 MS. JAY GREWAL: Establishing relative
5 to the enterprise view. I would not want anyone to
6 assume that what we are saying is that we do not
7 actively manage our risks.

8 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And that will be
9 a multi-year journey in terms of that Enterprise Risk
10 Management Program, correct?

11 MS. JAY GREWAL: I -- I wouldn't say
12 it's a multi-year journey, but the maturity and how we
13 embed it in the business and how we make risk-based,
14 evidence-based decisions would be multi years where --
15 where we get every employee looking at everything they
16 do through that lens.

17 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And of course
18 you're aware that Manitoba Hydro used to prepare a
19 Corporate Risk Analysis Report, agreed?

20 MS. JAY GREWAL: I am aware of that.

21 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And you have not
22 produced one of those since 2018, agreed?

23 MS. JAY GREWAL: Again, to clarify,
24 that was a report that was for a specific purpose
25 versus all of the work we are doing to actively, on an

1 ongoing basis, manage the risks in Manitoba Hydro.

2 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you.

3 You're of course familiar with the term 'integrated
4 risk' -- sorry, 'integrated resource planning',
5 agreed?

6 MS. JAY GREWAL: I am.

7 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: You've used the
8 acronym IRP, but we can use integrated risk --
9 resource planning or IRP interchangeably, agreed?

10 MS. JAY GREWAL: Agree.

11 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And at a high
12 level, and without getting into Manitoba specifics, an
13 Integrated Resource Plan determines what supply-side
14 and demand-side resource mix is in the best interest
15 of electricity consumers or other consumers.

16 MS. JAY GREWAL: Of -- of our
17 customers, absolutely, and the IRP also looks at it
18 over a longer-term horizon.

19 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you. And
20 in essence, integrated resource planning, or IRP,
21 seeks to identify least cost combinations of resources
22 to meet consumer needs while also complying with
23 relevant legislative, regulatory, or strategic
24 objectives, agreed?

25 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is the intention

1 when you do an Integrated Resource Plan. That being
2 said, in this evolving energy landscape, the criteria
3 or lens through which we would look at anything on the
4 supply side and demand side is evolving relative to
5 reliability, relative to policy, relative to
6 implementa -- implications in terms of carbon pricing,
7 relative to clean electricity regulations and
8 standards.

9 So the -- the IRP will -- will need to
10 look at all of these factors and do a multi-factored
11 view versus solely at the lowest cost.

12 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And good practice
13 for integrated resource planning, you'll agree,
14 involves placing every resource option, demand and
15 supply, on an equal footing, correct?

16 MS. JAY GREWAL: Absolutely, and that
17 is the approach we have taken in our modelling and
18 analysis of our IRP work to date.

19 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And you'll be
20 aware that integrated resource planning is a regular
21 practice in many jurisdictions, agreed?

22 MS. JAY GREWAL: I've gone on the
23 record before to say that Integrated Resource Plans
24 are a utility best practice, which is why we at
25 Manitoba Hydro have been engaged over the last two (2)

1 years to -- to develop through broad consultation our
2 first Integrated Resource Plan.

3 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And as you've
4 averted to, historically integrated resource planning
5 was not practised at Manitoba Hydro, agreed?

6 MS. JAY GREWAL: I -- I would disagree
7 with that. There were components of integrated
8 resource planning that were happening on an ongoing,
9 regular basis.

10 We have a very active group always
11 looking at demand and forecasting demand, which is a
12 key component of an IRP. Then you also look at supply
13 and say, Do we have sufficient supply to meet the
14 needs, to meet those future customer expectations?

15 And the fact that, to this point in
16 time, we've never had in Manitoba a constraint on our
17 ability to ensure reliability for all of our customers
18 is a reflection of the fact that we have been using
19 the principles. We just didn't pull it together in
20 this form as an IRP, nor did we do it in the way with
21 the broad consultation that we've undertaken.

22 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: The Corporation's
23 familiar with the 2014 Need For An Alternatives
24 decision of the Public Utilities Board, that report?

25 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

1 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And you'll recall
2 that one of the key recommendations of the Need For An
3 Alternatives panel way back in 2014 was that Manitoba
4 Hydro undertake an integrated resource planning
5 process, agreed?

6 MS. JAY GREWAL: That is my
7 understanding.

8 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And you'll be
9 aware of course as well that, at that time frame, the
10 PUB was -- the Public Utilities Board was telling
11 Manitobans that the world was rapidly evolving, both
12 on the supply and demand side way back in -- in 2014,
13 agreed?

14 MS. JAY GREWAL: I can't specifically
15 recall that, but I am certain, if you're saying that
16 the PUB was well -- well informed as to what the
17 challenges would be coming, then absolutely.

18 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Over time, Ms.
19 Grewal, in terms of the Integrated Resource Plan,
20 Manitoba Hydro hopes to use it in -- in -- to provide
21 a long-term road map to assist it to plan and respond
22 to the evolving energy landscape, agreed?

23 MS. JAY GREWAL: I wouldn't say it's
24 the hope, but that's the intention.

25 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And of course a

1 completed Integrated Resource Plan will be an
2 important component of financial forecasting for
3 Manitoba Hydro going forward, agreed?

4 MS. JAY GREWAL: Agreed. The only
5 qualification I would like to make is that for any
6 utility at this point in time, an Integrated Resource
7 Plan, more so than ever, needs to be a living,
8 evergreen process because the -- the factors that are
9 driving and impacting both supply and demand are
10 largely driven by policy, largely driven external to
11 us.

12 So an Integrated Resource Plan is only
13 optimal at that particular point in time, and that's
14 why they have to be evergreen and continue to be
15 updated to reflect how the evolving energy landscape
16 is playing out.

17 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Now, your
18 integrated resource planning process was initiated
19 sometime in 2021, correct?

20 MS. JAY GREWAL: Almost two (2) years
21 ago.

22 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And that would be
23 some seven (7) years after the Public Utilities Board
24 report of 2014?

25 MS. JAY GREWAL: I haven't done the

1 math, but I'm sure that works.

2 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And in -- I can
3 give you a reference if you require it, but in tab 2
4 of your document at page 35, Hydro was suggesting that
5 a doc -- document titled "An Integrated Resource Plan"
6 would be anticipated to be published in the summer of
7 2023.

8 MS. JAY GREWAL: Originally, the
9 intention was the fall of 2023, which is where we're
10 at now. It takes -- it took us two (2) years -- it
11 would take two (2) years to do our first ever
12 Integrated Resource Plan particularly because we
13 engaged in broad consultation, four (4) stages of
14 consultation, throughout the province with various
15 stakeholders.

16 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: So, just to be
17 clear, in your -- in the General Rate Application tab
18 2, you were thinking it would be published in the
19 summer of 2023.

20 Now you're pushing that back a few
21 months, agreed?

22 MS. JAY GREWAL: Our Integrated
23 Resource Plan will be ready. And as I stated earlier,
24 also though there is governance around it, and it
25 would go to government. And with government support,

1 we would then release it.

2 So, I can't speak to government, but I
3 can assure you our Integrated Resource Plan will be
4 ready.

5 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: By the fall?

6 MS. JAY GREWAL: Our Integrated
7 Resource Plan will be completed this summer.

8 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Okay. Now, I
9 want to turn to the specifics of how integrated
10 resource planning, or that term, is understood is
11 understood in Manitoba.

12 And would it be fair to say that an IRP
13 is generally considered to cover a planning period of
14 at least ten (10) years?

15 MS. JAY GREWAL: Manitoba Hydro's
16 Integrated Resource Plan is looking at a twenty (20)
17 year time frame.

18 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And you also will
19 be working under a statutory mandate under Bill 36.
20 And under Bill 36, that -- the time period
21 contemplated is at least ten (10) years, agreed?

22 MS. JAY GREWAL: Agreed. Agreed. So,
23 we are looking longer than the ten (10) years because
24 we believe we -- just like Strategy 2040 looks out
25 longer, the IRP needs to look out longer to consider

1 the evolving technology and how that will play into
2 particularly both on the demand side and on the supply
3 side.

4 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And when we look
5 at the elements of an Integrated Resource Plan as
6 contemplated under Bill 36 or by Manitoba Hydro, one
7 (1) element of it will be the Corporation's load
8 forecast for the planning period, agreed?

9 MS. JAY GREWAL: Agreed.

10 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And another
11 element would be the anticipated impact on load of the
12 savings targets to be achieved under an approved
13 efficiency plan under the Efficiency Manitoba Act,
14 agreed?

15 MS. JAY GREWAL: Agreed.

16 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And also, of
17 course, supply side options which are being
18 recommended by the Corporation, agreed?

19 MS. JAY GREWAL: Agreed.

20 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Focussing on the
21 Efficiency Manitoba, would it -- it would be Manitoba
22 Hydro's understanding that the new Efficiency Manitoba
23 plan is not yet in the public domain?

24 MS. JAY GREWAL: I can't speak for
25 Efficiency Manitoba. What I can say though is we work

1 very closely with Efficiency Manitoba. They've been
2 actively involved and engaged in our IRP development
3 process. And we are using what they have provide us -
4 - provided us with both for DER and DM in terms of
5 what is possible to be achieved.

6 And I believe, and, again, I can't
7 speak for Efficiency Manitoba, that was based on a
8 report that they had a third party, Dunsky, undertake
9 in terms of what -- what the full potential of using
10 those levers, those tools, to reduce demand but
11 particularly shave peak in its capacity.

12 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: At a corporate
13 level, Manitoba Hydro is aware that the Efficiency
14 Manitoba new plan will not be filed until July of
15 2023, agreed? You know that. Your lawyer's right
16 beside you. You know that.

17 MS. JAY GREWAL: Sure.

18 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And so,
19 businesses, community organizations, and -- and the
20 Public Utilities Board have not had an opportunity to
21 review the Efficiency Manitoba plan, agreed?

22 MS. JAY GREWAL: I can't speak for
23 what engagement Efficiency Manitoba has had formally
24 or informally with the PUB.

25 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: You are aware

1 that -- that ultimately the Efficiency Manitoba plan
2 will be -- come before the Public Utilities Board for
3 consideration?

4 MS. JAY GREWAL: As it should.

5 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And it has not
6 been reviewed by the Public Utilities Board, agreed?

7 MS. JAY GREWAL: Yes.

8 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Integrated
9 Resources Plans in Manitoba also must take into
10 account the government's published energy and
11 environmental -- sorry. I see you were talking to
12 someone. I didn't want to --

13 MS. JAY GREWAL: Sorry. My apologies.

14 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Integrated
15 resource planning in Manitoba also must take into
16 account the government's published energy and
17 environmental policies, correct?

18 MS. JAY GREWAL: As I stated earlier
19 this morning, we've always said and we anticipated
20 that our IRP, which is an evergreen process, would
21 ensure when energy policy provincially is created,
22 that it would look at the energy policy and we would
23 adjust the IRP accordingly.

24 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you. And
25 we're in agreement -- or you're -- you're in agreement

1 that the Manitoba's energy strategy is not yet in the
2 public domain?

3 MS. JAY GREWAL: As I stated earlier,
4 my understanding is that the intention as stated by
5 the minister is there may be something released this
6 summer.

7 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Now, in terms of
8 the Integrated Resource Plan, it is Manitoba's (sic)
9 Hydro asset planning and delivery business unit that
10 is engaged with the selected stakeholders to develop
11 the Integrated Resource Plan, agreed?

12 MS. JAY GREWAL: Our integrated
13 resource planning group is within asset in -- in that
14 particular area you mentioned. I -- I would only want
15 to add a bit of context with the term 'selected'.

16 We have engaged with many -- pretty
17 well all of our customer classes, including those that
18 many of you are representing here today. We've
19 engaged with government. We've engaged broadly across
20 the board. We've engaged with our regulator.

21 I believe there's been over eighty (80)
22 different parties or groups that we've engaged in
23 through the process of developing the IRP, including
24 there were opportunities for -- for residential
25 customers through various surveys to respond, so.

1 And there were four (4) phases of
2 engagement, which is, as we got the -- the initial
3 consultation and used that -- that input that we
4 received to start to design our process and what we're
5 looking at.

6 Then for the second phase, we would go
7 as we got more information. And we'd go back out with
8 what we were learning to test whether what we are
9 hearing is being reflected. And so, now we're just
10 finalizing the phase 4.

11 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you. And
12 without asking you to elaborate, I'll ask you to
13 confirm that you have been closely monitoring the
14 outcomes of the engagement.

15 MS. JAY GREWAL: If there is one (1)
16 thing that I am paying attention to and I think is
17 critical and key is our work on the Integrated
18 Resource Plan.

19 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you. And
20 in terms of the Integrated Resource Plan, at a high
21 level without elaborating, you'll agree that there are
22 four (4) selected scenarios that are being considered
23 as part of the iterative dialogue?

24 MS. JAY GREWAL: The way I would frame
25 it is there's four (4) potential scenarios based on

1 the criteria that will be informing the near-term
2 actions we need to take in terms of analysis.

3 That being said, nothing in there is a
4 decision, is where we need to do near-term work over
5 the coming two (2) to three (3) years to analyze and
6 understand more.

7 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And indeed, those
8 scenarios were not defined in an effort to predict the
9 future --

10 MS. JAY GREWAL: I --

11 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: -- possible
12 visions of the future, agreed?

13 MS. JAY GREWAL: There -- there are
14 four (4) scenarios that -- that are possible visions
15 of the future. And the reason why they have to be
16 scenarios and every single utility, including grid
17 operators and MISO, are all looking at it the same way
18 is its potential scenarios because it depends on
19 policy. It depends on the pace of electrification.
20 It depends on so many other factors.

21 So, what we tried to do -- and, again,
22 I -- I won't -- I don't want to spend time on this
23 because it's not part of the scope, but there are four
24 (4) scenarios that look at potential bookends and
25 what's in the middle for us to discuss further with

1 the stakeholders and initial analysis and work we need
2 to do.

3 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And it would be
4 fair to say that the load forecast underlying this
5 General Rate Application does not underlie any of
6 those four (4) scenarios, agreed?

7 MS. JAY GREWAL: I don't think I could
8 categorically say that. I've also not looked at it
9 from that perspective because, as I said, when we
10 prepared this application, given the timing of when we
11 needed to do it, their IRP work was still in process,
12 was still in process.

13 So, whatever we knew -- and I cannot
14 definitively say to what degree that came in. But
15 what -- we used the best information we had at the
16 time to create a long-term financial forecast.

17 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: You're not
18 suggesting that the GRA forecast underlies any of the
19 scenarios captured in the IRP four (4) scenarios, are
20 you?

