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6	IN THE MATTER OF:
7	CHRISTIAN COUNTY
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11	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
12	APRIL 30, 2024
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1	CHRISTIAN COUNTY
2	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
3	APRIL 30, 2024
4	6:00 P.M.
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7	ZONING BOARD:
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9	Ms. Adrian Adcock, Chairperson
10	Mr. Glen Goodrich
11	Ms. JoAnn Howard
12	Mr. Joe Door
13	Mr. Craig Berner
14	Mr. Len Corzine
15	Ms. Janet DeClerck
16	Ms. Nichole Lanham
17	
18	PRESENT:
19	
20	Mr. Blake Tarr, Zoning Administrator
21	Ms. Mary Barry, Christian County Assistant State's Attorney
22	
23	Mr. Jarred Rahar, Attorney at Law
24	

1	PRESENT CONTINUED:
2	
3	Mr. William Shay Westervelt, Johnson, Nicoll & Keller, LLC
4	411 Hamilton Boulevard, Suite 1400 Peoria, Illinois 61602
5	Mr. Reuben Grandon
6	Ms. Bonnie Mizeur
7	Ms. Glenda Garrett
8	Ms. Sandra K. Haines, Court Reporter,
9	CSR No. 084-002423
10	
11	
12	CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Roll-call.
13	MR. BLAKE TARR: Adrian Adcock.
14	CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Here.
15	MR. BLAKE TARR: Craig Berner.
16	MR. BERNER: Here.
17	MR. BLAKE TARR: David Copenbarger
18	Len Corzine.
19	MR. CORZINE: Here.
20	MR. BLAKE TARR: Joe Dorr.
21	MR. DORR: Here.
22	MR. BLAKE TARR: Glen Goodrich.
23	MR. GOODRICH: Here.
24	MR. BLAKE TARR: Joann Howard.

- 1 MS. HOWARD: Here.
- MR. BLAKE TARR: Janet DeClerck.
- MS. DECLERCK: Here.
- 4 MR. BLAKE TARR: And Nichole Lanham.
- 5 MS. LANHAM: Here.
- MR. BLAKE TARR: We have a quorum.
- 7 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Thank you. First
- 8 I would like to have a motion to approve the
- 9 minutes from the March 26th, 2024 ZBA meeting
- 10 held at 6:00 P.M.
- 11 MR. GOODRICH: Glen Goodrich, I will
- make a motion to accept the minutes.
- MR. DORR: I will second.
- 14 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Second by Joe
- 15 Dorr. All those in favor?
- 16 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS: Aye.
- 17 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Motion carries.
- 18 I would like to note at the March 26th
- meeting we had approved the February 27th
- 20 meeting minutes, and on the transcript Page 29
- 21 that was the handout Blake had given everyone
- the text is correct, but as you see noted Ms.
- 23 Barry and Bonnie's names were switched on two
- 24 statements. So, I would like to amend the

- 1 motion to correct the meeting minutes for the
- 2 record to correct the names. Do we have a
- 3 motion?
- 4 MR. CORZINE: So moved.
- 5 MS. HOWARD: Second.
- 6 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: All those in
- 7 favor?
- 8 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS: Aye.
- 9 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Motion carries.
- 10 Next item of business I would like a motion
- 11 to approve the minutes from the April 5th, 2024
- 12 ZBA meeting held at 1:00 P.M.
- MR. DORR: I will make the motion to
- approve the minutes from the April 5th meeting.
- MR. GOODRICH: Glen Goodrich, second
- 16 it.
- 17 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay. All those
- 18 in favor?
- 19 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS: Aye.
- 20 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Motion carries.
- 21 All right. So, if we look at the agenda
- for this evening, this is picking up from the
- 23 previous two hearings of the zoning special use
- 24 application for North Pana Solar.

1 So, for background North Pana Solar applied for the special use application September 29th, 2 The County Board had approved updated 3 solar ordinances September 19th to comply with 4 the State standard setbacks, and was routed to 6 the Zoning Board of Appeals for a public hearing in October, ultimately approved by the County 7 Board November 7th, 2023. Per the State's 8 9 Attorney's Office, its direction, the Board was to follow the setback requirements with the 10 11 State standard compliance, which was only 50 12 feet difference. 13 Our code had a severability clause in the 14 ordinance that specifically highlighted that 15 there was anything invalid in any section, 16 subdivision, paragraph, or other part of this ordinance shall not affect the validity or the 17 effectiveness of the remainder of the ordinance. 18 Therefore, it is the view of this Board we do 19 20 have a standing ordinance. It is also the view of this Board that 21 22 Pana's new zoning ordinance that was passed, it 23 was passed after the North Pana Solar 24 application for a special use permit, therefore,

- shall not be a factor of consideration this
- 2 evening.
- 3 Again this is the third night of hearings.
- 4 Per our code you have to have been present every
- 5 night of the hearing to vote. We have now
- 6 appointed two alternates, and our previous
- 7 Chairman has stepped down. Mr. Corzine joined
- 8 the meeting via FaceTime, but the only eligible
- 9 voters for this evening are Mr. Door,
- 10 Mr. Goodrich, Mrs. Howard, and myself. All
- 11 Board members are free to ask questions and
- 12 participate in deliberation.
- 13 Finally, again this is the third night of
- 14 hearings. We are picking up from the February
- 15 27th hearing where Mr. Door had tabled the
- discussion pending input from the municipality
- as well as agreement between the applicant and
- 18 the homeowner and any other items that North
- 19 Pana Solar could find agreements with. The
- 20 public comment was closed.
- So, for the presentation this evening the
- 22 applicant will present their vegetative plan,
- and to answer any questions from the Zoning
- 24 Board of Appeals, as well as discuss any items

- 1 that they discussed with the municipality and
- 2 the homeowner.
- 3 Bonnie Mizeur will have the opportunity to
- 4 address any of her concerns to the Zoning Board
- of Appeals and any communications that she had
- 6 with the applicant.
- 7 If there is any representatives from the
- 8 municipality of Pana, they will have the
- 9 opportunity to speak.
- Then the applicant will have an opportunity
- 11 to rebuttal and make any closing remarks.
- 12 The Zoning Board of Appeals will have a
- final opportunity to ask any questions before we
- 14 move into deliberations.
- 15 Once deliberations start only the Zoning
- Board of Appeals will be able to speak. There
- will be no additional questions to outside
- 18 parties.
- 19 With that the applicant representatives,
- you have the floor. Please stand, and you will
- 21 be sworn in.
- 22 (Whereupon Mr. Reuben Grandon was duly
- sworn/affirmed on his oath.)
- 24 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Would you like to

- 1 present the vegetative plan.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, absolutely.
- 3 I prepared a PowerPoint presentation for
- 4 tonight. Is there the opportunity to show that
- 5 here?
- 6 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: What is it in
- 7 regard? Is it the vegetative plan that you are
- 8 going to --
- 9 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, yes, it does
- 10 have the full kit and caboodle, but I understand
- 11 we are just thinking about the specific items
- that you just mentioned, the vegetative plan.
- 13 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The vegetative
- plan, and then it will be opened up to the Board
- 15 to ask any questions.
- 16 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Okay. That sounds
- 17 good.
- 18 MS. MARY BARRY: If they are limiting
- 19 their presentation to the vegetative plan, I am
- okay with them putting it up on the board.
- 21 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: And any
- communication that you have had with the
- 23 municipality.
- MR. WILLIAM SHAY: Should I be sworn in

- 1 at the same time?
- 2 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Are you going to
- 3 speak at the same time?
- 4 MR. WILLIAM SHAY: Not at the same
- 5 time.
- 6 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay. We will
- 7 wait then, thank you.
- 8 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: I am sorry, I kind
- 9 of have my back to some of you guys. It is a
- 10 little bit tricky because I need to face you
- 11 guys as well. So, I apologize for that, not my
- 12 best side.
- So, thanks a lot for having me back here.
- 14 It is really great to be working on this
- 15 application.
- 16 I think myself I reached out to Christian
- 17 County on this land use application way back in
- 18 March of 2023. So, it is really good to be back
- 19 here and to be making this progress.
- 20 Following the Zoning Board of Appeals
- 21 hearing in February of 2024 we did make some
- voluntary revisions to our plan. One of those
- is the vegetation management plan. So, I have
- the full presentation here, but I skipped

- forward to just this site plan right here that
- 2 was submitted at the February ZBA meeting. So,
- 3 I wanted to just step through the voluntary
- 4 changes.
- 5 So, for context and everybody probably
- 6 knows this, but we are north of the Pana city
- 7 limits in Christian County on 2400 East Road,
- 8 and this property is about 37 acres in size.
- 9 Our proposed facility is 35 acres. Directly to
- 10 the east of us is the Ameren substation or
- operating center, the substation. Then on the
- 12 north side of the property there are high
- voltage transmission lines, and on the south
- side of the property there is also high voltage
- 15 transmission lines going east and west to the
- 16 substation.
- So, following that February hearing these
- are the things that we have done.
- 19 Number one, we removed the solar panel
- 20 array from, yes, excuse me, we removed the solar
- 21 panel array that was located to the south of the
- residential parcel that's located to the east of
- the solar facility. So, if you are looking back
- 24 at this plan, you see that skinny line in the

- 1 southeast corner that's been removed.
- 2 We stepped back the perimeter fence in
- 3 addition to what's required. So, now the
- 4 perimeter fence is 50 feet off of the property
- 5 line of the two acre residential property. So,
- 6 on the east side of our facility next to that
- 7 two acre parcel and on the south side of our
- 8 facility next to the two acre parcel our fence
- 9 is now 50 feet back off the property line.
- 10 We added a vegetative buffer or a green
- 11 screen in between the west side of the
- 12 residential property line and our fence and the
- north side of the residential property and our
- 14 fence. So, in between our fence and that two
- acre property will be the green screen, so
- providing a nice visual buffer there.
- 17 And then we did implement the vegetation
- 18 management plan. That's built and developed to
- 19 Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- 20 standards. We are aiming to get a score of 90
- on the Illinois pollinator scorecard, which
- 22 makes it a pollinator friendly habitat. There
- is a lot of native species, a lot of perennial
- species similar to what you would find in a

1 prairie. There is different types of seeds that we will use. Ones that grow under the panels 2 and in between the rows will be different than 3 4 the ones that go around the perimeter. But the whole purpose there is to do a lot to control 5 erosion, a lot to build the soil over the life 6 of the facility, and help with any type of 7 drainage that may be present on the land. So, 8 9 making sure that we are holding that soil and it

is not bare.

- 11 Then the last thing we did is I sent out a 12 letter just introducing myself and this project, 13 and providing my contact information to all of 14 the landowners that are directly adjacent to the 15 subject property. I heard back from one of those landowners, and they just said hey, be 16 careful of this property line, make sure you 17 18 have it surveyed. So, kind of a nice advisory, make sure you get that property line surveyed. 19 20 I didn't hear from anybody else in response to 21 that neighbor letter.
- So, those are the specific steps that we took at a high level, and then these next slides kind of show it in more detail so we can see it

- 1 a little better.
- 2 So, here is the zoning site plan that's
- 3 revised. So, you can see those panels are gone
- from the southeast corner. The fence is further
- 5 back. There is a vegetative buffer; and if you
- 6 see that circle that's just to the southeast of
- 7 the solar facility, that circle is marking 150
- 8 feet from the dwelling. That's the State
- 9 Statute. We need to be at least a hundred fifty
- 10 feet back from the dwelling in order to comply
- 11 with the State Statute. So, that's what that
- 12 circle is showing, and you can clearly see here
- that our panels and our facility are at least
- 14 150 back. So, we are fully compliant.
- 15 Here is a different image, a little more
- 16 colorful, a little easier to see. This shows
- 17 approximately the location of the solar array in
- 18 red with the vegetative buffer in yellow, so in
- 19 between where that residence would see the
- 20 property to the west and to the north of that
- 21 residential two acre property.
- This is just zoomed in on the zoning site
- 23 plan. So, that may be hard to see at this
- level, but that squiggly line that's in between

- 1 our fence and the property line is that
- 2 vegetative screen there as well. So, there is a
- 3 green screen between that two acre residential
- 4 property and the solar facility.
- 5 Then in terms of what I would like to
- 6 cover, I would love to be able to talk more and
- 7 just give you more about our application and
- 8 other things that we have submitted; but I do
- 9 want to be respectful, Chairwoman, and
- 10 understand the process and how much we can speak
- on the topic or not.
- 12 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Well, we very much
- 13 liked the presentation. This is the first time
- 14 that we have had this. So, it would have been
- 15 beneficial to have had it a little earlier in
- 16 the process. So, the motion at the end of the
- 17 February meeting was communication with
- municipality, the landowner, and vegetative
- 19 plan.
- 20 So, I think we should stop there, but I
- 21 want to open it up to the Board to ask whatever
- questions you have, which may end up needing for
- you to look at a slide.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Okay, that sounds

- 1 good.
- 2 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The floor is
- 3 yours.
- 4 MR. DORR: At this point I don't have
- 5 any questions.
- 6 MR. CORZINE: Len Corzine, a couple
- 7 questions on your vegetation and your order.
- 8 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: A little bit
- 9 louder.
- 10 MR. CORZINE: Your vegetation will be
- 11 between the fence and the border, right?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Just to clarify
- our vegetation will be between our perimeter
- 14 fence and the subject property line.
- MR. CORZINE: Right. On your -- I have
- 16 got the same slide up here. So, your vegetation
- 17 will be within the 150 feet?
- 18 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, yes, the
- vegetation itself, the vegetation that's
- 20 providing the buffer will be within the 150 more
- 21 than likely, yes.
- MR. CORZINE: I am not sure in the
- 23 statute it is -- it is 150 feet. I am not sure
- if your vegetative plan, which I am glad you

- 1 have got, and I really am. I will mention I am
- 2 really pleased that you took that south away to
- 3 give them a view there at least; but if you, and
- 4 maybe it is not a big deal, I would have thought
- 5 that the vegetative plan would have been the
- 6 beginning of your project. So, it should have
- 7 been a little bit further away where you are 150
- 8 feet. You know what I mean?
- 9 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: I see what you are
- saying, and I think I understand the question.
- 11 Respectfully we want to do everything up to
- 12 code, and so the way that the property tax code
- defines the commercial solar energy facility it
- includes, and don't quote me here, it includes
- the components of the facility, and I don't
- believe the vegetative screen would be
- 17 considered a part of that. So, I do not believe
- 18 we are subject to the setback rule for the 150
- 19 for the vegetative screening itself.
- 20 If we wanted to consider that further, we
- 21 would be happy to talk that through. I guess
- off the top of my head my concern becomes a
- 23 little bit how much land are we going to leave
- that's not utilized, or under utilized, or

- 1 vacant, and we certainly are somewhat site
- 2 constrained. So, we would need to think about
- 3 it from a design perspective.
- 4 MR. CORZINE: Thank you for that, but
- 5 by the drawing it would not be very far.
- 6 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, and one thing
- 7 I didn't mention is that with this driveway here
- 8 located on that part of the property, the
- 9 intention of having that driveway there is to
- sort of get after what you are asking is to
- 11 create more of a buffer.
- 12 A rule of thumb for us is we try to work
- through the land use process and permit just a
- 14 little bit extra than we might need because it
- is easier to make that smaller in the future,
- 16 and it is a lot harder to make that bigger in
- 17 the future. So, the reason that we are thinking
- about the driveway location there is because
- 19 that could be a natural place to provide even
- 20 more buffer than what's shown on this site plan,
- but too early to be determined on that right
- 22 now.
- MR. CORZINE: If I might, another
- question on the border and where you put the

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fence -- I farm, okay. So, we deal with
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- 2 property lines. Do you generally lay back let's
- 3 say a foot or something so your posts aren't
- 4 right on that line? I mean that makes
- 5 everything easier for everybody. Can you do
- 6 that? What's your practice?
- 7 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Oh, yeah,
- 8 absolutely. Typically one to three feet off of
- 9 the property line.
- 10 MR. CORZINE: So, you won't be right on
- 11 it?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: No, not right on
- the right-of-way line, or not right on the
- 14 property line, but typically a foot back or so.
- MR. CORZINE: Okay.
- 16 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: So, the neighbor
- 17 to the west could farm right up to our fence
- 18 line for all intents and purposes. And for us
- 19 we would be responsible for the management of
- 20 the grounds outside or inside our fence line on
- 21 the property.
- MR. CORZINE: Okay, good, because farm
- 23 equipment gets into those kind of things,
- sometimes they try to get close, right.

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MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, yes. That's
1
2
       a good point. We really want to try to make it
       in a shape or make it in a figuration that
3
       maximizes the farming that can happen right
4
       around it as well. So, like that western
5
6
       property line we want that farmer to be able to
7
       farm right up to it.
8
                MR. CORZINE: Good.
                                     Another question
9
       on the entry, will you be putting in a new
       culvert because you will need probably more
10
11
       than -- I don't think there is much, maybe not
12
       anything right there. My memory escapes me.
13
                MR. REUBEN GRANDON: There is a
14
       driveway and a culvert for the residence that's
15
       right there, but I don't believe that extends
16
       into the area that we are talking right here.
17
       There is a ditch. There is drainage right
18
       through there.
            So, honestly it is really up to Pana
19
20
       Township. We will just need to build it to
21
       their specifications. So, I think Chris is the
22
       township supervisor for the roadways, and we
23
       will need to get his feedback on if that
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location is even suitable, and then build it to

- 1 his specifications.
- So, we will be happy wherever it ends up in
- 3 there, but absolutely everything will be done
- 4 according to his rules and regulations.
- 5 MR. CORZINE: So, you have already
- 6 talked with him on the roadway and all of those
- 7 kind of things?
- 8 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: We have attempted
- 9 to make contact, and we had a really brief short
- 10 conversation, but we haven't had a very long
- 11 conversation yet. So, we will continue to reach
- out to him, and certainly by the time we get to
- a building permit we will need to have all of
- that ironed out before we can get a building
- 15 permit and definitely before we can start
- 16 construction.
- 17 MR. CORZINE: Right. So, while I am on
- 18 that what direction will you be bringing the
- 19 equipment in?
- 20 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Again I think we
- 21 need to defer to the authority having
- jurisdiction. In my mind right now we would
- come off of the Illinois state highway, and go
- east on 400 North until we got to this property

- 1 right here on 2400 North, 2400 East.
- 2 MR. CORZINE: Actually you have about
- 3 three state highways not very far away. So, you
- 4 mean coming from Route 29?
- 5 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Come southeast on
- 6 29, and then take a dead east on 400 North, and
- 7 then turn left or turn north onto this roadway
- 8 up to the substation.
- 9 MR. CORZINE: Okay.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Again that's just
- 11 proposed. We need to work with Chris and Pana
- 12 Township to make sure.
- MR. CORZINE: So, you would be flexible
- on that somewhat with that, you will work with
- 15 him?
- 16 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Absolutely, I mean
- everything that we do with that regard is
- subject to their approval. So, maybe thinking
- about the weight of the trucks, the time of the
- year, the specific location of the driveway. It
- is all subject to his approval, but yes,
- certainly we would need to have that by the
- 23 building permit.
- MR. CORZINE: Sorry, for so many

1 questions, but another one, in that when you are putting in your culvert of the size that you 2 need there should be the drainage commissioners 3 involved in that. I don't believe, my 4 5 understanding or somewhere I read there is not 6 field tile or drainage tile that goes through the property, but it is still in a drainage 7 district as far as working with them to make 8 sure you have got a culvert that's not going to 9 impede any of the waterway, right? 10 11 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, yes, 12 absolutely, we will need to work with the 13 drainage district, and you are right, there is 14 no known agricultural field drainage tile on the 15 property. The elevation of the property is like 16 two feet of difference. It is really pretty flat out there, but certainly when we cross that 17 18 drainage ditch, we will need to work with that. That's the Assumption Pana Drainage District 19 20 number one, I believe. I left a voicemail for a 21 gentleman named Mike, and we haven't connected 22 yet, but certainly when we pull a building 23 permit, that will be incorporated into that

including the culvert. We will look for them to

- tell us the size of the culvert and exactly
- where it can go. And once we get off of that
- 3 public road and into the private property, then
- 4 we are clear, I believe. So, if it needs to be
- 5 moved a little to the north or adjusted, then we
- 6 are amenable to that.
- 7 MR. CORZINE: All right. Thank you.
- 8 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, thanks for
- 9 the questions.
- 10 MR. BERNER: Craig Berner, so the
- 11 property to the south that you are not going to
- 12 put the panels in, I mean is it just part of
- 13 this vegetative species of grass and pollinator
- 14 program? What goes in there?
- 15 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: The part of the
- 16 subject property that we are on where we are not
- 17 putting solar.
- MR. BERNER: Correct.
- 19 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Like that
- southeast corner, yes, it will have the same
- 21 type of vegetation management plan on it that we
- 22 have for the rest.
- MR. BERNER: Does it get mowed off or
- 24 growed up?

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1 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Occasionally. I
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- 2 mean we don't need to mow it that frequently.
- 3 It is okay with us if, you know, the panels are
- 4 usually 18 to 22 inches or so above grade. So,
- 5 it can grow that high. If it starts to shade
- the panels, then we are certainly incentivized
- 7 to go out there, and also picking species that
- 8 aren't going to grow too tall or too fast. So,
- 9 occasional mowing, but not too frequently as
- 10 needed.
- MR. BLAKE TARR: Reuben, are you able
- 12 to wake your computer back up for the board,
- 13 please.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: I believe so.
- 15 MS. HOWARD: Can you put that first
- 16 slide up there where you had your list of
- 17 changes?
- 18 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, with all of
- 19 the words on it, this one?
- MS. HOWARD: Yes.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: It is not the
- 22 biggest thing in the world, is it. I have some
- print-outs. Let me see where I put them. I
- 24 printed these two slides per page. If you want

- 1 to pass these out, you are welcome to.
- MS. HOWARD: I have one more question.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes.
- 4 MS. HOWARD: Can you give me an
- 5 estimate of how many neighbor letters that you
- 6 sent out?
- 7 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Oh, yes, sure. I
- 8 have that here. It was to each of the adjacent
- 9 property owners. Bear with me, okay.
- 10 MS. HOWARD: So, there weren't that
- 11 many?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Here it is: One,
- 13 two, three, four, five, six, seven. There are
- 14 seven.
- 15 MS. HOWARD: I don't need to see it.
- 16 Thank you.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, so each of
- the landowners on the Christian County
- assessor's site that owned property that abuts
- the subject property we sent them a letter, and
- I think that was above and beyond what's
- 22 required by the County ordinance. There is
- 23 nothing in the County ordinance that I am aware
- of that requires us to reach out to them. There

- is a public notice requirement, and from my
- 2 understanding talking to the zoning
- 3 administrator that had been done ahead of this
- 4 hearing. So, each of the neighbors should have
- 5 received something from the County.
- The purpose of that letter was really just
- 7 to give them a direct line to me with my cell
- 8 phone number on it and my e-mail as well. So, I
- 9 just wanted to try to open up the lines of
- 10 communication.
- On that topic too since that February 27th
- 12 hearing we tried multiple times to reach out to
- the neighbors who spoke, Steve and Bonnie
- 14 Mizeur, just to talk through these items on this
- 15 list.
- MS. HOWARD: Were you able to do that?
- 17 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: I left voicemails,
- and I sent a letter by certified mail; but I
- 19 never got a response. So, I didn't hear
- anything directly from them.
- 21 MR. CORZINE: Len Corzine again. On
- 22 your process when you -- I am glad you worked
- with the NRCS on your vegetative plan. Does
- 24 that include you got something, I noticed in the

1 plan for under and around the panels, right? 2 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes. 3 MR. CORZINE: In your process you will about have to get that seeded and something 4 5 established before you put the panels in, won't 6 you? MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, it will go at 7 the same time as construction, yes. So, the 8 9 process, and forgive me, I know you guys have worked with different solar before, so you 10 11 probably already know this; but one of the first 12 things we do is put the steel piles in. So, 13 once our surveyor goes out there and marks where 14 each of our steel posts should go, then those 15 are effectively hammered in with like a 16 hydraulic attachment. There is sometimes 17 specialized equipment sometimes on a Cat or 18 Deere you can just attach something, but they are effectively just pounded in; and then at 19 20 that point you are doing the cross beams or the 21 racking on top of that, and then the panels on 22 top of that itself. So, yes, when you put those

posts in, you can do the vegetation management

right there at that time.

23

- 1 MR. CORZINE: My thought you would do
- 2 that first because you can get something seeded
- 3 before the posts are in your way.
- 4 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yeah, yeah, and it
- 5 depends exactly on the time of the year that we
- 6 are putting it in as well. That can certainly
- 7 be a factor, but I will be the first to say we
- 8 hire professionals to do that. So, we will rely
- 9 on somebody that has the expertise in that field
- 10 to help us with that.
- MR. CORZINE: When you are doing your
- seeding and the vegetation, will you include the
- 13 local, the County soil conservation service
- 14 folks?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, yes, the
- 16 storm water or SWCD, Soil and Water Conservation
- 17 District. We will incorporate them and get
- 18 recommendations. Ideally we will be able to
- 19 procure seeds locally as possible. I know the
- 20 DNR looks favorably upon that if we can procure
- 21 those locally. So, that's one aspect of this
- 22 whole facility that we will definitely be
- looking for local resources for.
- MR. CORZINE: Thank you.

1 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, absolutely. 2 MR. WILLIAM SHAY: Madam Chairman, I 3 might be able to shed some more light on the question about whether the green screen is 4 within the 150 feet. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay. You can be 6 sworn in, please, now. 7 8 (Whereupon Mr. William Shay was 9 duly sworn/affirmed on his oath.) MR. WILLIAM SHAY: This will be real 10 11 quick. I checked the definition after you asked 12 the question about whether the green screen 13 being, if it is within 150 feet whether that has 14 to be set back 150, whether that's included; and the definition in the State Statute Public Act 15 16 102-1123, which defines commercial solar energy facility refers to the property tax code of 17 18 Illinois, and specifically the definition under the property tax code of commercial solar energy 19 20 system that's in Section 10-720 of the property 21 tax code, and that commercial solar energy 22 system is defined, and I am shortening it to the 23 pertinent portion, a device quote, unquote, 24 using solar energy for generation of

- 1 electricity. So, I think device is the
- 2 operative word, and so the question is whether
- 3 trees forming a green screen are devices as
- 4 such. I won't opine on that. I am just
- 5 relating what the statute says.
- 6 MS. MARY BARRY: I mean the actual
- 7 solar refers to a component without defining it.
- 8 I agree with your tracking on the definition of
- 9 what a commercial solar energy system is. I
- 10 have done no research on this other than say I
- 11 agree that that is how that's defined. I don't
- 12 know that there is any background on how
- 13 component is defined under the Solar Act.
- 14 MR. WILLIAM SHAY: Again it refers to
- 15 the property tax code definition, which includes
- 16 the word device.
- MS. MARY BARRY: Right. I am not
- disagreeing with that, but having done no
- 19 further research on that I am not going to opine
- to that.
- 21 MR. CORZINE: It might be worth
- 22 checking because is the vegetation plan part of
- the system.
- MS. MARY BARRY: I think that's where

- 1 we have the open question right now.
- 2 MR. WILLIAM SHAY: In my mind it is --
- 3 the question specifically is whether, because of
- 4 the reference to the property tax code whether
- 5 the green screen is a device for generating
- 6 electricity from solar energy.
- 7 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: I could add that
- 8 in the State Statute in the zoning subsection,
- 9 so this is 55 ILCS 5/5-12020 Subsection L, this
- 10 says -- it is about the vegetative screening.
- 11 It says a County may require certain vegetative
- screening surrounding a commercial wind energy
- facility or commercial solar energy facility,
- but may not require earth and berms or similar
- 15 structures. And to me my read on that is that
- 16 may require certain vegetative screening
- surrounding the facility, which to me indicates
- that it is separate from the facility, not the
- 19 facility itself.
- 20 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Can we go back to
- 21 the graphic. Are we saying that this vegetative
- 22 plan is 50 feet from the non-participating
- 23 property?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Zoom in a little

- 1 bit. So, this probably is the better one, let's
- see here. Okay, there we go. That's probably
- 3 the better one.
- 4 So, you can see that line with the X on it
- 5 to the north of the residential acreage, and
- then to the west that's the fence right there.
- 7 That's what that symbol is. That's 50 feet on
- 8 the west side and a little more than 50 feet on
- 9 the north side. Then on the west side the green
- 10 screen is between the fence and the neighboring
- 11 property or our subject property line, so within
- that 50 feet on the west side. On the north
- 13 side without seeing the dimensions clearer I am
- not quite sure, but we effort to do everything
- 15 entirely to code, and we try to be incredibly
- 16 thorough. So, our understanding of the
- ordinance and the State Statute is that the
- 18 green screen can be in that setback just like a
- 19 fence could be in that setback. So, that's the
- 20 reason that it is shown like that here.
- MS. MARY BARRY: That green screen will
- be, I apologize if I could ask it, on your
- 23 property?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, exactly. So,

- just the order from -- let's just look at the
- 2 west side. So, we have our array, and then
- 3 moving to the east we will have our fence line,
- 4 moving to the east the vegetative green screen,
- 5 and then to the east is the property line of our
- 6 property line, which is shared with the two acre
- 7 property line, so the green screen between our
- 8 perimeter fence and our property line on the
- 9 east side.
- 10 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: And was this based
- on surveyed, or was this based on what is
- 12 currently farmed?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: This is a
- 14 preliminary conception design that was based off
- of what's available from maps like from the
- 16 Christian County Assessor's site or other
- 17 softwares that are similar. So, before
- 18 construction or before a building permit we will
- 19 have a full ALTA survey that's done, and then we
- 20 will have a legal metes and bounds description
- of the leased area, and all of this will be
- further specified at the building permit time.
- This is more conceptual at this phase.
- 24 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, when I had

- 1 reviewed the GIS, it had shown that within the
- 2 property of the homeowner that they had farmed
- 3 that acreage before, part of their yard, and so
- I was just making sure that your graphic doesn't
- 5 show that.
- 6 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: I see, yes. It
- 7 could be that the overlay is a little bit off,
- 8 but I am not quite sure -- I am not quite sure
- 9 on the following exactly, but I think it is safe
- 10 to say that before we will start construction we
- 11 will make sure we have an ALTA survey. We
- 12 certainly don't have property rights to be
- anywhere outside of our subject property, and we
- 14 are agreeing to have the fence at least 50 feet
- off of those property lines. So, those will
- 16 definitely be adhered to prior to commencing
- 17 construction.
- 18 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I am sorry, one
- 19 more point of clarification. So, the fence will
- 20 be 50 feet off, but the vegetative plan you are
- 21 saying will be within that 50 feet, correct?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes. So, the
- vegetative screening itself will be in between
- the fence and the property line that contains

- 1 the residence. That's for the vegetative
- 2 screening. Not to confuse it a little bit more,
- 3 but there is also the vegetative management
- 4 plan, which is separate from the vegetative
- 5 screening, and that includes our like native
- 6 species and pollinators.
- 7 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Mr. Berner had
- 8 asked a question about the southeast corner, and
- 9 I think I am confused now. So, when you removed
- the solar panels from the southeast corner,
- 11 what's going to be there?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: We are going to
- implement our vegetative management plan in that
- southeast corner. We intend to -- we could say
- 15 that that's, or I should say that's also subject
- 16 to the property owner themselves, but it seems
- 17 to me to make the most sense to just go ahead
- 18 and implement the vegetation plan as we will be
- 19 responsible for the entire subject property.
- 20 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: That could be 18
- 21 to 20 inches tall?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, potentially,
- 23 yes.
- 24 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Are there

- 1 additional -- yes, Miss Howard.
- MS. HOWARD: Refresh my memory. So,
- 3 the interconnection agreement has been settled
- 4 with Ameren?
- 5 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, we do. We
- 6 have an interconnection agreement with Ameren.
- 7 MS. HOWARD: I know we discussed it,
- but I don't remember the outcome.
- 9 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes. When we
- 10 originally -- it has been a little bit confusing
- 11 because when we originally submitted, we had the
- 12 application to Ameren, but we had not received
- 13 the agreement yet. So, in between then and the
- 14 February hearing we received the full agreement.
- 15 So, when we came February 27th, we had that in
- 16 hand.
- 17 That's significant for us because working
- 18 with the utility is a big part of this. It is a
- 19 major milestone, and to have an interconnection
- agreement makes this a very tangible and
- 21 realistic project.
- 22 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Can you walk
- through the entrance that you intend to use and
- how many feet it is from the homeowners'

- 1 driveway, please.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, that proposed
- 3 entrance I do not have the dimensions of it yet.
- 4 So, I could not speak to exactly how far it is.
- 5 If you are looking at this site plan, the fence
- 6 that's north of the residential two acre lot is
- 7 at least 50 feet from the property line for that
- 8 lot with the dwelling. So, we are at least 50
- 9 feet north from the existing two acre parcel;
- 10 but to say how much further north we are, I
- don't think I could say for sure, and again
- that's really subject to Pana Township Highway
- 13 Commissioner Chris and his authorization for a
- 14 driveway at this proposed location.
- 15 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, where is the
- interconnection going to be?
- 17 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: The
- 18 interconnection will be close to where that
- 19 driveway is located. If you look just to the
- 20 north of that driveway, you see a small
- 21 rectangle or a small square. That's the
- 22 electrical equipment pad, and from there the
- 23 point of interconnection will tie into the grid
- 24 from that location.

- 1 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay. 2 MR. DORR: Is that overhead or 3 underground? 4 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: That will be 5 subject to Ameren's requirements. So, we don't 6 really get to have a say, but as far as we have 7 been working with them it has all been overhead so far. 8 9 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, in your application you said that you intend to comply 10 11 with the noise standards -- forgive me, I forgot 12 the terminology. What sound study have you 13 performed of what the noise would be too for the 14 house? 15 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, so with these 16
- types of solar facilities we are beholden to the Illinois Pollution Control Board sound 17 18 restrictions and limitations. So, there is a State Statute that requires us to be below 19 20 certain decibels. We can design a facility like 21 this with the ability to put all of the noise 22 producing devices inside of the facility so that 23 by the time you are at the perimeter fence of 24 the facility or the property line you don't hear

- anything. It is all just background noise, or the sound is effectively dissipated.
- So, once this facility is constructed and 3 mechanically operational, then we would have an 4 engineer go out and do a sound analysis to 5 6 demonstrate that we are in compliance with those regulations. If we were not in compliance, then 7 we would be in violation of State Statute, and 8 could jeopardize our special use permit. So, 9 that will be conducted once it is operational; 10 11 but I think it is useful to -- I think I brought 12 it with me.
- So, this is the fan that produces noise. 13 14 This is the size of the fan. We use string 15 inverters for a facility like this, and when the sun is shining and we are doing a lot of solar 16 power generation, it is those string 17 18 inverters that are converting -- so, these are 19 string inverters where they are just placed 20 inside of the facility, and they are converting 21 it from DC energy to AC energy. And don't quote 22 me on this, but think of it like a large checked 23 suitcase or maybe a carry-on suitcase maybe 24 about that size, and this is the fan that keeps

- 1 it cool. It could be comparable to a newer like
- 2 central air conditioning unit that you would
- 3 have in a residential subdivision or something
- 4 of that nature.
- 5 So, it is only working when it is sunny
- out, when they are actually producing energy.
- 7 So, no noise at night, and through the IPCB
- 8 standards we can look at the charts and
- 9 demonstrate that our decibels as rated by the
- 10 manufacturer. And then thinking about the
- 11 classification of land uses adjacent if you look
- 12 at the checklist that we submitted with the
- application materials, we won't have any noise
- at the perimeter fence or beyond the property
- 15 line. So, there is no concern there.
- 16 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, other projects
- 17 you have completed you have passed all of the
- 18 noise analysis?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes. We need to
- 20 otherwise we could be subject to termination of
- 21 our permit.
- To be honest it is really an easy standard
- 23 to meet because of the string inverters. It is
- just really a matter of design to place the

- 1 inverters in the proper location.
- 2 MR. CORZINE: Len Corzine again. How
- 3 many of those suitcases will there be?
- 4 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: That's a good
- 5 question. I don't think I have that answer even
- 6 in this packet of materials.
- 7 MR. CORZINE: I mean will it be --
- 8 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Roughly 20 to 40,
- 9 something like that, but don't take that
- 10 verbatim. It is something in that ballpark.
- 11 MR. CORZINE: I drive by there once in
- 12 awhile. Would there be anything to keep you
- 13 from keeping that equipment -- I noticed in your
- site plan you have got equipment pretty much in
- 15 the corner closest to the residence. I know the
- 16 power poles, there is one set of power poles
- 17 that goes along the north side. Is there
- anything to prevent you from moving anything
- that would be noise producing up there?
- 20 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes. So, the
- 21 design itself we will make sure that all of the
- 22 string inverters or the noise producers are not
- 23 going to emit any audible sound at the property
- line. So, no impacts from sound outside of the

- 1 property line onto the neighboring properties.
- 2 You are right, there are high voltage
- 3 transmission lines on the northern property line
- 4 going east and west, and those do create a
- 5 little bit of noise. There is also high voltage
- 6 on the southern property line going east and
- 7 west as well.
- 8 It is something we could look at, yes. To
- 9 answer your question more directly if that was
- 10 something that this Board thought would be an
- 11 appropriate condition of approval to move the
- driveway or to move the electrical equipment
- pad, which is that little pad that we showed on
- the screen to the north, we could certainly look
- 15 at that; and if that would be something that
- 16 would be preferred, we would be happy to.
- 17 We do have to think about Ameren and our
- 18 agreement with the point of interconnection.
- 19 That's a major piece of these, and just to zoom
- 20 out a little bit, these aren't the types of
- 21 projects that you can easily just move down the
- 22 street or across the road. It is really tied to
- a specific location. So, that's something we
- 24 would need to evaluate; and then the other piece

- 1 is the driveway, which we have talked about a
- 2 little bit.
- MR. CORZINE: We have talked about, and
- 4 like I say I don't know what would prevent you
- 5 from moving the driveway quite a ways north. I
- 6 am just thinking get all that kind of activity
- 7 away from the residence because there would be
- 8 more activity during construction and probably
- 9 after construction where the driveway is, right.
- 10 So, I know the ditch may get -- the
- 11 drainage may get deeper as you go north, I
- think, because I think it flows that way, but
- that could be worked around. I just think to
- 14 give the folks of the residence all of the help
- 15 we can as far as not bothering them, all that
- 16 activity, because I am aware of some other solar
- where they were put in, and there is a lot of
- 18 activity when you are putting them in. There
- 19 really is. You can't help that, but if you
- 20 could move that, get it away from the residence
- 21 to me is a big deal.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Okay, yeah, we
- would be agreeable to something of a condition
- of approval that would allow us to work on

- negotiating that with Ameren, and use our best
  efforts, or somebody like Bill could help with
  that, but we certainly don't want the project to
  hinge on that because we feel like we have done
  everything to code, to statute. We feel like
- 6 these concessions tonight are voluntary and in
- 7 excess of what's required. So, we certainly
- 8 wouldn't want to get in a position where our
- 9 approval hinges on that, but we would be very
- 10 agreeable to doing something like we will do
- 11 best efforts to relocate the driveway north on
- 12 the subject property or something to that
- 13 effect.
- MR. CORZINE: I understand. I
- appreciate what you have done, but I think just
- 16 kind of more of a good neighbor policy, you
- 17 know, just to get that nuisance away from them,
- if you will.
- 19 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, yes. I am
- 20 glad we are talking about it because part of the
- 21 way I was thinking about it too is with that
- 22 driveway there that could effectively create
- 23 more of a buffer than what's shown here. Bear
- with me, it is a little bit of a gray area,

- 1 right, but I am just thinking of further on in
- the design process that would be a potential
- 3 area where we could say okay, if we can, then we
- 4 could kind of strike those panels that are south
- 5 of the road right there. Like if you could bear
- 6 with me and see that, see this line kind of
- 7 here, this is just my thought process, I am just
- 8 thinking if the driveway is there, then that
- 9 might give us the ability later to kind of
- 10 strike those panels from the design; but we are
- 11 hesitant to commit to that right now because we
- 12 are fairly site constrained, and we don't want
- to get ourselves into a bind or have less
- acreage than we need for the project that we
- 15 have agreed to with Ameren.
- 16 So, I am trying to say yes, we want to be
- 17 a good neighbor, we want to do the right thing
- by the neighbors, and we will certainly do our
- 19 best to do that, but I hope that kind of
- 20 conceptualizes a little bit of how we are
- 21 thinking about it.
- MR. CORZINE: If you could remove that
- row, that would be helpful too, I understand.
- So, if that's in the plan, but I hear what you

- 1 say. Thank you.
- 2 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes. This is one
- 3 step in the process and a very important step.
- 4 Having a special use permit gives us the
- 5 assurance to continue to invest in due
- 6 diligence, and there is a lot that happens
- 7 between now and the final site design. So,
- 8 feedback like we have gotten on February 27th
- 9 gives us things to think through, and how can we
- 10 design that facility further, and refine it
- 11 further to be the best neighbor that we could be
- while still maintaining the optionality that we
- want to be successful.
- MR. CORZINE: Okay, thanks.
- 15 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Could you
- 16 elaborate what hours that you intend during the
- 17 construction phase to make deliveries, et
- 18 cetera?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: That's a good
- 20 question. I think you guys would be, the County
- 21 would really be telling us what hours we are
- 22 allowed to operate in, and we are allowed to
- 23 have deliveries. Anything of that nature would
- 24 be done as required either by Pana Township for

- 1 the road usage and also Christian County per the
- 2 building permit. We would make sure that we
- 3 strictly comply with any regulation that there
- 4 is about anything regarding deliveries.
- 5 There was one thing I noticed I wanted to
- 6 clarify. I noticed in our vegetation management
- 7 plan that in the image we have in that plan we
- 8 did not include that section that's in the very
- 9 southeast corner where those panels have been
- 10 removed. So, as the plan states -- so, this is
- 11 a correction. I want to correct the record.
- 12 As our plan states we do not have the
- vegetation management in that section of the
- 14 proposed facility on the subject property. So,
- 15 that would be subject to further discussion with
- 16 the property owner on how that particular piece
- of the property should be utilized.
- So, we could go either way. We could say
- 19 absolutely, we will incorporate that into our
- 20 vegetation management plan, and treat it just
- like the other; or the landowner might have a
- 22 different thought where they would rather see
- that property used differently, and we would be
- amenable to that as well. So, I just wanted to

- 1 clarify that.
- 2 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Thank you.
- 3 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: My mistake.
- 4 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: In the
- 5 decommissioning plan it says the landowner is
- 6 unsure if there is drainage tile infrastructure
- 7 on the subject property. Then it is stated
- 8 other places that we don't believe. So, are we
- 9 aware of there is drainage tile in this property
- 10 or not?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: We are not aware
- of any drainage tile on the property, and we
- have asked the landowner if they know of any,
- and they don't know of any going in or being
- 15 present since they have owned the property,
- 16 which I believe goes back more than 20 years. I
- 17 believe they asked who has been farming the land
- if they know of any drainage tile as well, and
- 19 they weren't sure of there being any present.
- So, I think we can get pretty confident to say
- 21 that there hasn't been any put in in the last 20
- years at least, but we don't really know what
- could still be there from decades prior. So,
- you can never say with confidence if there is

- not an old clay drainage tile or something like that that's in the field.
- So, a standard practice for us is to make 3 4 sure that we do an assessment, and again we rely 5 on expertise in the field and actually someone 6 out of Moweaqua is really good at this, but they will do an analysis on the field itself and 7 identify any drainage tiles. Again that's part 8 9 of the due diligence before we do the final design. If we can design just to completely 10 11 avoid the tiles that are there, that's the best 12 solution. If not, then we will put in a plan 13 that makes sure any drainage tiles that are hit 14 or could potentially be hit are repaired as soon 15 as possible, as soon as reasonably practicable. 16 And then to that effect as well there is Illinois drainage code, and that would certainly 17 18 have teeth in terms of holding us accountable to making sure that any drainage tile is repaired 19 20 promptly; and then there is also a section of 21 agricultural impact mitigation agreement, and 22 that's what we entered into with the Illinois 23 Department of Agriculture just directly from the 24 solar farm to the Department of Aq, and that has

- 1 a subsection that discusses drainage tile as
- well.
- 3 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: You said -- did
- 4 you mean Moweaqua?
- 5 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes.
- 6 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, who is the
- 7 person, the expert in Moweaqua?
- 8 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: His first name is
- 9 Quint, but I can't remember his full name, or he
- 10 goes by Quint.
- 11 MR. BERNER: Craig Berner, do you know
- what he does to determine if there is or isn't
- 13 tile?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes.
- 15 MR. BERNER: How does he go about doing
- 16 that?
- 17 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: It is quite a
- 18 process. At first when I started learning about
- it, I thought well, there must be technology and
- 20 software that you could just run over the field
- 21 and figure it out, but no, it is a hands-on task
- 22 you need to -- first he does a big analysis to
- figure out where it could be, and what's been
- 24 going on in the past. I think he is looking at

- 1 records like with the drainage district, talking
- 2 to landowners that we are working with and ones
- 3 nearby, and then from there it is actually
- 4 touching the tile, and then running through it,
- 5 and putting your physical hand on that tile
- 6 throughout the field, so a little bit laborious
- 7 process.
- 8 MR. BERNER: If someone says that they
- 9 think there is tile in there, right, but if no
- one says anything about it, then you just
- 11 proceed as planned?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Say that again,
- 13 sorry.
- MR. BERNER: So, if he does his due
- 15 diligence and talks to landowners and stuff, and
- 16 no one says that there is tile there, then he is
- 17 done?
- 18 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: No, we would still
- 19 have it surveyed. We would still go out and do
- 20 a field assessment of the tile to see if he
- 21 could locate any.
- MR. BERNER: So, do you like trench
- around it to determine?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: If there is field

- tile discovered or if we think that there could
- 2 be, then sometimes the most practical solution
- 3 is just to reroute it around it rather than
- 4 thinking about hitting it, thinking about
- 5 repairing it. If you could just start when it
- 6 is kind of a blank slate, and just diverge
- 7 around it, create the pattern that you want from
- 8 a design perspective, it could make the rest of
- 9 your design pretty easy.
- 10 MS. HOWARD: How common is that hitting
- 11 those tiles when you are installing the panels?
- 12 Is that common?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: It happens, yes.
- I would say it does happen. I think that there
- is a lot of work that goes into it ahead of time
- 16 to make sure that you avoid it, but I think your
- work on the front end is just as important as
- 18 your work on the back end. So, certainly you do
- 19 everything you can to prevent it, but you also
- 20 need a plan in place that if you do hit it, what
- 21 are you going to do, and who is your local
- 22 contact in that area to make sure it is done
- 23 correctly. Not just from a general contractor,
- 24 but who is the subcontractor that can help with

- 1 the expertise.
- 2 Circling back again it is the Illinois
- 3 Drainage Code, and we certainly don't want to be
- 4 in violation of that. So, we take it pretty
- 5 seriously.
- 6 MR. BERNER: Going back to what you
- 7 said earlier, when you drive the piling for the
- 8 panels, you don't have really any way to know
- 9 that you hit a tile?
- 10 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, that's very
- 11 true. I think you are accurate. You may not
- 12 know.
- MR. BERNER: So, you need to do a very
- 14 good job of assessing whether or not there is
- tile first, correct?
- 16 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes. You may not
- 17 know especially with an older tile, you may not
- 18 know until it gets -- if we are constructing in
- 19 August when it is bone dry, chances are you
- 20 won't know, yes you are right, but you
- 21 definitely will know when it rains again. So,
- 22 still monitoring the facility, and making sure
- that you still have that plan in place to repair
- those tiles or reroute them accordingly.

- 1 MR. BERNER: You would repair
- 2 neighboring tiles because tile might stretch a
- 3 whole mile.
- 4 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: If we were held
- 5 liable, or it turned out that we were
- 6 accountable for damaging those, then I believe
- 7 we would be on the hook for repairing those,
- 8 yes. I haven't seen that play out but, and Bill
- 9 might know more, but common sense tells me that
- 10 certainly if it would be our fault, we would be
- 11 responsible for it.
- 12 Again here we are talking about the
- potential of tile that's at least more than 25
- 14 years old, probably a lot longer. I think it
- 15 has been in the family for several decades, and
- 16 we asked about this very early on in our due
- diligence, and when we asked about it, there was
- 18 no known drainage tile from the family, not just
- 19 the landowner that we are talking about, but
- 20 other family members too. That's our knowledge
- 21 on it right now. More due diligence will be
- 22 required though.
- 23 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay. Have you
- 24 guys began working on the national pollution

- discharge elimination system, or storm water
- 2 pollution prevention plan, or any kind of other
- 3 flooding or erosion analysis?
- 4 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Analysis, no, and
- 5 remind me, I can't remember what part of the
- 6 ordinance that came up as.
- 7 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: That's in the
- 8 Public Act 1123 or whatever the State Statute
- 9 is.
- 10 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: At this point in
- 11 the development cycle we haven't had any
- 12 requirements that I am aware of to address that
- part of the State Statute, but that's certainly
- something that again will need to be addressed
- prior to the building permit. We are more
- 16 familiar with our general contractor helping out
- with those after we have a siting approval or a
- 18 zoning permit. Then at the building permit
- 19 stage we do those types of things.
- 20 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay. In the
- 21 February meeting it was mentioned by your
- 22 colleague that you had been working with a
- geo-engineering expert. So, is there some
- 24 stability issues with the property?

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                MR. REUBEN GRANDON:
                                      No, not
2
       necessarily. It is just for us another part of
3
       the due diligence is to have a geotechnical
4
       engineer go out, and what they do is they look
       at the soil structure of the property, and
 6
       that's really important for us in terms of
       designing especially from a structural
7
       perspective. So, we are thinking about the soil
8
9
       type, and it might determine things like how
       deep does that post need to be underground, how
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11
       far apart should they be spaced. So, it forms
12
       our final design for the facility, but that's a
13
       standard due diligence item; no concerns.
14
                CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, you have no
       concerns of mind subsidence, et cetera?
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16
                MR. REUBEN GRANDON:
                                     Not from the
17
       reports that we have seen so far. Again that's
18
       due diligence process that we will need to go
       through; and if our geotechnical engineer does
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20
       come up with concerns, then we will need to be
       sure to address those under the regulations
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22
       under Christian County and the State of Illinois
23
       at that time.
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24 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, thank you for

- sending the property value assessment, but was
- that created specifically for Christian County?
- 3 It mentioned a different project, and I think it
- 4 was in the St. Louis area or something.
- 5 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, that property
- 6 value study was more general in nature, although
- 7 it does have some specific sites to Illinois
- 8 included in it. So, it was not a specific study
- 9 with regard to Christian County, but it was a
- 10 very thorough appraisal study that was done by
- 11 professional appraisers that demonstrates a
- solar facility does not have a significant
- impact, up or down, when it is located next to
- 14 different properties. So, no significant impact
- on property values, and again that's something
- 16 that's not required by the State Statute or by
- the County ordinance to have a property value
- 18 study done, but given some of the comments that
- 19 came up at the hearing in February we wanted to
- 20 submit that into the record to address those
- 21 concerns.
- 22 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: That is part of
- the checklist that Blake would have provided you
- last March. But as far as the assessment the

- 1 way I read it it did actually indicate that one
- of the groups, the studies, did find that it
- 3 devalued the property 1.5 percent or something
- 4 like that.
- 5 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: I am not familiar
- 6 with that particular aspect of the study. I
- 7 would need to look at that a little bit closer,
- 8 but I think the overwhelming report concludes
- 9 that in summary there is no or negligible
- 10 impacts on property values from solar facilities
- 11 of this size.
- 12 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Then did you guys
- 13 complete the economic impact study?
- 14 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: We haven't done a
- 15 per se economic impact study on the proposed
- 16 facility, but we do estimate that this facility
- will have about 40 different jobs created during
- 18 construction, and the property taxes generated
- 19 will be something like \$32,000.00 in the first
- 20 year based on our forecast or our estimation,
- 21 and that's total. So, that's across all
- jurisdictions, Lakeland, Pana Township, Pana
- 23 roads, Pana Township roads I should say. Based
- on the millage rate for that particular taxing

- jurisdiction is how that 32,000 would be divided
- 2 up.
- 3 The project itself is something like a five
- 4 million dollar project overall. So, it
- 5 certainly does have community attributes, and it
- 6 is in line with State statutes that are
- 7 providing legislation and encouragement for
- 8 solar projects such as these. So, we believe it
- 9 does support the general health, safety, and
- 10 welfare of the County; but no, in terms of the
- 11 economic impact report we saw that in the
- 12 checklist, but we didn't see any nexus between
- that checklist and the County ordinance or the
- 14 State Statute. So, we did not feel that was
- 15 required at this time.
- 16 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: In the meeting
- 17 minutes from last, in February your colleague
- had indicated that it would be \$32,000.00 per
- 19 year for 30 years, but that is specifically for
- the first year of the project?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes. I would say
- it would be for the first year of the project.
- 23 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Then there will be
- depreciation upon that. So, that will decline

- 1 over the 30 years.
- 2 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Most likely. I
- 3 haven't seen the full financial model, but I
- 4 believe it does decline based on depreciation
- 5 over the lifetime of the facility.
- Now, I wish we would have ran it out for
- 7 the lifetime of the facility to see the total
- 8 benefits of it over the full lifetime, but the
- 9 property taxes are based on the Department of
- 10 Revenue. They issued basically a statute in
- 11 2018 that treats the solar facility as an asset
- 12 class based on the number of megawatts, and then
- in 2018 there is a trending factor that's
- applied every year. So, we know that we will be
- 15 responsible for the property taxes for the full
- 16 leased area or the full leased land that we are
- 17 using for the facility.
- 18 MR. CORZINE: I might interject now
- 19 that your 32,000 that's in total. That's not a
- 20 32,000 increase. You would have to take off
- 21 what the land is generating now in the way of
- 22 taxes, right?
- 23 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: That's a good
- question. I haven't had that one before. That

- 1 seems -- maybe Bill knows, but what you are
- 2 saying I think makes sense that we would be
- 3 transferred from the old tax to the new tax.
- 4 MR. CORZINE: Correct.
- 5 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: I think that makes
- 6 sense, but I am not a hundred percent certain.
- 7 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I confirmed with
- 8 the Assessor that 32,000 is gross.
- 9 MR. CORZINE: Gross, okay.
- 10 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Have you had any
- 11 discussions with the municipality regarding the
- project or any concerns they might have?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes. I have
- 14 checked in with the City of Pana directly
- 15 occasionally just to understand if they have any
- 16 zoning authority that extends outside of the
- 17 City limits, and the response that I have gotten
- 18 has been that they don't have any zoning
- 19 jurisdiction outside of the City limits. I do
- 20 understand that there is an ordinance that was
- 21 passed by the City of Pana. I think that was on
- 22 April 8th, and we are still trying to understand
- what that ordinance really means; but for this
- 24 application we were submitted back in September,

- 1 so we don't believe that that ordinance has any
- 2 effect, but yes, certainly I have tried to have
- 3 open lines of communication with the City of
- 4 Pana, and understand any of their zoning
- 5 requirements, and I am not aware of any.
- 6 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, more I guess
- 7 of what I am concerned about is does the
- 8 municipality -- it was in, I believe, the
- 9 February meeting minutes that the watershed is
- 10 to the south, which would be to Pana. So, if
- 11 there is any drainage concerns about overflow of
- water, or construction of roads, the sewer
- 13 system, those are the types of assets that I am
- 14 inquiring about.
- 15 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, I haven't had
- 16 any of that brought to my attention that roads
- from the City of Pana, or sewer requirements, or
- anything of that nature, but I think it comes
- 19 back to us working with the drainage district in
- terms of making the driveway, and the Pana
- 21 Township in order to make the culvert and the
- driveway to their specifications.
- In terms of drainage itself I mean we are
- 24 talking about a lot of the facility being just

- 1 steel posts for the predominant very vast
- 2 majority. So, in terms of how that changes the
- 3 drainage I don't think it will have a material
- 4 impact. In addition we will have the vegetation
- 5 management plan that's implemented alongside.
- 6 So, a lot of that water and rain will be
- 7 retained on the site before it even leaves the
- 8 property boundaries.
- 9 And I think it is worth mentioning that
- 10 there is no toxic or hazardous chemicals or
- 11 materials in our panels or in our facility. So,
- in terms of having a negative impact outside of
- the perimeter fence there is no negative impact.
- 14 MS. HOWARD: In cases like these where
- 15 the solar facility is not within the City limits
- 16 what kind of impact does like the City Board
- 17 have? Like do you present what you are going to
- do to the City Board?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: That's a good
- 20 question. So, early on in a project we really
- 21 try to understand what the permitting looks like
- 22 and if we have a path to permitting. Actually I
- 23 think I mentioned earlier, but I reached out to
- 24 Blake like way back in my notes showed me March

- 1 of 2023, so more than a year ago, and just tried to understand what is the lay of the land, who 2 3 has jurisdiction, what's that process like, what are the fees, what are the time lines, things of 4 5 that nature, and in my research only Christian 6 County has jurisdiction. So, this site itself is permitted under the zoning chapter for 7 Christian County, which has jurisdiction of all 8 unincorporated areas of Christian County. 9 site is zoned AG-1, which solar is an allowed 10 11 special use on AG-1, and then I read through the 12 parameters for getting a land use permit from 13 the County, and that's what brought us here 14 today. So, at no point in time did the City of 15 Pana have any jurisdiction, and that was the 16 reason for kind of trying to keep in touch with them too and just understand if they had any 17 18 jurisdiction. MS. HOWARD: So, you haven't been to 19 20 the Board in Pana yet? You haven't informed 21 them yet?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Well, we haven't
  been to the Board simply because they don't have
  any jurisdiction.

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                MS. HOWARD: I just wondered as a
       safety measure.
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                MR. REUBEN GRANDON: No reason for us
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       because they don't have any jurisdiction, but I
5
       have certainly been in touch with the zoning
 6
       officer at the City of Pana, and he has my
       direct contact information, and we have an open
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       line of communication; but for us we approach it
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9
       as what are the requirements, and then we try to
       go through each of those requirements really
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11
       diligently, but there is nothing in there that
12
       requires us to go to the City of Pana.
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                MS. HOWARD: So, is this typical where
14
       the solar farms are outside city limits then?
                MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yeah, outside of
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16
       city limits.
                     They can be on county land where
       there are permitting rules that allow them on
17
18
       the county land. So, this particular land is
       zoned AG-1 by the County, and it is Christian
19
       County that has jurisdiction for zoning.
20
                MS. HOWARD: I understand that.
21
22
                MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Okay. Thank you.
23
                CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK:
                                      In the application
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you mentioned that you didn't anticipate stray

24

- 1 voltage or broadcast interference. How do you
- protect against having those two items?
- 3 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: That's a good
- 4 question. Can you remind me what part of the
- 5 application that was in?
- 6 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: It was one of your
- 7 21 pages, in the narrative in burden of proof.
- 8 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: I think for us
- 9 that's maybe not the most technical answer, but
- 10 for me if we are adhering to all of the setback
- 11 requirements, those that were passed at the
- 12 Illinois Legislature in Springfield, and those
- passed in Christian County that implement those
- 14 State Statutes, then if we are fulfilling all of
- 15 the siting requirements, then there is no
- 16 concern about negative impacts outside of the
- 17 property or outside of the perimeter fence. We
- 18 also do a series of regulatory items. One of
- 19 those is the Federal Aviation Administration,
- 20 and we submitted our project to them, and we got
- 21 a determination of no hazard is what they call
- it. So, we essentially got the okay from the
- 23 Federal Aviation Administration for the project.
- 24 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: That would have

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been for the broadcast interference then?
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- 2 Sorry, it is on Page 10, two thirds of the way
- down, the applicant does not anticipate any
- 4 adverse effects of stray voltage, interference
- 5 with broadcasting, or noise, but then your
- 6 subsequent statement is actually just referring
- 7 to the IPCB.
- 8 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Okay, yes, I see
- 9 it now. So, it has sound in the same section,
- 10 and there is certain regulations that we need to
- 11 adhere to. So, there will be the County
- Building permit process, and then there is also
- the National Electric Code that this project
- 14 will be completely built to spec to. So, we are
- following all local, state, and national
- 16 regulatory standards; and by following those we
- will not have any adverse effects on stray
- 18 voltage or anything of that nature, and the
- 19 noise itself we talked about earlier, but by
- 20 following all of the local State and federal
- 21 regulations we don't anticipate any negative
- 22 effects to these items listed, the broadcast or
- 23 stray voltage.
- 24 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, the broadcast

- 1 then it is listed somewhere a couple pages after
- 2 that about interference with cellular, and
- 3 radio, and TV. So, I guess I would assume
- 4 that's all broadcast. So, how do you ensure
- 5 that there is no interference?
- 6 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, I think it
- 7 might be nice to have a more engineer or
- 8 technical answer, but my understanding of it is
- 9 by building it all to specifications, and all to
- 10 the local regulations, and State code, and
- 11 especially the National Electric Code, then we
- 12 are not going to have any interference with
- 13 those cell towers or radio towers. I think the
- 14 State Statute that was passed and the Christian
- 15 County ordinance as long as we are adhering to
- 16 those setback requirements, then those concerns
- 17 as long as we are building to specification are
- 18 completely alleviated.
- 19 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Are there any
- 20 other questions from the Board?
- MR. BERNER: I have one. Can you just
- 22 help me on the decommission, the estimated
- costs, can you just kind of help clarify? I
- 24 mean you have got, you got like so many solar

- 1 modules, and it is \$3.00 a unit price. Is that
- the labor to remove those? I mean how does
- 3 that, how do those costs come up?
- 4 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes. So, this
- 5 decommissioning and deconstruction plan was
- 6 developed by a licensed professional engineer in
- 7 the State of Illinois, and it is not something
- 8 that our office deals with directly. We just
- 9 subcontract that out.
- 10 MR. BERNER: Okay. Has there been any
- decommissioning of any of these sites to know
- 12 for sure?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Not since I have
- been working in this industry. I couldn't say
- for sure, but I would say that this plan is
- 16 accurate for this stage of the development, and
- it will need to be refined once we are actually
- thinking about the material lists for
- 19 procurement, and have that whole design more
- 20 refined. It will be updated, which will be part
- of the building permit process; but the
- decommissioning itself is not something I have
- 23 seen. Once you do start construction, there is
- quite a bit of work that goes to getting all of

- the funding organized, and crossing every T,
- dotting every I, and getting every signature
- from your investor, from your banker, you know,
- folks that have a very low risk of tolerance.
- 5 MR. BERNER: This seems like a very low
- 6 number to remove all that you have put in.
- 7 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yeah, and there is
- 8 a salvage value.
- 9 MR. BERNER: I mean after 30 years
- 10 these solar modules are going to be worth what
- 11 you have got on here. They are going to be
- worth something, you think?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: After 30 years,
- 14 yes, I mean they will still be producing power.
- They just won't be as efficient as they are
- 16 today.
- MR. BERNER: Okay. So, after 30
- 18 years is there a chance that instead of
- 19 decommissioning the whole project, that it gets
- 20 renewed with new solar panels? I am sure you
- 21 have never been there yet, I guess, but what's
- the outlook there?
- 23 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: I see what you are
- 24 saying. Thirty years, I should still be around.

- 1 I hope so anyway. It is hard to say. You are
- asking a really good question, but we don't
- 3 really know what that looks like, what's the
- 4 appetite for solar at that time. We don't know
- 5 for sure. If it is already in solar, does that
- 6 make it a more attractive site to continue being
- 7 in solar, common sense says probably; but I will
- 8 say that we have an agreement through the
- 9 Department of Agriculture that it is removed at
- 10 the end of its useful life, which is in the
- 11 AIMA, and it is put back into farmland or
- 12 however the landowner wants to use that land.
- So, that is in concrete that it will be removed
- 14 unless the landowner decides to do something
- differently, or the contract is renewed with
- 16 Ameren, or something to that effect, but yeah,
- too early to say.
- MR. BERNER: It says that the pilings
- 19 will be cut off at a, possibly cut off at a
- 20 certain depth. I mean do you have any idea what
- 21 that depth would be?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yeah, that's
- covered in the AIMA, in the Agricultural Impact
- 24 Mitigation Agreement, and then there is a

- 1 contract they call it in the AIMA the underlying
- 2 agreement with the landowner. So, it will be to
- 3 specifications contained therein.
- 4 MR. BERNER: To whatever the spec is at
- 5 the time?
- 6 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Whatever was
- 7 agreed to, yeah.
- 8 MR. BERNER: But you don't know what's
- 9 been agreed to?
- 10 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Off the top of my
- 11 head I am not really sure to be honest, but
- ideally you can just pull them out. I think
- that's the ideal scenario.
- MR. BERNER: That's what my question
- was.
- 16 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: With the same kind
- of attachment, right where --
- 18 MR. BERNER: Just pull them right out?
- 19 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Right out, but
- then your question becomes if one is not coming
- 21 out, how much earth do you disturb around it,
- 22 how deep do you want to go to dig it out. So,
- those are things that are agreed to with the
- landowner and the AIMA, but off the top of my

- head I don't know. Typically at least three
- feet, I have never seen us go lower than three
- 3 feet. Five feet I think is more likely.
- 4 MS. HOWARD: I did see in the handout
- 5 you gave us that it is non-toxic?
- 6 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes.
- 7 MS. HOWARD: That's what it said?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, that's
- 9 correct. The solar panels themselves are
- 10 non-toxic, and there is no hazardous materials
- or chemicals in those. So, it is essentially an
- 12 aluminum frame. You guys have seen these. You
- guys know, but it is essentially aluminum frame,
- 14 glass with wire smashed between it. On the east
- 15 side of town and right by the city treatment
- 16 plant there is some solar on the north side over
- there.
- 18 MS. HOWARD: Yes, I have seen them.
- 19 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: That is quite
- 20 similar to that. Ours hopefully will tilt to
- 21 the east and tilt to the west with the sun, but
- 22 it is similar. The panel is very similar. No
- toxic materials at all, and in my opinion ground
- that's more or less laid foul for 30 or 40 years

- and had a vegetation management plan implemented
- for that time should be really high quality soil
- 3 at the end of the useful life.
- 4 MR. DORR: Where are the panels
- 5 constructed at? Where are they made?
- 6 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: That's a good
- 7 question. The industry is starting to pick up
- 8 more in the U.S. So, we are trying to get more
- 9 and more U.S. panels, but they are in Canada,
- 10 Germany, and over in Southeast Asia.
- 11 MR. BERNER: Solar panels as of right
- now can just be taken to a landfill and got rid
- 13 of?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: I haven't
- 15 participated in that process to take it to the
- 16 landfill. I haven't decommissioned any, but for
- us right now they have a 25 year manufacturer's
- 18 warranty on them, and our financial modeling we
- 19 are thinking about what do we do at year 25,
- there is a chance that they will just stay on
- 21 there because the cost of removing them and
- 22 putting new ones on is going to be higher than
- those just producing at a lower output factor.
- So, they will still produce for many years, and

- 1 there should be a secondary market for them that
- 2 people will grab them up. So, they shouldn't go
- 3 into the landfill right away. They are pretty
- 4 durable, you know.
- 5 We have had some folks in our projects that
- 6 have not thought too fondly of a solar project,
- 7 and used our solar project as a driving range,
- 8 and we have seen them get hit with golf balls,
- 9 and they put a little thumb print into the
- 10 panel, but it still produced. It was just fine,
- 11 passed the quality test, and didn't really cause
- any major concerns except for if he is going to
- 13 keep doing it. So, they are durable. They are
- 14 laminated. They are strong. They will last a
- 15 long time.
- 16 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Any additional
- 17 questions from the Board at this time?
- 18 MR. CORZINE: A question I might have
- 19 is if we offered some suggestions and you have
- 20 talked about being flexible on a couple, when do
- 21 we get the final, final plan?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, so my goal
- tonight would be that you guys would approve
- this plan as we submitted tonight that has the

- 1 revised concessions, and within that framework
- 2 we could work in good faith to be a good
- 3 neighbor or something to that effect in order to
- 4 make some of the proposed revisions. I think
- 5 this plan goes above and beyond what's required
- of us, and shows our intentions to be a good
- 7 neighbor, but the final plan in that cadence
- 8 would be at the building permit stage.
- 9 MR. CORZINE: Okay.
- 10 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Which would be
- 11 subject to Christian County approval prior to
- 12 starting any construction at all.
- 13 MR. CORZINE: Did we talk about a
- 14 timeline?
- 15 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Us for
- 16 construction?
- MR. CORZINE: Yes.
- 18 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yeah, we were
- 19 trying -- we were hoping to get out there this
- summer still, but we might be getting a little
- 21 tight for that. So, you start thinking about
- the fall after the harvest, or maybe we are out
- 23 until spring of 2025 once it is a little bit
- 24 past this time of year and maybe a little bit

- dryer. So, it is TBD, but ideally this summer
- 2 we might be tight. We are probably looking at
- 3 either Q3 of this year or Q2 of next year.
- 4 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, actually the
- 5 documentation that we had with either the
- 6 November meeting or the February meeting is
- 7 showing that the interconnection in that road
- 8 entrance is on the north side of the property.
- 9 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yeah, you are
- 10 talking about the ones that we submitted
- 11 previously?
- MS. ADCOCK: Right.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, and then the
- one that has changed has that closer.
- 15 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Correct.
- 16 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: The idea from my
- thought process with that is to allow us to
- 18 alleviate --
- 19 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The row of panels.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes.
- 21 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The
- interconnection then walk me through that what
- you have already approved with Ameren, at what
- point is the interconnection located?