21 MS. JAY GREWAL: I don't think I'm
22 stating that at all. What I am saying is that, when
23 we completed and -- and prepared to submit our
24 application we used the best information we had,
25 including anything we may have understood on

1 increasing demand at that point in time to develop a
2 long-term financial forecast. But we had not
3 completed our IRP work.

4 That being said, I haven't directly
5 looked at that and looked at the specific four (4)
6 scenarios because they are four (4) scenarios and
7 they're directional.

8 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Just a few more
9 questions.

10 MR. BRENT CZARNECKI: Mr. Chair, I
11 hate to interrupt my learned friend here. My -- my
12 sense is we're getting close to the line of in and out
13 of scope, which would -- you know, I'm happy for Ms.
14 Grewal to answer -- and she has. She's trying her
15 best.

16 But it seems to me that we're veering
17 into some details of the -- specific details of the
18 four (4) scenarios and comparing them to this
19 particular application.

20 We're walking a fine line. So I'm
21 raising it at this point. Maybe my friend is near the
22 end of his questions in this area. But I'm going to
23 listen a little more carefully and object again if I
24 need to.

25 But again, we're trying our best to

1 answer, but these -- the IRP and the scenarios and how
2 they relate specifically to this application have been
3 ruled out of scope.

4 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, the --
5 just -- if my learned friend -- we don't need to go
6 there, but Board Order 130/22, at page 20, makes it
7 clear that to the extent the assumptions made with
8 respect to the Integrated Load Forecast Plan underpin
9 Hydro's General Rate Application, testing these
10 Hearings is appropriate, is relevant in its scope.

11 I'll simply say I just have a couple
12 more questions, which --

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah. That's fine.
14 I mean, what I was going to say is we have, on the
15 record, the four (4) scenarios of the IRP. Manitoba
16 Hydro has it on its website. It's very proud of it.

17 I didn't, quite frankly, think he was
18 giving beyond what Manitoba Hydro has already put
19 forward. So as long as he -- as long as he doesn't go
20 into, sort of, specific details and how it relates to
21 the GRA, I think -- I think we're fine.

22 But we'll see where -- where Mr.
23 Williams is going.

24

25 CONTINUED BY CONSUMERS COALITION:

1 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Ms. Grewal,
2 you've used various adjectives to describe the
3 Integrated Resource Plan report, I think. You spoke
4 of an evergreen report of near term action.

5 You remember using those words at
6 different times today?

7 MS. JAY GREWAL: Absolutely.

8 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And in describing
9 the document purporting to be an integrated resource
10 plan and to be filed by this fall, would it be more
11 accurate to characterize it as a plan to finalize a
12 plan over the next three (3) to five (5) years? Or is
13 a ten (10) to twenty (20) year roadmap?

14 MS. JAY GREWAL: Well, first of all,
15 it's not purported to be an IRP. It is absolutely an
16 IRP. And we -- because we'd never done one before, we
17 actually brought in a third-party consultant who's an
18 expert in here to advise as we design the process and
19 as we continue to work through it, to ensure it
20 reflected what is a -- a best utility practice IRP.

21 In terms of the second part of your
22 question -- I forgot it, sorry.

23 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: That's okay. I
24 think the record's pretty good on this.

25 So can I ask you, just in terms of the

1 consultation process, would it be fair to say that
2 certain organizations who participated in earlier
3 engagements did not participate in the April 2023
4 engagement?

5 MS. JAY GREWAL: I -- I'm not -- I
6 don't have those specific details.

7 I do know that there were different
8 phases and the fourth phase, I'm not certain if it's
9 still ongoing or if we've finalized it. Because we're
10 actively in the -- in the stage of writing the IRP.

11 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: In terms of --
12 Ms. Grewal, just to go back to the issue of risk for a
13 second, you joined Manitoba Hydro in February of 2019
14 or so, around that time?

15 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

16 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And at the time
17 you joined Manitoba Hydro, Keeyask was not finished,
18 agreed?

19 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

20 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And the Manitoba
21 Minnesota Transmission Line was not finished, agreed?

22 MS. JAY GREWAL: I don't believe we'd
23 even started it, MMTP.

24 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And at the time
25 you joined Manitoba Hydro, there was substantial doubt

1 in terms of whether Keeyask costs would be in the
2 range of \$8 billion or whether there would be further
3 deterioration, agreed?

4 MS. JAY GREWAL: Well, I believe the
5 control budget was \$8.7 billion.

6 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And at the time
7 you joined Manitoba Hydro, there were significant
8 concerns that the project would go even above that
9 expanded budget, agreed?

10 MS. JAY GREWAL: I disagree. Based on
11 what the analysis I saw and the review that I
12 personally did of the Keeyask project.

13 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: So in 2018/2019,
14 you were not concerned at all that Keeyask would go
15 over that control budget of 8.75 billion?

16 MS. JAY GREWAL: I joined Manitoba
17 Hydro in 2019. And all of the analysis and review and
18 risk assessments of the Keeyask project and how we
19 were driving it forward, and the focus on managing
20 costs and holding all of the third-party contractors
21 to their contracts through discipline contract
22 management, I did not have any concerns it would go
23 over.

24 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: So to the extent
25 that any risk analysis documents by Manitoba Hydro

1 would have suggested that, that would have been
2 inconsistent with your impressions at the time?

3 MS. JAY GREWAL: There was very
4 specific rigorous risk assessment of the project in
5 and of itself, that gave me the comfort level that I
6 believe we were doing everything possible to do two
7 (2) things. Because this is what risk management is.

8 What are the risks, to what degree have
9 we mitigated those risks, and those risks that we do
10 not have the ability to mitigate, that we're staying
11 focused on them to ensure, if they materialize, we've
12 already got planned actions we would take.

13 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you. Mr.
14 Tess, I've ignored you and I apologize for that.
15 We'll get to you later in the hearing.

16 Just a couple of questions. You joined
17 Manitoba Hydro in January of 2020?

18 MR. AUREL TESS: That's correct.

19 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And prior to
20 that, you had not worked for a hydro electric utility?

21 MR. AUREL TESS: That's correct.

22 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And Ms. Grewal,
23 back to you. Since you got your Masters -- your MBA
24 from Western in 1985, you've been in the labour market
25 for about thirty-eight (38) years, would that be fair?

1 MS. JAY GREWAL: That's a long time.
2 But I guess, yeah.

3 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And would it be
4 fair to say that, over those 38 years, between twelve
5 (12) to thirteen (13) of those years have been
6 associated with Hydro -- or with power companies?

7 MS. JAY GREWAL: Power companies and -
8 - and more, if you were to include mining and the
9 like, which are energy intensive -- sorry, energy
10 intensive in use, but also very similar in terms of
11 capital intensive. And where you're -- you're dealing
12 with major projects and major risks.

13 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And so, your
14 experience -- thank you for that. Your experience
15 with BC Hydro would have been between '03 and '06,
16 agreed? 2003 and 2006?

17 MS. JAY GREWAL: I'm -- if that's what
18 my CV says, that's when it was.

19 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And then, you
20 were with the Northwest Territories Power Corporation
21 starting in around 2017, agreed?

22 MS. JAY GREWAL: If that's what it
23 says, that's what it is. I really can't remember the
24 dates. I can't renew my Nexus. I can't remember all
25 these dates.

1 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: You can accept
2 it, subject to check.

3 And then, you joined Hydro in 2019?

4 MS. JAY GREWAL: January -- actually I
5 started the very end of January 2019.

6 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.
7 I appreciate the time with this panel.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Do you have a
9 question? Mr. Sy has a question. You've got to --
10 yeah -- you've got to move it a lot closer.

11 BOARD MEMBER SY: All right. Okay.
12 Thanks. Okay. Thank you very much.

13 My question is directed to Ms. Grewal.
14 Thank you for -- for your presentation today.

15 I just have a question regarding
16 Manitoba Hydro involvement on AI, artificial
17 intelligence.

18 It is known for utility companies that
19 AI has the potential to cut energy waste, lower energy
20 costs. AI can also improve the planning, operation,
21 and control of Power systems.

22 Is Manitoba Hydro getting ready to use
23 AI for the benefit of Manitobans? I know you talked
24 about cloud earlier. Are you guys thinking about AI
25 as well?

1 MS. JAY GREWAL: We are looking at AI.
2 And when -- when -- when I think about AI, there's a
3 range. Because what is AI? Is -- is really self
4 learning systems or loops or sometimes bots that are
5 used to analyze data and information. And we do use
6 them in some way in our financial processes, that we
7 already are.

8 So, AI absolutely is part of our
9 strategy, particularly, I would say, from an OT
10 perspective, because in the evolving energy landscape
11 where you're going to have bi-directional flow of
12 electrons, the way to manage that, you have to use
13 technology even more so to manage that, because you
14 cannot physically manage it as you would have in the
15 past.

16 So, AI absolutely has a huge role to
17 play, not only on IT, but also on OT as we build these
18 grids and systems. And we've been looking at what a
19 number of companies in the US, such as Duke and Exelon
20 have done, when they build -- built these close
21 systems and grids, which should absolutely improve
22 reliability.

23 It should also help, from all of the
24 perspectives that -- that you were sharing, we're
25 actually, having a discussion with our board at the

1 end of June about our overall technology strategy,
2 which is digital and technology and data is a huge
3 part of how you manage the evolving energy landscape.

4 And it's using AI to manage that data,
5 because the amount of data that will be required to
6 manage effectively and efficiently this system to know
7 where you need the electrons, when you need them at
8 any point in time of day, is fundamentally different
9 than how it operates today.

10 BOARD MEMBER SY: Good. Thank you.
11 Just to follow up regarding the enterprise risk
12 management, it was brought earlier.

13 When are you going to see the first
14 deliverables?

15 MS. JAY GREWAL: Sorry. The first?

16 BOARD MEMBER SY: Deliverables.

17 MS. JAY GREWAL: Oh deliver -- oh,
18 sorry, deliverable. So, when I look at ERM it's a
19 journey and we're -- we're building up to it.

20 We currently have a line of sight to
21 what we see as our key risk. When I look at a mature
22 enterprise risk management system, and this is the
23 third ERM system that I've -- I've been working with,
24 is you do two (2) things with enterprise risk
25 management and I touched on it earlier in the

1 discussion on Keeyask.

2 You clearly identify the risk and you
3 articulate the risk. You then say what are the
4 different levers to mitigate that risk. You also ask
5 yourself the question, which is, what is the financial
6 impact of that unmitigated risk versus the cost of
7 mitigating that risk.

8 You then see what is the residual risk
9 and you develop action plans on if they materialize
10 what you will do.

11 We manage a lot of risk and -- in our
12 business and it -- a perfect example of how we manage
13 that risk, would have been as we work through the
14 drought process and how we optimized our system and
15 how we made decisions. And that was something that
16 involved individuals from the customer side, from the
17 asset side, from operations and finance with that risk
18 lens.

19 And that is what ERM is, so I would say
20 that we already have some deliverables that have
21 changed in how we look at risk and how we assess risk
22 and how we're embedding it into any single decision we
23 make. It's now part of two (2) -- two (2) things,
24 we're -- we get very clear on what are our assumptions
25 and we make sure we document them, so we know what

1 those assumptions are.

2 And secondly, what are the risks and
3 how are we mitigating them and what might that look
4 like.

5 What we don't have though, is the
6 broader framework that embeds and pulls all of these
7 together so that we can say here at -- at enterprise
8 level, not only here are the risks, here is the
9 unmitigated impact and here is the mitigated impact so
10 that a conversation can be had so that we can see, at
11 any point in time, what are the risks the business is
12 facing and what is it on a monetized basis and that'll
13 be where we focus.

14 That's what we're moving towards,
15 because traditionally also in best practice ERM models
16 and methodologies, you also use that to determine your
17 risk tolerance. And -- and the risk tolerance plays
18 into when you're going to mitigate a risk, how much
19 risk can we take versus how much can we not. And you
20 use that to optimize to do it at the lowest possible
21 cost.

22 So, that -- that is part of our
23 maturity process, but we're -- we're building that
24 out. So, when we speak to it's a multi-year journey,
25 it's really pulling all of those pieces together,

1 including having discussions with our board about what
2 is our risk tolerance.

3 And our risk tolerance can change
4 depending on at any particular point in time, what is
5 the financial health of the organization. What can we
6 absorb within a year, what can we not and what are
7 those multi-year risks and how are we managing them?

8 So, I am -- I'm very much a deciple of
9 ERM and building that into the business and into our
10 managed systems and our processes and our tools. It
11 creates greater visibility and it ensures that we're -
12 - we're being as prudent as possible as we look at --
13 particularly it's going to be critical in this
14 evolving energy landscape where the risks we are
15 facing are new and different.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

17 BOARD MEMBER SY: Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Tess, did you
19 want to say something.

20 MR. AUREL TESS: Yeah, I just wanted
21 to add, I can see Ms. Grewal is very passionate about
22 enterprise risk management.

23 I think that's been disseminated
24 throughout the organization, but in terms of your
25 question about deliverables, I would agree we've

1 delivered some already, but maybe to get a better
2 sense of what we're working on right now, if we go to
3 page 28 of tab 2, you can see the key milestone dates
4 and deliverables that are kind of mapped out there for
5 fiscal '23/'24.

6 So, I just wanted to point -- point
7 that out to you.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Mr. Bass, you
9 had a question.

10 BOARD MEMBER BASS: Yes. Ms. Schubert
11 could you pull up Appendix 4.1 please, schedule figure
12 9. Yes. Thank you.

13 Ms. Grewal, I have a question about the
14 retained earnings and I want to ask it of you,
15 particularly, from a policy viewpoint.

16 So, we start the -- the period March
17 31st, '23, with retained earnings at 3.575 billion and
18 then by the end of the test period, March 31st, '25,
19 retained earnings become 4.339 billion, an increase of
20 706 -- \$764 million and subject to check, whatever.

21 Okay. When we look at it though, at
22 the end of this schedule, March 31st, 2042, the
23 retained earnings are 8.628 billion, so from March
24 31st, '23, that's a difference of \$5.053 billion.

25 So, in the materials that are before

1 the -- the Panel, the PUB gathers public comments. We
2 have submissions of a provincial collective of
3 Newcomers to Canada Association. Also a provincial
4 association of school boards.

5 And there's a number of comments in
6 there where they talk about the -- the pain of the --
7 the rate increases and you talked a bit about that
8 before in terms of energy poverty. And I appreciate
9 that.