1	MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, with Ameren
2	and the interconnection agreement it is
3	specified where we can tie into their grid, but
4	we did move that since the last meeting. So,
5	there is flexibility on that.
6	CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, there is
7	flexibility as long as you remain on this line?
8	MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, within
9	reason, and subject to Ameren's approval there
10	is.
11	CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay. So, the
12	vegetative plan that you have shown us that
13	actually has not been approved by Ameren yet, is
14	that correct?
15	MR. REUBEN GRANDON: The vegetative
16	plan?
17	CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The graphic that
18	you showed with the vegetative plan with the
19	interconnection moved further south closer to
20	the property, that Ameren hasn't approved?
21	MR. REUBEN GRANDON: That has been
22	approved, yes. Yes, so we made that adjustment
23	to the site plan between February 27th and this
24	hearing. To move it again or to adjust it again

- 1 it would be up to Ameren. I found them to be reasonable to work with. So, I am optimistic 2 3 that we could do something. But the point maybe 4 I would like to emphasize is just we are subject to third party approval on something like that. 6 We can't say with an hundred percent confidence or certainty right now. 7 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: We will give you a 8 9 break, and we will call Bonnie up to speak. MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Thank you all. I 10 11 appreciate all of the questions, and I hope we 12 have done a good job of demonstrating that we 13 are fully compliant with the code, and have made 14 some concessions to be good neighbors, and we 15 ask for your recommendation for approval. Thank 16 you. 17 (Whereupon Ms. Bonnie Mizeur was duly sworn/affirmed on her oath.) 18

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24

MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I don't have a big fancy PowerPoint presentation because I don't do this for a living, but I am just trying to represent where I live. I do have some more signatures on my petition. May I submit them to you now?

- 1 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes.
- MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I know when we were
- 3 here in February we tabled this, and you guys
- 4 wanted to hear from the City of Pana. I think
- 5 that we can say I know Pana did pass an
- 6 ordinance. I also have a copy of that if you
- 7 would like it, the actual ordinance they passed.
- 8 If anyone would like a copy to look at, I have
- 9 some more.
- 10 MS. HOWARD: I will take one.
- MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I have enough if
- 12 everybody wants one, I do believe. That is the
- actual ordinance that they passed April the 8th.
- 14 They are not trying to pass a band, but they
- 15 would like to have some control over their 1.5
- 16 mile buffer zone, as we have been referring to
- it. It affects Pana's ability to grow, expand,
- 18 and with these being 25 to 30 year lease that's
- 19 a very good possibility that this could become a
- 20 landlocked situation for the City of Pana.
- I also have some of these. They are
- 22 LaSalle Sinclair factors, things that you can,
- that have been used to argue these points
- 24 before.

```
1
            Most importantly -- we basically kind of
       stipulate many of the factors here would be
2
       considered, but what I consider kind of
3
       important to me is that the proposed amendment
4
       benefit the needs of the community. And to me
5
 6
       the needs of the community would be the City,
       the community of Pana. I do not see that
7
       project actually benefiting the City of Pana.
8
9
       The lessees, the money that they would receive
       would not stay in Pana or in Illinois.
10
11
       don't live in the State of Illinois. The power
12
       that is collected and sent to the grid also will
13
       not stay in Christian County or central
14
       Illinois.
             I had one other point. I don't remember.
15
16
       If I remember, I will come back to it.
            Also Adrian brought up the geological
17
18
       study, which I have that as well. I will go
       with this one. This is a geological study, and
19
20
       this will pertain to mine subsidence in that
2.1
       area. I don't think I have enough of these for
22
       everyone. I thought I did. I may not have
23
       enough for everyone. Maybe I have more down
2.4
       here.
```

- 1 We also have a map. This is the location.
- 2 You can see by the thing at the top it says
- 3 solar location, the blue that shows down to
- 4 where the solar field would be. The solar
- 5 location is directly over old Pana Mine Number
- 6 2. I have another map that will have the key.
- 7 Now, this is the other map that we have. This
- 8 basically has the key that shows what, the
- 9 different things on that map. That map had to
- 10 be enlarged because the original map is too
- 11 small. You really cannot read it. As far as
- 12 basically I am giving you this for the key.
- 13 This is the same as the big map. I couldn't get
- it all on one page, and it is so small that you
- 15 cannot really see well on the small map. That's
- 16 why we did the enlarged one.
- 17 I realize that the ordinance that Pana
- passed will not necessarily apply to me because
- 19 the permit was applied for before that was
- 20 enacted. I understand that, but I also have
- 21 something here from the Illinois Municipal Code
- that states -- your eyes are better than mine.
- 23 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The powers
- 24 enumerated may be exercised within the corporate

- 1 limits or within contiguous territory not more
- 2 than one and one half miles beyond the corporate
- 3 limits, and not included within a municipality.
- 4 MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: This property is
- 5 within seven tenths of a mile of the City
- 6 limits. We are well within the 1.5 mile buffer
- 7 zone that they have been referring it to
- 8 everything.
- 9 I don't really think that it would be of
- 10 benefit to Pana. I originally started this
- 11 because I was concerned about my own home and
- 12 what I was going to be living by. Since I was
- at the meeting here in February I have been
- 14 amazed at the number of people that have reached
- out to me because they also have concerns.
- 16 Everyone here in this room except for the two
- 17 rows here are here because they oppose this
- 18 project. They don't want it around the
- 19 perimeter of their City for different reasons.
- 20 I am sure everybody has their own reason. But
- like I said when I started, it was all about me
- and my house; but the more I see the people that
- 23 are concerned and the more that I have learned I
- just don't think that it is necessarily in our

- best interest. And according to my LaSalle
- 2 St. Clair factors it does not necessarily
- 3 benefit Pana in any monetary, energy provision
- 4 way that I can see.
- I also was glad when Mr. Corzine brought up
- 6 the interfacing module. I did not realize it
- 7 would be that close to my house. I would like
- 8 to have that moved as well if that is doable. I
- 9 know they said everything is subject to third
- 10 party approval as well because of the Ameren
- involvement, but that is something that I just
- 12 really would not want to have that close to my
- 13 home.
- 14 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Amen to that.
- 15 MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I don't know if you
- 16 guys have any questions for me. I don't have
- 17 nearly the knowledge that Mr. Grandon does.
- 18 MR. DORR: I know at the last meeting
- 19 that you submitted signatures against this. I
- think the count was 237.
- MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I have another 50
- 22 some.
- 23 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Fifty-three, so we
- 24 are at 290.

1 MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I kind of wish I 2 had brought the mine subsidence thing with me last time. I did not realize that, and I should 3 4 have thought about it because originally when 5 Ameren was going to build their new plant over 6 on Route 29, they talked to the landowners and 7 us about buying that 40 acres including our property to put it there. They decided not to 8 9 because of mine subsidence. Once we found that map, I was like I see why. 10 11 MS. HOWARD: I know mine subsidence is 12 a factor, but in this project they are not going 13 to go that far underground. What did he say, five feet at the most? 14 15 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The thing that is 16 interesting we just heard that application last summer that they moved the project east because 17 of historic mine subsidence. 18 The one over by Tovey they 19 MR. DORR: 20 moved that south, didn't they? CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes. 21 22 MS. DECLERCK: When you build a house, 23 you don't go that deep either, and they have got

a lot of mine subsidence.

2.4

- 1 MS. HOWARD: All around.
- 2 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Did you have
- 3 anything else to present?
- 4 MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I don't think so,
- 5 no, ma'am.
- 6 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: All right.
- 7 Questions from the Board?
- 8 MR. DORR: Is there anybody from the
- 9 City of Pana here?
- 10 MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I don't believe so.
- I did speak with them as I stated at the
- 12 February meeting, and at that point they had not
- spoken to anyone regarding this from Green Key.
- 14 They did receive the certified letter from the
- 25 Zoning Board informing them of the special use
- permit meeting, but they had not talked to
- anyone from Green Key because I went in and
- actually talked to the Mayor. They had not
- 19 spoken to anyone from Green Key at that point.
- 20 That was in February. Since then I do not know
- if they have communicated with them or not.
- MR. DORR: This is just a copy, but it
- was passed?
- MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: Yes, sir.

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1
                MS. HOWARD: What was that date?
2
                MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: Which date, babe,
3
       the date the ordinance passed?
                MS. HOWARD: Date of the ordinance.
4
5
                MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: April 8th, solar
6
       eclipse day.
7
                CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Have you reviewed
       the copy of the vegetative plan?
8
9
                MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I did, yes, ma'am.
       They did send me a copy of their revised plan,
10
11
       and I did receive it, and I did review it, and
12
       that is more acceptable to me. I mean it would
13
       be to anyone. You don't want to have to look at
       that. You don't want to have to have that
14
```

I was not aware of the interfacing thing.

I didn't really realize what that was, and I did

see where it was there, and I agree with

Mr. Corzine I would prefer that they move that

if that is doable if this passes, I would prefer

not to have it pass, but that's why I am here.

MR. CORZINE: Len Corzine. Would you

envision if this passes, sitting down or having

a meeting with the developers to try and get

around your home twenty-four seven.

15

23

24

- 1 those kind of things moved further away from
- 2 your home?
- MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: Yes, of course.
- 4 MR. CORZINE: Or maybe even include
- 5 Ameren. I don't know how that works, but I
- 6 would think that -- I mean you have been across
- 7 from Ameren for a long time.
- 8 MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: We have. We have
- 9 lived there 22 years now, and Ameren has always
- 10 been a good neighbor I must say.
- 11 MR. CORZINE: Okay. I guess another
- 12 question I might have the LaSalle St. Clair
- 13 factors that you have I have seen that before,
- 14 but I am really not sure where it comes from or
- 15 where it --
- 16 MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: From what I
- 17 understand LaSalle comes from the City of
- 18 LaSalle. It was a court case, the LaSalle Bank
- 19 or something and a landowner had a piece of
- 20 litigation before the court, and that was the
- 21 factors that they used. That's all I really
- 22 know about it.
- MR. CORZINE: Okay. So, this was
- 24 approved by the courts up around LaSalle?

- 1 MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: Correct.
- 2 MR. DORR: Wasn't that also part of
- 3 what the State said that the counties had to
- 4 pass?
- 5 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: No, that part is
- 6 just what the basis of all zoning is. So, it is
- 7 two cases, LaSalle and Sinclair, that were
- 8 litigated in the 70s.
- 9 MR. DORR: Didn't the County adopt
- 10 certain things that were part of that?
- 11 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I think that what
- 12 that was is that the factors of consideration
- are still what we are supposed to make sure for
- 14 a zoning perspective it adheres to.
- MR. DORR: Okay.
- 16 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, I drove past
- 17 the property after we had the, went from a
- drought to the four inches of rain, and the
- south end of the property it was actually quite
- 20 wet.
- MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: Yes. I actually
- took pictures to show if anyone wanted to see.
- There is quite a bit of run-off in that area.
- When it rains hard, it does do that. I mean I

- 1 have them on my phone if anybody would like to
- 2 see them, but you saw them in person, didn't
- 3 you.
- 4 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Well, that was
- 5 before. Then we got another three or four
- 6 inches. So, where does that water then run
- 5 because yes, the property does go south?
- 8 MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: Yes, it does, and
- 9 the water will flow south. There is our
- 10 property and the field, which technically not
- our property, and then there is another small
- 12 field just south of us. It all runs into those
- 13 ditches. There is a creek that runs right about
- 14 through where -- it used to be FS. Now it is
- 15 Christian County or Central Commodities. It is
- 16 a little plant right there. There is a creek
- 17 that runs right through there, and then it runs
- 18 right in towards town.
- 19 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, the creek then
- 20 goes through town?
- 21 MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I am calling it
- creek. They are probably going to call it ditch
- 23 because it is probably man-made.
- 24 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay, and then to

- 1 Lake Pana?
- MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I would assume,
- 3 yes. I mean it is all going to flow into Lake
- 4 Pana at some point, yes.
- I would also like to say because I just
- 6 remembered this, speaking about the 1.5 mile and
- 7 the Pana expanding or growing zone, I know that
- 8 they are already looking -- the last City
- 9 Council meeting that I was at the City of Pana
- 10 is also looking to apply for a grant to build a
- 11 silt collection pool on 400 North Road, which
- would actually be the corner of 400 and 2500
- 13 East Road, which is technically one mile from my
- 14 house. They have already now annexed that area
- 15 into Pana. That is right about where Effingham
- 16 Equity is if anybody knows things about Pana
- 17 because Pana is now supplying Effingham Equity's
- 18 water. They have already annexed that in, and
- 19 that is that close to my house within one mile
- 20 east, but the 400 road is just south of my
- 21 house. So, they are already growing and
- 22 expanding into that area. So, I just don't -- I
- know the 1.5 mile thing isn't supposed to apply
- 24 to me, but I think it is important because I

- don't want it to strangle Pana's ability to grow
- 2 and improve, and they have a robust plan for
- 3 economic development.
- 4 At the last City Council meeting that I was
- 5 at they also brought that up. It was supposed
- 6 to be available on line. I haven't read it yet,
- 7 but there are a lot of things that they want to
- 8 do. I can see that being an issue if we put
- 9 these around the edges of town. The City of
- 10 Pana is not saying they don't, necessarily don't
- 11 want to have any solar power. They don't want
- it in their buffer zone, in their expansion
- 13 zone, or whatever you want to call that. That
- is what their ordinance basically was about
- 15 being able to grow wherever they need to go.
- 16 MR. CORZINE: So, do they have in this
- development plan, they call that I think
- 18 comprehensive plan, do they have -- has Pana put
- one of those together?
- 20 MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: They have. In
- 21 fact, Kirby Casner presented it that night. She
- had a name for it, and I don't believe I brought
- that with me, but they do have a new economic
- 24 development plan.

1 MR. CORZINE: Okay, good, good. 2 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Any additional 3 questions? Thank you for your time. 4 MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: Thank you. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Next item up, is 6 there anyone from the municipality of Pana, City Council, Mayor? 7 MS. GLENDA GARRETT: I am an alderman 8 9 in the City of Pana. Obviously as a councilman --10 11 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Sorry, can you 12 please come forward and be sworn in. 13 (Whereupon Ms. Glenda Garrett was duly 14 sworn/affirmed on her oath.) 15 MS. GLENDA GARRETT: I obviously cannot 16 speak for the entire City Council because I am only one alderman, but I do want to reaffirm 17 18 that we have not received a lot of support for this. That we can tell. I have not had anybody 19 20 reach out to me personally. I can only speak as 21 myself personally, but I have not had anyone 22 reach out to me. I don't recall that they have 23 came and spoke to the City at all, and we do

have some concerns that we would like to look

2.4

- into. I understand maybe we should have known
- 2 about this sooner. I personally did not know.
- 3 So, I do want to say the citizens do not seem to
- 4 be for this. We are not -- I don't say that we
- 5 are against solar. It is the location and how
- 6 close it is to the City. That's really all I
- 7 wanted to say. Thank you.
- 8 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay. Then it is
- 9 time for the applicant, you have opportunity to
- 10 rebuttal and conclude.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Thank you. Just
- 12 first maybe a couple of housekeeping items that
- I probably should have submitted to the record
- 14 ahead of time, but didn't.
- 15 So, I just wanted to mention that the
- 16 property owners are here in the room tonight in
- support of the facility, and the two owners
- submitted a letter to the County, and I just
- wanted to pass out a copy to make sure that
- 20 everybody has one so that we can get it
- 21 submitted into the record as well. Here is
- 22 another batch. I apologize, I think I only
- printed five of these. If you don't mind
- 24 sharing a little bit.

1 So, those letters are from Connie Knappmiller and Kathy Boren, who are seated here 2 3 in the front row. In that letter they describe their pride of the land, how they want to be 4 good stewards of the land, the reasons this 5 6 commercial solar facility is a good fit, and ultimately that as long as we are within the 7 confines of the law and the regulations that 8 9 they should be able to exercise their private property rights. So, they ask for your approval 10 11 as well. 12 I also wanted to just submit, you know, I 13 did try to reach Steve and Bonnie Mizeur several 14 times by phone to talk about some of the 15 concessions that we made, and I was never able 16 to get a response. I also submitted a letter by certified mail. So, I wanted to just submit 17 18 this to the record that I tried to call one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 19 20 ten, eleven different times, two different 21 numbers for Steve and Bonnie, and then I 22 submitted this letter with the USPS tracking 23 number. I sent it certified mail, and it showed 24 that it was picked up April 12th, 2024. So, my

- 1 intentions were to talk about this, have open
- lines of communication, and work in good faith
- 3 on adjusting the site plan, and doing the other
- 4 concessions that were discussed earlier. In
- 5 this letter I did summarize those, and we went
- 6 through those earlier. So, I was hoping to
- 7 reach them to actually have a conversation, but
- 8 I hope that these concessions are satisfactory
- 9 as well.
- 10 The topic came up earlier about the
- interconnection agreement with Ameren. This is
- 12 signed and dated. This is just the signature
- page and the contact information. I just wanted
- 14 to submit that to the record too for the
- interconnection agreement.
- 16 I mentioned earlier I reached out to
- 17 neighbors that own adjacent properties. I have
- the list of neighbors that I mailed letters to,
- 19 and an example of the contents of that letter,
- one of the templates is attached. So, I wanted
- 21 to submit that to the record as well if I may.
- 22 We mentioned Federal Aviation
- 23 Administration and the regulatory body in terms
- of no hazard, and I wanted to just submit that

- finding to the record as well from the FAA for
- 2 this particular facility.
- I think that's it that I wanted to submit.
- 4 So, thanks for bearing with me on that.
- 5 I think in general this site is well
- 6 outside of the city limits of the City of Pana.
- 7 We are applying for a special use permit that's
- 8 under the zoning ordinance of Christian County,
- 9 which regulates all unincorporated parts of the
- 10 County. A solar facility is allowed by special
- 11 use permit on land that's zoned AG-1 or
- industrial. This property is AG-1. It is
- unincorporated.
- I just want to pause for a second. We are
- 15 not asking for a subdivision. We are not under
- 16 the Christian County subdivision regulations.
- 17 We are under the zoning regulations by Christian
- 18 County.
- 19 The City of Pana does not have any
- 20 authority on zoning outside of City limits, and
- 21 I will let Bill chime in more on that in a
- 22 little bit to get into the legalese.
- I do want to just for a second think about
- the site itself, you know. With regards to the

- 1 location it is directly across from an Ameren
- 2 substation. Our site will be sandwiched between
- 3 two high voltage transmission lines, one on the
- 4 south side, one on the north side. I understand
- from the feedback that we have gotten that at
- 6 least one neighbor is opposed to this project.
- 7 I hope that the concessions that we have
- 8 submitted alleviate those concerns, and
- 9 demonstrate our intentions to be working in good
- faith, and ultimately to have a long term
- 11 relationship with them as we expect the solar
- facility will be there for awhile. So, I hope
- those concessions that we made are the first
- 14 step in that.
- I think it is worth reiterating that any of
- 16 the impacts from the solar facility will not be
- outside of the perimeter fence or outside of the
- 18 property. So, solar is a really good neighbor.
- 19 It is really quiet. They won't see it. There
- is no glare. There is no pollution. There is
- 21 no dust stirred up from a harvest and planting
- 22 cycle. There is very limited spraying of weeds.
- It is an absolutely good neighbor, and with the
- 24 green screen they won't see it from their

- 1 property.
- 2 With regards to us reaching out to the City
- of Pana, again this is us doing our best to
- follow what regulations there are on the books.
- 5 There is nothing in the Christian County
- 6 ordinance that requires us to reach out directly
- 7 to the City of Pana. Traditionally we rely on
- 8 the County to do the notifications. My
- 9 understanding is because they are within 1.5
- 10 miles they would receive that notification. So,
- 11 we have relied on that.
- 12 At the same time I mentioned earlier I have
- been in discussions with the zoning officer
- informally about solar projects especially with
- 15 regard to zoning within the mile and a half. I
- have really kept a pretty good eye on any of the
- zoning ordinances that they might pass or
- anything of that nature because it is a very
- 19 meaningful thing for our business. So, we are
- very vested into what happens at the City of
- 21 Pana.
- 22 At the same time we are allowed to cross
- 23 drainage districts. In the State Statute under
- subsection 55 ILCS 5/5-12020T it says that a

- 1 commercial solar energy facility like ours is
- 2 allowed per State Statute to cross a drainage
- district. Again I want to work in good faith
- 4 with that drainage district and the Pana
- 5 Township Road Supervisor to make sure that our
- 6 culverts are all to spec and everything of that
- 7 nature.
- 8 Yes, interesting point about the LaSalle
- 9 factors and the Sinclair factors. Our position
- is that by the very nature of the State
- 11 Legislature passing these siting standards we
- 12 are 100 percent in compliance with any of the
- 13 LaSalle factors. If that weren't the case, we
- 14 would anticipate that the State Statute and
- 15 siting standards implemented by Christian County
- 16 would be different. We have 100 percent
- 17 complied with all of the State Statute
- 18 requirements for siting. We have even backed up
- 19 the facility a little bit based on feedback that
- we have received, and implemented a green
- 21 screen. So, we are making this project smaller.
- We are making it more site constrained. We are
- 23 constrained on land. We are taking that in
- order to be a good neighbor, and still have a

- 1 successful project.
- I think its, the topic of the City of Pana
- 3 is somewhat interesting because for one, we
- 4 submitted our application ahead of the new
- 5 ordinance that was referenced. That ordinance
- 6 was not on the books at the time of our
- 7 submittal for this application. As mentioned at
- 8 the top of the meeting by the County, ordinances
- 9 passed after our application should not be
- 10 considered as part of this application. Even
- 11 still we have done everything by the books to
- 12 State Statute and to Christian County
- 13 regulation. So, we know we have completely
- 14 fulfilled those obligations.
- 15 I would also say that when you guys make
- your decision I just ask that you weigh the
- 17 evidence in the record. I think we have done an
- 18 excellent job of doing our research, doing our
- 19 due diligence, and providing information that
- 20 could be weighed as evidence to support our
- 21 positions.
- So, things of the nature of hypothetically
- 23 expanding the City limits of Pana or something
- of that nature to me should not be considered

- 1 because the City of Pana does not have any
- 2 jurisdiction here at all.
- 3 Then I would also say this type of project,
- 4 and you guys are probably familiar with it, with
- 5 solar provider group or with other companies
- 6 that have come in like Cypress Creek doing one
- 7 over by, or on the northeast side, this is a
- 8 community solar project. So, anybody that has
- 9 an Ameren electric meter could subscribe to the
- 10 project to receive power from the facility. So,
- 11 generally speaking almost as soon as the power
- is produced it is consumed. If it is not, then
- it does go back to the substation, but this is a
- 14 distribution level project. So, all of the
- 15 power will be consumed in the general geographic
- 16 region. So, we are not shipping it or
- 17 transporting it out to a different state. It is
- 18 all meant to be locally consumed. Anybody in
- 19 this room tonight could become a subscriber to
- that project. The industry term is called off
- 21 taker, and there is often an economic incentive
- 22 to subscribe to a project like a 5 percent
- discount on your electric bill or maybe 10
- 24 percent, something of that nature.

```
1
            The intention of this project is to
       generate electricity locally and consume it,
2
       which should decrease our reliance on outside
3
       sources of energy as well. I think that's all
4
       that I have.
 6
                MR. WILLIAM SHAY:
                                    Just one short item.
       This is to respond to Ms. Mizeur's, pardon me if
7
8
       I mispronounce it, quote from the Illinois
       Municipal Code about a city having zoning
9
       jurisdiction within a mile and a half of the
10
11
       city boundaries. If this County didn't have the
12
       zoning ordinance, then she would be right, and
13
       the City could exert zoning authority over
14
       property within a mile and a half. But what was
15
       omitted from what she quoted was follow on
16
       language in that very statute that removes that
17
       jurisdiction from the City because the County
18
       does have zoning ordinance, and specifically a
       solar ordinance, and I can read that. It is one
19
20
       sentence. No municipality shall exercise any
       power set forth in this Division 13 outside the
21
22
       corporate limits thereof if the County in which
23
       the municipality is situated has adopted quote,
2.4
       an act in relation to County zoning, end quote,
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1
       approved June 12th, 1935 as amended. The County
       zoning ordinance, particularly the solar
2
       ordinance qualifies as, under this sentence of
3
       the County having zoning authority, exercising
4
       zoning authority. That preempts the City's
5
6
       zoning authority outside the City limits.
7
            So, while we haven't had a chance to
       thoroughly analyze from a legal standpoint the
8
9
       validity of the recent ordinance the City passed
       on April 8th, it appears to us initially that
10
11
       what it knows it can't do through the front
12
       door, it is trying to do through the back door,
13
       and it is of questionable validity even if it
14
       was applicable to this project, which it appears
15
       because of the timing of it it isn't in any
16
       event.
17
                CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Are there any
18
       follow-up questions from the Board, please?
                              I have a couple, Len
19
                MR. CORZINE:
20
       Corzine. One, I think in the AIMA and maybe
21
       somewhere else in the code you are required to
22
       have a drainage plan, right, and it doesn't, I
```

don't believe it requires that you work with the

local drainage commissioners, but since there

23

24

- 1 is, it is a large drainage district that you are
- 2 going to be operating in, I would assume that
- 3 you would be working with them to come up with a
- 4 plan.
- 5 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes. I remember
- 6 that. I think his name is Mike for the Pana
- 7 Assumption --
- 8 MR. CORZINE: Mike Berner.
- 9 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Mike Berner, okay,
- 10 perfect. We have exchanged voicemails, but we
- 11 haven't had a chance to fully connect on that
- 12 yet. I would anticipate that that would be a
- 13 requirement of the building permit itself, but
- we do have a draft drainage plan that I would
- like to give to you to show you.
- MR. CORZINE: He would be the one that
- 17 would really need it. We have property in the
- district, but Mike is the commissioner.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Our full intent is
- 20 to be completely compliant with the regulations
- 21 that are there. I would say having dialogue
- 22 with the person responsible is the best way to
- get to that plan. I think having siting
- 24 approval or a special use permit makes it a real

- 1 project to him too when you think about other
- 2 things that are on this kind of topic are the
- 3 Pana Township roads, or you want to have -- I
- 4 talked to the emergency manager today, and we
- 5 want to have them out to the site, and do an
- 6 orientation, and standard operating procedures,
- 7 and things of that nature. But doing that early
- 8 is kind of hard because we haven't got in the
- 9 siting permit yet. It becomes more of a
- 10 tangible project when we are actually putting
- 11 together the building permit.
- MR. CORZINE: As you can see by your
- drawing on the drainage even if there isn't tile
- right here or very much, there could be other
- 15 property owners going to have drainage that
- 16 flows through there. I was wrong. I thought --
- the water does go south and not north. See what
- 18 T mean.
- 19 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: I think it is a
- 20 variation of like two feet of elevation or so.
- 21 The kind of north central area is the highest,
- and then you are right, it does go to the south.
- 23 MR. CORZINE: You mentioned, and I
- 24 would think that, and in your experience would

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1
       Ameren, would you be able to negotiate or work
       out a plan with them, and maybe include the
2
       Mizeurs to -- the interconnection thing could be
3
4
       a big deal, and where you have that entrance
5
       because even though once that is up and running
6
       and everything, in a year or whenever everything
       is set, there isn't going to be dust and that
7
       kind of thing, but there is going to be a lot
8
9
       during the construction. I have been by another
       area where they are putting them in, and it is
10
11
       kind of a mess. I mean you get a lot of, just a
12
       lot of stuff. If it is dry, you get dirt.
13
       it is wet, you get mud. You are bringing a lot
14
       of material in, so a lot of trucks in.
15
       could move that away to get rid of the nuisance,
16
       and I would think -- Ameren has enough lines and
       stuff there I would think they would be, that
17
18
       would be negotiable with them.
19
                MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yeah, we would
       definitely work on that, yes. We would be happy
20
21
       to meet with Ameren and with the Mizeurs if they
22
       are interested in having a joint meeting, but
23
       certainly we would work with Ameren to see if we
```

could get that moved to the north.

24

- 1 MR. CORZINE: Is your driveway
- dependent on where that interconnection site is?
- 3 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, ideally we
- 4 like to have the driveway as close to the
- 5 interconnection as possible.
- 6 MR. CORZINE: A question is if they
- 7 still want it where it is still pretty close,
- 8 you could have a construction driveway right
- 9 where all of that stuff would be away from the
- 10 residence, couldn't you?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, you are
- thinking like where we are getting materials and
- 13 kind of laying stuff down and things of that
- 14 nature, yes.
- 15 MR. CORZINE: Because you are going to
- have a work trailer there, office, and you are
- 17 going to have a lot of laborers. You are going
- to have a lot of poles you are putting into the
- 19 ground, all of that. If you could get that away
- from them as much as possible.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yeah, we would be
- agreeable to that. I could envision, and Ms.
- 23 Barry probably knows best, but I could envision
- a condition of approval that says something to

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1 that effect where we agree to work in good faith
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- 2 to move both the driveway and the
- 3 interconnection equipment pad and the point of
- 4 interconnection as far north as reasonably
- 5 practicable. We are very agreeable to that,
- 6 yes, absolutely. We can get Ameren, we can get
- in touch with them, and get those answers.
- 8 So, we definitely want to do that, but
- 9 where I have to be careful is over promising
- 10 because I don't want to back us into a corner
- 11 where we can't maneuver like that.
- MR. CORZINE: I understand, but Ameren
- they are a big company, but they are people too.
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yes, and they have
- 15 been actually fantastic to work with. We have a
- 16 really good working relationship with them. So,
- 17 yes, my request on that front would just be that
- 18 we are able to work, continue to work on that.
- 19 We would love to have the site plan
- 20 approved as it is tonight given the concessions
- 21 that we have made, but that we will continue to
- work in good faith to move that further north.
- 23 That would be our request.
- 24 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: On this

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1 interconnection agreement that you submitted
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- into evidence it is actually dated 12-5-2023 and
- 3 12-6-2023. So, this is the original
- 4 interconnection agreement or the amended
- 5 interconnection agreement?
- 6 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: That's the
- 7 original.
- 8 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay. So, this is
- 9 not the one that you have amended. What date
- was the amended one agreed upon?
- 11 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: I don't recall off
- the top of my head. I am not a hundred percent
- 13 sure that there was an amended agreement. It
- might have just been correspondence through
- 15 e-mail. I would have to check the records and
- 16 look. It was originally in that kind of north
- 17 central area, north of the two acre residence.
- 18 And then we got the okay to put it down further
- 19 south, but that often doesn't happen in the form
- of an amendment if it is a change like that
- 21 until later down the road. I don't believe
- there is an amended one, but I am not a hundred
- percent sure.
- 24 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I was trying to

- find in February's meeting minutes, and I can't
- find the page, I have shuffled them somewhere.
- 3 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: I feel your pain.
- 4 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Your colleague had
- 5 actually indicated that the electricity, the off
- 6 take hadn't -- we didn't have an off take
- 7 because I had asked was Google buying it,
- 8 Facebook. He said we had no off take. So, has
- 9 that changed since February?
- 10 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Maybe the
- 11 confusion is that we don't work in that type of
- 12 a program where we pre-sell the off take. So,
- we are not working with the third party
- subscriber like a Google, or a Facebook, or
- 15 something like that. But this program in Ameren
- is quote, unquote, community solar project. So,
- 17 the people that will receive the power are those
- with the Ameren utility meter, and that portion
- of the whole project has not been completed yet.
- 20 That happens much later in the development cycle
- 21 closer to the building permits or even a little
- 22 bit later.
- 23 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: You have mentioned
- 24 again about your weeds. So, can you walk me

- 1 through the noxious weed control then?
- 2 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: Yeah. What
- 3 specifically are you talking about?
- 4 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Well, you had said
- 5 we don't use much chemicals. So, how do we
- 6 prevent noxious weed?
- 7 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: In terms of
- 8 chemical use there will be an application for
- 9 spot spraying especially at the fence line. So,
- 10 we try to minimize the amount of chemicals that
- 11 we apply, but in the fence line we do typically
- 12 apply it, but all of that will be hired by a
- third party subcontractor. Ideally we will find
- 14 a local professional with the right applicator
- 15 license and ability to sort of manage the site.
- 16 So, that's not something that I personally have
- direct experience with, but we rely on the hired
- 18 professional to implement the plan.
- 19 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: On your vegetative
- 20 buffer what are the -- what's the maturity of
- 21 the vegetation that you plant?
- MR. REUBEN GRANDON: It would be -- I
- don't know off the top of my head what the
- 24 maturity for the trees would be, but we do in

- our blurb below that image right there, I
- believe we incorporated the newest language from
- 3 the newest Christian County ordinance that was
- 4 passed November 7th of 2023. So, we just
- 5 thought let's do it to that code and that
- 6 specification that way we are at least meeting
- 7 your expectations on that buffer.
- 8 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Did you look at --
- 9 to the south and the north there is a home that
- is north of the property, and then the City of
- 11 Pana is to the south. Did you look at putting
- 12 vegetative buffer in both of those areas as
- 13 well?
- 14 MR. REUBEN GRANDON: That didn't come
- 15 up at the February hearing. So, no, we didn't
- 16 look at adding a green screen to those areas.
- 17 Again we are going to be kind of site
- 18 constrained with some of the movements that we
- 19 have done so far. So, adding another buffer
- 20 would certainly make it more site constrained.
- 21 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Does the Board
- have additional questions? Last call for
- 23 questions.
- I do want -- since the Mayor was not

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present I would like for Assistant State's
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- 2 Attorney to read into the record the Pana
- 3 municipal letter.
- 4 MS. MARY BARRY: The County Board
- 5 received a letter from the Mayor, Nathan Pastor.
- 6 It was addressed to Bryan Sharp, who is the
- 7 County Board Chairman, and I believe the ZBA
- 8 members have received a copy of this, and I am
- 9 just going to read this into the record. Dear
- 10 Mr. Sharp, at this time the City of Pana
- 11 regarding the installation of a solar farm
- 12 within our 1.5 mile boundary or any solar farm
- is taking the position of, taking the position
- of opposition to this project or any future
- 15 projects which will land lock our community or
- 16 otherwise cause distress to the citizens of our
- 17 community. We strongly encourage the Christian
- 18 County Zoning Board to vote against any such
- 19 projects currently proposed or in the future.
- 20 Most sincerely, Nathan Pastor, Mayor, City of
- 21 Pana.
- 22 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I believe, Mr.
- Shay, you received a copy of that as well?
- MR. WILLIAM SHAY: Yes.

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1
                CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Now, you already
2
       addressed comments. Do you have anything
       additional to add to that?
3
4
                MR. WILLIAM SHAY:
                                   No, thank you.
5
                CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I quess I do have
6
       another question based on this mine subsidence.
7
       Is that anything that you have run into that you
       would be constructing on top of -- I am actually
8
9
       not sure --
                MR. BLAKE TARR: Here is a larger.
10
11
                MR. REUBEN GRANDON: No, I am not
12
       familiar with the mine map that was presented
13
       into the record. I haven't done that level of
14
       due diligence, but certainly we will have the
15
       geotechnical engineer that goes out there, and I
16
       say it a little tongue in cheek, but there is a
       lot that can happen between a special use permit
17
18
       and a building permit. We have to do a lot more
       due diligence on the project, and we certainly
19
20
       need to adhere to any local, State, and federal
21
       regulations. So, if we discover that this is
22
       going to be an issue from a certain State
23
       department or a certain County department, then
```

that could certainly jeopardize the project at

- 1 that point in time. But this siting approval or
- 2 special use permit really gives us the assurance
- 3 to continue to make those investments into the
- 4 project, and we hope that nothing happens, but
- 5 certainly we will be adhering to all of the
- 6 rules and laws.
- 7 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Anything else? If
- 8 not, I will entertain a motion that we will
- 9 close evidence.
- 10 MR. BERNER: I will make the motion.
- 11 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Berner makes the
- 12 motion. Do we have a second?
- MR. GOODRICH: Glen Goodrich, a second.
- 14 MR. CORZINE: The motion is to?
- 15 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Close the evidence
- section. All those in favor?
- 17 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS: Aye.
- 18 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay. I think we
- 19 have been going here for awhile. I will also
- 20 entertain a motion for a ten minute recess.
- MR. CORZINE: Okay. You need a motion?
- 22 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes.
- MR. CORZINE: So move.
- MR. BERNER: Second.

1	CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: All those in
2	favor?
3	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS: Aye.
4	CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: We will have a ten
5	minute recess, and reconvene at 8:30.
6	(Whereupon the Zoning Board of Appeals
7	meeting was in recess.)
8	CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: We are now moving
9	into the deliberation section. So, I open this
10	up for discussion. What are your thoughts?
11	MS. HOWARD: As per that
12	interconnection agreement I thought that the
13	presenter said that they had a second agreement
14	that was signed on February 27th.
15	CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes, I also have
16	that in my notes.
17	MS. HOWARD: So, is that an official
18	agreement because I am unclear on that?
19	CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I think we need to
20	ask for a full copy of the interconnection
21	agreement. We would need to have a point of
22	clarification. Okay. Anything else?
23	MR. CORZINE: Well, while we are
24	talking about the interconnection agreement I

```
1
       know I mentioned it, and you get tired of me
       saying it maybe, but I would think that we can
2
3
       request or how we do that, if we would require,
       I would like it in there that there is -- the
4
5
       parties get together and work with Ameren, and
       get that interconnection moved as well as
 6
       getting -- even if that doesn't happen, if we
7
       were to get the construction entrance further
8
       away from the residence. Because I have seen
9
       where they have been constructing others, and it
10
11
       is a big deal. It is a mess.
12
                CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK:
                                      So, you are
13
       actually proposing that there be two entrances?
14
                MR. CORZINE: If that's required.
15
       Unless they can move the interconnection
16
       agreement, the interconnection clear up there
       near the corner a ways away from the north.
17
18
                MS. MARY BARRY: I think we discussed
       some language that we want to see them meet and
19
20
       make efforts with the landowner and Ameren to
2.1
       see if we can move that further away if it is
22
       feasible, or I think we would use even his
23
       language as reasonably practicable to move that
24
       up and also and/or have a construction driveway
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- further away. That would all be part of what we
- 2 would want to have a condition there that they
- 3 are going to make good faith efforts to do that.
- 4 MR. CORZINE: Good.
- 5 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay. Well, then
- 6 to kind of guide the discussion Blake had given
- 7 everybody a factors of consideration, which is
- 8 from 1-1-7 of our code where the County Board
- 9 may approve a zoning application, if it finds
- 10 evidence complies with State and federal law and
- 11 regulations, and with the standards of this
- 12 zoning code including factors listed below are
- applied as a balancing test, not individual
- 14 requirements to be met.
- 15 So, point A, the establishment, maintenance
- or operation of the application will not be
- detrimental to or endanger the public health,
- safety, morals, comfort, or general welfare.
- 19 So, from this factor do we believe the
- 20 application has met the standard, or what items
- do we feel need more clarification?
- MR. DORR: I personally don't believe
- they do because this says the County Board may
- 24 approve. So, the County Board may not approve,

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1
       and one of the factors is comfort or general
2
       welfare. We have seen -- what was the final
       total, 290 people sign against this. We have
3
       had -- I know they pointed out that the
4
5
       ordinance that Pana passed is too little too
 6
       late, but still they approved this, which shows
       that the City of Pana does not want this within
7
8
       the 1.5 miles of the City of Pana.
       representative alderman stated that that is the
9
       feeling of the Board, and I know that we have
10
11
       been told that we have to do certain things with
12
       wind and solar, but at some point the County is
13
       going to have to make a stand, and this Board
14
       here provides information which we have got a
15
       lot of information tonight and in the past
16
       meetings, the revisions I commend you guys on,
17
       moving the entrance that's great if this should
18
       happen to go through, but personally I think it
19
       needs to be denied. The County Board has final
20
       approval, but tonight we only have four people
21
       voting on this, and I say no. So, if somebody
22
       makes a motion to approve it, I am voting no.
23
            So, unless anybody else wants to talk, I
```

want to make a motion to deny approval of this

- 1 special use on the basis of County Board may,
- 2 which indicates to me may or may not, that it is
- 3 not in the best interest of the community for
- 4 general comfort, or comfort or general welfare.
- 5 MS. HOWARD: To me that may or may not
- is a given. You see what I am saying. That's
- 7 written in there. So, I have always assumed we
- 8 could deny.
- 9 MR. DORR: Well, not after the State
- 10 forced every county except for Cook County to
- 11 approve their new solar and wind farm rules.
- 12 So, basically if you look at that, that pretty
- much takes all of the power out of the Zoning
- Board, and the County, and the State says what
- 15 can be done.
- 16 MS. HOWARD: As of the four votes, when
- will we have more than four? That's my
- 18 question.
- 19 MR. DORR: Well, right now if it does
- 20 not get four votes tonight, then it
- 21 automatically goes in as a denial from the ZBA,
- and then it is into the hands of the County
- 23 Board to make their decision. So, it all goes
- to the County Board, which it always does

- 1 anyway.
- MS. HOWARD: I know. I know that.
- 3 MS. MARY BARRY: I was just going to
- 4 say on this particular application given the
- 5 continued hearings on this given the
- 6 requirements that you have to be at each hearing
- on this, you four are the only four that can
- 8 ever vote on this application at the ZBA.
- 9 MS. HOWARD: That was my point.
- MS. MARY BARRY: Yes.
- 11 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, I think we
- 12 need to go through these factors, or we at least
- 13 need to have support for the County Board either
- way, what our concerns were, or what are
- 15 conditions. So, I think that's what we really
- 16 need to make sure --
- MR. DORR: My concern is it is not in
- the best welfare of the community. We have had
- 19 a lot of opposition to this one. We have denied
- others because of community opposition, one in
- 21 Pana already.
- MS. MARY BARRY: I would recommend that
- 23 we go through all of the factors because --
- MR. DORR: That's fine.

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1
                MS. MARY BARRY: -- it is a balancing
2
       effect, and just the weighting of one versus
       another. I think the full discussion needs to
3
       be had.
4
                CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I think from a
5
6
       safety perspective with this map on mines we
7
       definitely have to have geotechnical studies.
8
                MR. BERNER:
                             That was going to be my
9
       suggestion that we do something with that.
10
                CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Safety road uses
11
       are required with all township and County
12
       officials. I believe plans approved by drainage
13
       district commissioner, the flow of water is a
       potential safety concern. Any other points to
14
15
       make along this item?
16
            Item B, the application will not be
17
       injurious to the uses and enjoyment of other
18
       property in the immediate vicinity for the
       purposes already permitted, nor substantially
19
20
       diminish and impair the property values of
       surrounding properties.
21
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MS. DECLERCK: They kind of set that up by putting enjoyment in there, I mean you know.

MR. CORZINE: I am sorry, Janet.

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1
                MS. DECLERCK: I said they kind of set
       that up by putting enjoyment in there. Right
2
       there that kind of sets that one off the sides.
3
                CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I think first a
4
       full Alta survey has to be included.
6
                MR. BERNER: It would be nice to see
       like your real estate valuations. On a lot of
7
       those maps that they have the properties that
8
9
       they have pulled out to show the value they are
       not really surrounded by solar. The solar is
10
11
       across the road, or there is already a buffer.
12
       I mean it would be nice to see some sort of
13
       valuation of something very similar to what this
14
       property owner has.
15
                MS. HOWARD: From an existing project.
16
                MR. BERNER: Yes, correct.
17
                CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: What they did
18
       submit into evidence did indicate several
       different studies, and one of the studies did
19
20
       indicate for rural areas there was a 1.5 percent
21
       decrease. Now, the submission indicated that
22
       they felt like it was a margin of error because
23
       there was limited number of states evaluated, I
```

believe, but I think it still indicates that

- 1 there could be. So, a specific analysis of
- 2 Christian County would be interesting.
- 3 MR. BERNER: Or something very similar
- 4 to the property.
- 5 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay, C, the
- 6 establishment of the application will not impede
- 7 the normal and orderly development and
- 8 improvement of the surrounding properties.
- 9 MR. DORR: Well, the City of Pana has
- 10 plans for doing something north of Pana that
- 11 would impede their development.
- MR. CORZINE: I agree with what you
- 13 said. I think -- I am not an attorney, but I
- have checked up on this. That is why the mile
- and a half buffer where the municipality has
- 16 jurisdiction, why that has been in place, and
- that's the way I read it that was one of the
- 18 things that was not removed by the State as far
- 19 as that jurisdiction to allow, but I do think --
- 20 MS. MARY BARRY: The State Statute only
- 21 covers counties.
- MR. CORZINE: So, the municipality I
- would think would still be in place, their
- 24 authority.

- 1 MS. MARY BARRY: I am not Pana's
- lawyer. I am not going to comment on their
- 3 ordinance. I will comment so far as that
- 4 particular ordinance would not apply to this
- 5 application that was well within the process
- 6 before we came here.
- 7 MR. CORZINE: True. I agree with that.
- 8 I only state that because it does get into C as
- 9 far as impede the development.
- 10 MS. MARY BARRY: We read into the
- 11 record Pana's opinion.
- 12 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Item D, adequate
- 13 public utilities, access roads, drainage and/or
- 14 necessary facilities have been or will be
- 15 provided.
- 16 MS. HOWARD: A factor here is when the
- 17 presenter mentioned that the power could be
- 18 accessed locally. I think that changes the
- 19 picture a bit.
- 20 MR. CORZINE: I guess I would say that
- 21 I appreciate them, the willingness it looks like
- 22 to look at not only the drainage work or the
- drainage commissioner but also, I guess I would
- include access roads, also access points on

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1 those roads especially during construction.
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- 2 Entrance, field entrances I am talking about.
- 3 MS. MARY BARRY: What do you mean? I
- 4 think you had already discussed under one of
- 5 these road use agreements we would want to see
- 6 with the townships, and with the counties, and
- 7 we would want to see them working with the
- 8 landowner and Ameren to move and potentially
- 9 give a second driveway as reasonably practical.
- 10 Does that cover what you are getting at?
- MR. CORZINE: Yes, Mary, thanks.
- 12 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I guess also under
- that is the final hydrology report, which
- includes flooding and erosion analysis, and the
- 15 national pollutant discharge elimination system,
- 16 and the storm water pollution prevention plan
- would all fall under that, and is all required
- 18 by the State Statute.
- 19 MS. MARY BARRY: If I might, I think
- 20 perhaps under the enjoyment there was some
- 21 discussion as part of the conversations with the
- landowners reasonable hours for construction and
- 23 operation.
- 24 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Moving back to B,

- 1 reasonable hours of construction and delivery.
- E, adequate measures have been or will be
- 3 taken to provide ingress and egress so designed
- 4 as to minimize traffic congestion in the public
- 5 streets.
- 6 MS. HOWARD: I think we have covered
- 7 that well.
- 8 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes. I do think
- 9 that when you look at 400, that is a very busy
- 10 road, but that one we would defer to the
- 11 township commissioners to address.
- 12 F, the application is not contrary to the
- objectives of the current comprehensive plan of
- 14 the County, if any. We heard discussions that
- 15 Pana had a plan, but we have not received
- 16 anything for the record on this item for a
- 17 specific comprehensive plan.
- 18 MR. CORZINE: Can we contact Pana, and
- 19 see what kind of plan they do have, and if that
- 20 would qualify as a comprehensive plan? That
- seems to be a key word.
- MS. MARY BARRY: I mean we notified
- 23 Pana of two hearings.
- 24 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Blake specifically

- 1 called last week to speak with the mayor.
- 2 MS. MARY BARRY: I mean this is not the
- 3 final arbitration of this issue. This will go
- from the ZBA to the County Board. They will
- 5 have the final approval. If Pana chooses to
- 6 come there, they can comment.
- 7 MR. CORZINE: I know their ordinance is
- 8 too late. So, it doesn't have effect, but still
- 9 this talks about a comprehensive plan. So, give
- 10 us that.
- MS. MARY BARRY: This tonight was the
- first I was hearing that there is a plan.
- MR. JARRED RAHAR: And evidence closed.
- MS. HOWARD: We haven't had much input
- from Pana council because he wrote the letter.
- 16 As far as I know that's all the input that we
- 17 have had.
- 18 MS. MARY BARRY: I just want to make
- one point of clarification when we are speaking
- as to this ordinance can't pop up and change
- 21 things. We have changed parts of our zoning
- ordinances, and that's just -- that's going to
- happen throughout the life of this program. To
- 24 make it clear, for instance, we have adopted new

- 1 building permit fees that I do think would be
- 2 applicable to this application. I am not saying
- 3 forever more we are locked into, we can never
- 4 change our zoning code, but vis-à-vis that
- 5 ordinance trying to shut down something that's
- in mid application, defeat it that way, we can't
- 7 look at that.
- 8 MR. CORZINE: Got you.
- 9 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Mr. Berner, you
- 10 had brought up the decommissioning concerns
- 11 earlier and wanting a review of those.
- MS. MARY BARRY: Do we have the final
- 13 AIMA, and that would be the decommissioning?
- 14 Would that be part of that?
- 15 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: There is still a
- 16 separate decommissioning plan that -- they have
- to present a finalized decommissioning plan
- 18 before the special use permit. So, what is your
- 19 concern about that?
- 20 MR. BERNER: It just seems really low
- 21 to me, the dollar wise, the dollar amounts. We
- 22 are talking about a five million dollar project,
- and they are going to, for \$34,000.00 they can
- 24 decommission it.

- 1 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So,
  2 decommissioning and the review of the fees.
- 3 MR. BERNER: Is there a second opinion
- 4 we can get on that, or how does that work? Can
- 5 we see a bigger breakdown of how they arrived by
- 6 those numbers?
- 7 MS. MARY BARRY: Are we suggesting that
- 8 we would want a finalized decommissioning plan
- 9 executed in connection with the building permit
- 10 process?
- 11 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Correct.
- 12 G, the application shall, in all other
- 13 respects, conform to the applicable regulations
- of this ordinance and the zoning district in
- 15 which it is located except as such regulations
- 16 may, in each instance, be modified pursuant to
- the recommendations of and approved by the
- 18 County Board. Were there any other concerns or
- 19 open items that we needed to have documented in
- this process?
- MR. DORR: So, are we talking about
- 22 asking for all these changes, or are we going to
- continue this even further?
- MS. MARY BARRY: I think she is

- 1 suggesting these are considerations and
- 2 conditions we would, you are going to put in
- 3 your report to the County Board.
- 4 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Blake has to fill
- 5 a full report out.
- 6 MR. DORR: I just wanted to clarify
- 7 that because there has been so many different
- 8 suggestions, and ideas, and changes.
- 9 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, the next steps
- 10 would be we either, we would have a vote, and
- 11 then Blake will have to have a finalized report
- that he would present to the County Board, and
- then they would make their final determination.
- 14 MR. CORZINE: That would be at the
- 15 County Board meeting?
- 16 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: In May.
- 17 MR. CORZINE: It is early May, right?
- 18 MS. MARY BARRY: It is the third
- 19 Tuesday. So, I don't know how that works this
- 20 month.
- 21 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, I guess at
- this point the question is is there anything
- 23 else that needs to be documented in Blake's
- 24 report?

- 1 MR. JARRED RAHAR: Any further
- 2 questions about the procedure moving forward
- 3 because I think Mr. Dorr brings up a point,
- 4 there will be no further hearing. There will be
- 5 no further evidence.
- MS. HOWARD: Oh, darn.
- 7 MR. JARRED RAHAR: There will be a
- 8 vote, and I think what Adrian, Miss Adcock is
- 9 indicating is that Mr. Tarr has got to present a
- 10 report to the Board, and part of that report
- 11 needs to be more than yes or no. I think it
- needs to be yes why, no why.
- MR. DORR: Exactly.
- 14 MR. JARRED RAHAR: I think that's
- 15 why --
- 16 MR. DORR: To me the most important
- 17 point of that is the well being of the
- 18 community, the comfort and general welfare.
- 19 That's the top concern. That's why we have all
- these people here. That's why we have had all
- 21 these people at every one of these hearings for
- this particular project, and we have got to take
- that into consideration, and to me that one
- there trumps all these other things below that.

- 1 That's what I was trying to make in the very
- beginning.
- 3 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I think also in
- 4 the application this would be a two year special
- 5 use permit, and would expire if the building
- 6 permit had not been sought within that two year
- 7 period.
- 8 MR. CORZINE: A question Adrian,
- 9 normally I thought we were one year.
- 10 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: They applied
- 11 before the one year.
- MR. CORZINE: Oh, okay.
- 13 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Any additional
- 14 concerns from -- Mary, is there anything else
- that we need to consider?
- 16 MS. MARY BARRY: We talked about the
- 17 SWCD, the vegetative screen. Did we talk about
- 18 geo-engineering report, finalize it prior to the
- 19 building permit?
- 20 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: We mentioned it as
- 21 safety.
- MS. MARY BARRY: Okay.
- 23 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes. Okay, if
- there is no additional discussion, do we have a

- 1 motion for this project?
- 2 MR. DORR: I make a motion that we deny
- 3 this special use application on the issues that
- 4 have been brought up already. You want me to go
- 5 over them, I will go over them again.
- 6 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Is there a second
- 7 to the motion?
- 8 MR. GOODRICH: Glen Goodrich, I will
- 9 second it.
- 10 MS. MARY BARRY: Then just to repeat
- one more time, only four people are voting on
- 12 this.
- 13 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Right.
- MS. MARY BARRY: Okay.
- 15 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Roll-call vote,
- 16 Blake.
- MR. BLAKE TARR: Joann Howard.
- MS. HOWARD: Yes.
- 19 MR. BLAKE TARR: Glen Goodrich?
- MR. GOODRICH: Denied, no.
- MR. BLAKE TARR: Joe Dorr.
- MR. DORR: Are you denying the motion?
- 23 MS. MARY BARRY: I think we need a
- little clarification. The motion is to deny.

- 1 MR. GOODRICH: I want to deny.
- MS. HOWARD: I want to say no. I don't
- 3 want to deny it.
- 4 MS. MARY BARRY: You want to say no?
- 5 MS. HOWARD: I want to say no, sorry.
- 6 MR. DORR: You are going to vote yes to
- 7 deny?
- 8 MR. GOODRICH: I want to vote yes to
- 9 deny.
- MR. DORR: Good.
- MR. BLAKE TARR: Joe Dorr.
- MR. DORR: I vote to deny it.
- MR. BLAKE TARR: So, is that a yes or
- 14 no vote, Joe?
- 15 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The vote is yes.
- MR. DORR: Yes.
- MR. BLAKE TARR: All right, and lastly,
- 18 Adrian Adcock.
- 19 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: No.
- MR. BLAKE TARR: No, okay.
- 21 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, per this
- ordinance we do not have a quorum. So, this
- 23 will move to the County Board as an
- impossibility for approval.

- 1 MS. MARY BARRY: Right, it would take
- four votes to move it out.
- 3 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Correct.
- 4 MS. MARY BARRY: So, we don't have the
- 5 required votes.
- 6 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: That's correct.
- 7 It will be stamped denied.
- 8 MR. BLAKE TARR: Motion denied.
- 9 MR. CORZINE: Adrian, a question. So,
- 10 the motion was to deny?
- 11 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Correct. The
- 12 project will be denied.
- MR. CORZINE: You didn't get four votes
- to deny.
- MS. MARY BARRY: If you don't have --
- 16 the way the ordinance works --
- MR. DORR: If it got motion to approve
- and only got three to approve, it still goes to
- 19 the County Board either way.
- MS. HOWARD: Yes, the County Board is
- 21 going to --
- MR. DORR: Unless it was a vote to
- approve with four unanimous votes to approve.
- 24 CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: That's correct.

1	MS. MARY BARRY: That will go along
2	with the report that has these conditions.
3	CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay. I thank
4	everyone for your time, and I will entertain a
5	motion to adjourn.
6	MR. DORR: I will make that motion to
7	adjourn.
8	MS. HOWARD: I will second that motion.
9	MS. ADCOCK: All those in favor?
10	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS: Aye.
11	CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Meeting adjourned.
12	(Which were all of the proceedings
13	had on this meeting as of this
14	date.)
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1	STATE OF ILLINOIS ) ) SS
2	COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN )
3	
4	I, Sandra K. Haines, a Notary Public and
5	Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify
6	that on April 30, 2024 the foregoing Zoning
7	Board of Appeals was taken down stenographically
8	by me and afterwards reduced to typewritten form
9	by me, and that the foregoing transcript
10	contains a true and accurate translation of all
11	such shorthand notes.
12	Given under my hand and seal this 8th day
13	of May, 2024 at Taylorville, Illinois.
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	Q- 1 Nothings
21	Landra K Haines
22	Sandra K. Haines Notary Public and CSR
23	License No. 084-002423

66:23, 67:6, 67:24, 68:24, **5**[1] - 103:22 adverse [2] - 68:4, 68:17 **\$3.00** [1] - 70:1 69:19, 76:16, 78:4, 78:12, **\$32,000.00** [2] - 59:19, 60:18 5/5-12020 [1] - 32:9 advisory [1] - 13:18 78:15, 78:19, 78:21, 79:6, **\$34,000.00** [1] - 131:23 **5/5-12020T** [1] - 100:24 affect [1] - 6:17 79:11, 79:17, 80:8, 81:1, **084-002423** [3] - 1:21, 3:9, **50** [13] - 6:11, 12:4, 12:9, affects [1] - 81:17 83:23, 85:23, 86:15, 86:21, 140:23 32:22, 33:7, 33:8, 33:12, afterwards [1] - 140:8 **1-1-7** [1] - 120:8 35:14, 35:20, 35:21, 38:7, 87:2, 87:6, 88:7, 90:5, Ag [1] - 50:24 90:11, 90:16, 91:4, 91:19, **1.5** [9] - 59:3, 81:15, 84:6, 38:8, 85:21 **AG-1** [5] - 65:10, 65:11, 91:24, 94:2, 94:5, 94:11, **55** [2] - 32:9, 100:24 92:6, 92:23, 100:9, 115:12, 66:19, 98:11, 98:12 95:8, 105:17, 110:24, 121:8, 125:20 5th [2] - 5:11, 5:14 agenda [1] - 5:21 **61602** [1] - 3:4 111:8, 111:24, 112:4, 10[2] - 68:2, 103:23 ago [1] - 65:1 112:23, 113:4, 113:19, **6:00** [2] - 2:4, 4:10 10-720 [1] - 30:20 agree [6] - 31:8, 31:11, 114:8, 114:21, 115:22, **70s** [1] - 90:8 **100**[2] - 101:12, 101:16 88:18, 110:1, 126:12, 116:1, 116:5, 117:7, **102-1123**[1] - 30:16 7th [2] - 6:8, 114:4 127.7 117:11, 117:15, 117:18, **1123** [1] - 56:8 8:30 [1] - 118:5 agreeable [4] - 44:23, 45:10, 117:22, 118:1, 118:4, 12-5-2023 [1] - 111:2 8th [5] - 62:22, 81:13, 88:5, 109:22, 110:5 118:8, 118:15, 118:19, 12-6-2023 [1] - 111:3 105:10, 140:12 agreed [5] - 46:15, 73:7, 119:12, 120:5, 123:11, 12th [2] - 96:24, 105:1 90 [1] - 12:20 73:9, 73:23, 111:10 124:5, 124:10, 125:4, **13**[1] - 104:21 ability [5] - 39:21, 46:9, agreeing [1] - 35:14 125:17, 126:5, 127:12, **1400** [1] - 3:4 81:17, 93:1, 113:15 Agreement [1] - 72:24 128:12, 128:24, 129:8, able [12] - 8:16, 15:6, 20:6, agreement [23] - 7:17, 37:3, **150** [10] - 14:7, 14:14, 16:17, 129:24, 131:9, 131:15, 16:20, 16:23, 17:7, 17:18, 25:11, 27:16, 29:18, 30:3, 37:6, 37:13, 37:14, 37:20, 132:1, 132:11, 133:4, 93:15, 96:9, 96:15, 108:1, 43:18, 50:21, 72:8, 73:2, 30:5, 30:13, 30:14 133:9, 133:16, 133:21, 110:18 79:2, 97:11, 97:15, 111:1, **18** [2] **-** 25:4, 36:20 135:3, 135:10, 135:13, absolutely [9] - 9:2, 19:8, 111:4, 111:5, 111:13, 1935 [1] - 105:1 135:20, 135:23, 136:6, 21:3, 22:16, 23:12, 30:1, 19th [1] - 6:4 118:12, 118:13, 118:18, 136:13, 136:15, 137:15, 48:19, 99:23, 110:6 118:21, 118:24, 119:16 1:00 [1] - 5:12 137:19, 137:21, 138:3, abuts [1] - 26:19 agreements [2] - 7:19, 128:5 **2**[1] - 83:6 138:6, 138:11, 138:24, AC[1] - 40:21 agricultural [2] - 23:14, **20** [4] - 36:21, 42:8, 49:16, 139:3, 139:9, 139:11 50:21 accept [1] - 4:12 49:21 add [2] - 32:7, 116:3 Agricultural [1] - 72:23 acceptable [1] - 88:12 **2018** [2] - 61:11, 61:13 added [1] - 12:10 access [3] - 127:13, 127:24 Agriculture [2] - 50:23, 72:9 **2023** [5] - 6:3, 6:8, 10:18, adding [2] - 114:16, 114:19 accessed [1] - 127:18 ahead [5] - 27:3, 36:17, 65:1, 114:4 addition [2] - 12:3, 64:4 according [2] - 21:4, 85:1 53:15, 95:14, 102:4 **2024** [8] - 1:12, 2:3, 4:9, 5:11, additional [8] - 8:17, 37:1, AIMA [6] - 72:11, 72:23, 73:1, 10:21, 96:24, 140:6, accordingly [1] - 54:24 76:16, 94:2, 114:22, 116:3, 73:24, 105:20, 131:13 accountable [2] - 50:18, 55:6 140:13 135:13, 135:24 aiming [1] - 12:20 2025 [1] - 77:23 accurate [3] - 54:11, 70:16, address [5] - 8:4, 56:12, air [1] - 41:2 140:10 **21** [1] - 67:7 57:21, 58:20, 129:11 alderman [3] - 94:8, 94:17, acre [10] - 12:5, 12:7, 12:8, 217)824-8558 [1] - 1:21 addressed [3] - 56:14, 115:6, 121:9 22 [2] - 25:4, 89:9 12:15, 14:21, 15:3, 34:6, 116:2 38:6, 38:9, 111:17 alleviate [2] - 78:18, 99:8 237 [1] - 85:20 adequate [2] - 127:12, 129:2 alleviated [1] - 69:18 acreage [3] - 33:5, 35:3, **2400** [3] - 11:7, 22:1 adhere [2] - 68:11, 116:20 46:14 allow [4] - 44:24, 66:17, **25** [4] - 55:13, 75:17, 75:19, adhered [1] - 35:16 acres [3] - 11:8, 11:9, 86:7 78:17, 126:19 81:18 adheres [1] - 90:14 Act [3] - 30:15, 31:13, 56:8 allowed [6] - 47:22, 65:10, 2500 [1] - 92:12 adhering [3] - 67:10, 69:15, 98:10, 100:22, 101:2 act [1] - 104:24 26th [2] - 4:9, 4:18 117:5 almost [1] - 103:11 activity [4] - 44:6, 44:8, 27th [7] - 4:19, 7:15, 27:11, adjacent [4] - 13:14, 26:8, alongside [1] - 64:5 44:16, 44:18 37:15, 47:8, 79:23, 118:14 41:11, 97:17 **Alta** [1] - 125:5 29 [4] - 4:20, 22:4, 22:6, 86:6 actual [3] - 31:6, 81:7, 81:13 adjourn [2] - 139:5, 139:7 Adcock [4] - 2:9, 3:13, 134:8, ALTA[2] - 34:19, 35:11 290 [2] - 85:24, 121:3 adjourned [1] - 139:11 137:18 alternates [1] - 7:6 29th [1] - 6:2 adjust [1] - 79:24 ADCOCK [143] - 3:12, 3:14, aluminum [2] - 74:12, 74:13 **30** [10] - 1:12, 2:3, 60:19, adjusted [1] - 24:5 4:7, 4:14, 4:17, 5:6, 5:9, amazed [1] - 84:14 61:1, 71:9, 71:13, 71:17, adjusting [1] - 97:3 5:17, 5:20, 8:24, 9:6, 9:13, Amen [1] - 85:14 74:24, 81:18, 140:6 adjustment [1] - 79:22 9:21, 10:2, 10:6, 15:12, amenable [2] - 24:6, 48:24 **32,000** [4] - 60:1, 61:19, Administration [3] - 67:19, 16:2, 16:8, 30:6, 32:20, amend [1] - 4:24 61:20, 62:8 67:23, 97:23 34:10, 34:24, 35:18, 36:7, amended [6] - 105:1, 111:4, 35 [1] - 11:9 administrator [1] - 27:3 36:20, 36:24, 37:22, 38:15, 37 [1] - 11:8 111:9, 111:10, 111:13, Administrator [1] - 2:20 39:1, 39:9, 41:16, 47:15, 111:22 40 [4] - 42:8, 59:17, 74:24, adopt [1] - 90:9 49:2, 49:4, 51:3, 51:6, amendment [2] - 82:4, adopted [2] - 104:23, 130:24 55:23, 56:7, 56:20, 57:14, 111:20 **400** [6] - 21:24, 22:6, 92:11, Adrian [7] - 2:9, 3:13, 82:17, 57:24, 58:22, 59:12, 60:16, Ameren [32] - 11:10, 37:4, 92:12, 92:20, 129:9 134:8, 135:8, 137:18, 60:23, 62:7, 62:10, 63:6, 37:6, 37:12, 43:17, 45:1, **411** [1] - 3:4

138:9

46:15, 72:16, 78:23, 79:1, 79:13, 79:20, 80:1, 85:10, 86:5, 89:5, 89:7, 89:9, 97:11, 99:1, 103:9, 108:1, 108:16, 108:21, 108:23, 110:6, 110:12, 112:15, 112:18, 119:5, 119:20, 128:8 Ameren's [2] - 39:5, 79:9 amount [1] - 113:10 amounts [1] - 131:21 analysis [8] - 40:5, 41:18, 50:7, 51:22, 56:3, 56:4, 126:1, 128:14 analyze [1] - 105:8 annexed [2] - 92:14, 92:18 answer [5] - 7:23, 42:5, 43:9, 67:9, 69:8 answers [1] - 110:7 anticipate [5] - 66:24, 68:3, 68:21, 101:14, 106:12 anyway [2] - 72:1, 123:1 apart [1] - 57:11 apologize [3] - 10:11, 33:22, 95:22 Appeals [8] - 6:6, 7:24, 8:5, 8:12, 8:16, 10:20, 118:6, 140:7 APPEALS[8] - 1:11, 2:2, 4:16, 5:8, 5:19, 117:17, 118:3, 139:10 appetite [1] - 72:4 applicable [3] - 105:14, 131:2, 132:13 applicant [7] - 7:17, 7:22, 8:6, 8:10, 8:19, 68:3, 95:9 application [32] - 5:24, 6:2, 6:24, 10:15, 10:17, 15:7, 37:12, 39:10, 41:13, 62:24, 66:23, 67:5, 86:16, 102:4, 102:7, 102:9, 102:10, 113:8, 120:9, 120:16, 120:20, 123:4, 123:8, 124:16, 126:6, 127:5, 129:12, 131:2, 131:6, 132:12, 135:4, 136:3 applicator [1] - 113:14 applied [5] - 6:1, 61:14, 83:19, 120:13, 135:10 apply [6] - 83:18, 92:10, 92:23, 113:11, 113:12, 127:4 **applying** [1] - 98:7 appointed [1] - 7:6 appraisal [1] - 58:10 appraisers [1] - 58:11 appreciate [3] - 45:15, 80:11, 127:21 **approach** [1] - 66:8 appropriate [1] - 43:11 approval [19] - 22:18, 22:21, 43:11, 44:24, 45:9, 56:17,