10 People having to choose between rent
11 and paying for hydro, but then it -- it also got me
12 the school board one, when they talked about the
13 challenges of keeping the lights on and in order to do
14 that, they have to cut back on programs for our
15 children.

16 So, my question is: From a policy
17 viewpoint, how much retained earnings is enough? Like
18 -- and are these figures really, you know, fair, just
19 and reasonable?

20 MS. JAY GREWAL: I -- I can't speak to
21 policy. What you see reflected here is what is in
22 Bill 36 and the debt/equity targets have been set by
23 government, so that is what we have modeled here. And
24 so that -- that is what we are -- are sharing.

25 I think our owner or government would

1 be best to speak from a policy perspective relative to
2 what is or isn't enough.

3 I would call out though that the change
4 that we're seeing from '23 to 2040 in the -- in the
5 equity for Manitoba Hydro, 4 billion of that is coming
6 from the province with a reduction by 50 percent, in
7 the provincial guarantee fee and in the expect -- what
8 would have been the expected water rentals.

9 MR. AUREL TESS: Can I just add to
10 that a little bit because the -- the retained earnings
11 is a combination as you have increasing our asset base
12 as well and so we've got in our application, I believe
13 it's \$18 billion of -- of spend on -- on cap ex going
14 forward in the plan.

15 About 10 -- 10 billion of that is for
16 sustainment of assets. So, sustaining like, just what
17 you're talking about, Mr. Bass, would be keeping the
18 lights on and -- and making sure our aging assets are
19 able to deliver reliability for our customers, so.
20 So, it's tied into the retained earnings, but it's
21 also tied into reliability.

22 BOARD MEMBER BASS: Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. We're
24 going to proceed to GSS/GSM and I don't know, is Mr.
25 Reimer going or Mr. Walichnowski?

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sorry. Please
4 proceed.

5

6 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY GSS-GSM:

7 MR. THOMAS REIMER: Thank you. Thomas
8 Reimer is my name. I'm here for the GSS-GSM
9 Intervener Coalition. I should be just a couple of
10 minutes. So, the first question I have got is: Would
11 you agree with the general proposition that what you
12 don't track is very difficult to manage?

13 MS. JAY GREWAL: I would agree, which
14 is why we're focussed on creating the metrics that
15 would be of value for our customers but also for us,
16 as Manitoba Hydro, and I recognize there is a gap
17 there.

18 MR. THOMAS REIMER: And I don't know
19 if you've gotten into this level of detail, Ms.
20 Grewal, but we filed evidence from a gentleman named
21 Dustin Madsen in this proceeding, and one of the
22 things that he's filed evidence on was with -- with
23 respect to zero-based budgeting.

24 Are you aware of that evidence?

25 MS. JAY GREWAL: I'm not,

1 specifically, awa -- aware of that evidence.

2 MR. THOMAS REIMER: Are you familiar
3 with the concept of zero-based budgeting?

4 MS. JAY GREWAL: I am familiar with
5 the concept, as well as the circumstances where zero-
6 based budgeting is used.

7 MR. THOMAS REIMER: And do you have
8 personal experience, either in your present role or in
9 some previous role, with zero-based budgeting?

10 MS. JAY GREWAL: Yes. M-hm.

11 MR. THOMAS REIMER: Could you -- could
12 you just a quick precis of what that experience
13 involved?

14 MS. JAY GREWAL: For very large
15 organizations, it can be challenging when you're
16 budgeting, to go to zero-based budgeting, when you've
17 got a lot of depth, breadth, scope, and FTE.

18 Where I've seen it used effectively is
19 on a specific body of work or a specific project or
20 initiative, because, for zero-based budgeting to work
21 well, you need really, really long and material lead
22 times.

23 MR. THOMAS REIMER: Still, if I, just
24 to make sure that I understand your que -- your
25 response, are you -- implied in your response to that

1 is Manitoba Hydro is too big in depth, breadth, and I
2 can't remember the third dimension that you used, for
3 zero-based budgeting to be an appropriate measure?

4 Is that what I am to understand?

5 MS. JAY GREWAL: If -- if that's what
6 I implied, that was not my intention. So, thank you
7 for correcting -- correcting that.

8 Manitoba Hydro's always focussed on
9 operating as effectively and efficiently as possible
10 and we're always looking at those costs that we
11 control, are we doing the appropriate job on managing
12 those.

13 If you look at our costs structure, 80
14 percent of our costs structure is fixed. It is tied
15 to the capital assets. It is tied to depreciation.
16 It is tied, prior to the reduction in the debt
17 guarantee fee and the water rentals, 40 cents of every
18 dollar our customer gave us for their services was
19 just for interest on our debt.

20 So, what we do do and where we are very
21 focussed is in those costs that we do control,
22 particularly in -- in the O&A area, it undergoes
23 rigorous scrutiny.

24 MR. THOMAS REIMER: Okay. And, so, am
25 I, though -- am I right to understand that Manitoba

1 Hydro does not employ a zero-based budgeting
2 methodology?

3 MS. JAY GREWAL: I think, you know,
4 there's varying views on what is zero-based budgeting.
5 In my view, what is zero-based budgeting, you question
6 and challenge every dollar you spend and, if that is
7 zero-based budgeting, we do that in those costs that
8 we control, and we actually ask our employees that for
9 every dollar that we spend, you're making a decision
10 to spend, can we -- if a customer asked us why we're
11 doing it, tie it back to their interests, tie it back
12 to reliability, tie it back to maintaining the system,
13 tie it back to their service levels.

14 MR. THOMAS REIMER: Okay. So, that's
15 a helpful explanation and I just wonder if we could
16 bring up GSS-GSM Exhibit Number 5, and I'm on page 70,
17 Ms. Schubert.

18 So, this is a part of the report that
19 Mr. Madsen prepared and I'm just -- just stop there,
20 please, Ms. Schubert. So, if you just take 20 seconds
21 and read the paragraph that is at the top. It starts
22 with "the above context" and, then, the two (2)
23 questions that Mr. Madsen is suggesting should be
24 answered in a zero-based budgeting process and, then,
25 I'll just ask you a quick question following that.

1

2

(BRIEF PAUSE)

3

4

MS. JAY GREWAL: Okay.

5

MR. THOMAS REIMER: So, first

6

question, do you agree with the two (2) questions that

7

he's set out there, as the questions that need to be

8

answered, when you're employing a zero-based budgeting

9

method?

10

MS. JAY GREWAL: I'm not an expert in

11

zero-based budgeting. So, I couldn't comment if those

12

are -- are the appropriate questions.

13

What I would say, though, is that, when

14

I look at the definition of work performed, safe,

15

reliable, cost-effective, what is not included in

16

there is the regulatory, what is not included in there

17

is the environmental, what is not included in there is

18

the Indigenous.

19

There is a number of different

20

components, that, given we are Manitoba Hydro and the

21

role we play in the -- play in the province that are --

22

are not there, including what we have to do from a

23

public safety perspective.

24

So, I -- I would say the scope of how

25

we look at the work we're required to perform might --

1 in my view, is broader than what is discussed here.

2 I also would question the term "support
3 role" because some of what I describe some might call
4 "support". Is Enterprise Risk Management support or
5 is it cost effective? Is the customer journey
6 optimization to improve the service for customers
7 versus reducing costs, is that part of zero-based
8 budgeting?

9 So, I think you -- we have to look at
10 what is it we're intending to achieve and deliver and
11 how we serve our customers and we're focussed on what
12 our customers are telling us that they want.

13 MR. THOMAS REIMER: Right. And, so,
14 if I -- if I understood your answer correctly, you
15 were saying your mandate is broader than to just
16 provide safe, reliable, and cost-effective services to
17 ratepayers? There are other components that aren't
18 captured by -- by that description? Did I understand
19 your evidence correctly?

20 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

21 MR. THOMAS REIMER: And -- and, so, it
22 isn't enough to just simply take the -- the budget
23 back to the studs, so to speak, and rebuild it, or the
24 foundation, in your analogy earlier, there are things
25 that just simply exist and there's no point in

1 questioning those expenses because, as you've
2 mentioned, they're fixed or they don't go towards
3 providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective services
4 to ratepayers. Am I understanding you correctly?

5 MS. JAY GREWAL: I would probably
6 characterize it this way. What we define as core, in
7 terms of our mandate and our accountability in the
8 province is much broader. What this doesn't cover is
9 regulatory: regulatory reporting to the feds,
10 regulatory on the environment. It -- it doesn't cover
11 so much of that.

12 So, what I would say is, what I define
13 as the studs, is broader than what is defined here,
14 because all of that enables us to deliver on what
15 we're required to deliver on, given our mandate.

16 And, secondly, what I articulated
17 earlier, is 80 percent of our cost structure is fixed.
18 It doesn't mean we don't do the work. It doesn't mean
19 we don't do studies to ensure is it the appropriate --
20 and I believe it's going to be coming in this panel,
21 how we depreciate, what are those schedules, what does
22 that look like, but they are fixed costs. They are
23 costs that exist.

24 We know, for certain, with our -- our
25 debt, we have considerable interest costs. Does that

1 mean we don't do our best to balance across it, to
2 mitigate risks of any material change in interest
3 rates? If you look at our portfolio, we have hundred-
4 year debt now.

5 We paced -- placed our first century
6 bond during the pandemic because the interest rates
7 were so attractive, and what -- and what we could do,
8 and, so, there are fixed costs, but I did not mean to
9 imply that we aren't doing work on all of those fronts
10 to keep those costs as low as possible.

11 What I am saying, though, is they are
12 given costs. It's not like we can elect to not pay
13 interest. It's not like that we can elect to say,
14 well, we're going to change the accounting rules
15 because we don't like it.

16 MR. THOMAS REIMER: Okay. Thank you
17 for that. But before we got into Mr. Madsen's report,
18 you said something to the effect of -- that your bud -
19 - budgeting process involves questioning every dollar.

20 Did -- did I understand that correctly?

21 MS. JAY GREWAL: Of those costs we
22 control directly.

23 MR. THOMAS REIMER: And so, when
24 you're talking about the fixed costs, and I -- I think
25 you've used the -- the number 60 percent are fixed?

1 MS. JAY GREWAL: Eighty (80). I
2 believe it's -- it's 80 percent --

3 MR. THOMAS REIMER: And --

4 MS. JAY GREWAL: -- which -- which is
5 extremely high, extremely high for any utility.

6 MR. THOMAS REIMER: So, you're not
7 questioning the dollars that you're spending on those
8 80 percent?

9 MS. JAY GREWAL: I think I just
10 articulated what we are doing with those 80 percent to
11 ensure that we are managing them to the best of our
12 ability, but they are not discretionary costs. They
13 are not costs that we can say, well, we're just not
14 going to do that.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 MR. THOMAS REIMER: Could you help me
19 understand -- so, you said a lot in -- in a couple of
20 those answers. So, if I've misunderstood, forgive me.
21 But you mentioned how regulatory is not included in
22 Mr. Madsen's outline of things that need to be done in
23 order to deliver safe, effective, and reliable energy.

24 And so, I'm just wondering, are you --
25 are you saying that the -- that regulatory is not a

1 part of that equation?

2 MS. JAY GREWAL: I didn't see the word
3 there, so I was just calling it out. But -- but what
4 I am saying -- it absolutely is, and what I am saying
5 is -- it -- there are other categories like that that
6 is part of our social licence to operate.

7 MR. THOMAS REIMER: Do you believe
8 that there would be any benefit to Manitoba Hydro to
9 employ a zero-based budget strategy?

10 MS. JAY GREWAL: Here is what I would
11 say, which is when we developed Strategy 2040, we re -
12 - we looked at how we are structured. We looked at
13 the business model.

14 People, process, technology and data.
15 And when we did that, we went back to a zero-based
16 approach in terms of what is every role, what is the
17 function it performs relative to our mandate and what
18 we're required to do.

19 So, we did do that from a people
20 perspective. We are 80 percent unionized. So, in our
21 O&A cost, we -- we also -- and we touched on this
22 earlier, which is our 60 percent, about 50 to 60
23 percent of our employees were on strike in the last
24 two (2) years.

25 And the decisions as to what their

1 increases looked like were made by third parties,
2 either the Labour Board or the arbitrator.

3 MR. THOMAS REIMER: So, Ms. Grewal, my
4 question was: Would there be benefits to Manitoba
5 Hydro to employ a zero-based budgeting strategy?

6 MS. JAY GREWAL: In my view, we
7 implicitly do zero-based budgeting through various
8 processes by questioning every single dollar, but I
9 wouldn't say a -- our budgeting exercise and processes
10 are quite rigorous, whether that is zero-based in the
11 traditional sense, it is in the intent of to question
12 every dollar that we spend, and to make sure that we
13 can speak to it and defend it in processes like we are
14 in right now.

15 MR. THOMAS REIMER: And so, do you
16 agree that Manitoba Hydro bears the onus of
17 demonstrating that it's applied-for costs are just and
18 reasonable?

19 MS. JAY GREWAL: I would say this is
20 what this entire process is about.

21 MR. THOMAS REIMER: Right. And if the
22 PUB panel decides that you haven't met your onus, it -
23 - it is within its authority to disallow certain
24 costs.

25 Is that fair?

1 MS. JAY GREWAL: I believe that is the
2 role of the regulator and our job is to be able to
3 provide the data and evidence that informs the PUB as
4 it makes its decisions.

5 MR. THOMAS REIMER: I'm going to ask
6 one (1) more question that's a little bit in the
7 weeds, and then I have one (1) followup and I'll be
8 done.

9 So if -- Ms. Schubert, if you could
10 bring up GSS/GSM Round II and I'm looking at page 11
11 of 31. Round II IRs.

12 And so, this is a -- this is one (1) of
13 a couple of places where Manitoba Hydro describes its
14 budgeting process. And I'm looking at (c) here. And
15 you can see that -- the sort of standalone sentence
16 for further clarification when Manitoba Hydro prepares
17 budgets for a new fiscal year.

18 Do you see that?

19 MS. JAY GREWAL: M-hm.

20 MR. THOMAS REIMER: And it says,

21 "The budget starts with a snapshot
22 of all currently filled positions at
23 a point in time."

24 Right? So, my understanding of zero-
25 based budgeting would be you don't start with the

1 people that are in -- already in the roles, you start
2 with the activities that you need to be accomplished
3 and then you figure out which people, or how many
4 people, FTEs, you need to fulfill those actions.

5 Okay. That's my understanding. So before --

6 MS. JAY GREWAL: Oh, it's --

7 MR. THOMAS REIMER: -- can I just ask
8 if we have a common understanding first, of all, and
9 then I'll ask you my question.