77:11, 79:9, 80:5, 80:15,

85:10, 96:10, 106:24, 109:24, 117:1, 121:20, 121:24, 130:5, 137:24 approve [13] - 4:8, 5:11, 5:14, 76:23, 120:9, 120:24, 121:22, 122:11, 138:17, 138:18, 138:23 approved [13] - 4:19, 6:3, 6:7, 78:23, 79:13, 79:20, 79:22, 89:24, 105:1, 110:20, 121:6, 124:12, 132:17 April [8] - 5:11, 5:14, 62:22, 81:13, 88:5, 96:24, 105:10, 140:6 APRIL [2] - 1:12, 2:3 arbitration [1] - 130:3 area [14] - 20:16, 34:21, 45:24, 46:3, 53:22, 58:4, 61:16, 82:21, 90:23, 92:14, 92:22, 107:21, 108:10, 111.17 areas [4] - 65:9, 114:12, 114:16, 125:20 argue [1] - 81:23 array [4] - 11:20, 11:21, 14:17, 34:2 arrived [1] - 132:5 Asia [1] - 75:10 aspect [2] - 29:21, 59:6 assessing [1] - 54:14 assessment [4] - 50:4, 52:20, 58:1, 58:24 Assessor [1] - 62:8 assessor's [1] - 26:19 Assessor's [1] - 34:16 asset [1] - 61:11 assets [1] - 63:13 Assistant [2] - 2:21, 115:1 assume [3] - 69:3, 92:2, 106:2 assumed [1] - 122:7 **Assumption** [2] - 23:19, 106:7 assurance [2] - 47:5, 117:2 attach [1] - 28:18 attached [1] - 97:20 attachment [2] - 28:16, 73:17 attempted [1] - 21:8 attention [1] - 63:16 attorney [1] - 126:13 Attorney [3] - 2:21, 2:22, 115:2 Attorney's [1] - 6:9 attractive [1] - 72:6 attributes [1] - 60:5 audible [1] - 42:23 August [1] - 54:19 authority [8] - 21:21, 62:16,

98:20, 104:13, 105:4,

105:5, 105:6, 126:24

120:12, 134:24

beneficial [1] - 15:15

authorization [1] - 38:13 automatically [1] - 122:21 available [2] - 34:15, 93:6 Aviation [3] - 67:19, 67:23, 97:22 avoid [2] - 50:11, 53:16 aware [7] - 26:23, 44:16, 49:9, 49:11, 56:12, 63:5, 88.16 awhile [3] - 42:12, 99:12, 117:19 aye [6] - 4:16, 5:8, 5:19, 117:17, 118:3, 139:10 babe [1] - 88:2 back [29] - 10:9, 10:13, 10:17, 10:18, 11:23, 12:2, 12:9, 13:15, 14:5, 14:10, 14:14, 19:2, 19:14, 25:12, 30:14, 32:20, 49:16, 53:18, 54:2, 54:6, 62:24, 63:19, 64:24, 72:11, 82:16, 103:13, 105:12, 110:10, 128:24 backed [1] - 101:18 background [3] - 6:1, 31:12, balancing [2] - 120:13, 124:1 ballpark [1] - 42:10 **balls** [1] - 76:8 band [1] - 81:14 Bank [1] - 89:18 banker [1] - 71:3 bare [1] - 13:10 BARRY [34] - 9:18, 31:6, 31:17, 31:24, 33:21, 115:4, 119:18, 123:3, 123:10, 123:22, 124:1, 126:20, 127:1, 127:10, 128:3, 128:19, 129:22, 130:2, 130:11, 130:18, 131:12, 132:7, 132:24, 133:18, 135:16, 135:22, 136:10, 136:14, 136:23, 137:4, 138:1, 138:4, 138:15, 139:1 Barry [3] - 2:21, 4:23, 109:23 based [10] - 34:10, 34:11, 34:14, 59:20, 59:23, 61:4, 61:9, 61:12, 101:19, 116:6 basis [2] - 90:6, 122:1 batch [1] - 95:22 beams [1] - 28:20 bear [3] - 26:9, 45:23, 46:5 bearing [1] - 98:4 become [2] - 81:19, 103:19 becomes [3] - 17:22, 73:20, 107:9 began [1] - 55:24 beginning [2] - 17:6, 135:2 beholden [1] - 39:16 below [4] - 39:19, 114:1,

benefit [3] - 82:5, 84:10, 85:3 benefiting [1] - 82:8 benefits [1] - 61:8 berms [1] - 32:14 Berner [9] - 2:13, 3:15, 24:10, 36:7, 51:11, 106:8, 106:9, 117:11, 131:9 BERNER [31] - 3:16, 24:10, 24:18, 24:23, 51:11, 51:15, 52:8, 52:14, 52:22, 54:6, 54:13, 55:1, 69:21, 70:10, 71:5, 71:9, 71:17, 72:18, 73:4, 73:8, 73:14, 73:18, 75:11, 117:10, 117:24, 124:8, 125:6, 125:16, 126:3, 131:20, 132:3 best [12] - 10:12, 45:1, 45:11, 46:19, 47:11, 50:11, 85:1, 100:3, 106:22, 109:23, 122:3, 123:18 better [4] - 14:1, 33:1, 33:3, 83:22 between [19] - 7:17, 12:11, 12:14, 13:3, 14:19, 14:24, 15:3, 16:11, 16:13, 33:10, 34:7, 35:23, 37:13, 47:7, 60:12, 74:14, 79:23, 99:2, 116:17 beyond [4] - 26:21, 41:14, 77:5, 84:2 **big** [9] - 17:4, 37:18, 44:21, 51:22, 80:19, 83:13, 108:4, 110:13, 119:11 bigger [2] - 18:16, 132:5 biggest [1] - 25:22 bill [1] - 103:23 Bill [4] - 45:2, 55:8, 62:1, 98:21 bind [1] - 46:13 bit [25] - 10:10, 16:8, 17:7, 17:23, 18:14, 33:1, 35:7, 36:2, 37:10, 43:5, 43:20, 44:2, 45:24, 46:20, 52:6, 59:7, 70:24, 77:23, 77:24, 90:23, 95:24, 98:22, 101:19, 112:22, 127:19 BLAKE [19] - 3:13, 3:15, 3:17, 3:20, 3:22, 3:24, 4:2, 4:4, 4:6, 25:11, 116:10, 136:17, 136:19, 136:21, 137:11, 137:13, 137:17, 137:20, 138:8 Blake [9] - 2:20, 4:21, 58:23, 64:24, 120:6, 129:24, 133:4, 133:11, 136:16 Blake's [1] - 133:23 **blank** [1] - 53:6 blue [1] - 83:3 blurb [1] - 114:1 Board [51] - 6:3, 6:6, 6:8, 6:9, 6:19, 6:21, 7:11, 7:24, 8:4, 8:12, 8:16, 9:14, 10:20, 15:21, 39:17, 43:10, 64:16,

64:18, 65:20, 65:23, 69:20, 131:1, 132:9, 135:5, 78:15, 78:19, 79:6, 79:11, 135:19 76:17, 87:7, 87:15, 105:18, 79:17, 80:8, 81:1, 83:23, 114:21, 115:4, 115:7, Building [1] - 68:12 85:23, 86:15, 86:21, 87:2, 115:18, 118:6, 120:8, 87:6, 88:7, 90:5, 90:11, **built** [2] - 12:18, 68:14 120:23, 120:24, 121:10, 90:16, 91:4, 91:19, 91:24, burden [1] - 67:7 121:13, 121:19, 122:1, business [2] - 5:10, 100:19 94:2, 94:5, 94:11, 95:8, 122:14, 122:23, 122:24, 105:17, 110:24, 111:8, busy [1] - 129:9 123:13, 130:4, 132:18, 111:24, 112:4, 112:23, buying [2] - 86:7, 112:7 133:3, 133:12, 133:15, 113:4, 113:19, 114:8, caboodle [1] - 9:10 134:10, 137:23, 138:19, 114:21, 115:22, 116:1, cadence [1] - 77:7 138:20, 140:7 116:5, 117:7, 117:11, Canada [1] - 75:9 **BOARD** [9] - 1:11, 2:2, 2:7, 117:15, 117:18, 117:22, cannot [3] - 83:11, 83:15, 118:1, 118:4, 118:8, 4:16, 5:8, 5:19, 117:17, 94:15 118:15, 118:19, 119:12, 118:3, 139:10 careful [2] - 13:17, 110:9 board [2] - 9:20, 25:12 120:5, 123:11, 124:5, carries [3] - 4:17, 5:9, 5:20 124:10, 125:4, 125:17, body [1] - 97:23 carry [1] - 40:23 bone [1] - 54:19 126:5, 127:12, 128:12, carry-on [1] - 40:23 Bonnie [6] - 8:3, 27:13, 80:9, 128:24, 129:8, 129:24, case [2] - 89:18, 101:13 131:9, 131:15, 132:1, 80:17, 96:13, 96:21 cases [2] - 64:14, 90:7 132:11, 133:4, 133:9, BONNIE [23] - 80:19, 81:2, Casner [1] - 93:21 133:16, 133:21, 135:3, 81:11, 84:4, 85:15, 85:21, Cat [1] - 28:17 135:10, 135:13, 135:20, 86:1, 87:4, 87:10, 87:24, cell [2] - 27:7, 69:13 135:23, 136:6, 136:13, 88:2, 88:5, 88:9, 89:3, cellular [1] - 69:2 89:8, 89:16, 90:1, 90:21, 136:15, 137:15, 137:19, center [1] - 11:11 137:21, 138:3, 138:11, 91:8, 91:21, 92:2, 93:20, central [4] - 41:2, 82:13, 138:24, 139:3, 139:11 94:4 107:21, 111:17 Chairperson [1] - 2:9 **bonnie** [1] - 3:6 Central [1] - 91:15 **Chairwoman** [1] - 15:9 Bonnie's [1] - 4:23 certain [10] - 32:11, 32:16, chance [4] - 71:18, 75:20, books [3] - 100:4, 102:6, 39:20, 62:6, 68:10, 72:20, 105:7, 106:11 102:11 90:10, 116:22, 116:23, chances [1] - 54:19 border [2] - 16:11, 18:24 121:11 change [3] - 111:20, 130:20, Boren [1] - 96:2 certainly [26] - 18:1, 21:12, 131.4 **bothering** [1] - 44:15 22:22, 23:17, 23:22, 25:6, changed [3] - 78:14, 112:9, Boulevard [1] - 3:4 29:6, 35:12, 43:14, 45:3, 130:21 boundaries [2] - 64:8, 45:7, 46:18, 50:17, 53:18, changes [6] - 11:4, 25:17, 104:11 54:3, 55:10, 56:13, 60:5, 64:2, 127:18, 132:22, **boundary** [1] - 115:12 63:2, 66:5, 108:23, 114:20, 133:8 bounds [1] - 34:20 116:14, 116:19, 116:24, chapter [1] - 65:7 break [1] - 80:9 117:5 charts [1] - 41:8 breakdown [1] - 132:5 certainty [1] - 80:7 check [1] - 111:15 brief [1] - 21:9 Certified [1] - 140:5 checked [4] - 30:11, 40:22, bringing [2] - 21:18, 108:13 certified [4] - 27:18, 87:14, 62:14, 126:14 brings [1] - 134:3 96:17, 96:23 checking [1] - 31:22 broadcast [5] - 67:1, 68:1, certify [1] - 140:5 checklist [4] - 41:12, 58:23, 68:22, 68:24, 69:4 cetera [2] - 47:18, 57:15 60:12, 60:13 broadcasting [1] - 68:5 **Chairman** [3] - 7:7, 30:2, cheek [1] - 116:16 brought [10] - 40:11, 63:16, 115:7 **chemical** [1] - 113:8 65:13, 82:17, 85:5, 86:2, **cHAIRPERSON**[2] - 78:21, chemicals [4] - 64:10, 74:11, 93:5, 93:22, 131:10, 136:4 138:6 113:5, 113:10 Bryan [1] - 115:6 CHAIRPERSON [139] - 3:12, chime [1] - 98:21 buffer [17] - 12:10, 12:16, 3:14, 4:7, 4:14, 4:17, 5:6, chooses [1] - 130:5 14:5, 14:18, 16:20, 18:11, 5:9, 5:17, 5:20, 8:24, 9:6, Chris [3] - 20:21, 22:11, 18:20, 45:23, 81:16, 84:6, 9:13, 9:21, 10:2, 10:6, 38:13 93:12, 113:20, 114:7, 15:12, 16:2, 16:8, 30:6, CHRISTIAN [2] - 1:6, 140:2 114:12, 114:19, 125:11, 32:20, 34:10, 34:24, 35:18, **cHRISTIAN**[1] - 2:1 126:15 36:7, 36:20, 36:24, 37:22, build [6] - 13:6, 20:20, 20:24, Christian [27] - 2:21, 10:16, 38:15, 39:1, 39:9, 41:16, 86:5, 86:22, 92:10 11:7, 26:18, 34:16, 48:1, 47:15, 49:2, 49:4, 51:3, 57:22, 58:2, 58:9, 65:5, building [21] - 21:13, 21:14, 51:6, 55:23, 56:7, 56:20, 65:8, 65:9, 66:19, 67:13, 22:23, 23:22, 34:18, 34:22, 57:14, 57:24, 58:22, 59:12, 69:14, 77:11, 82:13, 91:15, 48:2, 56:15, 56:18, 69:9, 60:16, 60:23, 62:7, 62:10, 98:8, 98:16, 98:17, 100:5, 69:17, 70:21, 77:8, 106:13, commend [1] - 121:16 63:6, 66:23, 67:6, 67:24, 101:15, 102:12, 114:3,

68:24, 69:19, 76:16, 78:4,

107:11, 112:21, 116:18,

115:17, 126:2 circle [3] - 14:6, 14:7, 14:12 circling [1] - 54:2 citizens [2] - 95:3, 115:16 city [7] - 11:6, 66:14, 66:16, 74:15, 98:6, 104:9, 104:11 City [48] - 62:14, 62:17, 62:19, 62:21, 63:3, 63:17, 64:15, 64:16, 64:18, 65:14, 66:6, 66:12, 81:4, 81:20, 82:6, 82:8, 84:5, 84:19, 87:9, 89:17, 92:8, 92:9, 93:4, 93:9, 94:6, 94:9, 94:16, 94:23, 95:6, 98:6, 98:19, 98:20, 100:2, 100:7, 100:20, 102:2, 102:23, 103:1, 104:13, 104:17, 105:6, 105:9, 114:10, 115:10, 115:20, 121:7, 121:8, 126:9 City's [1] - 105:5 Clair [2] - 85:2, 89:12 clarification [5] - 35:19, 118:22, 120:21, 130:19, 136:24 clarify [5] - 16:12, 48:6, 49:1, 69:23, 133:6 class [1] - 61:12 classification [1] - 41:11 clause [1] - 6:13 clay [1] - 50:1 clear [3] - 24:4, 119:16, 130.24 clearer [1] - 33:13 clearly [1] - 14:12 close [10] - 19:24, 38:18, 85:7, 85:12, 92:19, 95:6, 109:4, 109:7, 117:9, 117:15 **closed** [2] - 7:20, 130:13 closer [4] - 59:7, 78:14, 79:19, 112:21 closest [1] - 42:15 closing [1] - 8:11 Code [5] - 54:3, 68:13, 69:11, 83:21, 104:9 code [19] - 6:13, 7:4, 17:12, 30:17, 30:19, 30:21, 31:15, 32:4, 33:15, 45:5, 50:17, 69:10, 80:13, 105:21, 114:5, 120:8, 120:12, 131:4 colleague [3] - 56:22, 60:17, 112:4 collected [1] - 82:12 collection [1] - 92:11 colorful [1] - 14:16 comfort [5] - 120:18, 121:1, 122:4, 134:18 coming [2] - 22:4, 73:20 **commencing** [1] - 35:16

comment [4] - 7:20, 127:2,

127:3, 130:6 comments [2] - 58:18, 116:2 commercial [9] - 17:13, 30:16, 30:19, 30:21, 31:9, 32:12, 32:13, 96:6, 101:1 commissioner [3] - 106:18, 124:13, 127:23 Commissioner [1] - 38:13 commissioners [3] - 23:3, 105:24, 129:11 commit [1] - 46:11 Commodities [1] - 91:15 common [4] - 53:10, 53:12, 55:9. 72:7 communicated [1] - 87:21 communication [6] - 9:22, 15:17, 27:10, 63:3, 66:8, 97:2 communications [1] - 8:5 community [12] - 60:5, 82:5, 82:6, 82:7, 103:8, 112:16, 115:15, 115:17, 122:3, 123:18, 123:20, 134:18 companies [1] - 103:5 company [1] - 110:13 comparable [1] - 41:1 **complete** [1] - 59:13 completed [2] - 41:17, 112:19 completely [5] - 50:10, 68:14, 69:18, 102:13, compliance [4] - 6:11, 40:6, 40:7, 101:12 compliant [3] - 14:14, 80:13, 106:20 complied [1] - 101:17 complies [1] - 120:10 comply [4] - 6:4, 14:10, 39:10. 48:3 component [2] - 31:7, 31:13 **components** [1] - 17:15 comprehensive [5] - 93:18, 129:13, 129:17, 129:20, 130:9 **computer** [1] - 25:12 conception [1] - 34:14 conceptual [1] - 34:23 conceptualizes [1] - 46:20 concern [7] - 17:22, 41:15, 67:16, 123:17, 124:14, 131:19, 134:19 concerned [3] - 63:7, 84:11, 84:23 concerns [16] - 8:4, 57:13, 57:15, 57:20, 58:21, 62:12, 63:11, 69:16, 76:12, 84:15, 94:24, 99:8, 123:14, 131:10, 132:18, 135:14 concessions [9] - 45:6, 77:1, 80:14, 96:15, 97:4, 97:8, 99:7, 99:13, 110:20

conclude [1] - 95:10 concludes [1] - 59:8 concrete [1] - 72:13 condition [4] - 43:11, 44:23, 109:24, 120:2 conditioning [1] - 41:2 conditions [3] - 123:15, 133:2, 139:2 conducted [1] - 40:10 confidence [2] - 49:24, 80:6 confident [1] - 49:20 confines [1] - 96:8 confirmed [1] - 62:7 conform [1] - 132:13 confuse [1] - 36:2 confused [1] - 36:9 confusing [1] - 37:10 confusion [1] - 112:11 congestion [1] - 129:4 connect [1] - 106:11 connected [1] - 23:21 connection [1] - 132:9 Connie [1] - 96:1 conservation [1] - 29:13 Conservation [1] - 29:16 consider [3] - 17:20, 82:3, 135:15 consideration [4] - 7:1, 90:12, 120:7, 134:23 considerations [1] - 133:1 considered [4] - 17:17, 82:3, 102:10, 102:24 constrained [6] - 18:2, 46:12, 101:22, 101:23, 114:18, 114:20 constructed [2] - 40:3, 75:5 constructing [3] - 54:18, 116:8, 119:10 construction [20] - 21:16, 28:8, 34:18, 35:10, 35:17, 44:8, 44:9, 47:17, 59:18, 63:12, 70:23, 77:12, 77:16, 108:9, 109:8, 119:8, 119:24, 128:1, 128:22, 129:1 consume [1] - 104:2 consumed [3] - 103:12, 103:15, 103:18 contact [6] - 13:13, 21:9, 53:22, 66:7, 97:13, 129:18 contained [1] - 73:3 contains [2] - 35:24, 140:10 contents [1] - 97:19 context [1] - 11:5 contiguous [1] - 84:1 continue [7] - 21:11, 47:5, 72:6, 110:18, 110:21, 117:3, 132:23 **continued** [1] - 123:5

**CONTINUED** [1] - 3:1

contract [2] - 72:15, 73:1

contractor [2] - 53:23, 56:16

contrary [1] - 129:12 Control [1] - 39:17 control [3] - 13:5, 81:15, 113:1 conversation [3] - 21:10, 21:11, 97:7 conversations [1] - 128:21 converting [2] - 40:18, 40:20 Cook [1] - 122:10 cool [1] - 41:1 Copenbarger [1] - 3:17 **copy** [9] - 81:6, 81:8, 87:22, 88:8, 88:10, 95:19, 115:8, 115:23, 118:20 corner [11] - 12:1, 14:4, 24:20, 36:8, 36:10, 36:14, 42:15, 48:9, 92:12, 110:10, corporate [3] - 83:24, 84:2, 104:22 Correct [2] - 62:4, 138:11 correct [16] - 4:22, 5:1, 5:2, 24:18, 35:21, 48:11, 54:15, 74:9, 78:15, 79:14, 90:1, 125:16, 132:11, 138:3, 138:6, 138:24 correction [1] - 48:11 **correctly** [1] - 53:23 correspondence [1] - 111:14 Corzine [10] - 2:14, 3:18, 7:7, 16:6, 27:21, 42:2, 85:5, 88:19, 88:22, 105:20 CORZINE [75] - 3:19, 5:4, 16:6, 16:10, 16:15, 16:22, 18:4, 18:23, 19:10, 19:15, 19:22, 20:8, 21:5, 21:17, 22:2, 22:9, 22:13, 22:24, 24:7, 27:21, 28:3, 29:1, 29:11, 29:24, 31:21, 42:2, 42:7, 42:11, 44:3, 45:14, 46:22, 47:14, 61:18, 62:4, 62:9, 76:18, 77:9, 77:13, 77:17, 88:22, 89:4, 89:11, 89:23, 93:16, 94:1, 105:19, 106:8, 106:16, 107:12, 107:23, 109:1, 109:6, 109:15, 110:12, 117:14, 117:21, 117:23, 118:23, 119:14, 120:4, 124:24, 126:12, 126:22, 127:7, 127:20, 128:11, 129:18, 130:7, 131:8, 133:14, 133:17, 135:8, 135:12, 138:9, 138:13 cost [1] - 75:21 costs [2] - 69:23, 70:3 Council [4] - 92:9, 93:4, 94:7, 94:16 council [1] - 130:15 councilman [1] - 94:10 count [1] - 85:20 counties [3] - 90:3, 126:21, 128:6

COUNTY [3] - 1:6, 2:1, 140:2 county [3] - 66:16, 66:18, 122:10 County [76] - 2:21, 6:3, 6:7, 10:17, 11:7, 26:18, 26:22, 26:23, 27:5, 29:13, 32:11, 34:16, 47:20, 48:1, 57:22, 58:2, 58:9, 58:17, 60:10, 60:13, 65:6, 65:8, 65:9, 65:13, 66:19, 66:20, 67:13, 68:11, 69:15, 77:11, 82:13, 90:9, 91:15, 95:18, 98:8, 98:10, 98:16, 98:18, 100:5, 100:8, 101:15, 102:8, 102:12, 104:11, 104:17, 104:22, 104:24, 105:1, 105:4, 114:3, 115:4, 115:7, 115:18, 116:23, 120:8, 120:23, 120:24, 121:12, 121:19, 122:1, 122:10, 122:14, 122:22, 122:24, 123:13, 124:11, 126:2, 129:14, 130:4, 132:18, 133:3, 133:12, 133:15, 137:23, 138:19, 138:20 couple [5] - 16:6, 69:1, 76:20, 95:12, 105:19 course [1] - 89:3 Court [1] - 3:8 court [2] - 89:18, 89:20 courts [1] - 89:24 cover [2] - 15:6, 128:10 covered [2] - 72:23, 129:6 covers [1] - 126:21 Craig [4] - 2:13, 3:15, 24:10, 51:11 create [4] - 18:11, 43:4, 45:22, 53:7 created [2] - 58:2, 59:17 Creek [1] - 103:6 creek [4] - 91:13, 91:16, 91:19, 91:22 cross [4] - 23:17, 28:20, 100:22, 101:2 crossing [1] - 71:1 CSR [3] - 1:21, 3:9, 140:22 culvert [7] - 20:10, 20:14, 23:2, 23:9, 23:24, 24:1, 63:21 culverts [1] - 101:6 current [1] - 129:13 cut [2] - 72:19 cycle [3] - 56:11, 99:22, 112:20 Cypress [1] - 103:6 damaging [1] - 55:6 darn [1] - 134:6 date [6] - 88:1, 88:2, 88:3, 88:4, 111:9, 139:14 dated [2] - 97:12, 111:2 David [1] - 3:17 DC [1] - 40:21 dead [1] - 22:6

deal [5] - 17:4, 19:1, 44:21, 108:4, 119:11 deals [1] - 70:8 dear [1] - 115:9 decades [2] - 49:23, 55:15 decibels [2] - 39:20, 41:9 decided [1] - 86:8 decides [1] - 72:14 decision [2] - 102:16, 122:23 DeClerck [2] - 2:15, 4:2 DECLERCK [4] - 4:3, 86:22, 124:22, 125:1 decline [2] - 60:24, 61:4 decommission [2] - 69:22, 131:24 decommissioned [1] - 75:16 decommissioning [11] -49:5, 70:5, 70:11, 70:22, 71:19, 131:10, 131:13, 131:16, 131:17, 132:2, 132:8 deconstruction [1] - 70:5 decrease [2] - 104:3, 125:21 deep [3] - 57:10, 73:22, 86:23 deeper [1] - 44:11 Deere [1] - 28:18 defeat [1] - 131:6 defer [2] - 21:21, 129:10 defined [3] - 30:22, 31:11, 31:13 defines [2] - 17:13, 30:16 defining [1] - 31:7 definitely [7] - 21:15, 29:22, 35:16, 54:21, 108:20, 110:8, 124:7 definition [5] - 30:11, 30:15, 30:18, 31:8, 31:15 deliberation [2] - 7:12, 118:9 deliberations [2] - 8:14, 8:15 deliveries [3] - 47:17, 47:23, 48:4 delivery [1] - 129:1 demonstrate [3] - 40:6, 41:9, demonstrates [1] - 58:11 demonstrating [1] - 80:12 denial [1] - 122:21 denied [6] - 121:19, 123:19, 136:20, 138:7, 138:8, 138:12 deny [11] - 121:24, 122:8, 136:2, 136:24, 137:1, 137:3, 137:7, 137:9, 137:12, 138:10, 138:14 denying [1] - 136:22 department [2] - 116:23 Department [5] - 12:19, 50:23, 50:24, 61:9, 72:9 dependent [1] - 109:2 depreciation [2] - 60:24, 61:4

depth [2] - 72:20, 72:21 describe [1] - 96:3 **description** [1] - 34:20 design [15] - 18:3, 34:14, 39:20, 41:24, 42:21, 46:2, 46:10, 47:7, 47:10, 50:10, 53:8, 53:9, 57:12, 70:19 designed [1] - 129:3 designing [1] - 57:7 detail [1] - 13:24 determination [2] - 67:21, 133:13 determine [3] - 51:12, 52:23, 57:9 determined [1] - 18:21 detrimental [1] - 120:17 devalued [1] - 59:3 developed [2] - 12:18, 70:6 developers [1] - 88:24 development [9] - 56:11, 70:16, 93:3, 93:17, 93:24, 112:20, 126:7, 126:11, 127:9 device [4] - 30:23, 31:1, 31:16, 32:5 devices [2] - 31:3, 39:22 dialogue [1] - 106:21 difference [2] - 6:12, 23:16 different [16] - 13:1, 13:3, 14:15, 28:10, 48:22, 58:3, 58:14, 59:17, 83:9, 84:19, 96:20, 101:16, 103:17, 125:19, 133:7 differently [2] - 48:23, 72:15 dig [1] - 73:22 diligence [11] - 47:6, 50:9, 52:15, 55:17, 55:21, 57:3, 57:13, 57:18, 102:19, 116:14, 116:19 diligently [1] - 66:11 dimensions [2] - 33:13, 38:3 diminish [1] - 124:20 direct [3] - 27:7, 66:7, 113:17 direction [2] - 6:9, 21:18 directly [10] - 11:9, 13:14, 27:20, 43:9, 50:23, 62:14, 70:8, 83:5, 99:1, 100:6 dirt [1] - 108:12 disagreeing [1] - 31:18 discharge [2] - 56:1, 128:15 discount [1] - 103:23 discover [1] - 116:21 discovered [1] - 53:1 discuss [1] - 7:24 discussed [5] - 8:1, 37:7, 97:4, 119:18, 128:4 discusses [1] - 51:1 discussion [7] - 7:16, 48:15, 118:10, 120:6, 124:3, 128:21, 135:24 discussions [3] - 62:11,