10 MS. JAY GREWAL: So -- so I would say
11 that we do do that implicitly, and as I shared, we
12 have done that. When we did the review of the
13 business model and effectively split the organization
14 on its side relative to delivering on our mandate.

15 The second initiative that we are
16 undertaking, which implicitly gets to what you're
17 speaking to, is we're doing strategic workforce
18 planning, which aligns FTEs relative to the service
19 we're required to deliver.

20 And we then look at, are we doing it as
21 efficiently as possible. So, we are undertaking
22 strategic workforce planning so we have even clearer
23 evidence and data as to roles tied to delivers of
24 services, tied to reliability, tied to maintaining
25 assets, tied to all of the different services and

1 reliability requirements that we have.

2 MR. THOMAS REIMER: And is that a
3 different sys -- process than is being described in
4 this IR response?

5 MS. JAY GREWAL: Manitoba Hydro has
6 not done strategic workforce planning in the past, and
7 it is something that we will be doing and that will be
8 part of future applications.

9 MR. THOMAS REIMER: And can you tell
10 me, where are you -- or tell the Panel, where are you
11 in that process as of this moment?

12 MS. JAY GREWAL: As of this moment
13 we've designed what the process will look like and
14 we're engaging with our Board in June around how we
15 will take that forward, and is the process a model
16 that we're articulating meeting their interests.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 MR. THOMAS REIMER: I think all my
21 questions have been answered. Thank you.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Mr.
23 Hacault...?

24

25 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MIPUG:

1 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Yes, it's good
2 afternoon, members of the Board, all present. Good
3 afternoon. My name is Antoine Hacault for the record.
4 I'd like to again welcome Mr. Tess and Ms. Grewal.

5 In your presentation this morning, Ms.
6 Grewal, you at slide 6 listed various federal
7 government policies and there was an IR which was
8 asked by MIPUG in relation to that issue. It's Round
9 1-69(b).

10 Perhaps -- I had circulated to your
11 counsel before what the -- what I might refer to.
12 Perhaps we can move back to the question, Ms. Schubert
13 and then we'll go to the response.

14 So, please explain how Manitoba Hydro
15 has addressed federal legislation, regulation, and/or
16 policy and future potential -- provincial mandates or
17 the electrification of space in water heating in
18 support of climate change action.

19 And then we go to the response.
20 Manitoba Hydro considers known government policies
21 within it's 20 -- 21 electric load scenario. Federal,
22 Provincial, and Municipal governments have broadly
23 discussed electrifying space heating systems to reduce
24 GHG emissions in buildings, but to date, no specific
25 policies to do that so have been drafted.

1 Is that response still valid, and I
2 just want some clarification. It -- or when we're
3 talking about specific policies. Is it Manitoba Hydro
4 policies?

5 MS. JAY GREWAL: It would also be
6 provincial policies because a lot of space heating and
7 the reg -- the regulations and the like that -- that
8 are in place there.

9 If -- if you were to look at -- and we
10 did this work early on when we were looking at
11 Strategy 2040, and so that was a few years ago, but I
12 believe conceptually it's still -- directionally it's
13 still relevant.

14 If we were to electrify all of the
15 space heating that currently uses natural gas, we
16 would have to double -- well, no. Firstly, we would
17 have to build Conawapa 1100 megawatts and then double
18 the entire generation system that we have.

19 So, the -- the ability to fully
20 electrify space heating is, at this point -- well, if
21 we were to do it tomorrow, we physically don't have
22 the electricity to do that. We don't have the elec --
23 so, there are ongoing discussions with what will that
24 look like, what does that -- that mean in terms of
25 GHG emissions.

1 You know, one (1) of the things we're
2 looking at is GHG reduction per dollar. For every
3 dollar, what is the impact to determine as -- as we
4 look forward to provincial energy policy coming
5 forward that that data will inform if there are
6 specific GHG targets and mandates that we're requested
7 to support.

8 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Okay. Thank
9 you. So my understanding generally that Manitoba
10 Hydro is taking the position, we'll let others tell us
11 what the policy should be instead of us proactively
12 telling, for example, Manitoba Government what should
13 happen for a net zero.

14 Is -- is -- am I fair in that kind of
15 question?

16 MS. JAY GREWAL: Net zero extends
17 beyond Manitoba Hydro. If you look at some of the
18 work that has been done and the different areas, net
19 zero relates to transportation, net zero relates to
20 heating, net zero relates to industrial processes.

21 We are actively having discussions with
22 the role we play as Manitoba Hydro in the overall
23 climate discussion and agenda.

24 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Thank you. And
25 to perhaps illustrate what you were talking about,

1 another appendix that I had sent to your counsel is
2 Appendix 5.6. If we can bring it on the screen,
3 please, Ms. Schubert.

4 And if we can make the numbers a bit
5 bigger 'cause I'm having problems with my little eyes.
6 Must be age stuff happening.

7 MS. JAY GREWAL: Right there with you.

8 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: We're on the
9 first page, capacity, so what I would refer to demand.
10 And we're pretty much okay until about 2023, if I'm
11 seeing the numbers correctly -- '33 rather. We're at
12 2023 right now. We'd be in trouble. 20 --

13 MS. JAY GREWAL: You're right.

14 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: -- 33. And at
15 that time, that's when we start adding some wind for
16 capacity?

17 MS. JAY GREWAL: And -- and so what I
18 -- what I want to be clear on is that what we've put
19 in here are placeholders. It's a long-term forecast,
20 and what the placeholders are is, based on what we
21 knew when we put this forecast together, what would be
22 the lowest possible generation solution -- sorry,
23 lowest possible cost generation solution.

24 So we -- in our modelling, we solved
25 for that. This does not take into account nor

1 consider energy policy. This does not take into
2 account absolute net zero. So these are just
3 placeholders, so when you see natural gas, it popped
4 up in our modelling and analysis as the lowest
5 possible cost for what it was addressing.

6 And typically, natural gas is
7 addressing capacity, whereas wind is energy. And the
8 -- the shape for capacity and energy is very different
9 in the future based on what we are understanding on
10 the demand side and how electricity will be used going
11 forward.

12 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: I don't know if
13 you can answer this question.

14 Is it a reasonable assumption to use
15 thermal as a capacity source, as you described, given
16 decarbonization targets which have been talked about
17 in this hearing?

18 MS. JAY GREWAL: What I would say is,
19 as I said earlier, how this will look and the shape of
20 it depends on the criteria and the prioritization of
21 the criteria. What we solved for is how we've
22 typically solved for which is at the lowest possible
23 cost. So it was at the lowest.

24 Would this look different if it was to
25 solve for GHG and net zero? Absolutely. But what I

1 can tell you, if we solved for that, the costs would
2 be higher which is why in our IRP you've got four (4)
3 scenarios that are directional. And when you see the
4 -- the IRP and what we're saying is we're not choosing
5 any new power resources.

6 They are just -- 'cause we were -- we -
7 - we chose and needed to be technology agnostic. And
8 what it is is the criteria will determine what is the
9 appropriate one based on supply and demand.

10 And so if it is net zero, then -- and
11 we are looking at that, and I believe that is our --
12 we're running some scenarios to understand the
13 implications of net zero, what will that look like.

14 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: And I think you
15 explained this morning that another challenge Hydro
16 has is with the US migrating towards a winter capacity
17 peak. You'll -- and diversity agreements which would
18 have partially resolved capacity.

19 Is that correct?

20 MS. JAY GREWAL: Part -- yeah, that
21 would have partially resolved capacity. And also,
22 when we did diversity agreement, it was almost like
23 you're swapping energy now for energy later for no
24 cost. And now that opportunity won't exist, and what
25 is the implication of that?

1 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Now, if we could
2 flip to page 2, which is the energy -- energy supply.
3 Again, we're pretty good until 2033 under this
4 forecast, correct?

5 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

6 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: And there's a
7 lot of wind coming on, and that can deal with our
8 energy requirements generally, can't it?

9 MS. JAY GREWAL: Yes, absolutely.

10 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: And it shows
11 thermal at 2038, but am I correct in suggesting to you
12 that there might be other renewables which could fill
13 in this energy requirement?

14 MS. JAY GREWAL: Actually, I -- I
15 wouldn't -- I -- I wouldn't point to renewables. I
16 would point to storage. The biggest issue will be
17 storage, and we're very closely monitoring what is
18 happening there.

19 We know how our system works. We know
20 in the winter when we're peaking how much -- what --
21 two (2) -- two (2) characteristics: For what duration
22 do we need that storage, and what is the capacity that
23 it needs to be able to deliver to the system?

24 So I've always said storage will be the
25 potential game changer, and so we're actively watching

1 and monitoring that as -- as we look at -- we do the
2 additional work, the near-term actions that we'll be
3 starting to talk about relative to the IRP. But you
4 are correct.

5 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Thank you. I
6 had listened with interest when you did 2040 on
7 perhaps all our EVs and acting as a battery on off
8 peaks.

9 I'll switch --

10 MS. JAY GREWAL: Everybody buying
11 F150s?

12 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: I'm looking at
13 the time. I probably have another five (5) minutes or
14 so and a different line of questioning. I have seven
15 (7). Okay. I didn't...

16 If we go -- go to Appendix 5.1, Figure
17 5, just by way of background, I just want to provide a
18 little bit of context. Figure 5, Appendix 5.6. Just
19 wait. I have it on my -- I have it on 23 of 77.

20 Yeah, that's what I wanted. Thank you. Residential.

21 So just a couple of observations so
22 everybody can follow perhaps on a question that's
23 going to lead up after we look at a couple of figures.
24 And these are from Manitoba Hydro's materials.

25 We see large increases anticipated for

1 residential. That's the blue line, correct? Am I
2 reading that correct?

3 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

4 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: And these
5 increases are also fairly significant. We can see the
6 line going up in the green line, and that's forecast
7 less DSM when we look at the bottom of the chart.

8 And then if we can jump two (2) figures
9 to Figure 7. Down a bit more at the bottom of the --
10 no. I have it on page 25 of 77. Yes.

11 We see this being a bit different.
12 This relates to general service mass, so those would
13 be offices and -- and things like that.

14 Am I correct?

15 MS. JAY GREWAL: I -- I believe that
16 is the case.

17 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Okay. And in
18 this case, we see actually there's a fairly sharp
19 increase in the blue line, which is the forecast.

20 But there's a lot of benefit that we
21 can get from DSM which is the forecast line that's in
22 green, correct?

23 MS. JAY GREWAL: Correct.

24 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Now, if we're
25 going down the heating conversion line, both these

1 categories that we've just looked at -- residential
2 and general service mass -- would need conversion too?
3 They're in the type of customers that would be
4 eligible to do heating conversion, correct?

5 MS. JAY GREWAL: Assuming energy
6 policy provides that framework, yes.

7 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Okay. So -- and
8 if that happens from a policy framework, does that
9 mean -- my under -- did I understand your evidence
10 correctly, that we need to have a lot of distribution
11 in investments to allow that policy to be implemented?

12 MS. JAY GREWAL: I would suggest it's
13 not -- not just distribution, but because we're an
14 integrated system, it would generation, transmission,
15 and distribution.

16 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Okay. But these
17 two (2) classes would have a distribution aspect. And
18 I'm going to go to the class of customers that I
19 represent, the industrials, and that's figure 9, which
20 is a couple pages down.

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Not too many,
25 but too far, I think. I'm on page 17 -- or 25 of 77.

1 There it is.

2 So, these would be the largest
3 consumers in the transition -- transmission system.

4 If we look, there's actually ten (10) companies --

5 MS. JAY GREWAL: Yes.

6 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: -- you've
7 described in there that -- that form this basis.

8 Again, the forecast line is very close to the TSM
9 line?

10 MS. JAY GREWAL: M-hm.

11 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: And the forecast
12 growth is fairly flat for the first ten (10) years.

13 Am I correct in interpreting that graph
14 that way? There's actually numbers that relate to
15 this.

16 MS. JAY GREWAL: Yeah.

17 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Is that fair?
18 And then for growth after 2033, which is that kind of
19 magic date that we were looking at for when we can't
20 meet energy or -- or demand, do you know, and if you
21 don't, we can ask at a later panel, whether these grow
22 -- this growth after 2033 is confirmed, or is it
23 assumed, or is -- you might have two (2) or three (3)
24 companies. You're saying, well, listen, I'm going to
25 move to Manitoba in 2033, and this is going to create

1 this extra demand in energy.

2 And what I'm trying to determine is
3 whether it's confirmed or assumed.

4 MS. JAY GREWAL: I -- I think that
5 would be best for another panel to answer because I'm
6 -- I'm not sure to what degree the input was from
7 engagement with the -- the top ten (10), though I do
8 know we have ongoing and direct discussions on this.

9 We have customers -- existing customers
10 that are looking for additional interconnection for
11 different purposes.

12 The third thing I would say is two (2)
13 things. With the current 2 percent rate trajectory,
14 which is not seen anywhere else, I would say, at this
15 point in time in Canada, and the fact that Manitoba
16 has hydro, our customers have the lowest electricity
17 costs, and then you add in the fact that we are 96
18 percent green, the number of business and industries
19 that are actively looking at and wanting to locate
20 businesses, large-scale businesses in Manitoba, is
21 something that I've not seen here before. And I think
22 others who have been here longer, we -- we haven't
23 seen that.

24 So, this could change. But I -- I
25 believe a panel that will be here will be able to

1 specifically ask -- answer your question on is it
2 assumed or is it based specific -- directly on
3 feedback provided by MIPUG members.

4 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Thank you. And
5 I had framed the question from 2033 on.

6 MS. JAY GREWAL: Ah, okay.

7 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: But your answer
8 holds for both, from 2023 to 2033. And then from 2033
9 to the balance of the time period, it is the same
10 answer?

11 MS. JAY GREWAL: The same, yes.

12 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Okay. Thank you
13 very much.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr.
15 Hacault. Mr. Czarnecki, any re-direct?

16 MR. BRENT CZARNECKI: I have one (1)
17 area that I just would like to discuss with Ms. Grewal
18 very quickly before I pose the question.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sorry. Okay,
20 that's...

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Czarnecki...?

25 MR. BRENT CZARNECKI: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman. I do have one (1) question for re-exam.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sure.

3

4 RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MANITOBA HYDRO:

5 MR. BRENT CZARNECKI: Ms. Grewal, I
6 understand -- understood your answer to Mr. Reimer's
7 question about the PUB's ability to disallow costs of
8 Manitoba Hydro's to be 'yes'. And I want to ask you a
9 question.

10 If there is a distinction between the
11 PUB's jurisdiction of approving Manitoba Hydro's rates
12 versus the ability to disallow costs as it might if
13 Hydro was regulated as a rate-base-rate-of-return
14 entity, can you comment on that?

15 MS. JAY GREWAL: So, in -- in the
16 previous roles I've had it's -- it's been the rate-
17 based model. It's been an ROE model.

18 So, I misspoke when I said the PUB has
19 the ability to disallow costs. What the PUB does have
20 the ability to do is to set rates. And then it's our
21 job relative to how we manage the business, the impact
22 on -- on net income.

23 So, thank you for asking that question
24 so I could clarify where I misspoke.

25 MR. BRENT CZARNECKI: Thank you, Ms.

1 Grewal. And -- and, Mr. Chair, I do appreciate the
2 opportunity given it strays into a bit of a legal
3 jurisdictional area, but I wanted it to be clear for
4 the record.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah. And I think
6 the Board appreciates that we set the rates. Our
7 rates may not reflect your cost, but we're a rate
8 setter. So, yeah --

9 MR. BRENT CZARNECKI: Absolutely.
10 Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: -- I appreciate
12 that. We're going to adjourn for lunch. I looked at
13 the rest of the schedule. We're going to need --
14 we'll adjourn for an hour. And then the -- yeah. You
15 know what? We're going to adjourn until -- until
16 2:30. And then we should be able to finish all the
17 opening statements by 4:30.

18 Sorry. Ms. Grewal, thank you very
19 much.

20 MS. JAY GREWAL: Thank you. A
21 pleasure as always.

22

23 (PANEL STANDS DOWN)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.

1 Okay. So, we'll adjourn until -- until 2:30.

2

3 --- Upon recessing at 1:38 p.m.

4 --- Upon resuming at 2:33 p.m.

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. So, we will
7 resume. Mr. Hombach, did you...

8 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. The only issues that are remaining on today's
10 agenda are the opening comments of the Interveners.

11 I've confirmed with Ms. Ferdandes that
12 Manitoba Hydro doesn't have any additional opening
13 comments after Ms. Grewal's presentation this morning,
14 so I would suggest that you call on counsel for the
15 AMC to begin.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. My only
17 comment is I'm going to hold everybody to the -- to
18 the schedule so that we can finish by 4:30.

19 Ms. Fox, did you want to proceed?

20

21 OPENING COMMENTS BY AMC:

22 MS. CARLY FOX: Yes. Thank you. And
23 I definitely don't think I'll be taking my whole time
24 today, so.

25 My name is Carly Fox. I'm counsel for

1 the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. And thank you, Mr.
2 Chair, this morning for the acknowledgement of the
3 traditional and treaty lands that we are on. And
4 good, I guess, afternoon to the Board members, Vice
5 Chair, Mr. Chair.

6 A little bit of background for the new
7 Board members about the AMC. So, the AMC -- or the
8 Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, was created to create
9 political action on issues common to First Nations in
10 the province and to provide a unified collective voice
11 for each of the AMC's member First Nations.

12 The AMC also respects each First
13 Nation's right to self-determination as a collective
14 rights holder. Sixty-two (62) of sixty-three (63) of
15 the chiefs in Manitoba sit at the Chiefs in Assembly,
16 which is the governing body of the AMC.

17 The AMC's member First Nation includes
18 adherence to Treaties 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10, and
19 the Dakota Nations, who are party to a pre-
20 confederation treaty.

21 Manitoba Hydro is a Crown corporation,
22 and its operations impact the lands and waters of
23 First Nations and what is now Manitoba. As such, we
24 hope the proceedings here will honour the spirit and
25 intent of treaties that cover the lands and waters of

1 Manitoba and seek to uphold the very important
2 principle of reconciliation.

3 First Nations Manitoba Hydro customers
4 encompass both residential electric customers and
5 general service customers. I don't think we need to
6 go to it, but in Exhibit AMC-2-44, at pages 11 through
7 13, it shows that the percentage of general service
8 accounts on First Nations reserve ranges from about
9 4.8 percent to 29.6 percent of Manitoba Hydro accounts
10 on reserve.

11 General service accounts can further be
12 broken down into industrial, commercial, health
13 facilities, offices, and recreational. As such, the
14 AMC's interest in this rate appeal are very broad.

15 That said, AMC and its member First
16 Nations are extremely concerned with the rates of
17 energy poverty faced by First Nations residential
18 customers, in particular, and these concerns weigh
19 heavily in the AMC's intervention.

20 The Public Utilities Board has long
21 been concerned with bill affordability issues. The
22 Board has heard evidence regarding energy poverty in
23 the province of Manitoba for at least over the last
24 decade.

25 This Board has previously reviewed the

1 Manitoba Hydro bill affordability collaborative
2 process summary report and recommendations and refer
3 to that report -- and referred to that report's
4 definition of 'energy poverty' as a circumstances in
5 which a household is or would be required to make
6 sacrifices or tradeoffs that would be considered
7 unacceptable by most Manitobans in order to procure
8 sufficient energy for Manitoba Hydro.

9 The report found that the impacts of
10 higher energy costs are anticipated to be the most
11 pronounced for households that already spent a
12 significant proportion of their total income on
13 energy.

14 After considering the results of the
15 collaborative process summary report in Order 59/'18,S
16 that I referenced this morning, this Board determined
17 that it had jurisdiction to order implementation of a
18 lower income rate assistance.

19 This Board directed Manitoba Hydro to
20 establish a First Nations on reserve residential rate
21 class for existing First Nations reserves and for the
22 new rate class to achieve a zero -- to receive a zero
23 percent increase for the 2018/'19 year. The new rate
24 class also received a zero percent rate increase for
25 2019/2020.

1 The Board justified the creation of the
2 First Nations on reserve residential customer class
3 due to the high rates of energy poverty on reserve.
4 In particular, the evidence showed that 96 percent of
5 First Nations people on reserve live in poverty and
6 that reserves in Manitoba have the highest rates of
7 child poverty in the country.

8 In addition, issues of energy poverty
9 are exacerbated by poor housing stock on reserve and
10 evidence that almost all First Nations on reserve
11 residential customers do not have access to the more
12 economical option of natural gas for heating.

13 On average, First Nations on reserve
14 residential customers consume more energy than off
15 reserve residential customers. All together, these
16 factors lead to higher utility bills and First Nations
17 on reserve residential customers are
18 disproportionately vulnerable to rate increases.

19 The Court of Appeal in Manitoba
20 ultimately overturned the Board's decision to direct
21 the creation of a new customer class, but the issue of
22 First Nations energy poverty persists, and it has only
23 been exacerbated by the impacts of COVID and record
24 high levels of inflation.

25 While the Court of Appeal did not allow

1 for the creation of a new rate class to target issues
2 of bill affordability, it did confirm that the Public
3 Utilities Board is entitled to consider social policy
4 and any other factors it considers relevant in making
5 its mandate. This is found in section 25(4)(a) of the
6 Crown Corporations Governance and Accountability Act.

7 Bill affordability is an issue of
8 social policy. It forms part of the Public Utilities
9 Board's concerns when dealing with a rate application.
10 It goes to the interest of the ratepayers and the
11 financial health of the utility.

12 Further, the Court of Appeal in
13 Manitoba confirmed that the Public Utilities Board may
14 consider the Path to Reconciliation Act and the social
15 policy underlying that legislation in reaching a
16 decision.

17 And this morning, I already defined
18 what 'reconciliation' is in that Act, but what it is,
19 it's the ongoing process of establishing and
20 maintaining mutually respectful relationships between
21 Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in order to
22 build trust, affirm historical agreements, address
23 healing, and create a more equitable and inclusive
24 society.

25 The AMC understands that different

1 rates for different customers or classes of customers
2 must not differ based on affordability or other
3 socioeconomic factors, but this does not preclude
4 Manitoba Hydro from considering solutions to bill
5 unaffordability, particularly in relation to First
6 Nations customers.

7 The AMC is disappointed with Manitoba
8 Hydro's lack of initiative or concern with bill
9 affordability in this application, particularly given
10 the Court of Appeal's decision which is clear that
11 bill affordability and similar policy concerns are
12 part of the Public Utilities Board's -- Public
13 Utilities Board's considerations when setting just and
14 reasonable rates.

15 It's the AMC's position that this
16 should also be one of Manitoba Hydro's considerations
17 when requesting rate increases. In fact, perpetuating
18 inequalities is contrary to the principle of
19 reconciliation.

20 The AMC supports MKO's position that
21 First Nations on reserve residential ratepayers should
22 receive a lower rate in recognition of the burden that
23 these customers face. But given the Manitoba Court of
24 Appeal's decision in 2020 and the current legislation
25 applicable to the Public Utilities Board and Manitoba

1 Hydro, the purpose of the AMC's intervention in this
2 application is to ensure that any rate increases
3 impacting First Nations are just and reasonable.

4 The AMC will focus on ways to reduce
5 Manitoba Hydro's request for rate increases,
6 particularly as they relate to residential customers.

7 From the AMC's perspective, Manitoba
8 Hydro's application is predicated on rate increases to
9 improve the financial health of the Utility, which
10 puts an even greater strain on its most vulnerable
11 customers.

12 The cumulative rate -- the cumulative
13 impact of rate increases faced by First Nations on
14 reserve residential ratepayers as a result of the
15 Court of Appeal's decision, the Manitoba legislature's
16 imposed rate increases, and the interim rate increase
17 approved effective January 1st, 2020, is quite
18 significant.

19 Cumulative rate increases for the
20 former First Nations on reserve residential class from
21 September 1st, 2020, to April 1st, 2024, if Manitoba
22 Hydro's application is allowed will be 19.4 percent.

23 Given the burden that these customers
24 must face due to issues with energy poverty, the AMC's
25 position in this intervention is that Manitoba Hydro

1 must establish to the highest evidentiary standard
2 that its requested rate increase, particularly the
3 increase requested for the residential class, is
4 absolutely necessary for its operations.

5 That's all I have. Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.
7 Mr. Williams...?

8 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Mr. Chair, while
9 don't we wait for Byron Williams to trade places with
10 Ms. Fox. I do have a housekeeping matter I would like
11 to speak to.

12 You referred Manitoba Hydro CEO to an
13 article from the Winnipeg Free Press of May 3rd of
14 this year earlier this morning. I would propose we
15 formally enter that into the record as PUB Exhibit 21.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

17

18 --- EXHIBIT NO. PUB 21: Winnipeg Free Press
19 article - May 3rd, 2023
20 page A8 - Saskatchewan
21 looking into whether
22 Ottawa's emissions policy
23 can be blocked, Moe says.

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Williams...?

1

2 OPENING REMARKS BY CONSUMERS COALITION:

3 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you. We do
4 have a PowerPoint. And we'll just -- we'll just wait
5 for Ms. Schubert to bring it up before your clock
6 starts, Mr. Chair. And good afternoon again, members
7 of the Panel.

8 The cover page to this PowerPoint
9 discusses -- or describes a monopoly at the crossroads
10 and -- and considers its implications on captive
11 consumers.

12 And if you think back to this morning
13 and Manitoba Hydro's presentation, you would have
14 heard talk of Strategy 2040, the Integrated Resource
15 Plan, Bill 36, and Energy Strategy.

16 But what was notable for its omission
17 is economy and efficiency. Economy and efficiency are
18 right in the Manitoba Hydro Act, Section 2 of the
19 Manitoba Hydro Act.

20 And so, on behalf of our clients, who
21 represent residential customers, captive customers --
22 many of whom are vulnerable -- we do want to bring the
23 Board back to the essential elements of economy and
24 efficiency in our presentation and throughout this
25 Hearing.

1 On slide 2, we set out a brief outline
2 of our PowerPoint, describe our clients. We'll talk a
3 little bit about the vulnerabilities of captive
4 consumers. We'll certainly make the point that these
5 are not just and reasonable rates. And our -- express
6 our clients' concern in terms of costs of service and
7 rate design, that the spirit and intent of Order
8 164/16 has not been honoured.

9 And we're not going to give it all away
10 because our clients haven't made up our minds, but we
11 will be giving you a bit of a preview of the Consumer
12 Coalition's recommendations.

13 The Consumer Coalition is a long-time
14 Intervener before this Board, CAC Manitoba is a
15 member, the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg, and
16 Harvest Manitoba which has -- reaches out to sixty-
17 four (64) communities in Manitoba in need of food bank
18 support. They speak -- seek to speak on behalf of
19 residential consumers, recognizing and respecting the
20 integral role that AMC and MK will play. And they
21 developed their positions through direct engagement
22 with consumers, broad stakeholder consultation, and
23 expert advice.

24 And just for Board member, Vice Chair
25 Kapitan's attention, I'll just direct your attention

1 to the footnote on this page. Because we do reference
2 there some of the important public opinion surveys
3 that our clients have relied upon in developing their
4 positions for this Hearing.

5 And our clients clearly and very much
6 look forward to hearing the amazing community
7 presenters that we heard Board Member Bass and others
8 talk about and that we're expecting tomorrow.

9 On slide 4, we just want to talk a
10 little bit about our independent experts. And while
11 we can all acknowledge that Manitoba Hydro continues
12 to struggle with losses of subject matter experts, our
13 Consumer Coalition team is supported by an outstanding
14 team of experts. Leading experts on public utility
15 regulation, capital asset management, and the
16 financial markets for energy companies. And our
17 experts have deep decades-long experience right inside
18 Manitoba Hydro at very senior management levels.

19 They know what the world is like
20 outside of Manitoba Hydro and they know the Manitoba
21 Hydro world intimately. And they are relied upon for
22 their independence by independent regulators, by
23 businesses, by utilities, and consumers to develop
24 pragmatic responses to contemporary challenges.

25 Including the three (3) D's that we

1 hear so much about. And our clients and our experts
2 will be sharing the insight from across Canada in
3 terms of more pragmatic responses that we're seeing
4 from other utilities in addressing these challenges.

5 Moving to slide -- slide 5, one key
6 message from our experts and our clients is that in
7 terms of consumer engagement, Manitoba Hydro really
8 needs to up its game. And again, for the benefit of
9 the Panel, we draw your attention to the footnote on
10 this page. And if -- if this Board wants to see a
11 high quality elite level engagement on integrated
12 resource planning and the priorities of consumers,
13 there's a great reference there from the BC Integrated
14 Resource Planning Process.

15 From our clients' perspective, the
16 evidence of this Hearing will show that Manitoba Hydro
17 brings an extremely impoverished approach to
18 engagement on customer priorities.