100:13, 129:14

dissipated [1] - 40:2 distress [1] - 115:16 distribution [1] - 103:14 district [10] - 23:8, 23:13, 52:1, 63:19, 101:3, 101:4, 106:1, 106:18, 124:13, 132:14 District [2] - 23:19, 29:17 districts [1] - 100:23 disturb [1] - 73:21 ditch [4] - 20:17, 23:18, 44:10, 91:22 ditches [1] - 91:13 diverge [1] - 53:6 divided [1] - 60:1 **Division** [1] - 104:21 **DNR** [1] - 29:20 doable [2] - 85:8, 88:20 documentation [1] - 78:5 documented [2] - 132:19, 133:23 dollar [4] - 60:4, 131:21, 131:22 done [20] - 11:18, 21:3, 27:3, 31:10, 31:18, 34:19, 45:4, 45:15, 47:24, 52:17, 53:22, 58:10, 58:18, 59:14, 80:12, 102:11, 102:17, 114:19, 116:13, 122:15 door [4] - 7:9, 7:15, 105:12 Door [1] - 2:12 Dorr [5] - 3:20, 4:15, 134:3, 136:21, 137:11 DORR [32] - 3:21, 4:13, 5:13, 16:4, 39:2, 75:4, 85:18, 86:19, 87:8, 87:22, 90:2, 90:9, 90:15, 120:22, 122:9, 122:19, 123:17, 123:24, 126:9, 132:21, 133:6, 134:13, 134:16, 136:2, 136:22, 137:6, 137:10, 137:12, 137:16, 138:17, 138:22, 139:6 dotting [1] - 71:2 down [12] - 7:7, 43:21, 58:13, 68:3, 82:23, 83:3, 88:23, 109:13, 111:18, 111:21, 131:5, 140:7 draft [1] - 106:14 Drainage [2] - 23:19, 54:3 drainage [38] - 13:8, 20:17, 23:3, 23:6, 23:7, 23:13, 23:14, 23:18, 44:11, 49:6, 49:9, 49:12, 49:18, 50:1, 50:8, 50:13, 50:17, 50:19, 51:1, 52:1, 55:18, 63:11, 63:19, 63:23, 64:3, 100:23, 101:2, 101:4, 105:22, 105:24, 106:1, 106:14, 107:13, 107:15, 124:12, 127:13, 127:22, 127:23 drawing [2] - 18:5, 107:13 drive [2] - 42:11, 54:7

driveway [24] - 18:7, 18:9, 18:18, 20:14, 22:20, 38:1, 38:14, 38:19, 38:20, 43:12, 44:1, 44:5, 44:9, 45:11, 45:22, 46:8, 63:20, 63:22, 109:1, 109:4, 109:8, 110:2, 119:24, 128:9 driving [1] - 76:7 drought [1] - 90:18 drove [1] - 90:16 **dry** [2] - 54:19, 108:12 dryer [1] - 78:1 due [11] - 47:5, 50:9, 52:14, 55:16, 55:21, 57:3, 57:13, 57:18, 102:19, 116:14, 116:19 duly [4] - 8:22, 30:9, 80:17, 94:13 durable [2] - 76:4, 76:13 during [5] - 44:8, 47:16, 59:17, 108:9, 128:1 dust [2] - 99:21, 108:7 dwelling [3] - 14:8, 14:10, e-mail [2] - 27:8, 111:15 early [6] - 18:21, 55:16, 64:20, 72:17, 107:7, 133:17 earth [2] - 32:14, 73:21 easier [3] - 14:16, 18:15, 19:5 easily [1] - 43:21 East [3] - 11:7, 22:1, 92:13 east [16] - 11:10, 11:15, 11:22, 12:6, 21:24, 22:6, 34:3, 34:4, 34:5, 34:9, 43:4, 43:6, 74:14, 74:21, 86:17, 92:20 easy [2] - 41:22, 53:9 eclipse [1] - 88:6 economic [6] - 59:13, 59:15, 60:11, 93:3, 93:23, 103:21 edges [1] - 93:9 effect [8] - 45:13, 50:16, 63:2, 72:16, 77:3, 110:1, 124:2, 130:8 effectively [4] - 28:15, 28:19, 40:2, 45:22 effectiveness [1] - 6:18 effects [3] - 68:4, 68:17, 68:22 efficient [1] - 71:15 Effingham [2] - 92:15, 92:17 effort [1] - 33:14 efforts [4] - 45:2, 45:11, 119:20, 120:3 egress [1] - 129:3 eight [1] - 96:19 either [8] - 47:24, 48:18, 78:3, 78:5, 86:23, 123:13, 133:10, 138:19 elaborate [1] - 47:16

estate [1] - 125:7 98:10, 99:12, 99:16, 101:1, electric [2] - 103:9, 103:23 101:19, 103:10 Electric [2] - 68:13, 69:11 estimate [2] - 26:5, 59:16 fact [1] - 93:21 estimated [1] - 69:22 electrical [2] - 38:22, 43:12 factor [7] - 7:1, 29:7, 61:13, electricity [4] - 31:1, 32:6, estimation [1] - 59:20 75:23, 86:12, 120:19, 104:2, 112:5 et [2] - 47:17, 57:15 elevation [2] - 23:15, 107:20 127:16 evaluate [1] - 43:24 eleven [1] - 96:20 evaluated [1] - 125:23 factors [14] - 81:22, 82:2, 85:2, 89:13, 89:21, 90:12, eligible [1] - 7:8 evening [4] - 5:22, 7:2, 7:9, 101:9, 101:13, 120:7, elimination [2] - 56:1, 128:15 7.21 120:12, 121:1, 123:12, emergency [1] - 107:4 event [1] - 105:16 123:23 evidence [9] - 102:17, **emit** [1] - 42:23 fairly [1] - 46:12 102:20, 111:2, 117:9, emphasize [1] - 80:4 faith [7] - 77:2, 97:2, 99:10, 117:15, 120:10, 125:18, enacted [1] - 83:20 101:3, 110:1, 110:22, encourage [1] - 115:17 130:13, 134:5 120:3 exactly [5] - 24:1, 29:5, encouragement [1] - 60:7 fall [2] - 77:22, 128:17 end [8] - 15:16, 15:22, 53:17, 33:24, 35:9, 38:4 familiar [4] - 56:16, 59:5, 53:18, 72:10, 75:3, 90:19, Exactly [1] - 134:13 103:4, 116:12 example [1] - 97:19 104:24 family [3] - 55:15, 55:18, endanger [1] - 120:17 excellent [1] - 102:18 55:20 except [4] - 76:12, 84:16, ends [1] - 21:2 fan [3] - 40:13, 40:14, 40:24 122:10, 132:15 energy [15] - 17:13, 30:16, fancy [1] - 80:20 excess [1] - 45:7 30:19, 30:21, 30:24, 31:9, fantastic [1] - 110:15 **exchanged** [1] - 106:10 32:6, 32:12, 32:13, 40:21, far [18] - 18:5, 22:3, 23:8, 41:6, 85:3, 101:1, 104:4 excuse [1] - 11:20 38:4, 39:6, 39:8, 44:15, engineer [6] - 40:5, 57:4, executed [1] - 132:9 57:11, 57:17, 58:24, 83:11, 57:19, 69:7, 70:6, 116:15 exercise [2] - 96:9, 104:20 86:13, 110:4, 114:19, engineering [2] - 56:23, exercised [1] - 83:24 126:18, 127:3, 127:9, exercising [1] - 105:4 130:16 enjoyment [4] - 124:17, exert [1] - 104:13 farm [8] - 19:1, 19:17, 19:22, 124:23, 125:2, 128:20 existing [2] - 38:9, 125:15 20:7, 50:24, 115:11, enlarged [2] - 83:10, 83:16 expand [1] - 81:17 115:12, 122:11 ensure [1] - 69:4 expanding [3] - 92:7, 92:22, farmed [2] - 34:12, 35:2 entered [1] - 50:22 102:23 farmer [1] - 20:6 entertain [3] - 117:8, 117:20, **expansion** [1] - 93:12 farming [2] - 20:4, 49:17 139:4 expect [1] - 99:11 farmland [1] - 72:11 entire [2] - 36:19, 94:16 expectations [1] - 114:7 farms [1] - 66:14 entirely [1] - 33:15 experience [2] - 107:24, fast [1] - 25:8 entrance [7] - 37:23, 38:3, 113:17 fault [1] - 55:10 78:8, 108:4, 119:8, 121:17, expert [2] - 51:7, 56:23 favor [6] - 4:15, 5:7, 5:18, 128.2 expertise [3] - 29:9, 50:5, 117:16, 118:2, 139:9 entrances [2] - 119:13, 128:2 54:1 favorably [1] - 29:20 entry [1] - 20:9 **expire** [1] - 135:5 feasible [1] - 119:22 enumerated [1] - 83:24 extends [2] - 20:15, 62:16 February [23] - 4:19, 7:14, envision [3] - 88:23, 109:22, extra [1] - 18:14 10:21, 11:2, 11:17, 15:17, 109:23 eye [1] - 100:16 27:11, 37:14, 37:15, 47:8, equipment [8] - 19:23, eyes [1] - 83:22 56:21, 58:19, 60:17, 63:9, 21:19, 28:17, 38:22, 42:13, **FAA**[1] - 98:1 78:6, 79:23, 81:3, 84:13, 42:14, 43:12, 110:3 face [1] - 10:10 87:12, 87:20, 112:9, **Equity** [1] - 92:16 Facebook [2] - 112:8, 112:14 114:15, 118:14 Equity's [1] - 92:17 FaceTime [1] - 7:8 February's [1] - 112:1 erosion [3] - 13:6, 56:3, facilities [3] - 39:16, 59:10, Federal [3] - 67:19, 67:23, 128:14 127:14 97:22 error [1] - 125:22 facility [46] - 11:9, 11:23, federal [3] - 68:20, 116:20, escapes [1] - 20:12 12:6, 12:8, 13:7, 14:7, 120:10 especially [6] - 54:17, 57:7, 14:13, 15:4, 17:13, 17:15, feedback [4] - 20:23, 47:8, 69:11, 100:14, 113:9, 29:22, 30:17, 32:13, 32:17, 99:5, 101:19 128:1 32:18, 32:19, 39:20, 39:22, fees [3] - 65:4, 131:1, 132:2 essentially [3] - 67:22, 39:24, 40:3, 40:15, 40:20, feet [27] - 6:12, 12:4, 12:9, 74:11, 74:13 47:10, 48:14, 54:22, 57:12, 14:8, 14:10, 16:17, 16:23, established [1] - 28:5 58:12, 59:16, 61:5, 61:7, 17:8, 19:8, 23:16, 30:5, establishment [2] - 120:15, 61:11, 61:17, 63:24, 64:11,

64:15, 95:17, 96:6, 98:2,

126:6

30:13, 32:22, 33:7, 33:8,

33:12, 35:14, 35:20, 35:21,

37:24, 38:7, 38:9, 74:2, 74:3, 86:14, 107:20 felt [1] - 125:22 fence [29] - 12:2, 12:4, 12:8, 12:12, 12:14, 14:4, 15:1, 16:11, 16:14, 19:1, 19:17, 19:20, 33:6, 33:10, 33:19, 34:3, 34:8, 35:14, 35:19, 35:24, 38:5, 39:23, 41:14, 64:13, 67:17, 99:17, 113:9, 113:11 field [14] - 23:6, 23:14, 29:9, 50:2, 50:5, 50:7, 51:20, 52:6, 52:20, 52:24, 83:4, 91:10, 91:12, 128:2 fifty [2] - 14:9, 85:23 fifty-three [1] - 85:23 **figuration** [1] - 20:3 figure [2] - 51:21, 51:23 fill [1] - 133:4 final [14] - 8:13, 47:7, 50:9, 57:12, 76:21, 77:7, 121:2, 121:19, 128:13, 130:3, 130:5, 131:12, 133:13 finalize [1] - 135:18 finalized [3] - 131:17, 132:8, 133:11 finally [1] - 7:13 financial [2] - 61:3, 75:18 fine [2] - 76:10, 123:24 first [17] - 4:7, 15:13, 25:15, 28:11, 29:2, 29:7, 51:8, 51:18, 51:22, 54:15, 59:19, 60:20, 60:22, 95:12, 99:13, 125:4, 130:12 fit [1] - 96:6 **five** [7] - 26:13, 60:3, 74:3, 86:14, 95:23, 96:19, 131:22 flat [1] - 23:17 flexibility [2] - 79:5, 79:7 flexible [2] - 22:13, 76:20 flooding [2] - 56:3, 128:14 floor [2] - 8:20, 16:2 flow [3] - 91:9, 92:3, 124:13 flows [2] - 44:12, 107:16 folks [4] - 29:14, 44:14, 71:4, 76:5 follow [4] - 6:10, 100:4, 104:15, 105:18 follow-up [1] - 105:18 following [6] - 10:20, 11:17, 35:9, 68:15, 68:16, 68:20 fondly [1] - 76:6 foot [2] - 19:3, 19:14 forced [1] - 122:10 forecast [1] - 59:20 foregoing [2] - 140:6, 140:9 forever [1] - 131:3 forgive [2] - 28:9, 39:11 forgot [1] - 39:11

form [2] - 111:19, 140:8

	100 1 100 =		10.1.1
forming [1] - 31:3	123:4, 123:5	graphic [3] - 32:21, 35:4,	134:4
forms [1] - 57:11	glad [4] - 16:24, 27:22,	79:17	hearings [6] - 5:23, 7:3, 7:14,
forth [1] - 104:21	45:20, 85:5	grass [1] - 24:13	123:5, 129:23, 134:21
forward [3] - 11:1, 94:12,	glare [1] - 99:20	gray [1] - 45:24	held [3] - 4:10, 5:12, 55:4
134:2	glass [1] - 74:14	great [2] - 10:14, 121:17	help [8] - 13:7, 29:10, 44:14,
foul [1] - 74:24	Glen [7] - 2:10, 3:22, 4:11,	green [15] - 12:10, 12:15,	44:19, 45:2, 53:24, 69:22,
	5:15, 117:13, 136:8,	•	69:23
four [15] - 26:13, 88:15,		15:3, 30:4, 30:12, 31:3,	
90:18, 91:5, 96:19, 121:20,	136:19	32:5, 33:9, 33:18, 33:21,	helpful [1] - 46:23
122:16, 122:17, 122:20,	Glenda [2] - 3:7, 94:13	34:4, 34:7, 99:24, 101:20,	helping [1] - 56:16
123:7, 136:11, 138:2,	<b>GLENDA</b> [2] - 94:8, 94:15	114:16	hereby [1] - 140:5
138:13, 138:23	<b>goal</b> [1] - 76:22	<b>Green</b> [3] - 87:13, 87:17,	hesitant [1] - 46:11
frame [2] - 74:12, 74:13	<b>golf</b> [1] - 76:8	87:19	high [8] - 11:12, 11:14,
framework [1] - 77:1	GOODRICH [8] - 3:23, 4:11,	grid [3] - 38:23, 79:3, 82:12	13:23, 25:5, 43:2, 43:5,
free [1] - 7:11	5:15, 117:13, 136:8,	gross [2] - 62:8, 62:9	75:2, 99:3
frequently [2] - 25:2, 25:9	136:20, 137:1, 137:8	ground [2] - 74:23, 109:19	higher [1] - 75:22
friendly [1] - 12:22	Goodrich [7] - 2:10, 3:22,	grounds [1] - 19:20	highest [1] - 107:21
• • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	_	_
front [4] - 53:17, 96:3,	4:11, 5:15, 117:13, 136:8,	group [1] - 103:5	highlighted [1] - 6:14
105:11, 110:17	136:19	groups [1] - 59:2	Highway [1] - 38:12
<b>FS</b> [1] - 91:14	goodrich [1] - 7:10	<b>grow</b> [6] - 13:2, 25:5, 25:8,	highway [1] - 21:23
fulfilled [1] - 102:14	Google [2] - 112:7, 112:14	81:17, 93:1, 93:15	<b>highways</b> [1] - 22:3
fulfilling [1] - 67:14	<b>grab</b> [1] - 76:2	growed [1] - 24:24	hinge [1] - 45:4
full [14] - 9:10, 10:24, 34:19,	<b>grade</b> [1] - 25:4	growing [2] - 92:7, 92:21	hinges [1] - 45:9
37:14, 51:9, 61:3, 61:8,	Grandon [3] - 3:5, 8:22,	guess [10] - 17:21, 63:6,	hire [1] - 29:8
61:15, 61:16, 106:19,	85:17	69:3, 71:21, 89:11, 116:5,	hired [2] - 113:12, 113:17
118:20, 124:3, 125:5,	<b>GRANDON</b> [141] - 9:2, 9:9,	127:20, 127:23, 128:12,	historic [1] - 86:18
133:5	9:16, 10:8, 15:24, 16:12,	133:21	hit [5] - 50:13, 50:14, 53:20,
fully [3] - 14:14, 80:13,	16:18, 17:9, 18:6, 19:7,	guide [1] - 120:6	54:9, 76:8
106:11	19:12, 19:16, 20:1, 20:13,	<b>guys</b> [14] - 10:9, 10:11, 28:9,	hitting [2] - 53:4, 53:10
funding [1] - 71:1	21:8, 21:20, 22:5, 22:10,	47:20, 55:24, 59:12, 74:12,	holding [2] - 13:9, 50:18
further [21] - 14:4, 17:7,	22:16, 23:11, 24:8, 24:15,	74:13, 76:23, 81:3, 85:16,	home [5] - 84:11, 85:13,
17:20, 31:19, 34:22, 38:10,	24:19, 25:1, 25:14, 25:18,	102:15, 103:4, 121:16	88:15, 89:2, 114:9
46:1, 47:10, 47:11, 48:15,	25:21, 26:3, 26:7, 26:12,	habitat [1] - 12:22	homeowner [3] - 7:18, 8:2,
79:19, 89:1, 110:22,	26:17, 27:17, 28:2, 28:7,	Haines [4] - 1:20, 3:8, 140:4,	35:2
111:18, 119:8, 119:21,	29:4, 29:15, 30:1, 32:7,	140:22	
120:1, 132:23, 134:1,	32:24, 33:24, 34:13, 35:6,	half [5] - 84:2, 100:15,	homeowners' [1] - 37:24
134:4, 134:5	35:22, 36:12, 36:22, 37:5,	104:10, 104:14, 126:15	honest [2] - 41:22, 73:11
future [4] - 18:15, 18:17,	37:9, 38:2, 38:17, 39:4,		honestly [1] - 20:19
115:14, 115:19	39:15, 41:19, 42:4, 42:8,	Hamilton [1] - 3:4	hook [1] - 55:7
•	42:20, 44:22, 45:19, 47:2,	hammered [1] - 28:15	hope [7] - 46:19, 72:1, 80:11,
Garrett [2] - 3:7, 94:13	47:19, 49:3, 49:11, 51:5,	hand [3] - 37:16, 52:5,	97:8, 99:7, 99:12, 117:4
GARRETT <sub>[2]</sub> - 94:8, 94:15		140:12	hopefully [1] - 74:20
general [11] - 53:23, 56:16,	51:8, 51:14, 51:17, 52:12,	handout [2] - 4:21, 74:4	hoping [2] - 77:19, 97:6
58:6, 60:9, 98:5, 103:15,	52:18, 52:24, 53:13, 54:10,	hands [2] - 51:21, 122:22	hours [4] - 47:16, 47:21,
120:18, 121:1, 122:4,	54:16, 55:4, 56:4, 56:10,	hands-on [1] - 51:21	128:22, 129:1
134:18	57:1, 57:16, 58:5, 59:5,	happy [4] - 17:21, 21:2,	house [7] - 39:14, 84:22,
generally [2] - 19:2, 103:11	59:14, 60:21, 61:2, 61:23,	43:16, 108:20	85:7, 86:22, 92:14, 92:19,
generate [1] - 104:2	62:5, 62:13, 63:15, 64:19,	hard [4] - 14:23, 72:1, 90:24,	92:21
generated [1] - 59:18	65:22, 66:3, 66:15, 66:22,	107:8	housekeeping [1] - 95:12
generating [2] - 32:5, 61:21	67:3, 67:8, 68:8, 69:6,	harder [1] - 18:16	HOWARD [41] - 4:1, 5:5,
generation [2] - 30:24, 40:17	70:4, 70:13, 71:7, 71:13,	harvest [2] - 77:22, 99:21	25:15, 25:20, 26:2, 26:4,
gentleman [1] - 23:21	71:23, 72:22, 73:6, 73:10,	hazard [2] - 67:21, 97:24	26:10, 26:15, 27:16, 37:2,
<b>geo</b> [2] - 56:23, 135:18	73:16, 73:19, 74:6, 74:8,	hazardous [2] - 64:10, 74:10	37:7, 53:10, 64:14, 65:19,
geo-engineering [2] - 56:23,	74:19, 75:6, 75:14, 76:22,	head [5] - 17:22, 73:11, 74:1,	66:1, 66:13, 66:21, 74:4,
135:18	77:10, 77:15, 77:18, 78:9,	111:12, 113:23	74:7, 74:18, 81:10, 86:11,
geographic [1] - 103:15	78:13, 78:16, 78:20, 79:1,	health [2] - 60:9, 120:17	87:1, 88:1, 88:4, 118:11,
geological [2] - 82:17, 82:19	79:8, 79:15, 79:21, 80:10,	hear [5] - 13:20, 27:19,	118:17, 122:5, 122:16,
geotechnical [4] - 57:3,	95:11, 106:5, 106:9,	39:24, 46:24, 81:4	123:2, 123:9, 125:15,
57:19, 116:15, 124:7	106:19, 107:19, 108:19,		127:16, 129:6, 130:14,
	109:3, 109:11, 109:21,	heard [3] - 13:15, 86:16,	
Germany [1] - 75:10	110:14, 111:6, 111:11,	129:14	134:6, 136:18, 137:2, 137:5, 138:20, 130:8
GIS [1] - 35:1	112:3, 112:10, 113:2,	hearing [14] - 6:6, 7:5, 7:15,	137:5, 138:20, 139:8
Given [1] - 140:12	113:7, 113:22, 114:14,	10:21, 11:17, 27:4, 27:12,	Howard [5] - 2:11, 3:24,
given [7] - 4:21, 58:18,	116:11	37:14, 58:19, 79:24,	7:10, 37:1, 136:17
110:20, 120:6, 122:6,	grant (4) = 92·10	114:15, 123:6, 130:12,	hundred [5] - 14:9, 62:6,

grant [1] - 92:10

125:21 130:3 80:6, 111:12, 111:22 knows [5] - 11:6, 62:1, hydraulic [1] - 28:16 indicates [3] - 32:17, 122:2, issued [1] - 61:10 92:16, 105:11, 109:23 issues [2] - 56:24, 136:3 hydrology [1] - 128:13 125:24 labor [1] - 70:2 indicating [1] - 134:9 laborers [1] - 109:17 hypothetically [1] - 102:22 item [7] - 5:10, 57:13, 94:5, individual [1] - 120:13 idea [2] - 72:20, 78:16 104:6, 124:15, 127:12, laborious [1] - 52:6 ideal [1] - 73:13 industrial [1] - 98:12 129:16 laid [1] - 74:24 ideally [5] - 29:18, 73:12, industry [3] - 70:14, 75:7, Item [1] - 124:16 Lake [2] - 92:1, 92:3 items [10] - 7:18, 7:24, 9:11, Lakeland [1] - 59:22 78:1, 109:3, 113:13 103:20 informally [1] - 100:14 27:14, 67:2, 67:18, 68:22, ideas [1] - 133:8 laminated [1] - 76:14 identify [1] - 50:8 information [6] - 13:13, 66:7, 95:12, 120:20, 132:19 land [19] - 10:17, 13:8, 17:23, 97:13, 102:19, 121:14, itself [14] - 16:19, 17:19, 18:13, 41:11, 49:17, 61:16, **ILCS** [2] - 32:9, 100:24 28:22, 32:19, 35:23, 42:21, 121:15 ILLINOIS [1] - 140:1 61:21, 65:2, 65:12, 66:16, informed [1] - 65:20 50:7, 60:3, 63:23, 65:6, 66:18, 72:12, 96:4, 96:5, Illinois [19] - 3:4, 12:19, informing [1] - 87:15 68:19, 70:22, 98:24, 12:21, 21:23, 30:18, 39:17, 98:11, 101:23, 115:15 106:13 50:17, 50:22, 54:2, 57:22, infrastructure [1] - 49:6 landfill [3] - 75:12, 75:16, Janet [3] - 2:15, 4:2, 124:24 58:7, 67:12, 70:7, 82:10, ingress [1] - 129:3 76:3 JARRED [4] - 130:13, 134:1, landlocked [1] - 81:20 82:11, 82:14, 83:21, 104:8, injurious [1] - 124:17 134:7, 134:14 input [3] - 7:16, 130:14, landowner [12] - 15:18, image [3] - 14:15, 48:7, Jarred [1] - 2:22 48:21, 49:5, 49:13, 55:19, 130.16 jeopardize [2] - 40:9, 116:24 72:12, 72:14, 73:2, 73:24, 114:1 inquiring [1] - 63:14 Joann [3] - 2:11, 3:24, 89:19, 119:20, 128:8 immediate [1] - 124:18 inside [3] - 19:20, 39:22, impact [10] - 50:21, 58:13. 136:17 landowners [7] - 13:14, 40:20 job [3] - 54:14, 80:12, 102:18 58:14, 59:13, 59:15, 60:11, 13:16, 26:18, 52:2, 52:15, **installation** [1] - 115:11 jobs [1] - 59:17 86:6, 128:22 64:4, 64:12, 64:13, 64:16 installing [1] - 53:11 Joe [6] - 2:12, 3:20, 4:14, language [4] - 104:16, 114:2, Impact [1] - 72:23 instance [2] - 130:24, 132:16 136:21, 137:11, 137:14 119:19, 119:23 impacts [4] - 42:24, 59:10, instead [1] - 71:18 Johnson [1] - 3:3 **LANHAM**[1] - 4:5 67:16, 99:16 intend [4] - 36:14, 37:23, joined [1] - 7:7 Lanham [2] - 2:16, 4:4 **impair** [1] - 124:20 39:10, 47:16 impede [4] - 23:10, 126:6, joint [1] - 108:22 large [2] - 40:22, 106:1 intent [1] - 106:19 126:11, 127:9 June [1] - 105:1 larger [1] - 116:10 intention [2] - 18:9, 104:1 implement [5] - 12:17, 36:13, intentions [3] - 77:6, 97:1, jurisdiction [16] - 21:22, LaSalle [10] - 81:22, 85:1, 36:18, 67:13, 113:18 89:12, 89:17, 89:18, 89:24, 99.9 60:1, 62:19, 65:3, 65:6, implemented [4] - 64:5, 65:8, 65:15, 65:18, 65:24, 90:7, 101:8, 101:13 intents [1] - 19:18 75:1, 101:15, 101:20 66:4, 66:20, 103:2, 104:10, last [13] - 13:11, 49:21, interconnection [28] - 37:3, 104:17, 126:16, 126:19 important [6] - 47:3, 53:17, 58:24, 60:17, 76:14, 79:4, 37:6, 37:19, 38:16, 38:18, 57:6, 82:4, 92:24, 134:16 jurisdictions [1] - 59:22 85:18, 86:3, 86:16, 92:8, 38:23, 43:18, 78:7, 78:22, importantly [1] - 82:1 **Kathy** [1] - 96:2 93:4, 114:22, 130:1 78:24, 79:2, 79:19, 97:11,  $\textbf{impossibility} \, [\textbf{1}] \textbf{ - } 137 ; 24$ keep [3] - 42:12, 65:16, lastly [1] - 137:17 97:15, 108:3, 109:2, 109:5, **improve** [1] - 93:2 110:3, 110:4, 111:1, 111:4, 76:13 late [2] - 121:6, 130:8 improvement [1] - 126:8 111:5, 118:12, 118:20, keeping [1] - 42:13 Law [1] - 2:22 IN [1] - 1:6 118:24, 119:6, 119:15, keeps [1] - 40:24 law [2] - 96:8, 120:10 incentive [1] - 103:21 119:16 **Keller** [1] - 3:3 laws [1] - 117:6 interest [2] - 85:1, 122:3 kept [1] - 100:16 lawyer [1] - 127:2 incentivized [1] - 25:6 interested [1] - 108:22 **Key** [3] - 87:13, 87:17, 87:19 inches [4] - 25:4, 36:21, lay [2] - 19:2, 65:2 90:18. 91:6 interesting [4] - 86:16, key [4] - 83:6, 83:8, 83:12, laying [1] - 109:13 101:8. 102:3. 126:2 129:21 learned [1] - 84:23 include [6] - 27:24, 29:12, 48:8, 89:4, 108:2, 127:24 interfacing [2] - 85:6, 88:16 kind [34] - 10:8, 13:18, 13:24, learning [1] - 51:18 19:23, 21:7, 44:6, 45:16, included [4] - 30:14, 58:8, interference [6] - 67:1, 68:1, lease [1] - 81:18 68:4, 69:2, 69:5, 69:12 46:4, 46:6, 46:9, 46:19, 84:3, 125:5 leased [3] - 34:21, 61:16 53:6, 56:2, 64:16, 65:16, interject [1] - 61:18 includes [5] - 17:14, 31:15, **least** [12] - 14:9, 14:13, 17:3, 69:23, 73:16, 82:1, 82:3, 36:5, 128:14 introducing [1] - 13:12 35:14, 38:7, 38:8, 49:22, 86:1, 89:1, 107:2, 107:8, including [3] - 23:24, 86:7, invalid [1] - 6:15 55:13, 74:1, 99:6, 114:6, 107:21, 108:8, 108:11, 120:12 inverters [6] - 40:15, 40:18, 123:12 incorporate [2] - 29:17, 109:13, 111:16, 114:17, leave [1] - 17:23 40:19, 41:23, 42:1, 42:22 120:6, 124:22, 125:1, 48:19 invest [1] - 47:5 leaves [1] - 64:7 125:3, 129:19 incorporated [2] - 23:23, investments [1] - 117:3 left [3] - 22:7, 23:20, 27:17 Kirby [1] - 93:21 114:2 investor [1] - 71:3 legal [2] - 34:20, 105:8 kit [1] - 9:10 increase [1] - 61:20 involved [1] - 23:4 legalese [1] - 98:22 Knappmiller [1] - 96:2 incredibly [1] - 33:15 involvement [1] - 85:11 legislation [1] - 60:7 knowledge [2] - 55:20, 85:17 indicate [3] - 59:1, 125:18, IPCB [2] - 41:7, 68:7 **Legislature** [2] - 67:12, known [3] - 23:14, 55:18, 125:20 ironed [1] - 21:14 101:11

95:1

issue [3] - 93:8, 116:22,

Len [7] - 2:14, 3:18, 16:6,

indicated [3] - 60:18, 112:5,

53:21, 68:15, 68:20, 69:10, 27:21, 42:2, 88:22, 105:19 Mary [3] - 2:21, 128:11, less [2] - 46:13, 74:24 105:24, 113:14, 116:20 135:14 locally [5] - 29:19, 29:21, lessees [1] - 82:9 **MARY** [34] - 9:18, 31:6, 103:18, 104:2, 127:18 letter [15] - 13:12, 13:21, 31:17, 31:24, 33:21, 115:4, 119:18, 123:3, 123:10, 26:20, 27:6, 27:18, 87:14, locate [1] - 52:21 95:18, 96:3, 96:16, 96:22, located [7] - 11:21, 11:22, 123:22, 124:1, 126:20, 127:1, 127:10, 128:3, 97:5, 97:19, 115:3, 115:5, 18:8, 38:19, 58:13, 78:24, 130:15 132:15 128:19, 129:22, 130:2, letters [3] - 26:5, 96:1, 97:18 location [13] - 14:17, 18:18, 130:11, 130:18, 131:12, level [4] - 13:23, 14:24, 20:24, 22:20, 38:14, 38:24, 132:7, 132:24, 133:18, 103:14, 116:13 42:1, 43:23, 83:1, 83:3, 135:16, 135:22, 136:10, liable [1] - 55:5 83:5, 95:5, 99:1 136:14, 136:23, 137:4, license [1] - 113:15 lock [1] - 115:15 138:1, 138:4, 138:15, 139:1 License [1] - 140:23 locked [1] - 131:3 material [3] - 64:3, 70:18, look [22] - 5:21, 15:23, 23:24, licensed [1] - 70:6 34:1, 38:19, 41:8, 41:11, 108:14 life [4] - 13:6, 72:10, 75:3, materials [6] - 41:13, 42:6, 43:8, 43:14, 57:4, 59:7, 130:23 64:11, 74:10, 74:23, 81:8, 88:13, 94:24, 111:16, lifetime [3] - 61:5, 61:7, 61:8 109:12 114:8, 114:11, 114:16, light [1] - 30:3 **MATTER**[1] - 1:6 122:12, 127:22, 129:9, likely [3] - 16:21, 61:2, 74:3 matter [1] - 41:24 131:7 **limitations** [1] - 39:18 maturity [2] - 113:20, 113:24 looking [7] - 11:23, 29:23, limited [2] - 99:22, 125:23 maximizes [1] - 20:4 38:5, 51:24, 78:2, 92:8, limiting [1] - 9:18 92:10 mayor [1] - 130:1 limits [14] - 11:7, 62:17, looks [4] - 29:20, 64:21, Mayor [5] - 87:18, 94:7, 62:19, 64:15, 66:14, 66:16, 72:3, 127:21 114:24, 115:5, 115:20 84:1, 84:3, 84:6, 98:6, louder [1] - 16:9 mean [26] - 17:8, 19:4, 22:4, 98:20, 102:23, 104:22, Louis [1] - 58:4 22:16, 24:12, 25:2, 31:6, 105:6 42:7, 51:4, 63:23, 69:24, love [2] - 15:6, 110:19 line [39] - 11:24, 12:5, 12:9, low [3] - 71:4, 71:5, 131:20 70:2, 71:9, 71:14, 72:20, 12:12, 13:17, 13:19, 14:24, 88:12, 89:6, 90:24, 92:3, lower [2] - 74:2, 75:23 15:1, 16:14, 19:4, 19:9, ma'am [2] - 87:5, 88:9 107:18, 108:11, 124:23, 19:13, 19:14, 19:18, 19:20, 125:12, 128:3, 129:22, madam [1] - 30:2 20:6, 27:7, 33:4, 33:11, 130:2 34:3, 34:5, 34:6, 34:7, mail [5] - 27:8, 27:18, 96:17, meaningful [1] - 100:19 96:23, 111:15 34:8, 35:24, 38:7, 39:24, means [1] - 62:23 41:15, 42:24, 43:1, 43:3, mailed [1] - 97:18 meant [1] - 103:18 43:6, 46:6, 60:6, 66:8, **maintaining** [1] - 47:12 measure [1] - 66:2 79:7, 93:6, 113:9, 113:11 maintenance [1] - 120:15 measures [1] - 129:2 lines [11] - 11:13, 11:15, major [3] - 37:19, 43:19, mechanically [1] - 40:4 19:2, 27:9, 35:15, 43:3, 76:12 meet [3] - 41:23, 108:21, 63:3, 65:4, 97:2, 99:3, majority [1] - 64:2 man [1] - 91:23 list [3] - 25:16, 27:15, 97:18 meeting [30] - 4:9, 4:19, man-made [1] - 91:23 listed [3] - 68:22, 69:1, 4:20, 5:1, 5:12, 5:14, 7:8, manage [1] - 113:15 120:12 11:2, 15:17, 56:21, 60:16, management [12] - 10:23, 63:9, 78:6, 79:4, 84:13, lists [1] - 70:18 12:18, 19:19, 24:21, 28:23, 85:18, 87:12, 87:16, 88:24, litigated [1] - 90:8 36:3, 36:13, 48:6, 48:13, 92:9, 93:4, 102:8, 108:22, litigation [1] - 89:20 48:20, 64:5, 75:1 112:1, 114:6, 118:7, little [35] - 10:10, 14:1, 14:15, manager [1] - 107:4 133:15, 139:11, 139:13 14:16, 15:15, 16:8, 17:7, maneuver [1] - 110:11 meetings [1] - 121:16 17:23, 18:14, 24:5, 32:24, manufacturer [1] - 41:10 megawatts [1] - 61:12 33:8, 35:7, 36:2, 37:10, manufacturer's [1] - 75:17 43:5, 43:13, 43:20, 44:2, **MEMBERS** [6] - 4:16, 5:8, map [11] - 83:1, 83:6, 83:7, 45:24, 46:20, 52:6, 59:7, 5:19, 117:17, 118:3, 83:9, 83:10, 83:13, 83:15, 76:9, 77:20, 77:23, 77:24, 139:10 86:10, 116:12, 124:6 members [3] - 7:11, 55:20, 91:16, 95:24, 98:22, maps [2] - 34:15, 125:8 101:19, 112:21, 116:16, March [5] - 4:9, 4:18, 10:18, memory [2] - 20:12, 37:2 121:5, 136:24 58:24, 64:24 live [2] - 80:22, 82:11 mention [3] - 17:1, 18:7, margin [1] - 125:22 lived [1] - 89:9 95:15 market [1] - 76:1 living [2] - 80:21, 84:12 mentioned [14] - 9:12, 56:21, marking [1] - 14:7 58:3, 64:23, 66:24, 97:16, **LLC** [1] - 3:3 marks [1] - 28:13 97:22, 100:12, 102:7, local [9] - 29:13, 29:23,

107:23, 112:23, 119:1, 127:17, 135:20 mentioning [1] - 64:9 mess [2] - 108:11, 119:11 met [2] - 120:14, 120:20 meter [2] - 103:9, 112:18 metes [1] - 34:20 mid [1] - 131:6 might [19] - 18:14, 18:23, 30:3, 31:21, 46:9, 48:21, 55:2, 55:9, 57:9, 61:18, 62:12, 69:7, 76:18, 77:20, 78:2, 89:12, 100:17, 111:14, 128:19 mike [1] - 106:9 Mike [4] - 23:21, 106:6, 106:8, 106:18 mile [13] - 55:3, 81:16, 84:5, 84:6, 92:6, 92:13, 92:19, 92:23, 100:15, 104:10, 104:14, 115:12, 126:14 miles [3] - 84:2, 100:10, 121:8 milestone [1] - 37:19 millage [1] - 59:24 million [2] - 60:4, 131:22 mind [4] - 21:22, 32:2, 57:15, 95:23 mine [9] - 82:20, 83:22, 86:2, 86:9, 86:11, 86:18, 86:24, 116:6, 116:12 Mine [1] - 83:5 mines [1] - 124:6 minimize [2] - 113:10, 129:4 minute [2] - 117:20, 118:5 minutes [9] - 4:9, 4:12, 4:20, 5:1, 5:11, 5:14, 60:17, 63:9, 112:1 mispronounce [1] - 104:8 Miss [2] - 37:1, 134:8 mistake [1] - 49:3 mitigation [1] - 50:21 Mitigation [1] - 72:24 Mizeur [5] - 3:6, 8:3, 27:14, 80:17, 96:13 MIZEUR [23] - 80:19, 81:2, 81:11, 84:4, 85:15, 85:21, 86:1, 87:4, 87:10, 87:24, 88:2, 88:5, 88:9, 89:3, 89:8, 89:16, 90:1, 90:21, 91:8, 91:21, 92:2, 93:20, 94:4 Mizeur's [1] - 104:7 Mizeurs [2] - 108:3, 108:21 model [1] - 61:3 modeling [1] - 75:18 modified [1] - 132:16 module [1] - 85:6 modules [2] - 70:1, 71:10 monetary [1] - 85:3 money [1] - 82:9

monitoring [1] - 54:22

month [1] - 133:20 morals [1] - 120:18 most [8] - 36:17, 53:2, 61:2, 67:9, 82:1, 86:14, 115:20, 134:16 motion [29] - 4:8, 4:12, 4:17, 5:1, 5:3, 5:9, 5:10, 5:13, 5:20, 15:16, 117:8, 117:10, 117:12, 117:14, 117:20, 117:21, 121:22, 121:24, 136:1, 136:2, 136:7, 136:22, 136:24, 138:8, 138:10, 138:17, 139:5, 139:6, 139:8 move [18] - 8:14, 43:11, 43:12, 43:21, 44:20, 79:4, 79:24, 88:19, 108:15, 110:2, 110:22, 117:23, 119:15, 119:21, 119:23, 128:8, 137:23, 138:2 moved [9] - 5:4, 24:5, 79:19, 85:8, 86:17, 86:20, 89:1, 108:24, 119:6 movements [1] - 114:18 moving [8] - 34:3, 34:4, 42:18, 44:5, 118:8, 121:17, 128:24, 134:2 mow [1] - 25:2 Moweaqua [3] - 50:6, 51:4, 51:7 mowed [1] - 24:23 mowing [1] - 25:9 MR [313] - 3:13, 3:15, 3:16, 3:17, 3:19, 3:20, 3:21, 3:22, 3:24, 4:2, 4:4, 4:6, 4:11, 4:13, 5:4, 5:13, 5:15, 9:2, 9:9, 9:16, 9:24, 10:8, 15:24, 16:4, 16:6, 16:12, 16:15, 16:18, 16:22, 17:9, 18:4, 18:6, 18:23, 19:7, 19:10, 19:15, 19:16, 19:22, 20:1, 20:8, 20:13, 21:5, 21:8, 21:17, 21:20, 22:2, 22:5, 22:9, 22:10, 22:13, 22:16, 22:24, 23:11, 24:7, 24:8, 24:10, 24:15, 24:18, 24:19, 24:23, 25:1, 25:11, 25:14, 25:18, 25:21, 26:3, 26:7, 26:12, 26:17, 27:17, 27:21, 28:2, 28:3, 28:7, 29:1, 29:4, 29:11, 29:15, 29:24, 30:1, 30:2, 30:10, 31:14, 31:21, 32:2, 32:7, 32:24, 33:24, 34:13, 35:6, 35:22, 36:12, 36:22, 37:5, 37:9, 38:2, 38:17, 39:2, 39:4, 39:15, 41:19, 42:2, 42:4, 42:7, 42:8, 42:11, 42:20, 44:3, 44:22, 45:14, 45:19, 46:22, 47:2, 47:14, 47:19, 49:3, 49:11, 51:5, 51:8, 51:11, 51:14, 51:15, 51:17, 52:8, 52:12, 52:14,

52:18, 52:22, 52:24, 53:13, 54:6, 54:10, 54:13, 54:16, 55:1, 55:4, 56:4, 56:10, 57:1, 57:16, 58:5, 59:5, 59:14, 60:21, 61:2, 61:18, 61:23, 62:4, 62:5, 62:9, 62:13, 63:15, 64:19, 65:22, 66:3, 66:15, 66:22, 67:3, 67:8, 68:8, 69:6, 69:21, 70:4, 70:10, 70:13, 71:5, 71:7, 71:9, 71:13, 71:17, 71:23, 72:18, 72:22, 73:4, 73:6, 73:8, 73:10, 73:14, 73:16, 73:18, 74:6, 74:8, 74:19, 75:4, 75:6, 75:11, 75:14, 76:18, 76:22, 77:9, 77:10, 77:13, 77:15, 77:17, 77:18, 78:9, 78:13, 78:16, 78:20, 79:1, 79:8, 79:15, 79:21, 80:10, 85:18, 86:19, 87:8, 87:22, 88:22, 89:4, 89:11, 89:23, 90:2, 90:9, 90:15, 93:16, 94:1, 95:11, 104:6, 105:19, 106:5, 106:8, 106:9, 106:16, 106:19, 107:12, 107:19, 107:23, 108:19, 109:1, 109:3, 109:6, 109:11, 109:15, 109:21, 110:12, 110:14, 111:6, 111:11, 112:3, 112:10, 113:2, 113:7, 113:22, 114:14, 115:24, 116:4, 116:10, 116:11, 117:10, 117:13, 117:14, 117:21, 117:24, 118:23, 119:14, 120:4, 120:22, 122:9, 122:19, 123:17, 123:24, 124:8, 124:24, 125:6, 125:16, 126:3, 126:9, 126:12, 126:22, 127:7, 127:20, 128:11, 129:18, 130:7, 130:13, 131:8, 131:20, 132:3, 132:21, 133:6, 133:14, 133:17, 134:1, 134:7, 134:13, 134:14, 134:16, 135:8, 135:12, 136:2, 136:8, 136:17, 136:19, 136:20, 136:21, 136:22, 137:1, 137:6, 137:8, 137:10, 137:11, 137:12, 137:13, 137:16, 137:17, 137:20, 138:8, 138:9, 138:13, 138:17, 138:22, 139:6 MS [102] - 4:1, 4:3, 4:5, 5:5, 9:18, 25:15, 26:2, 26:10, 26:15, 27:16, 31:6, 31:17, 31:24, 33:21, 37:2, 37:7, 53:10, 64:14, 65:19, 66:1, 66:13, 66:21, 74:4, 74:7,

74:18, 78:12, 81:2, 81:10,

84:4, 85:15, 85:21, 86:1,

91:8, 91:21, 92:2, 93:20, 94:4, 94:8, 94:15, 115:4, 118:11, 118:17, 119:18, 122:5, 122:16, 123:2, 123:3, 123:9, 123:10, 123:22, 124:1, 124:22, 125:1, 125:15, 126:20, 127:1, 127:10, 127:16, 128:3, 128:19, 129:6, 129:22, 130:2, 130:11, 130:14, 130:18, 131:12, 132:7, 132:24, 133:18, 134:6, 135:16, 135:22, 136:10, 136:14, 136:18, 136:23, 137:2, 137:4, 137:5, 138:1, 138:15, 138:20, 139:1, 139:8, 139:9 mud [1] - 108:13 multiple [1] - 27:12 municipal [1] - 115:3 Municipal [2] - 83:21, 104:9 municipality [13] - 7:16, 8:1, 8:8, 9:23, 15:18, 62:11, 63:8, 84:3, 94:6, 104:20, 104:23, 126:15, 126:22 must [2] - 51:19, 89:10 name [4] - 51:8, 51:9, 93:22, 106:6 named [1] - 23:21 names [2] - 4:23, 5:2 narrative [1] - 67:7 Nathan [2] - 115:5, 115:20 national [3] - 55:24, 68:15, 128:15 National [2] - 68:13, 69:11 **native** [2] - 12:23, 36:5 natural [1] - 18:19 Natural [1] - 12:19 nature [14] - 41:4, 47:23, 58:6, 63:18, 65:5, 68:18, 100:18, 101:7, 101:10, 102:22, 102:24, 103:24, 107:7, 109:14 near [1] - 119:17 nearby [1] - 52:3 nearly [1] - 85:17 necessarily [5] - 57:2, 83:18, 84:24, 85:2, 93:10 necessary [1] - 127:14 need [41] - 10:10, 14:9, 18:2, 18:14, 20:10, 20:20, 20:23, 21:13, 21:21, 22:11, 22:22, 23:3, 23:12, 23:18, 25:2, 26:15, 41:19, 43:24, 46:14, 51:22, 53:20, 54:13, 56:14, 57:10, 57:18, 57:20, 59:7, 68:10, 70:17, 93:15, 106:17, 116:20, 117:21,

86:11, 86:22, 87:1, 87:4,

87:10, 87:24, 88:1, 88:2,

89:8, 89:16, 90:1, 90:21,

88:4, 88:5, 88:9, 89:3,

118:19, 118:21, 120:21, 123:12, 123:13, 123:16, 135:15, 136:23 needed [2] - 25:10, 132:19 needing [1] - 15:22 needs [8] - 24:4, 82:5, 82:6, 121:19, 124:3, 133:23, 134:11, 134:12 negative [4] - 64:12, 64:13, 67:16, 68:21 negligible [1] - 59:9 negotiable [1] - 108:18 negotiate [1] - 108:1 negotiating [1] - 45:1 neighbor [13] - 13:21, 19:16, 26:5, 45:16, 46:17, 47:11, 77:3, 77:7, 89:10, 99:6, 99:18, 99:23, 101:24 neighboring [3] - 33:10, 43:1, 55:2 neighbors [6] - 27:4, 27:13, 46:18, 80:14, 97:17, 97:18 never [6] - 27:19, 49:24, 71:21, 74:2, 96:15, 131:3 new [10] - 6:22, 20:9, 62:3, 71:20, 75:22, 86:5, 93:23, 102:4, 122:11, 130:24 newer [1] - 41:1 newest [2] - 114:2, 114:3 next [8] - 5:10, 12:6, 12:8, 13:23, 58:13, 78:3, 94:5, 133.9 nexus [1] - 60:12 nice [5] - 12:16, 13:18, 69:7, 125:6, 125:12 Nichole [2] - 2:16, 4:4 Nicoll [1] - 3:3 night [5] - 7:3, 7:5, 7:13, 41:7, 93:21 nine [1] - 96:19 noise [13] - 39:11, 39:13, 39:21, 40:1, 40:13, 41:7, 41:13, 41:18, 42:19, 42:22, 43:5, 68:5, 68:19 non [3] - 32:22, 74:5, 74:10 non-participating [1] - 32:22 non-toxic [2] - 74:5, 74:10 normal [1] - 126:7 normally [1] - 135:9 North [8] - 5:24, 6:1, 6:23, 7:18, 21:24, 22:1, 22:6, 92:11 north [32] - 11:6, 11:12, 12:13, 14:20, 22:7, 24:5, 33:5, 33:9, 33:12, 38:6, 38:9, 38:10, 38:20, 42:17, 43:14, 44:5, 44:11, 45:11, 74:16, 78:8, 99:4, 107:17, 107:21, 108:24, 110:4, 110:22, 111:16, 111:17, 114:9, 114:10, 119:17, 126:10 northeast [1] - 103:7

northern [1] - 43:3	
1101 tiletti [1] - 43.3	103:6
Notary [2] - 140:4, 140:22	105:2
note [1] - 4:18	111:1
noted [1] - 4:22	123:1
notes [3] - 64:24, 118:16,	125:3
140:11	128:4
<b>nothing</b> [4] - 26:23, 66:11,	134:2
	135:1
100:5, 117:4	ones
notice [1] - 27:1	75:22
noticed [4] - 27:24, 42:13,	
48:5, 48:6	open [8
notification [1] - 100:10	63:3,
notifications [1] - 100:8	132:1
notified [1] - 129:22	opene
November [3] - 6:8, 78:6,	operat
114:4	operat
noxious [2] - 113:1, 113:6	107:6
NRCS [1] - 27:23	operat
nuisance [2] - 45:17, 108:15	128:2
Number [1] - 83:5	operat
number [8] - 11:19, 23:20,	operat
27:8, 61:12, 71:6, 84:14,	opine
96:23, 125:23	opinio
numbers [2] - 96:21, 132:6	132:3
oath [4] - 8:23, 30:9, 80:18,	oppor
94:14	8:10,
objectives [1] - 129:13	oppos
obligations [1] - 102:14	oppos
obviously [2] - 94:9, 94:15	oppos
occasional [1] - 25:9	123:1
occasionally [2] - 25:1,	optimi
62:15	option
October [1] - 6:7	order [
<b>OF</b> [11] - 1:6, 1:11, 2:2, 4:16,	63:21
5:8, 5:19, 117:17, 118:3,	orderl
139:10, 140:1, 140:2	ordina
	6:18,
offered [1] - 76:19	26:23
office [2] - 70:8, 109:16	60:13
<b>Office</b> [1] - 6:9	
- (() 00 0 400 40	69-15
official [1] - 118:17	83:17
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12	83:17 98:8,
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12	83:17 98:8, 104:1
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5 older [1] - 54:17	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 137:2
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5 older [1] - 54:17 omitted [1] - 104:15	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 137:2 ordina
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5 older [1] - 54:17 omitted [1] - 104:15 once [11] - 8:15, 24:2, 28:13,	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 137:2 <b>ordina</b> 102:8
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5 older [1] - 54:17 omitted [1] - 104:15 once [11] - 8:15, 24:2, 28:13, 40:3, 40:10, 42:11, 70:17,	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 0rdina 102:8 organi
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5 older [1] - 54:17 omitted [1] - 104:15 once [11] - 8:15, 24:2, 28:13, 40:3, 40:10, 42:11, 70:17, 70:23, 77:23, 86:9, 108:5	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 0rdina 102:8 organi
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5 older [1] - 54:17 omitted [1] - 104:15 once [11] - 8:15, 24:2, 28:13, 40:3, 40:10, 42:11, 70:17, 70:23, 77:23, 86:9, 108:5 one [70] - 10:22, 11:19,	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 ordina 102:8 organi orienta
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5 older [1] - 54:17 omitted [1] - 104:15 once [11] - 8:15, 24:2, 28:13, 40:3, 40:10, 42:11, 70:17, 70:23, 77:23, 86:9, 108:5 one [70] - 10:22, 11:19, 13:15, 18:6, 19:8, 23:1,	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 ordina 102:8 organi orienta
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5 older [1] - 54:17 omitted [1] - 104:15 once [11] - 8:15, 24:2, 28:13, 40:3, 40:10, 42:11, 70:17, 70:23, 77:23, 86:9, 108:5 one [70] - 10:22, 11:19, 13:15, 18:6, 19:8, 23:1, 23:20, 25:19, 26:2, 26:12,	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 ordina 102:8 organi orienta origina 111:7
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5 older [1] - 54:17 omitted [1] - 104:15 once [11] - 8:15, 24:2, 28:13, 40:3, 40:10, 42:11, 70:17, 70:23, 77:23, 86:9, 108:5 one [70] - 10:22, 11:19, 13:15, 18:6, 19:8, 23:1, 23:20, 25:19, 26:2, 26:12, 28:11, 29:21, 33:1, 33:3,	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 ordina 102:8 organi orienta origina 111:7
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5 older [1] - 54:17 omitted [1] - 104:15 once [11] - 8:15, 24:2, 28:13, 40:3, 40:10, 42:11, 70:17, 70:23, 77:23, 86:9, 108:5 one [70] - 10:22, 11:19, 13:15, 18:6, 19:8, 23:1, 23:20, 25:19, 26:2, 26:12, 28:11, 29:21, 33:1, 33:3, 35:18, 42:16, 47:2, 48:5,	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 ordina 102:8 organi orienta origina 111:7 origina 84:10
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5 older [1] - 54:17 omitted [1] - 104:15 once [11] - 8:15, 24:2, 28:13, 40:3, 40:10, 42:11, 70:17, 70:23, 77:23, 86:9, 108:5 one [70] - 10:22, 11:19, 13:15, 18:6, 19:8, 23:1, 23:20, 25:19, 26:2, 26:12, 28:11, 29:21, 33:1, 33:3, 35:18, 42:16, 47:2, 48:5, 52:10, 52:16, 59:1, 61:24,	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 137:2 ordina 102:8 organi orienta origina 111:7 origina 84:10 otherv
older [1] - 54:17  omitted [1] - 104:15  once [11] - 8:15, 24:2, 28:13, 40:3, 40:10, 42:11, 70:17, 70:23, 77:23, 86:9, 108:5  one [70] - 10:22, 11:19, 13:15, 18:6, 19:8, 23:1, 23:20, 25:19, 26:2, 26:12, 28:11, 29:21, 33:1, 33:3, 35:18, 42:16, 47:2, 48:5, 52:10, 52:16, 59:1, 61:24, 67:6, 67:18, 69:21, 73:20,	69:15 83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 137:2 ordina 102:8 organi orienta origina 111:7 origina 84:10 otherw oursel outcoi
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5 older [1] - 54:17 omitted [1] - 104:15 once [11] - 8:15, 24:2, 28:13, 40:3, 40:10, 42:11, 70:17, 70:23, 77:23, 86:9, 108:5 one [70] - 10:22, 11:19, 13:15, 18:6, 19:8, 23:1, 23:20, 25:19, 26:2, 26:12, 28:11, 29:21, 33:1, 33:3, 35:18, 42:16, 47:2, 48:5, 52:10, 52:16, 59:1, 61:24, 67:6, 67:18, 69:21, 73:20, 78:14, 81:10, 81:12, 82:15,	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 137:2 ordina 102:8 organi orienta origina 111:7 origina 84:10 otherv oursel
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5 older [1] - 54:17 omitted [1] - 104:15 once [11] - 8:15, 24:2, 28:13, 40:3, 40:10, 42:11, 70:17, 70:23, 77:23, 86:9, 108:5 one [70] - 10:22, 11:19, 13:15, 18:6, 19:8, 23:1, 23:20, 25:19, 26:2, 26:12, 28:11, 29:21, 33:1, 33:3, 35:18, 42:16, 47:2, 48:5, 52:10, 52:16, 59:1, 61:24, 67:6, 67:18, 69:21, 73:20, 78:14, 81:10, 81:12, 82:15, 82:19, 83:14, 83:16, 84:2,	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 137:2 ordina 102:8 organi orienta origina 111:7 origina 84:10 otherv oursel outcoi
official [1] - 118:17 officials [1] - 124:12 often [2] - 103:21, 111:19 old [4] - 50:1, 55:14, 62:3, 83:5 older [1] - 54:17 omitted [1] - 104:15 once [11] - 8:15, 24:2, 28:13, 40:3, 40:10, 42:11, 70:17, 70:23, 77:23, 86:9, 108:5 one [70] - 10:22, 11:19, 13:15, 18:6, 19:8, 23:1, 23:20, 25:19, 26:2, 26:12, 28:11, 29:21, 33:1, 33:3, 35:18, 42:16, 47:2, 48:5, 52:10, 52:16, 59:1, 61:24, 67:6, 67:18, 69:21, 73:20, 78:14, 81:10, 81:12, 82:15,	83:17 98:8, 104:1 105:3 127:3 130:2 137:2 ordina 102:8 organi orienta origina 111:7 origina 84:10 otherv oursel outcol outloo

99:3, 99:4, 99:6, 102:3,

```
6. 104:6. 104:19.
       20, 106:16, 111:9,
       10, 111:22, 121:1,
       19, 123:20, 124:2,
       3, 125:19, 126:17,
       4, 129:10, 130:19,
       21, 134:23, 135:9,
       11, 136:11
       [5] - 13:2, 13:4, 52:2,
       2. 78:10
       [8] - 15:21, 27:9, 32:1,
       66:7, 97:1, 118:9,
       ed [1] - 9:14
       te [1] - 47:22
       ting [3] - 11:11, 106:2,
       tion [2] - 120:16,
       23
       tional [2] - 40:4, 40:10
       tive [1] - 31:2
       [2] - 31:4, 31:19
       on [3] - 74:23, 127:11,
       rtunity [6] - 8:3, 8:9,
       8:13, 9:4, 95:9
       e [1] - 84:17
       ed [1] - 99:6
       sition [3] - 115:14,
       9, 123:20
       istic [1] - 80:2
       nality [1] - 47:12
       [6] - 14:10, 16:7, 34:1,
       1, 77:3, 101:24
       ly [1] - 126:7
       ance [42] - 6:14, 6:17,
       6:20, 6:22, 26:22,
       3, 33:17, 56:6, 58:17,
       3, 62:20, 62:23, 63:1,
       5, 81:6, 81:7, 81:13,
       7, 88:3, 88:4, 93:14,
       100:6, 102:5, 104:12,
       8, 104:19, 105:2,
       3, 105:9, 114:3, 121:5,
       3, 127:4, 130:7,
       20, 131:5, 132:14,
       22. 138:16
       ances [4] - 6:4, 100:17,
       8, 130:22
       ized [1] - 71:1
       ation [1] - 107:6
       al [3] - 83:10, 111:3,
       ally [5] - 37:10, 37:11,
       0, 86:4, 111:16
       wise [2] - 41:20, 115:16
       lves [1] - 46:13
       me [1] - 37:8
       ok [1] - 71:22
       t [1] - 75:23
       1] - 25:23
outside [18] - 8:17, 19:20,
```

35:13, 42:24, 62:16, 62:19,

```
64:12, 66:14, 66:15, 67:16,
 67:17, 98:6, 98:20, 99:17,
 104:3, 104:21, 105:6
overall [1] - 60:4
overflow [1] - 63:11
overhead [2] - 39:2, 39:7
overlay [1] - 35:7
overwhelming [1] - 59:8
own [3] - 84:11, 84:20, 97:17
owned [2] - 26:19, 49:15
owner [3] - 36:16, 48:16,
 125:14
owners [4] - 26:9, 95:16,
 95:17, 107:15
P.M [3] - 2:4, 4:10, 5:12
packet [1] - 42:6
pad [4] - 38:22, 43:13, 110:3
page [4] - 25:24, 83:14,
 97:13, 112:2
Page [2] - 4:20, 68:2
pages [2] - 67:7, 69:1
pain [1] - 112:3
Pana [72] - 5:24, 6:1, 6:23,
 7:19, 8:8, 11:6, 20:19,
 22:11, 23:19, 38:12, 47:24,
 59:22, 59:23, 62:14, 62:21,
 63:4, 63:10, 63:17, 63:20,
 65:15, 65:20, 66:6, 66:12,
 81:4, 81:5, 81:20, 82:7,
 82:8, 82:10, 83:5, 83:17,
 84:10, 85:3, 87:9, 92:1,
 92:4, 92:7, 92:9, 92:15,
 92:16, 92:17, 93:10, 93:18,
 94:6, 94:9, 98:6, 98:19,
 100:3, 100:7, 100:21,
 101:4, 102:2, 102:23,
 103:1, 106:6, 107:3,
 114:11, 115:2, 115:10,
 115:21, 121:5, 121:7,
 121:8, 123:21, 126:9,
 126:10, 129:15, 129:18,
 129:23, 130:5, 130:15
Pana's [5] - 6:22, 81:17,
 93:1, 127:1, 127:11
panel [4] - 11:19, 11:21,
 74:22, 76:10
panels [22] - 13:2, 14:3,
 14:13, 24:12, 25:3, 25:6,
 28:1, 28:5, 28:21, 36:10,
 46:4, 46:10, 48:9, 53:11,
 54:8, 64:11, 71:20, 74:9,
 75:4, 75:9, 75:11, 78:19
paragraph [1] - 6:16
parameters [1] - 65:12
parcel [4] - 11:22, 12:7, 12:8,
 38:9
pardon [1] - 104:7
part [24] - 6:16, 17:17, 18:8,
 24:12, 24:15, 31:22, 35:3,
 37:18, 45:20, 50:8, 56:5,
 56:13, 57:2, 58:22, 67:4,
 70:20, 90:2, 90:5, 90:10,
 102:10, 120:1, 128:21,
```

131:14. 134:10 participate [1] - 7:12 participated [1] - 75:15 participating [1] - 32:22 particular [8] - 48:16, 59:6, 59:24, 66:18, 98:2, 123:4, 127:4, 134:22 particularly [1] - 105:2 parties [2] - 8:18, 119:5 parts [2] - 98:9, 130:21 party [4] - 80:5, 85:10, 112:13, 113:13 pass [7] - 26:1, 81:5, 81:14, 88:21, 90:4, 95:19, 100:17 passed [17] - 6:22, 6:23, 41:17, 62:21, 67:11, 67:13, 69:14, 76:11, 81:7, 81:13, 83:18, 87:23, 88:3, 102:9, 105:9, 114:4, 121:5 passes [2] - 88:20, 88:23 passing [1] - 101:11 past [4] - 51:24, 77:24, 90:16, 121:15 Pastor [2] - 115:5, 115:20 path [1] - 64:22 pattern [1] - 53:7 pause [1] - 98:14 pending [1] - 7:16 people [10] - 76:2, 84:14, 84:22, 110:13, 112:17, 121:3, 121:20, 134:20, 134:21, 136:11 Peoria [1] - 3:4 per [9] - 6:8, 7:4, 25:24, 48:1, 59:15, 60:18, 101:2, 118:11, 137:21 percent [10] - 59:3, 62:6, 80:6, 101:12, 101:16, 103:22, 103:24, 111:12, 111:23, 125:20 perennial [1] - 12:23 perfect [1] - 106:10 performed [1] - 39:13 perhaps [1] - 128:20 perimeter [11] - 12:2, 12:4, 13:4, 16:13, 34:8, 39:23, 41:14, 64:13, 67:17, 84:19, 99:17 period [1] - 135:7 permit [36] - 6:24, 18:13, 21:13, 21:15, 22:23, 23:23, 34:18, 34:22, 40:9, 41:21, 47:4, 48:2, 56:15, 56:18, 65:12, 68:12, 70:21, 77:8, 83:19, 87:16, 98:7, 98:11, 106:13, 106:24, 107:9, 107:11, 116:17, 116:18, 117:2, 131:1, 131:18, 132:9, 135:5, 135:6, 135:19 permits [1] - 112:21

permitted [2] - 65:7, 124:19

permitting [3] - 64:21, 64:22,

66:17 97:17, 124:21, 125:8, 120:15, 121:12, 123:9, presenter [2] - 118:13, 130:19, 133:22, 134:3, 126:8 person [3] - 51:7, 91:2, 127:17 134.17 pretty [9] - 23:16, 42:14, property [105] - 11:8, 11:12, 106:22 pointed [1] - 121:4 **PERSON** [1] - 85:14 11:14, 12:4, 12:5, 12:9, 49:20, 53:9, 54:4, 76:3, personally [6] - 94:20, 94:21, points [3] - 81:23, 124:14, 12:12, 12:13, 12:15, 13:15, 100:16, 109:7, 122:12 95:2, 113:16, 120:22, 127:24 prevent [4] - 42:18, 44:4, 13:17, 13:19, 14:20, 14:21, 15:1, 15:4, 16:14, 17:12, 121:18 poles [3] - 42:16, 109:18 53:19, 113:6 18:8, 19:2, 19:9, 19:14, perspective [5] - 18:3, 53:8, policy [1] - 45:16 prevention [2] - 56:2, 128:16 19:21, 20:6, 21:24, 23:7, 57:8, 90:14, 124:6 previous [2] - 5:23, 7:6 pollinator [3] - 12:21, 12:22, 23:15, 24:3, 24:11, 24:16, pertain [1] - 82:20 24.13 previously [1] - 78:11 pertinent [1] - 30:23 **pollinators** [1] - 36:6 price [1] - 70:1 26:9, 26:19, 26:20, 30:17, petition [1] - 80:23 pollutant [1] - 128:15 pride [1] - 96:4 30:19, 30:20, 31:15, 32:4, phase [2] - 34:23, 47:17 Pollution [1] - 39:17 32:23, 33:11, 33:23, 34:5, print [2] - 25:23, 76:9 34:6, 34:7, 34:8, 35:2, phone [3] - 27:8, 91:1, 96:14 pollution [4] - 55:24, 56:2, print-outs [1] - 25:23 35:12, 35:13, 35:15, 35:24, physical [1] - 52:5 99:20, 128:16 printed [2] - 25:24, 95:23 36:16, 36:19, 38:7, 39:24, pick [1] - 75:7 pool [1] - 92:11 private [2] - 24:3, 96:9 41:14, 42:23, 43:1, 43:3, picked [1] - 96:24 pop [1] - 130:20 procedure [1] - 134:2 43:6, 45:12, 48:14, 48:16, picking [3] - 5:22, 7:14, 25:7 portion [2] - 30:23, 112:18 procedures [1] - 107:6 48:17, 48:23, 49:7, 49:9, position [4] - 45:8, 101:9, picture [1] - 127:19 proceed [1] - 52:11 49:12, 49:15, 56:24, 57:5, 115:13 pictures [1] - 90:22 proceedings [1] - 139:12 58:1, 58:5, 58:15, 58:17, positions [1] - 102:21 piece [4] - 43:19, 43:24, process [20] - 15:10, 15:16, 59:3, 59:10, 59:18, 61:9, possibility [1] - 81:19 48:16, 89:19 18:13, 27:22, 28:3, 28:9, 61:15, 64:8, 67:17, 78:8, possible [4] - 29:19, 50:15, piles [1] - 28:12 46:2, 46:7, 47:3, 51:18, 79:20, 84:4, 86:8, 90:17, piling [1] - 54:7 109:5, 109:20 52:7, 57:18, 65:3, 68:12, 90:19, 91:7, 91:10, 91:11, pilings [1] - 72:18 possibly [1] - 72:19 70:21, 75:15, 78:17, 127:5, 95:16, 96:10, 98:12, 99:18, place [6] - 18:19, 41:24, post [1] - 57:10 132:10, 132:20 100:1, 104:14, 106:17, 53:20, 54:23, 126:16, posts [5] - 19:3, 28:14, procure [2] - 29:19, 29:20 107:15, 114:10, 124:18, 28:23, 29:3, 64:1 procurement [1] - 70:19 124:20, 125:14, 126:4 potential [3] - 46:2, 55:13, placed [1] - 40:19 produce [1] - 75:24 proposed [9] - 11:9, 22:11, places [1] - 49:8 produced [2] - 76:10, 103:12 38:2, 38:14, 48:14, 59:15, potentially [3] - 36:22, 50:14, plan [76] - 7:22, 9:1, 9:7, producers [1] - 42:22 77:4, 82:4, 115:19 9:12, 9:14, 9:19, 10:22, 128:8 **produces** [1] - 40:13 proposing [1] - 119:13 10:23, 11:1, 11:24, 12:18, pounded [1] - 28:19 producing [5] - 39:22, 41:6, protect [1] - 67:2 14:2, 14:23, 15:19, 16:24, power [13] - 40:17, 42:16, 42:19, 71:14, 75:23 provide [2] - 18:19, 129:3 17:5, 18:20, 24:21, 27:23, 71:14, 82:11, 93:11, professional [4] - 58:11, provided [2] - 58:23, 127:15 28:1, 31:22, 32:22, 35:20, 103:10, 103:11, 103:15, 70:6, 113:14, 113:18 provider [1] - 103:5 36:4, 36:13, 36:18, 38:5, 104:21, 112:17, 122:13, professionals [1] - 29:8 provides [1] - 121:14 42:14, 46:24, 48:7, 48:10, 127:17 program [4] - 24:14, 112:12, providing [5] - 12:16, 13:13, 48:12, 48:20, 49:5, 50:12, PowerPoint [2] - 9:3, 80:20 112:15, 130:23 16:20, 60:7, 102:19 53:20, 54:23, 56:2, 64:5, powers [1] - 83:23 progress [1] - 10:19 provision [1] - 85:3 70:5, 70:15, 75:1, 76:21, practicable [3] - 50:15, project [46] - 13:12, 17:6, public [7] - 6:6, 7:20, 24:3, 76:24, 77:5, 77:7, 79:12, 110:5, 119:23 37:21, 45:3, 46:14, 58:3, 27:1, 120:17, 127:13, 79:16, 79:18, 79:23, 88:8, practical [2] - 53:2, 128:9 60:3. 60:4. 60:20. 60:22. 129:4 88:10, 93:2, 93:17, 93:18, practice [2] - 19:6, 50:3 62:12, 64:20, 67:20, 67:23, Public [4] - 30:15, 56:8, 93:24, 97:3, 105:22, 106:4, prairie [1] - 13:1 68:13, 71:19, 76:6, 76:7, 140:4, 140:22 106:14, 106:23, 108:2, 82:8, 84:18, 86:12, 86:17, pre [1] - 112:12 pull [3] - 23:22, 73:12, 73:18 110:19, 113:18, 128:16, 99:6, 101:21, 102:1, 103:3, pre-sell [1] - 112:12 pulled [1] - 125:9 129:13, 129:15, 129:17, 103:8, 103:10, 103:14, predominant [1] - 64:1 purpose [2] - 13:5, 27:6 129:19, 129:20, 130:9, 103:20, 103:22, 104:1, preempts [1] - 105:5 purposes [2] - 19:18, 124:19 130:12, 131:16, 131:17, 105:14, 107:1, 107:10, prefer [2] - 88:19, 88:20 pursuant [1] - 132:16 132:8 112:16, 112:19, 115:14, preferred [1] - 43:16 put [19] - 18:24, 24:12, 25:15, planned [1] - 52:11 116:19, 116:24, 117:4, **preliminary** [1] - 34:14 25:23, 28:5, 28:12, 28:22, plans [2] - 124:12, 126:10 125:15, 131:22, 134:22, prepared [1] - 9:3 39:21, 44:17, 49:21, 50:12, plant [4] - 74:16, 86:5, 91:16, 136:1, 138:12 present [12] - 7:4, 7:22, 9:1, 71:6, 72:11, 76:9, 86:8, 113.21 projects [7] - 41:16, 43:21, 13:8, 49:15, 49:19, 64:17, 93:8, 93:18, 111:18, 133:2 planting [1] - 99:21 60:8, 76:5, 100:14, 115:15, 87:3, 115:1, 131:17, putting [14] - 9:20, 20:9, play [1] - 55:8 115:19 133:12, 134:9 23:2, 24:17, 29:6, 44:18, pleased [1] - 17:2 promising [1] - 110:9 PRESENT [2] - 2:18, 3:1 52:5, 75:22, 107:10, point [25] - 16:4, 20:2, 28:20, promptly [1] - 50:20 presentation [6] - 7:21, 9:3, 108:10, 109:18, 114:11, 35:19, 38:23, 43:18, 56:10, proof [1] - 67:7 9:19, 10:24, 15:13, 80:20 124:23, 125:2 65:14, 78:24, 80:3, 82:15, proper [1] - 42:1 presented [2] - 93:21, Q2 [1] - 78:3 87:12, 87:19, 92:4, 101:8, properties [6] - 43:1, 58:14, 116:12