19 Moving to slide 6, I hate to give
20 credit to Mr. Peters, but the key moment of this
21 morning was clearly his examination of the CEO of
22 Manitoba Hydro, in terms of the Corporation's response
23 to Consumer Coalition Information Request 2-35.

24 And that dialogue highlighted how much
25 Strategy 2040, the umbrella of packages under Strategy

1 2040 is driving the bus of a lot of the rate pressures
2 in this Hearing.

3 And on slide 6, we share a quote from
4 Mr. Rainkie, a former senior executive of Manitoba
5 Hydro, and highlighting that:

6 "The prematurity of Manitoba Hydro
7 moving into the implementation of
8 Strategy 2040 ahead of the release
9 and analysis of the Manitoba Energy
10 Policy, like a subsidiary company
11 beginning to implement its own
12 strategy before we understand what
13 the parent wants."

14 And that is a caution that our client
15 offers with regard to the long-term financial
16 forecast, in terms of looking at this rate
17 application, and its intimate connection to the
18 pressures of Strategy 2040. Caution because we don't
19 know what Manitoba is setting out in terms of its
20 energy strategy. We don't know what the Integrated
21 Resource Plan is going to tell us.

22 On slide 7, our clients highlight just
23 this uncertainty in terms of the Manitoba Hydro
24 strategic future.

25 We don't have an energy strategy. It's

1 really not clear when it will be filed. We thought we
2 would have a so-called Integrated Resource Plan this
3 summer. It may be in the fall. But we already heard
4 this morning that the integral demand side management
5 element of it, the Efficiency Manitoba analysis, will
6 not even be before the PUB until later in the year.

7 And the fate of Bill 36, who knows what
8 it will be if we just look out a few months.

9 So from our clients' perspective,
10 Hydro's strategic future may look very different in
11 the months to come. And that will have cascading
12 impacts upon Strategy 2040 and future rate paths.

13 On slide 8, we -- we make the point
14 that rates must be driven by evidence, not
15 speculation. We highlight the fact that Manitoba
16 Hydro's energy future remains ambiguous. And from our
17 clients' perspective, the arbitrary financial targets
18 that drive Hydro's rate request are not yet binding.

19 Our clients -- going back to economy
20 and efficiency -- say that Hydro has to show mastery
21 of the fundamentals of cost control and budget
22 optimization to effectively facilitate any energy --
23 any energy transition. And we'll be really focusing
24 on the prudence and reasonableness of their expenses.

25 And we'll be making the point that

1 today's rates require evidence-based justification
2 which, in our clients' view, is sorely lacking.

3 And we'll be asking this Board to
4 signal that economy and efficiency should not be
5 subordinated to Strategy 2040.

6 Our clients, on slide 9, thank Ms. Fox
7 for the eloquence in which she began to express the
8 very real rate pressures that the members of the
9 assembly -- the first members -- First Nations of --
10 the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs are experiencing. And
11 we just want to highlight, on behalf of our clients,
12 that -- how vulnerable residential ratepayers are.

13 Significantly higher than inflation
14 rate increases for Manitoba Hydro since 2011, the
15 residential effects of the pandemic, and overall
16 inflationary pressures. Try buying lettuce.

17 At the bottom of this page, a startling
18 statistic for our clients, over the two (2) year
19 period during the pandemic, arrears of greater than
20 ninety (90) days for electric customers increased 80
21 percent, or approximately \$23 million. That's from
22 Manitoba Hydro.

23 On slide 10, we want to take a macro
24 look at this rate increase. And we -- however
25 benignly Manitoba Hydro tries to portray it, from our

1 clients' perspective, it's a significant impact during
2 difficult times.

3 The cumulative rate impact is 4.04
4 percent, or approximately \$74 million on an annualized
5 basis.

6 If we take the net present value of
7 those two (2) rate increases, the September 1st and
8 the April 1st one, on customers in perpetuity, it's
9 approximately \$1.5 billion.

10 And if we go back to that interim rate
11 increase of January of 2022, and combine the net
12 present value of these three (3) rate increases, in
13 perpetuity, for customers, it is approximately \$2.8
14 billion.

15 On slide 11, we move away from the
16 macro picture to residential customers. And like AMC,
17 our client concludes that, driven by Strategy 2040,
18 Manitoba Hydro's application is compounding the
19 vulnerability of residential ratepayers: rate
20 increases of 4.8 percent over the next twelve (12)
21 months over and above the differentiated rate increase
22 of 3.8 percent for residential customers in the
23 '21/'22 Interim Application.

24 If this Application is accepted, an 8.8
25 percent cumulative increase since January 1st, 2022,

1 over and above rate increases since 2011 that have
2 been above inflation, significantly above inflation.

3 On slide 12, we share the results of
4 one (1) of the Consumer Coalition's surveys that is
5 referenced in Information Response Hydro-Coalition 1-
6 1(c). And this was a 2020 March survey by Prairie
7 Research Associates and which inquired about what
8 would be reasonable and affordable in terms of rate
9 increases.

10 Over half back in 2020 indicated that
11 rate increases of over 2 percent would be untenable,
12 with 25 percent indicating that 2 percent is the
13 maximum they could manage, 11 percent of respondents
14 identifying a 1 percent increase as their limit.

15 Interestingly, 69 percent of
16 respondents supported the idea of measures to make
17 electricity more affordable for low-income customers -
18 - households.

19 Slide 13. The Board has heard this,
20 and Board Member Bass adverted to it this morning.
21 You've heard it from newcomers, you've heard it from
22 the school board. This is a counter-intuitive rate
23 application.

24 Manitoba Hydro is seeking to impose a
25 4.8 percent increase on residential consumers over the

1 next year despite record-setting export revenues in
2 '22/'23 of almost 1.3 billion; a record-setting year
3 in terms of net income in '22/'23 of \$750 million;
4 projected net income in '23/'24 without a rate
5 increase of \$445 million despite the annual \$180
6 million reduction in water rental and debt guarantee
7 fees.

8 From our clients' perspective, this is
9 an application that will be received with surprise and
10 be counter intuitive to Manitobans, especially when
11 they understand the endemic backsliding on expenditure
12 control and Manitoba Hydro's long-standing inertia on
13 capital asset management.

14 At slide 14, we talk about the -- the
15 statutory test, and we talk about the onus in this
16 case. Obviously, Manitoba Hydro has the onus to
17 establish its proposed rates are just and reasonable.

18 And in examining whether the rates are
19 just and reasonable, the Public Utilities Board has
20 told itself it's got five (5) key issues to examine:

21 1) Are Hydro's forecasts reasonably
22 reliable?

23 2) Are its actual and projected costs
24 necessary and prudent?

25 3) Assessing the reasonable revenue

1 needs of the Corporation in the context of the overall
2 general health of Manitoba Hydro. That goes to issues
3 like risk, financial targets;

4 4) estimate an appropriate allocation
5 of costs between classes; and

6 5) set just and reasonable rates in
7 accordance with statutory objectives.

8 And perhaps boring legalistic details,
9 but at the footnote at the bottom of that page, you'll
10 see the references to the Crown Corporations
11 Governance and Accountability Act, the Manitoba Hydro
12 Act, and the Public Utilities Board Act that drive
13 this rate application.

14 Ms. Schubert, I apologize for this. If
15 you can go back for one last -- to slide 14 for a
16 minute.

17 In terms of our clients' focus in this
18 hearing, you're going to hear most from us in week 2,
19 week 3, and week 4. This first week it's about to a
20 certain degree ensuring that forecasts are reasonably
21 reliable.

22 We will be paying attention and we'll
23 be there, but the focus of our client in this hearing
24 will be on the second, third, fourth, and fifth
25 bullets. We'll be looking at prudent expenditures, at

1 risk and costs -- costs of service, as well as rate
2 design.

3 On slide 15 -- thank you, Ms. Schubert
4 -- we take an overarching look at why our clients
5 suggest that the projected costs underlying this rate
6 application are not prudent, are not necessary.

7 And we go back to Manitoba Hydro's 2016
8 forecast and note that there has been a \$2.3 billion
9 increase in business operating capital and operating,
10 maintenance and administrative expenses for that
11 fourteen (14) year period between '22/'23 and '35/'36.

12 So if we were to go six (6) years back
13 and look at MH-16 versus the current Rate Application,
14 \$2.3 billion in additional expenditures. And we say
15 that those projected dramatic growth is not consistent
16 with or responsive to what the Public Utilities Board
17 has told Manitoba Hydro in Orders 59/'18, 69/'19, and
18 9/'22.

19 We also note that an astonishing 54
20 percent of the \$16.5 billion capital expenditure
21 forecast is comprised of placeholder budgets
22 unsupported by business plans or sound justification.

23 Our clients certainly are looking at
24 operating maintenance and administrative expenses and
25 how much they are outpacing inflation. And we -- we

1 note that costs in '22/'23 are \$85 million, or 16.9
2 percent, higher than prior PUB direction from Order
3 69/'19.

4 And if you -- it's not on this slide,
5 but if you look at the two (2) years -- Mr. Peters
6 shared this with you earlier today -- if you look at
7 the -- the '23/'24 year and the '24/'25 year and the
8 growth in O&A expenditures, it's \$98 million, a 16.6
9 percent increase in just those two (2) years.

10 And that has our clients' eyebrows
11 significantly raised, concluding, looking at the
12 application as a whole, that it -- that those type of
13 expenditures are not necessary and not prudent.

14 On slide 17, we outline what our
15 clients think is a shared health approach to non-
16 operational management bureaucracy. And if you look
17 at the growth in business unit O&A costs over the last
18 five (5) years, where do you find it? You find it in
19 the governance and business unit -- units: \$72
20 million. And Mr. Peters again was talking about that
21 today in Consumer Coalition IR 2-35.

22 And the average increase in business
23 unit costs for governance and service business units
24 is in the order of 10 percent per year. And compare
25 that to the -- the average increase in operational

1 business units in the order of 2 percent per year.

2 Those are from our expert, Mr. Rainkie.

3 Mr. -- Mr. Madsen on behalf of the
4 general service customers observes that some increases
5 such as a 110 percent FTE increase in the president
6 and CEO business unit appears to have minimal support
7 for the change, and we concur.

8 Our clients, or some of them at least,
9 CAC (Manitoba), are still recovering from -- from the
10 Manitoba Public Insurance Rate Application and some of
11 the concerns with Project Nova. And our clients and
12 other independent witnesses and our witnesses are --
13 are pointing to alarming growth in the costs of
14 consultants.

15 In this hearing, Manitoba Hydro has
16 been forced to concede that it does not yet have a
17 digital and technology strategic plan that has been
18 reviewed and approved by the Hydro board. It is
19 talking about forecast increases in consulting costs
20 of a compound annual growth rate of 48.6 percent from
21 '21/'22 to '24/'25 as compared to historical rates of
22 4 percent from 2012/'13 to '21/'22. That's from Mr.
23 Madsen.

24 And Hydro, despite the big ticket
25 numbers associated with the SAP software S-A-P was

1 unable to provide the business case for SAP or provide
2 any information with respect to alternatives being
3 evalu -- evaluated risks and the net present value of
4 the alternatives.

5 And again, for clients who've already
6 been scarred by Project Nova, this is concerning when
7 we see placeholder budgets of this magnitude. In Mr.
8 Madsen's view, those type of budgets are highly
9 preliminary and not supported by evidence.

10 Returning to Business Operating Capital
11 - sustaining capital, however, we refer it, and the
12 Board will be aware that we have outstanding experts
13 from Midgard in this hearing. Relied upon in Ontario,
14 in British Columbia, in Alberta leading edge experts
15 on these issues.

16 And citing ISO 55,000, they remind us
17 how important a mature planning for capital assets is.
18 Effective control and governance of assets by
19 organization is essential to realized value.

20 Through managing risk and opportunity,
21 and in order to achieve what we would -- we think Vice
22 -- Vice Chairperson Kapitany was talking about this
23 morning, that desired balance between cost, risk and
24 performance.

25 And as the OEB tells us, good asset

1 management, basis and prioritizes investments, there's
2 an ongoing monitoring of performance against targets
3 and there is meaningful customer engagement to ensure
4 that utility plans are informed by customer
5 expectations.

6 Internationally we know how to do this
7 In New Zealand and in Europe they've been doing it for
8 over two (2) decades.

9 In jurisdictions like Ontario and
10 British Columbia, they're well ahead of Manitoba.

11 Our clients started talking to Manitoba
12 Hydro about modernizing their capital asset management
13 in 2008. Our clients are still waiting, more
14 fundamentally, ratepayers, are still waiting.

15 Midgard concludes on slide 20, that
16 Manitoba Hydro's investment decision making, long-term
17 spending targets and asset intervention planning is
18 impaired and non-optimized, which leads to higher
19 average life-cycle costs.

20 Manitoba Hydro is lagging good practice
21 jurisdictions in Canada. It's got material data
22 deficiencies, leading to garbage in/garbage out
23 problems.

24 And you heard CEO Grewal talk about
25 Copperleaf today. Copperleaf is only as good as the

1 data that goes into it. When it's fundamentally
2 impaired, garbage in/garbage out.

3 And in crushing language, Midgard
4 describes MH's risk-and-review activities are
5 consequently so impaired as to be effectively non-
6 existent.

7 And Midgard draws the inference that,
8 especially on generation and transmission, it is the
9 group that lobbies most effectively for its cause,
10 which is allocated the biggest envelope. Sadly,
11 distribution often suffers. Slide 21.

12 You heard some claims from the CEO of
13 Manitoba Hydro this morning about system performance.
14 The hard-nosed, known across Manitoba -- across
15 Canada, experts of Midgard, urge caution when you look
16 at those claims.

17 They describe Manitoba -- Manitoba
18 Hydro system performance, when you get away from the -
19 - the tornadoes, the -- those extraordinary events as
20 actually stable. They note that when you look at the
21 core data that experienced practitioners look like --
22 look at, the Manitoba ratepayers experience
23 approximately one-third (1/3) the average interruption
24 duration when compared to ratepayers of Hydro's peers.

25 When we look at the frequency of

1 outages, ratepayers experience just over half the
2 frequency of outages experienced by ratepayers across
3 Canada.

4 So, when you did deeper into the info -
5 - the evidence, Midgard urges upon you a very
6 different conclusion than Manitoba Hydro is sharing.

7 At slide 22 we talk on behalf of our
8 clients about another aspect of business operational
9 capital spending and that is in the first twenty (20)
10 years. Business operational capital expenditures
11 related to Strategy 2040, appear to be prioritized
12 over sustaining capital expenditures. That's the
13 conclusion of Mr. Rainkie despite Manitoba Hydro's
14 concerns with respect to aging infrastructure.

15 And Mr. Rainkie also notes that Hydro
16 has not yet developed the business cases necessary to
17 support these initiatives for either business purposes
18 or rate setting purposes.

19 When our clients look at the overall
20 health of the Corporation, returning to that third
21 bullet going back to the -- the -- they take a couple
22 different approaches in terms of financial targets.

23 And, first of all, they remind us that
24 the Public Utilities Board is not yet bound by the
25 arbitrary financial targets in Bill 36.

1 They remind the Board of its own words,
2 in Order 59/18, that debt to equity is a questionable
3 metric for a vertically integrated monopoly Crown
4 utility, with a debt guarantee from the provincial
5 government.

6 They observe that Bill 36 financial
7 targets do not come into effect for rate-setting
8 purposes until April 1st, 2025, if the Bill is still
9 alive by then, if it's not repealed.

10 They note that the Bill 36 financial
11 targets appear to be out of step with the Public
12 Utility Board findings in Order 59/18. And they draw
13 your attention to the language used by Mr. Bowman at
14 page 21 of his evidence, or by Mr. Colaiacovo of
15 Morrison Park Advisors.

16 They're using words like 'arbitrary
17 financial targets', or words to that effect. Those
18 financial targets, from our clients' view, are not
19 consistent with what Manitoba Hydro needs, based upon
20 our experts insights into the financial markets and
21 based upon prior findings by the Public Utilities
22 Board.

23 Before we leave this slide, just for
24 one second, I'll note that when you look at the
25 proposals of Mr. Rainkie, he expressed those -- those

1 concerns about the financial targets, but his
2 proposals in terms of rate paths, would allow still
3 Manitoba Hydro to get to those targets if they still
4 exist, but with much more prudent and efficient
5 management.

6 On slides 24 and slides 25, we're
7 citing some observations about Mr. Rainkie, and he's
8 drawing a contrast between what Hydro is concerned
9 about and then by its actions.

10 And he notes that if it's concerned
11 about its interest rate risk, levels of cash flow and
12 financial outlook, then why has it got such elevated
13 O&A and business operating capital spending
14 expenditures.

15 Number 2, if it's concerned about
16 elevated levels of risk and going to Mr. -- Board
17 Member Sy's point, then why didn't it make a decision
18 to expedite the implementation of its Enterprise Risk
19 Management Program.

20 Similar to Mr. Colaiacovo and Mr.
21 Bowman, at point 3, Mr. Rainkie observes that if Hydro
22 is concerned about elevated -- levels of risk, why did
23 it dispense with its uncertainty analysis.

24 An uncertainty analysis that was
25 introduced during the NFAT, that is a much more

1 sophisticated risk analysis tool that our clients that
2 -- that the large industrials have relied upon, that
3 this Board has relied upon, for assessing risk.

4 On page 25, he -- he raised his
5 concerns about the failure to implement on an
6 expeditious basis the asset management framework and
7 the absence of a -- an -- an approved IT strategy.
8 Next page, please.

9 In terms of cost of service and rate
10 design, so that's bullets 4 and 5 in terms of the key
11 rate setting considerations, our client is that of the
12 firm view that the spirit of Order 164/16 has not been
13 honoured.

14 Order 164/16 was transformative in two
15 (2) ways. It moved a lot of stuff out of cost of
16 service analysis, including important factors like
17 uniformed rates and marginal cost to serve, but it
18 didn't find that these issues were to be ignored for
19 rate-setting purposes. It just moved them into the
20 final element.

21 And from our clients' perspective,
22 Hydro's application appears indifferent to the
23 holistic intent of Order 164/16, which wasn't just
24 about cleaning -- cost of service study, but was also
25 about rate design.

1 And we -- we note that when -- that
2 Hydro's application of what it -- in terms of rate
3 design principles, four (4) of the five (5) merely
4 call for RCC's to be moved into the ZOR. They're not
5 the separate, contextual analysis of proposed rates
6 that our clients infer from Order 164/'16 was
7 expected.

8 Finally, in terms of cost of service,
9 the -- our clients note that the outcomes of the cost
10 of service study are from one year. And that is a
11 record year in the export markets, a year -- a year
12 that has been skewed by that result, by the completion
13 of major capital projects, and by drastic industrial
14 load reductions.

15 In essence, Hydro is proposing to
16 differentiate rates, based on PCOSS 24, that
17 incorporates the largest net export revenue in the
18 Corporation's his -- history, and Ms. Derksen, on
19 behalf of our clients, and her own independent view,
20 is concerned that the residential customer class has
21 become the catch-basin for all of the unintended
22 consequences of a mess -- mechanistic cost of service
23 study in an anomalous year.

24 In terms of previewing our clients'
25 recommendations in the two (2) minutes that I have

1 left, Mr. Chair, I'll note that these are on page --
2 slide 28. Some of the issues that our clients are
3 looking at is whether the 3.6 percent interim rate
4 increase should be confirmed or reduced.

5 They will be assessing whether any rate
6 increase is justified in '23/'24, '24/'25, and, if so,
7 one increase or two, and they'll be looking at diff --
8 different levels, 0.5 percent, 1.3, 1.5, or others,
9 and they'll also be actively promoting cost control
10 measures necessary to complement rate changes.

11 On our final slide, apart from my --
12 our thank you, we just want to go back to the core
13 principles that underline our clients' recommendations
14 and will underline them.

15 Our clients will seek evidence-based
16 solutions that prioritize economy and efficiency,
17 straight from Section 2 of the Hydro Act that are
18 consistent with the existing statutory regime, which
19 governs rate setting in this hearing; that honour the
20 spirit and intent of PUB Decisions 59/18 and 164/16;
21 that are alive to the reality that the strategic
22 outlook for Manitoba Hydro is likely to be materially
23 altered over the next year and that respond to the
24 realities and concerns of captive residential
25 ratepayers.

1 Mr. Chair, Members of the Panel, we
2 appreciate this opportunity. We look forward to
3 further dialogue. You'll see more of us in weeks 3 --
4 2, 3, and 4, than this week, but we look forward to
5 this di -- these discussions, as they go along. Thank
6 you.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr.
8 Williams. Now, I don't know who's -- are you moving?
9 Are you staying or -- it doesn't matter but, sure.
10 Okay. That's fine.

11

12 OPENING REMARKS BY GSS/GSM:

13 MR. THOMAS REIMER: Thank you, Mr.
14 Chair. Good afternoon, Madam Vice Chair, Members of
15 the Panel. Thomas Reimer here, again, appearing for
16 the GSS/GSM Coalition group. Mr. Walichnowski is with
17 me. I have a brief submission to make.

18 So, the first thing I'll do is
19 introduce the -- the classes and clients that we
20 represent. There are three (3) clients in our
21 coalition group. The first is billed the Building
22 Owners and Managers Association of Manitoba or BOMA.
23 They've been an Intervener here on previous occasions.
24 As their name suggests, they -- the members of BOMA
25 own, manage, and develop much of the commercial real

1 estate in Manitoba.

2 Our second client is the Canadian
3 Manufacturers and Ex -- Exporters' Association of
4 Manitoba or CME. As the name suggests, that
5 association draws its membership from the
6 manufacturing and exporting sec -- sectors.

7 And, thirdly, we have the Automotive
8 Trades Association of Manitoba or ATA, and the ATAM
9 membership is comprised of most of the automotive
10 collision and glass-repair businesses in Manitoba.

11 So, the members of these associations
12 represent hundreds of millions of dollars of economic
13 activity in Manitoba and thousands and thousands of
14 jobs.

15 But the majority of the members of
16 these associations are drawn from the General Service
17 Small and Medium customer classes and I won't go
18 through the technical details on how -- how you become
19 a GSS or GSM member at this point, but there are three
20 -- three (3) components and -- and there's one -- and
21 there's one (1) distinction that I think is worth
22 drawing your attention to right now, which is that the
23 GSS Class has a demand and a non-demand component, and
24 that becomes important when we talk about rate design
25 in a minute because they're not on even footing, as it

1 stands.

2 Reliable energy at the lowest possible
3 cost, which we heard a lot about this morning, is
4 important to all of our clients, but it's the balance
5 of -- of -- of -- the balance that needs to be struck
6 between those factors that's part of what you're being
7 asked to do here. Dustin Madsen of Emrydia will be
8 the expert that we call to provide evidence, and
9 that'll be in -- at the end of week 3 and the
10 beginning of week 4.

11 Mr. Madsen has not appeared before the
12 PUB on previous occasions but he has extensive
13 experience in other jurisdictions across Canada and
14 the United States and he will provide evidence with
15 respect to four (4) primary issues: depreciation,
16 which is an area that he has considerable expertise
17 in; operating and administrative costs; and technology
18 costs; and, then, the fourth is rate design.

19 With respect to the latter -- or,
20 sorry, with respect to operating in and administration
21 costs and technology costs, we expect that Mr.
22 Madsen's evidence will be that Manitoba Hydro's
23 business case for staffing and consulting increases
24 and for technology upgrades is insufficient to fully
25 justify the requested increases.

1 We heard this morning that there's more
2 information coming on a number of these points, among
3 others, that my friend, Mr. Williams, identified as
4 well, but you're being asked to set rates based on the
5 information that you have before you at this hearing.

6 Clearly, it -- it appears, to me,
7 anyway, based on the testimony that we heard this
8 morning, that there is more information that could
9 and, possibly, should have been provided, to support
10 the asks that the -- that the Manitoba Hydro is -- is
11 putting before the Board.

12 With respect to rate design, the GSS
13 demand and the GSM classes are squarely in the zone of
14 reasonableness and, so, do not raise much by way of --
15 of complaint.

16 In terms of -- that is, Manitoba
17 Hydro's rate design proposal, as it relates to those
18 two (2) classes, does not raise much reason for
19 complaint.

20 The GSS non-demand class, however, is
21 not inside the -- the zone of reasonableness. It's --
22 it's, I would say, well outside, but you -- you -- I
23 believe it's 4.5 or so percent outside and, so, Mr.
24 Madsen has -- has opined, and -- and we agree that,
25 although Manitoba Hy -- sorry, excuse me, Manitoba

1 Hydro's proposed rate design is directionally
2 appropriate, as it relates to that class, and it will
3 bring them back into the zone of reasonableness or --
4 or closer to the zone of reasonable -- reasonableness.

5 Obviously, we would prefer the change
6 to be made quicker, but, given the many factors that
7 go into rate design, this appears to be a step in the
8 right direction, and I don't expect we will have much
9 by way of dispute with Manitoba Hydro, as it relates
10 to its rate design proposal.

11 The last issue that Mr. Madsen is going
12 to provide evidence on, and I'd like to put a marker
13 down, as the Board is aware, there have -- have been
14 discussions with respect to the issue of depreciation.
15 I do not have the battle scares that many of the other
16 people in this room have with respect to that issue,
17 as I understand it has been around for a long period
18 of time, and -- and our position is that the Panel has
19 the opportunity to put that issue to bed with this
20 hearing.

21 I respectfully disagree with my friends
22 in the Consumers' Coalition that an interim direction
23 from the Panel would be appropriate or advisable at
24 this time and, in our submission, the Board is going
25 to have the information and evidence it requires to

1 make a final decision on that issue, especially as it
2 relates to depreciation methodology.

3 Any aspects of previous Orders that
4 relate to depreciation that Manitoba Hydro may not
5 have fully completed are in my -- are, in our
6 submission, relatively minor and, as you well know,
7 the Board has the authority, in its Rules and in the
8 Act, to alter or vary its previous decisions.

9 The -- a -- with -- without being glib,
10 to -- to put this over to the next GRA or a future
11 hearing would be, in my submission, to punt on second
12 in goal. You have the -- you have the information you
13 need here to make the decision on what the appropriate
14 depreciation methodology should be.

15 As you'll hear, the parties have agreed
16 on a number of issues. There is still some work to be
17 done with respect to depreciation that fortunately are
18 -- or unfortunately, will likely need to be done by
19 you.

20 But as I say, our submission is that
21 you will have the information and evidence you require
22 to make that decision. As Mr. Williams mentioned,
23 there will be days -- especially this week where
24 neither I nor Mr. Walichnowski will be present in the
25 room.

1 We will follow, you know, either online
2 or the transcripts, but our evidence will not touch on
3 the issues that are going to be -- or we'll -- we'll
4 touch on very little of the evidence that will be
5 before the Board this week.

6 So, you likely won't see us until next
7 week and we really won't take a -- a significantly
8 active role in the hearing until week 3 and 4. So,
9 those are my submissions this afternoon. Thank you
10 for your attention.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr.
12 Reimer. Mr. Hacault...?

13

14 OPENING REMARKS BY MIPUG:

15 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Good afternoon.
16 One of the last ones. Bonjour. Again, for the
17 record, my name is Antoine Hacault. To the right --
18 to my right is Melissa Beaumont, co-counsel, appearing
19 first time, for the Industrials with me.

20 And, Mr. Chair, Madam Vice President
21 (sic) and fellow members of the Board, it's a pleasure
22 to be in front of you again. And I'd also like to
23 take this opportunity -- usually we do it at the start
24 of the day, and Mr. Peter -- Peters alw -- Peters
25 always tries to escape from the thank yous.

1 But, Board Counsel, and Board Advisors,
2 again, Manitoba Hydro representatives and team who's
3 worked so hard in this GRA to deal with all the IRs
4 and present its case, and Manitoba Hydro counsel,
5 counsel of all Interveners and the Interveners
6 themselves too.

7 I have circulated this morning some
8 opening comments. I'll skip over much of the first
9 part which identifies the fourteen (14) members that
10 we represent in this hearing.

11 The interests of Manitoba Industrial
12 Power Users Group, which I'll now refer to as MIPUG,
13 have usually been threefold and there at the bottom of
14 page 1. Stability and predictability of rates over
15 long and short-term; ongoing transparent regulation of
16 Manitoba Hydro's rates in major capital spending; fair
17 and equitable rates for all customer classes
18 reflecting the fair costs to efficiently serve the
19 class.

20 Now, this hearing we are bringing up a
21 fourth priority that's -- to this list. Our members
22 have been clear that Hydro's rates should be at the
23 lowest reasonable level that can be maintained while
24 still meeting the objective that they provide
25 sufficient funds to Hydro to provide safe and reliable

1 service.

2 You'll hear some of that from their
3 presentations tomorrow. What's our focus of the
4 hearing, generally twofold. The Board will have
5 received our expert, Mr. Bowman's prefiled evidence,
6 it's MIPUG-6. There's seventeen (17) recommendations
7 in that report.

8 First, on revenue requirement.
9 Generally, we are accepting the rate recommendations
10 of Manitoba Hydro at a 2 percent average rate
11 increase. However, there may be some conservatism in
12 those assumption in some areas, like export revenues,
13 which we will be testing in this proceeding.

14 Go back for a bit, but I can remember
15 all the charts and chatter we had in NFAT, and nobody
16 ever thought at that time that we'd be having a
17 hearing today with a 2 percent rate path. That's good
18 news.

19 There's a lot of good things that have
20 happened. We've benefited from incredibly low
21 interest rates to fund all that big bump in capital.
22 And we have seen some positive effects in new export
23 contracts and good export prices.

24 Those have all crystalized. It's sunk
25 in and we're -- that's really good news. Now, there's

1 always things that happen, and a retroactive
2 government announcement sure helped, cutting the
3 interest guarantee rates in half, cutting our water
4 rental rates in half, giving a substantial push in the
5 right direction.

6 And there's this new piece of
7 legislation that's referred to as Bill 36. It is
8 legislation. It's no longer a bill. So, in my
9 presentation, I call it an Act. And it unfortunately
10 has these complicated legal things called transition
11 periods and there's going to be the substance of a
12 dispute as to what interpretation might be given to
13 those transitional periods.

14 Now, it does include debt/equity
15 levels. And those have never been tested and they
16 have never shown to be merited and it's a political
17 argument. So, these announcements that have reduced
18 the expenses of Hydro achieved the government
19 objective of -- of accelerated extinguishment of debt,
20 but that's not a ratepayer objective.

21 So long as the debt is tied to capital
22 investment, as it is, there is little inherent reason
23 for building equity in Hydro, in other words, and I
24 always have trouble with these accounting things,
25 paying debt down faster than depreciation.

1 Because depreciation, you'll -- you'll
2 cut and absorb all the costs of your assets through
3 that accounting exercise. But what it does, it
4 removes the fascinating and vibrant debate that, I
5 think we were supposed to have, as it relates to the
6 determination of rates for any period after April 1 of
7 2025.

8 So long as the Act comes into effect as
9 passed, these targets are outside the transparent
10 rigorous and analytical framework used by the Board
11 and instead, remain in the realm of politics.

12 So, I don't want to put a caveat --
13 lawyers are good at putting caveats, I guess, with
14 respect to the recommendation of 2 percent.

15 Now, we've taken an interpretation of
16 that act, that in planning the long run financial
17 scenarios, the financial targets in the Act, that
18 remains law unless it's repealed, that are in effect
19 after 2025 need to be taken into account.

20 So, we accept that the parties and the
21 Board may take a different view or different
22 interpretation of those transition provisions and that
23 they're to be ignored today, even when looking at the
24 long-term.

25 If that interpretation prevails, MIPUG

1 will be assessing as part -- as part of this
2 proceedings whether it continues to support the 2
3 percent average increase, or whether it requires
4 updating.

5 Now, on other issues, Manitoba Hydro
6 has coordinated with other Intervening parties. We
7 are not focussing our evidence on operations and
8 maintenance spending, or sustaining capital spending.

9 MIPUG members do have concerns that
10 broad reductions in these areas are ill-advised in
11 light of significant experienced erosion and Hydros
12 system reliability, and further, potential erosion.

13 Manitoba Hydro clearly acknowledges
14 that in there application that reliability in
15 performance is degrading with time. However, if after
16 testing the evidence in this proceeding, there appears
17 to be room for reduction in these areas that will not
18 adversely affect reliability.

19 The required average rate increases may
20 have room to be adjusted downwards from the 2 percent.
21 Long-term forecasts, another issue. We've heard that
22 Hydro is pretty close to completing its IRP. It needs
23 to go through government and other approvals, and it's
24 not a matter of scope of this hearing.

25 However, Hydro should now be well aware

1 of the issues that need to be solved and the pressures
2 facing it -- or it is facing it. And these matters
3 are material to the long-term forecasts we are now
4 reviewing, as well to appropriately pricing power in
5 Manitoba.

6 We will be spending some time
7 addressing these trends and issues due to the
8 relevance to the decisions that must be made in this
9 proceeding.

10 On depreciation, very short. Hopefully
11 discussion of the expert panel will be short. There's
12 been a lot of work put by the experts in the pre-
13 hearing meetings to come up with the consultation
14 paper that's put to this Board.

15 We'll present an opinion in favour of
16 average service life when that part of the proceeding
17 arises. We are also of the view that this is
18 something that can be disposed of the Board now.

19 Costs of service. That's always
20 fascinated me during the limited time I've been here.
21 I always imagined in my mind that I could put blank
22 titles on the left-hand side, and I'd look on the
23 right-hand side and I'd see 95 percent. It didn't
24 matter whether it was general service large, roadway
25 lighting, GS, residential.

1 In fairness to me -- at least I thought
2 -- was we just look: Is it fair? And I can tell you
3 my grandchildren, if I told them you have to give one
4 (1) penny to him and always give that penny because
5 you're just in that zone of reasonableness, you're
6 just a little bit older, you're a company, you always
7 have to do that, there'd be somebody complaining
8 pretty loudly.

9 It doesn't take somebody with a lot of
10 years to understand fairness, and that if you're
11 always giving and you've done it for four (4) decades
12 or longer, at one point in time it needs to be
13 addressed.

14 So we accept the results of PCOSS 24,
15 and with the exception of what we say are some needed
16 methodology updates to reflect new and evolving facts
17 tied to the growing importance of demand on the Hydro
18 system.

19 For multiple reasons of increasing
20 importance, demand is becoming a key cost pressure in
21 Manitoba, and you heard some of that already in my
22 cross-examination of Ms. Grewal. That includes
23 pressure from decarbonization. I didn't discuss this
24 this morning but adoption of EVs, ultimately
25 electrification of heating -- interestingly in -- you

1 said, well listen. We have to start today, not in
2 twenty (20) years from now. Loss of diversity
3 agreements which I talked about this morning; less
4 ability to rely on carbon-based thermal generation for
5 peaking, although we see that in -- as placeholders.

6 For this reason, MIPUG highlights
7 necessary improvements to the PCOSS including for wind
8 classification, DSM functionalization, and the
9 measurement of peak demand, so moving away from fifty
10 (50) hours to the more precise peak measure as we did
11 in the gas hearing rates.

12 We believe the Board has been clear
13 about its intention that each class's rates should
14 reflect costs and should do so by 2027. I'm repeating
15 myself here with my kid analogy. Rates do not reflect
16 costs, and that problem has been outstanding for
17 decades.

18 The largest industrial customers, for
19 example, pay 13 percent more, and their costs are
20 more. There's always two (2) sides to the story.
21 We'll get into that in the hearing, but every dollar
22 you take out of industry affects jobs and -- and the
23 economy.

24 So for forty (40) years, there have
25 been timid efforts we say to close the gap. We say

1 there's clear direction in the legislation that each
2 person is supposed to pay rates based on the revenue
3 requirements properly allocated to that class.

4 And if bare rates, a zone of
5 reasonableness, and the more stringent cost allocation
6 provisions under the Act are to have any meaning, the
7 Board we say must address this issue with far more
8 urgency than proposed by Hydro.

9 In the context of a proceeding with
10 relatively modest overall increases and a looming
11 deadline, the Board must continue to prioritize --
12 prioritize its 2027/'28 target.

13 As you will hear tomorrow, members will
14 talk about reliability, prioritization of demand-only
15 rate increases -- and we've seen some movement in that
16 -- that create diverse rate impacts within the general
17 service large rate classes.

18 Hydro's data and commentary suggest
19 that a small but growing erosion in liability and the
20 member experience is not the same. And we're saying
21 it's worse.

22 So reliability issues in Manitoba are
23 acute, and Hydro's responsiveness to the services
24 required by industrial customers such as the timing to
25 respond to new service requests are poor. And some of

1 this may be understandable given the pressures in the
2 last years, particularly the pandemic, but the
3 experienced erosion in Manitoba exceeds other
4 provinces where these companies operate.

5 In conclusion, low rates are of no
6 benefits if the costs of outages and the inability to
7 get attention and service from Hydro are undermining
8 revenues far beyond what is saved on power bills.
9 Fair rates that reflect costs and that provide Hydro
10 with sufficient revenue to operate and maintain a
11 reliable system must be the priority. Thank you very
12 much.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Mr.
14 Buchart...?

15

16 OPENING REMARKS BY MKO:

17 MR. MARKUS BUCHART: Good afternoon,
18 Mr. Chair Gabor, Madam Vice Chair Kapitany, and Panel
19 Members Bass, Bellringer, and Sy. My name is Markus
20 Buchart. I am a member of the Manitoba law firm of
21 Jerch Law, and I'll be working on this matter with our
22 principal, Michael Jerch.

23 We are honoured to represent again the
24 Intervener Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc., or
25 MKO for short, before this Board in the Manitoba Hydro

1 General Rate Application proceeding. I am pleased to
2 have the opportunity to make an opening statement to
3 the Board. I intend to be brief.

4 MKO is the organization of chiefs that
5 represents the citizens of twenty-five (25) First
6 Nations in northern Manitoba who are signatories to
7 Treaties 4, 5, 6, and 10. And I'll make a short
8 digression.

9 There are twenty-six (26) members of
10 MKO, but one (1) of them is in Saskatchewan and --
11 which raises the question: If they're in Saskatchewan,
12 why are they a member for an organization that begins
13 with the word 'Manitoba'? And that's because they
14 were a signatory of one (1) of the treaties, Treaty 6,
15 and it was in their interest to be a member of MKO.

16 So if -- so there are twenty-six (26)
17 members, but all of our Information Requests refer to
18 MKO's twenty-five (25) Manitoba First Nations. So
19 they -- they're signatories to Treaties 4, 5, 6, and
20 10. MKO therefore provides the collective voice for
21 about sixty-five thousand (65,000) Treaty First
22 Nations citizens who reside in northern Manitoba.

23 MKO seeks to achieve three (3)
24 objectives in this proceeding. Firstly, MKO will make
25 the legal argument that the Board still has authority

1 for this last General Rate Application under the
2 former version of the Manitoba Hydro Act to make
3 recommendations to the Government of Manitoba under
4 repealed section 39(11). And that's because of the
5 transitional provisions in the statute which -- which
6 enacted the current version of the Manitoba Hydro Act.
7 That would have been Bill 36.

8 In the last paragraph of section 3.2.2
9 of Board Order 130/'22, the -- the Board expressed a
10 contrary opinion, but MKO will make the argument to
11 fortify the Board's power which it expressly
12 acknowledged it has in the same paragraph of Order
13 130/'22 that I just cited for making recommendations
14 to the government as part of an Order in a General
15 Rate Application.

16 Secondly, MKO will make the argument
17 that the Board should recommend to the government of
18 Manitoba that it amend the Manitoba Hydro Act to
19 restore, or to permit this Board to restore, the First
20 Nation on reserve residential rate class which the
21 Board had created in Board Order 59/'18 but which the
22 Manitoba Court of Appeal struck down as ultra vires,
23 the Board's powers in Manitoba Hydro Electric Board
24 against Manitoba Public Utilities Board 2020 MBCA 60.

25 MKO will try to persuade the Board to

1 make such a recommendation in three (3) ways, on the
2 basis of answers which Manitoba Hydro has provided to
3 MKO's and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs' Information
4 Requests, on the basis of answers that Manitoba Hydro
5 may yet provide to MKO's cross-examination questions,
6 and on the legal basis of the Crown's duty to
7 Aboriginal people under its treaties with First
8 Nations and the Crown's overriding general duty to
9 them under the doctrine of the honour of the Crown and
10 under the new policy of reconciliation with First
11 Nations.

12 Thirdly, the third objective, MKO
13 intends to satisfy the Board that the diesel agreement
14 between MKO, it's four (4) member First Nations that
15 comprise the so-called diesel communities, Manitoba
16 Hydro, and the government of Canada, has been fully
17 executed.

18 The diesel agreement was an initiative
19 that MKO supported and was indeed largely brokered by
20 the efforts of Mr. Michael Anderson, research director
21 of MKO's natural resource's secretariat.

22 Somehow, the diesel agreement seems to
23 have been -- not been properly filed despite its
24 ratification under this proceeding. MKO intends to
25 complete the Board record about the diesel agreement

1 as a housekeeping matter, as unfinished business
2 arising from previous General Rate Applications.

3 MKO does not intend to say anything
4 specifically about diesel zone electricity rates in
5 this proceeding as Manitoba Hydro has not applied for
6 any rate increase for this class.

7 Once the fact of the execution of the
8 diesel agreement is updated, MK and other potential
9 applicants would be in a position to bring a diesel
10 zone application if they wish, none having been
11 entertained by this Board since 2011.

12 So, finally, I thank the Board for its
13 attention. And we look forward to contributing to the
14 Board's deliberations.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Before
16 we conclude today, Mr. Williams, I have a question for
17 you when you're... Kristen, can you bring up page 29 -
18 -- this is just sort of housekeeping -- page 29 of the
19 Consumers' Coalition presentation.

20 My question is this: In the -- in the
21 second last bullet you -- you refer to strategic
22 outlook. Is that strategic outlook as in small caps
23 or is that strategy 2040 in big caps?

24 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you for
25 that question. And I apologize for my lack in

1 precision.

2 If you go back to slide 7 --

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah.

4 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: -- on that slide,
5 we -- we suggest that the strategic future of Manitoba
6 Hydro is highly uncertain. We -- we flagged the
7 Manitoba energy strategy, the Integrated Resource
8 Plan.

9 I verbally spoke to -- to the DSM
10 approval, and then the fate of Bill 36, which is law,
11 but we did flag that, as well. So, that's what we
12 meant by the strategic future of Manitoba Hydro.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. The -- the
14 one that confused me was outlook. So, strategic
15 outlook is the same as strategic future from page --

16 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Yes. And I was
17 imprecise.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

19 DR. BYRON WILLIAMS: I apologize.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, no, that's
21 fine. That's fine. Anyways, I believe that concludes
22 today. It was a long day. I thank everyone.

23 We'll adjourn and resume at 9:00 a.m.
24 tomorrow morning. We will have presenters in the
25 morning. And then I believe we will have a Manitoba

1 Hydro Panel in the afternoon dealing with export
2 drought and hydrology.

3

4 --- Upon adjourning at 3:49 p.m.

5

6 Certified Correct,

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10 _____

11 Wendy Woodworth, Ms.

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