110:3, 117:1, 118:21,

Q3 [1] - 78:3

qualifies [1] - 105:3 qualify [1] - 129:20 quality [2] - 75:2, 76:11 questionable [1] - 105:13 questions [20] - 7:11, 7:23, 8:13, 8:17, 9:15, 15:22, 16:5, 16:7, 23:1, 24:9, 69:20, 76:17, 80:11, 85:16, 87:7, 94:3, 105:18, 114:22, 114:23, 134:2 quick [1] - 30:11 quiet [1] - 99:19 Quint [2] - 51:9, 51:10 quite [9] - 33:14, 35:8, 44:5, 51:17, 70:24, 74:19, 90:19, 90.23 quorum [2] - 4:6, 137:22 quote [7] - 17:14, 30:23, 40:21, 104:8, 104:23, 104:24, 112:16 quoted [1] - 104:15 racking [1] - 28:21 radio [2] - 69:3, 69:13 **RAHAR** [4] - 130:13, 134:1, 134:7, 134:14 Rahar [1] - 2:22 rain [2] - 64:6, 90:18 rains [2] - 54:21, 90:24 ran [1] - 61:6 range [1] - 76:7 rate [1] - 59:24 rated [1] - 41:9 rather [2] - 48:22, 53:3 reach [8] - 21:11, 26:24, 27:12, 94:20, 94:22, 96:13, 97:7, 100:6 reached [4] - 10:16, 64:23, 84:14, 97:16 reaching [1] - 100:2 read [11] - 23:5, 32:15, 59:1, 65:11, 83:11, 93:6, 104:19, 115:2, 115:9, 126:17, 127:10 reaffirm [1] - 94:17 real [3] - 30:10, 106:24, 125:7 realistic [1] - 37:21 realize [4] - 83:17, 85:6, 86:3, 88:17 really [45] - 10:14, 10:18, 17:1, 17:2, 20:2, 20:19, 21:9, 23:16, 27:6, 38:12, 39:6, 41:22, 41:24, 43:22, 44:19, 47:21, 49:22, 50:6, 54:8, 57:6, 62:23, 64:20, 66:10, 72:2, 72:3, 73:11, 75:2, 76:11, 83:11, 83:15, 84:9, 85:12, 88:17, 89:14, 89:21, 95:6, 99:18, 99:19, 100:16, 106:17, 110:16, 117:2, 123:15, 125:10, 131:20

reason [6] - 18:17, 33:20,

65:16, 66:3, 79:9, 84:20 reasonable [3] - 80:2, 128:22, 129:1 reasonably [4] - 50:15, 110:4, 119:23, 128:9 reasons [2] - 84:19, 96:5 rebuttal [2] - 8:11, 95:10 receive [6] - 82:9, 87:14, 88:11, 100:10, 103:10, received [9] - 27:5, 37:12, 37:14, 94:18, 101:20, 115:5, 115:8, 115:23, 129:15 recent [1] - 105:9 recess [3] - 117:20, 118:5, 118:7 recommend [1] - 123:22 recommendation [1] - 80:15 recommendations [2] -29:18, 132:17 reconvene [1] - 118:5 record [15] - 5:2, 48:11, 58:20, 95:13, 95:21, 96:18, 97:14, 97:21, 98:1, 102:17, 115:2, 115:9, 116:13, 127:11, 129:16 records [2] - 52:1, 111:15 rectangle [1] - 38:21 red [1] - 14:18 reduced [1] - 140:8 reference [1] - 32:4 referenced [1] - 102:5 referring [3] - 68:6, 81:16, refers [3] - 30:17, 31:7, 31:14 refine [1] - 47:10 refined [2] - 70:17, 70:20 refresh [1] - 37:2 regard [4] - 9:7, 22:17, 58:9, 100:15 regarding [4] - 48:4, 62:11, 87:13, 115:11 regards [2] - 98:24, 100:2 region [1] - 103:16 regulates [1] - 98:9 regulation [2] - 48:3, 102:13 regulations [15] - 21:4, 40:7, 57:21, 68:10, 68:21, 69:10, 96:8, 98:16, 98:17, 100:4, 106:20, 116:21, 120:11, 132:13, 132:15 regulatory [3] - 67:18, 68:16, 97:23 reiterating [1] - 99:15 relating [1] - 31:5 relation [1] - 104:24 relationship [2] - 99:11,

110:16

reliance [1] - 104:3

relied [1] - 100:11

relocate [1] - 45:11

rely [4] - 29:8, 50:4, 100:7, 113.17 remain [1] - 79:7 remainder [1] - 6:18 remarks [1] - 8:11 remember [6] - 37:8, 51:9, 56:5, 82:15, 82:16, 106:5 remembered [1] - 92:6 remind [2] - 56:5, 67:4 remove [3] - 46:22, 70:2, 71.6 removed [8] - 11:19, 11:20, 12:1, 36:9, 48:10, 72:9, 72:13, 126:18 removes [1] - 104:16 removing [1] - 75:21 renewed [2] - 71:20, 72:15 repair [2] - 54:23, 55:1 repaired [2] - 50:14, 50:19 repairing [2] - 53:5, 55:7 repeat [1] - 136:10 report [11] - 59:8, 60:11, 128:13, 133:3, 133:5, 133:11, 133:24, 134:10, 135:18, 139:2 Reporter [2] - 3:8, 140:5 reports [1] - 57:17 represent [1] - 80:22 representative [1] - 121:9 representatives [2] - 8:7, 8:19 request [3] - 110:17, 110:23, 119:3 require [4] - 32:11, 32:14, 32:16, 119:3 required [13] - 12:3, 26:22, 45:7, 47:24, 55:22, 58:16, 60:15, 77:5, 105:21, 119:14, 124:11, 128:17, 138:5 requirement [2] - 27:1, 106:13 requirements [13] - 6:10, 39:5, 56:12, 63:5, 63:17, 66:9, 66:10, 67:11, 67:15, 69:16, 101:18, 120:14, 123:6 requires [5] - 26:24, 39:19, 66:12, 100:6, 105:23 reroute [2] - 53:3, 54:24 research [4] - 31:10, 31:19, 65:5, 102:18 residence [10] - 14:19, 20:14, 36:1, 42:15, 44:7, 44:14, 44:20, 109:10, 111:17, 119:9 residential [9] - 11:22, 12:5, 12:12, 12:13, 14:21, 15:3, 33:5, 38:6, 41:3 Resources [1] - 12:19

resources [1] - 29:23

respectful [1] - 15:9

respectfully [1] - 17:11 respects [1] - 132:13 respond [1] - 104:7 response [4] - 13:20, 27:19, 62:17, 96:16 responsible [5] - 19:19, 36:19, 55:11, 61:15, 106:22 rest [2] - 24:22, 53:8 restrictions [1] - 39:18 retained [1] - 64:7 Reuben [3] - 3:5, 8:22, 25:11 **REUBEN** [141] - 9:2, 9:9, 9:16, 10:8, 15:24, 16:12, 16:18, 17:9, 18:6, 19:7, 19:12, 19:16, 20:1, 20:13, 21:8, 21:20, 22:5, 22:10, 22:16, 23:11, 24:8, 24:15, 24:19, 25:1, 25:14, 25:18, 25:21, 26:3, 26:7, 26:12, 26:17, 27:17, 28:2, 28:7, 29:4, 29:15, 30:1, 32:7, 32:24, 33:24, 34:13, 35:6, 35:22, 36:12, 36:22, 37:5, 37:9, 38:2, 38:17, 39:4, 39:15, 41:19, 42:4, 42:8, 42:20, 44:22, 45:19, 47:2, 47:19, 49:3, 49:11, 51:5, 51:8, 51:14, 51:17, 52:12, 52:18, 52:24, 53:13, 54:10, 54:16, 55:4, 56:4, 56:10, 57:1, 57:16, 58:5, 59:5, 59:14, 60:21, 61:2, 61:23, 62:5, 62:13, 63:15, 64:19, 65:22, 66:3, 66:15, 66:22, 67:3, 67:8, 68:8, 69:6, 70:4, 70:13, 71:7, 71:13, 71:23, 72:22, 73:6, 73:10, 73:16, 73:19, 74:6, 74:8, 74:19, 75:6, 75:14, 76:22, 77:10, 77:15, 77:18, 78:9, 78:13, 78:16, 78:20, 79:1, 79:8, 79:15, 79:21, 80:10, 95:11, 106:5, 106:9, 106:19, 107:19, 108:19, 109:3, 109:11, 109:21, 110:14, 111:6, 111:11, 112:3, 112:10, 113:2, 113:7, 113:22, 114:14, 116:11 Revenue [1] - 61:10 review [3] - 88:11, 131:11, 132:2 reviewed [2] - 35:1, 88:7 revised [3] - 14:3, 77:1, 88:10 revisions [3] - 10:22, 77:4, 121:16 rid [2] - 75:12, 108:15

right-of-way [1] - 19:13

rights [2] - 35:12, 96:10

road [11] - 24:3, 43:22, 46:5,

risk [1] - 71:4

Southeast [1] - 75:10

48:1, 78:7, 92:20, 111:21, 128:9, 132:3, 136:6, 136:9, **skinny** [1] - 11:24 **sharp** [1] - 115:10 124:10, 125:11, 128:5, 139:8 **Shay** [3] - 3:3, 30:8, 115:23 skipped [1] - 10:24 129:10 secondary [1] - 76:1 **SHAY** [9] - 9:24, 10:4, 30:2, slate [1] - 53:6 Road [4] - 11:7, 92:11, 92:13, section [7] - 6:15, 48:8, 30:10, 31:14, 32:2, 104:6, slide [3] - 15:23, 16:16, 101:5 48:13, 50:20, 68:9, 117:16, 115:24, 116:4 25:16 roads [8] - 59:23, 63:12, 118.9 shed [1] - 30:3 slides [2] - 13:23, 25:24 63:16, 107:3, 127:13, Section [1] - 30:20 shining [1] - 40:16 small [6] - 38:20, 38:21, 127:24, 128:1 see [49] - 4:22, 11:24, 13:24, **shipping** [1] - 103:16 83:11, 83:14, 83:15, 91:11 roadway [2] - 21:6, 22:7 14:3, 14:6, 14:12, 14:16, short [2] - 21:9, 104:6 smaller [2] - 18:15, 101:21 roadways [1] - 20:22 14:19, 14:23, 17:9, 25:23, smashed [1] - 74:14 **shortening** [1] - 30:22 robust [1] - 93:2 26:15, 33:2, 33:4, 35:6, **Shorthand** [1] - 140:5 software [1] - 51:20 roll [1] - 136:15 38:20, 46:6, 48:22, 52:20, shorthand [1] - 140:11 softwares [1] - 34:17 Roll [1] - 3:12 60:12, 61:7, 68:8, 71:23, **show** [6] - 9:4, 13:24, 35:5, Soil [1] - 29:16 74:4, 82:7, 83:2, 83:15, roll-call [1] - 136:15 90:22, 106:15, 125:9 soil [6] - 13:6, 13:9, 29:13, 84:22, 85:4, 86:10, 88:18, Roll-call [1] - 3:12 showed [4] - 43:13, 64:24, 57:5, 57:8, 75:2 90:22, 91:2, 93:8, 99:19, room [3] - 84:16, 95:16, 79:18, 96:23 Solar [5] - 5:24, 6:1, 6:23, 99:24, 107:12, 107:17, 103:19 showing [2] - 14:12, 78:7 7:19, 31:13 108:23, 119:19, 119:21, roughly [1] - 42:8 shown [5] - 18:20, 33:20, solar [65] - 6:4, 11:19, 11:20, 122:6, 125:6, 125:12, Route [2] - 22:4, 86:6 35:1, 45:23, 79:12 11:23, 14:7, 14:17, 15:4, 128:5, 128:7, 129:19, routed [1] - 6:5 **shows** [5] - 14:16, 77:6, 17:13, 24:17, 28:10, 30:16, 132.5 83:3, 83:8, 121:6 row [3] - 46:23, 78:19, 96:3 30:19. 30:21. 30:24. 31:7. seeded [2] - 28:4, 29:2 31:9. 32:6. 32:13. 36:10. rows [2] - 13:3, 84:17 shuffled [1] - 112:2 seeding [1] - 29:12 rule [2] - 17:18, 18:12 39:16, 40:16, 44:16, 50:24, **shut** [1] - 131:5 seeds [2] - 13:1, 29:19 58:12, 59:10, 60:8, 61:11, side [21] - 10:12, 11:12, rules [4] - 21:4, 66:17, 117:6, seeing [1] - 33:13 64:15, 65:10, 66:14, 69:24, 122:11 11:14, 12:6, 12:7, 12:11, seem [1] - 95:3 71:10, 71:20, 72:4, 72:5, run [4] - 51:20, 90:23, 91:6, 12:13, 33:8, 33:9, 33:12, sell [1] - 112:12 72:7, 74:9, 74:16, 75:11, 116:7 33:13, 34:2, 34:9, 42:17, send [1] - 88:10 76:6, 76:7, 83:3, 83:4, run-off [1] - 90:23 74:15, 74:16, 78:8, 99:4, sending [1] - 58:1 88:5, 93:11, 95:5, 96:6, running [2] - 52:4, 108:5 103:7 sense [5] - 36:17, 55:9, 62:2, 98:10, 99:11, 99:16, 99:18, sides [1] - 125:3 runs [4] - 91:12, 91:13, 91:17 62:6. 72:7 100:14, 101:1, 103:5, rural [1] - 125:20 sign [1] - 121:3 sent [6] - 13:11, 26:6, 26:20, 103:8, 104:19, 105:2, safe [1] - 35:9 signature [2] - 71:2, 97:12 27:18, 82:12, 96:23 112:16, 115:11, 115:12, safety [7] - 60:9, 66:2, signatures [2] - 80:23, 85:19 121:12, 122:11, 125:10 sentence [2] - 104:20, 105:3 signed [2] - 97:12, 118:14 120:18, 124:6, 124:10, separate [3] - 32:18, 36:4, solution [2] - 50:12, 53:2 124:14, 135:21 significant [3] - 37:17, 58:12, 131:16 someone [2] - 50:5, 52:8 58:14 salvage [1] - 71:8 **September** [3] - 6:2, 6:4, sometimes [4] - 19:24, Sandra [3] - 1:20, 140:4, silt [1] - 92:11 62:24 28:16, 28:17, 53:2 140:22 similar [8] - 12:24, 32:14, series [1] - 67:18 somewhat [3] - 18:1, 22:14, sandra [1] - 3:8 34:17, 74:20, 74:22, **seriously** [1] - 54:5 sandra.k.haines@aol.com 125:13, 126:3 service [1] - 29:13 somewhere [4] - 23:5, 69:1, simply [1] - 65:23 [1] - 1:22 105:21, 112:2 set [6] - 30:14, 42:16, sandwiched [1] - 99:2 sincerely [1] - 115:20 104:21, 108:7, 124:22, soon [3] - 50:14, 50:15, satisfactory[1] - 97:8 Sinclair [3] - 81:22, 90:7, 125:1 103:11 saw [2] - 60:11, 91:2 101:9 setback [6] - 6:10, 17:18, **sooner** [1] - 95:2 site [27] - 11:1, 14:2, 14:22, scenario [1] - 73:13 33:18, 33:19, 67:10, 69:16 sorry [8] - 10:8, 22:24, 35:18, 18:1, 18:20, 26:19, 34:16, score [1] - 12:20 52:13, 68:2, 94:11, 124:24, setbacks [1] - 6:5 38:5, 42:14, 46:12, 47:7, scorecard [1] - 12:21 sets [1] - 125:3 137:5 64:7, 65:6, 65:10, 72:6, screen [19] - 12:11, 12:15, settled [1] - 37:3 sort [3] - 18:10, 113:15, 15:2, 15:3, 17:16, 30:4, 79:23, 97:3, 98:5, 98:24, 125:12 seven [5] - 26:13, 26:14, 99:2, 101:22, 107:5, 109:2, 30:12, 31:3, 32:5, 33:10, 84:5, 88:15, 96:19 sought [1] - 135:6 110:19, 113:15, 114:17, 33:18, 33:21, 34:4, 34:7, sound [7] - 39:12, 39:17, severability [1] - 6:13 114:20 43:14, 99:24, 101:21, 40:2, 40:5, 42:23, 42:24, several [3] - 55:15, 96:13, sites [2] - 58:7, 70:11 114:16, 135:17 68:9 125:18 siting [8] - 56:17, 67:15, screening [7] - 17:19, 32:10, sounds [2] - 9:16, 15:24 sewer [2] - 63:12, 63:17 32:12, 32:16, 35:23, 36:2, 101:11, 101:15, 101:18, sources [1] - 104:4 **shade** [1] - 25:5 106:23, 107:9, 117:1 36:5 south [20] - 11:13, 11:21, shall [4] - 6:17, 7:1, 104:20, sitting [1] - 88:23 se [1] - 59:15 12:7, 17:2, 24:11, 46:4, 132:12 situated [1] - 104:23 seal [1] - 140:12 shape [1] - 20:3 63:10, 79:19, 86:20, 90:19, situation [1] - 81:20 **seated** [1] - 96:2 91:7, 91:9, 91:12, 92:20, shared [1] - 34:6 six [2] - 26:13, 96:19 second [15] - 4:13, 4:14, 5:5, 99:4, 107:17, 107:22, sharing [1] - 95:24 size [6] - 11:8, 23:2, 24:1, 5:15, 98:14, 98:23, 117:12, 111:19, 114:9, 114:11 Sharp [1] - 115:6 40:14, 40:24, 59:11 117:13, 117:24, 118:13,

southeast [9] - 12:1, 14:4,
14:6, 22:5, 24:20, 36:8,
36:10, 36:14, 48:9
southern [1] - 43:6
<b>spaced</b> [1] - 57:11
speaking [3] - 92:6, 103:11,
130:19
<b>spec</b> [3] - 68:14, 73:4, 101:6
<b>special</b> [16] - 5:23, 6:2, 6:24,
40:9, 47:4, 65:11, 87:15,
98:7, 98:10, 106:24,
116:17, 117:2, 122:1,
131:18, 135:4, 136:3
specialized [1] - 28:17
species [5] - 12:23, 12:24,
24:13, 25:7, 36:6
specific [8] - 9:11, 13:22,
22:20, 43:23, 58:7, 58:8,
126:1, 129:17
specifically [8] - 6:14, 30:18,
32:3, 58:2, 60:19, 104:18,
113:3, 129:24
specification [2] - 69:17,
•
114:6
specifications [5] - 20:21,
21:1, 63:22, 69:9, 73:3
specified [2] - 34:22, 79:3
spoken [2] - 87:13, 87:19
<b>spot</b> [1] - 113:9
<b>spraying</b> [2] - 99:22, 113:9
spring [1] - 77:23
Springfield [1] - 67:12
<b>square</b> [1] - 38:21
squiggly [1] - 14:24
<b>SS</b> [1] - 140:1
<b>St</b> [3] - 58:4, 85:2, 89:12
stability [1] - 56:24
<b>stage</b> [3] - 56:19, 70:16, 77:8
•
stamped [1] - 138:7
stand [2] - 8:20, 121:13
standard [7] - 6:5, 6:11,
41:22, 50:3, 57:13, 107:6,
120:20
standards [7] - 12:20, 39:11,
41:8, 68:16, 101:11,
,
101:15 120:11
101:15, 120:11
standing [1] - 6:20
standing [1] - 6:20 standpoint [1] - 105:8
standing [1] - 6:20
standing [1] - 6:20 standpoint [1] - 105:8
standing [1] - 6:20 standpoint [1] - 105:8 start [6] - 8:15, 21:15, 35:10,
standing [1] - 6:20 standpoint [1] - 105:8 start [6] - 8:15, 21:15, 35:10, 53:5, 70:23, 77:21
standing [1] - 6:20 standpoint [1] - 105:8 start [6] - 8:15, 21:15, 35:10, 53:5, 70:23, 77:21 started [3] - 51:18, 84:10, 84:21
standing [1] - 6:20 standpoint [1] - 105:8 start [6] - 8:15, 21:15, 35:10, 53:5, 70:23, 77:21 started [3] - 51:18, 84:10, 84:21 starting [2] - 75:7, 77:12
standing [1] - 6:20 standpoint [1] - 105:8 start [6] - 8:15, 21:15, 35:10, 53:5, 70:23, 77:21 started [3] - 51:18, 84:10, 84:21 starting [2] - 75:7, 77:12 starts [1] - 25:5
standing [1] - 6:20 standpoint [1] - 105:8 start [6] - 8:15, 21:15, 35:10, 53:5, 70:23, 77:21 started [3] - 51:18, 84:10, 84:21 starting [2] - 75:7, 77:12 starts [1] - 25:5 state [5] - 21:23, 22:3, 68:15,
standing [1] - 6:20 standpoint [1] - 105:8 start [6] - 8:15, 21:15, 35:10, 53:5, 70:23, 77:21 started [3] - 51:18, 84:10, 84:21 starting [2] - 75:7, 77:12 starts [1] - 25:5 state [5] - 21:23, 22:3, 68:15, 103:17, 127:8
standing [1] - 6:20 standpoint [1] - 105:8 start [6] - 8:15, 21:15, 35:10, 53:5, 70:23, 77:21 started [3] - 51:18, 84:10, 84:21 starting [2] - 75:7, 77:12 starts [1] - 25:5 state [5] - 21:23, 22:3, 68:15, 103:17, 127:8 STATE [1] - 140:1
standing [1] - 6:20 standpoint [1] - 105:8 start [6] - 8:15, 21:15, 35:10, 53:5, 70:23, 77:21 started [3] - 51:18, 84:10, 84:21 starting [2] - 75:7, 77:12 starts [1] - 25:5 state [5] - 21:23, 22:3, 68:15, 103:17, 127:8 STATE [1] - 140:1 State [36] - 6:5, 6:11, 14:8,
standing [1] - 6:20 standpoint [1] - 105:8 start [6] - 8:15, 21:15, 35:10, 53:5, 70:23, 77:21 started [3] - 51:18, 84:10, 84:21 starting [2] - 75:7, 77:12 starts [1] - 25:5 state [5] - 21:23, 22:3, 68:15, 103:17, 127:8 STATE [1] - 140:1
standing [1] - 6:20 standpoint [1] - 105:8 start [6] - 8:15, 21:15, 35:10, 53:5, 70:23, 77:21 started [3] - 51:18, 84:10, 84:21 starting [2] - 75:7, 77:12 starts [1] - 25:5 state [5] - 21:23, 22:3, 68:15, 103:17, 127:8 STATE [1] - 140:1 State [36] - 6:5, 6:11, 14:8, 14:11, 30:15, 32:8, 33:17,
standing [1] - 6:20 standpoint [1] - 105:8 start [6] - 8:15, 21:15, 35:10, 53:5, 70:23, 77:21 started [3] - 51:18, 84:10, 84:21 starting [2] - 75:7, 77:12 starts [1] - 25:5 state [5] - 21:23, 22:3, 68:15, 103:17, 127:8 STATE [1] - 140:1 State [36] - 6:5, 6:11, 14:8,

67:14, 68:20, 69:10, 69:14,

```
70:7, 82:11, 90:3, 100:23,
 101:2, 101:10, 101:14,
 101:17, 102:12, 116:20,
 116:22, 120:10, 122:9,
 122:14, 126:18, 126:20,
 128:18
State's [3] - 2:21, 6:8, 115:1
statement [1] - 68:6
statements [1] - 4:24
states [4] - 48:10, 48:12,
 83:22, 125:23
Statute [19] - 14:9, 14:11,
 30:15, 32:8, 33:17, 39:19,
 40:8, 56:8, 56:13, 58:16,
 60:14, 69:14, 100:23,
 101:2, 101:14, 101:17,
 102:12, 126:20, 128:18
statute [5] - 16:23, 31:5,
 45:5, 61:10, 104:16
statutes [1] - 60:6
Statutes [1] - 67:14
stay [3] - 75:20, 82:10, 82:13
steel [3] - 28:12, 28:14, 64:1
stenographically [1] - 140:7
step [4] - 11:3, 47:3, 99:14
stepped [2] - 7:7, 12:2
steps [2] - 13:22, 133:9
Steve [3] - 27:13, 96:13,
 96:21
stewards [1] - 96:5
still [24] - 23:7, 47:12, 49:23,
 52:18, 52:19, 54:22, 54:23,
 62:22, 71:14, 71:24, 75:24,
 76:10, 77:20, 90:13,
 101:24, 102:11, 109:7,
 121:6, 125:24, 126:23,
 130:8, 131:15, 138:18
stipulate [1] - 82:2
stirred [1] - 99:21
stop [1] - 15:20
storm [3] - 29:16, 56:1,
 128:16
strangle [1] - 93:1
stray [4] - 66:24, 68:4, 68:17,
 68:23
street [1] - 43:22
streets [1] - 129:5
stretch [1] - 55:2
strictly [1] - 48:3
strike [2] - 46:4, 46:10
string [5] - 40:14, 40:17,
 40:19, 41:23, 42:22
strong [1] - 76:14
strongly [1] - 115:17
structural [1] - 57:7
structure [1] - 57:5
structures [1] - 32:15
studies [4] - 59:2, 124:7,
 125:19
study [10] - 39:12, 58:6, 58:8,
 58:10, 58:18, 59:6, 59:13,
```

59:15, 82:18, 82:19

```
stuff [5] - 52:15, 108:12,
 108:17, 109:9, 109:13
subcontract [1] - 70:9
subcontractor [2] - 53:24,
 113:13
subdivision [4] - 6:16, 41:3,
 98:15, 98:16
subject [22] - 13:15, 16:14,
 17:18, 22:18, 22:21, 24:16,
 26:20, 33:11, 35:13, 36:15,
 36:19, 38:12, 39:5, 41:20,
 45:12, 48:14, 48:15, 49:7,
 77:11, 79:9, 80:4, 85:9
submission [1] - 125:21
submit [9] - 58:20, 80:23,
 96:12, 96:17, 97:14, 97:21,
 97:24, 98:3, 125:18
submittal [1] - 102:7
submitted [17] - 11:2, 15:8,
 37:11, 41:12, 62:24, 67:20,
 76:24, 78:10, 85:19, 95:13,
 95:18, 95:21, 96:16, 96:22,
 99:8, 102:4, 111:1
subscribe [2] - 103:9, 103:22
subscriber [2] - 103:19,
 112:14
subsection [3] - 32:8, 51:1,
 100:24
Subsection [1] - 32:9
subsequent [1] - 68:6
subsidence [8] - 57:15,
 82:20, 86:2, 86:9, 86:11,
 86:18, 86:24, 116:6
substantially [1] - 124:19
substation [6] - 11:10,
 11:11, 11:16, 22:8, 99:2,
 103:13
successful [2] - 47:13, 102:1
suggesting [2] - 132:7,
 133:1
suggestion [1] - 124:9
suggestions [2] - 76:19,
 133:8
suitable [1] - 20:24
suitcase [2] - 40:23
suitcases [1] - 42:3
Suite [1] - 3:4
summarize [1] - 97:5
summary [1] - 59:9
summer [3] - 77:20, 78:1,
 86:17
sun [2] - 40:16, 74:21
sunny [1] - 41:5
supervisor [1] - 20:22
Supervisor [1] - 101:5
supplying [1] - 92:17
support [5] - 60:9, 94:18,
 95:17, 102:20, 123:13
supposed [3] - 90:13, 92:23,
 93:5
surrounded [1] - 125:10
surrounding [4] - 32:12,
```

32:17, 124:21, 126:8 survey [3] - 34:19, 35:11, 125:5 surveyed [4] - 13:18, 13:19, 34:11, 52:19 surveyor[1] - 28:13 SWCD [2] - 29:16, 135:17 switched [1] - 4:23 sworn [4] - 8:21, 9:24, 30:7, 94.12 sworn/affirmed [4] - 8:23, 30:9. 80:18. 94:14 symbol [1] - 33:7 system [7] - 30:20, 30:22, 31:9, 31:23, 56:1, 63:13, 128.15 tabled [2] - 7:15, 81:3 taker [1] - 103:21 talks [2] - 52:15, 130:9 tall [2] - 25:8, 36:21 tangible [2] - 37:20, 107:10 Tarr [1] - 2:20 tarr [1] - 134:9 TARR [19] - 3:13, 3:15, 3:17, 3:20, 3:22, 3:24, 4:2, 4:4, 4:6, 25:11, 116:10, 136:17, 136:19, 136:21, 137:11, 137:13, 137:17, 137:20, 138:8 task [1] - 51:21 tax [8] - 17:12, 30:17, 30:19, 30:21, 31:15, 32:4, 62:3 taxes [4] - 59:18, 61:9, 61:15, 61:22 taxing [1] - 59:24 **Taylorville**[1] - 140:13 TBD [1] - 78:1 technical [2] - 67:9, 69:8 technically [2] - 91:10, 92:13 technology [1] - 51:19 teeth [1] - 50:18 templates [1] - 97:20 ten [3] - 96:20, 117:20, 118:4 tenths [1] - 84:5 term [2] - 99:10, 103:20 termination [1] - 41:20 terminology [1] - 39:12 terms [10] - 15:5, 50:18, 57:6, 60:10, 63:20, 63:23, 64:2, 64:12, 97:23, 113:7 territory [1] - 84:1 test [2] - 76:11, 120:13 text [1] - 4:22 THE [1] - 1:6 themselves [2] - 36:16, 74:9 therefore [2] - 6:19, 6:24 therein [1] - 73:3 thereof [1] - 104:22 thinking [16] - 9:11, 18:17, 22:18, 41:10, 44:6, 45:21, 46:1, 46:8, 46:21, 53:4, 57:8, 70:18, 75:19, 77:21,

109:12 98:17, 100:23, 105:3, 36:4, 36:13, 79:12, 79:15, toxic [4] - 64:10, 74:5, 74:10, 74:23 128:4, 128:12, 128:17, 79:18, 88:8, 113:19, third [7] - 7:3, 7:13, 80:5, 128:20, 140:12 114:12, 135:17 85:9, 112:13, 113:13, tracking [2] - 31:8, 96:22 underground [3] - 39:3, verbatim [1] - 42:10 133:18 traditionally [1] - 100:7 thirds [1] - 68:2 57:10, 86:13 versus [1] - 124:2 traffic [1] - 129:4 thirty [1] - 71:24 trailer [1] - 109:16 underlying [1] - 73:1 vested [1] - 100:20 thorough [2] - 33:16, 58:10 transcript [2] - 4:20, 140:9 **UNIDENTIFIED** [1] - 85:14 via [1] - 7:8 thoroughly [1] - 105:8 unincorporated [3] - 65:9, vicinity [1] - 124:18 transferred [1] - 62:3 98:9, 98:13 thoughts [1] - 118:10 translation [1] - 140:10 view [3] - 6:19, 6:21, 17:3 unit [2] - 41:2, 70:1 three [9] - 19:8, 22:3, 26:13, transmission [4] - 11:13, violation [2] - 40:8, 54:4 74:1, 74:2, 85:23, 91:5, unless [4] - 72:14, 119:15, vis-à-vis [1] - 131:4 11:15, 43:3, 99:3 121:23, 138:22 visual [1] - 12:16 96:19, 138:18 transporting [1] - 103:17 throughout [2] - 52:6, unquote [2] - 30:23, 112:16 voicemail [1] - 23:20 treat [1] - 48:20 130:23 unsure [1] - 49:6 treatment [1] - 74:15 voicemails [2] - 27:17, thumb [2] - 18:12, 76:9 **up** [51] - 5:22, 7:14, 9:14, 106:10 treats [1] - 61:11 tie [2] - 38:23, 79:3 trees [2] - 31:3, 113:24 9:20, 15:21, 15:22, 16:16, voltage [9] - 11:13, 11:14, tied [1] - 43:22 trench [1] - 52:22 17:11, 19:17, 20:7, 20:19, 43:2, 43:5, 67:1, 68:4, 21:2, 22:8, 24:24, 25:12, trending [1] - 61:13 tight [2] - 77:21, 78:2 68:18, 68:23, 99:3 tile [24] - 23:6, 23:14, 49:6, 25:16, 27:9, 42:19, 56:6, tricky [1] - 10:10 voluntary [3] - 10:22, 11:3, 57:20, 58:13, 58:19, 60:2, 49:9, 49:12, 49:18, 50:1, tried [4] - 27:12, 63:2, 65:1, 70:3, 75:7, 76:2, 80:1, 50:19, 51:1, 51:13, 52:4, vote [12] - 7:5, 115:18, 123:8, 96:18 52:5, 52:9, 52:16, 52:20, 80:9, 82:17, 85:5, 89:24, 133:10. 134:8. 136:15. trucks [2] - 22:19, 108:14 93:5, 94:5, 96:24, 97:10, 53:1, 54:9, 54:15, 54:17, 137:6, 137:8, 137:12, true [3] - 54:11, 127:7, 99:21, 101:18, 105:18, 55:2, 55:13, 55:18, 107:13 137:14, 137:15, 138:22 140:10 106:3, 108:5, 114:15, tiles [6] - 50:8, 50:11, 50:13, voters [1] - 7:9 trumps [1] - 134:24 118:10, 119:16, 119:24, votes [6] - 122:16, 122:20, 53:11, 54:24, 55:2 try [10] - 18:12, 19:24, 20:2, 124:22, 125:2, 126:14, tilt [2] - 74:20, 74:21 138:2, 138:5, 138:13, 27:9. 33:15. 64:21. 66:9. 130:20, 131:10, 134:3, timeline [1] - 77:14 138:23 88:24, 96:13, 113:10 136:4 timing [1] - 105:15 voting [3] - 121:21, 121:22, trying [11] - 46:16, 62:22, updated [2] - 6:3, 70:20 tired [1] - 119:1 136:11 65:16, 75:8, 77:19, 80:21, usage [1] - 48:1 today [3] - 65:14, 71:16, wait [1] - 10:7 81:14, 105:12, 111:24, useful [3] - 40:11, 72:10, wake [1] - 25:12 131:5, 135:1 75:3 together [3] - 93:19, 107:11, walk [3] - 37:22, 78:22, Tuesday [1] - 133:19 uses [3] - 41:11, 124:10, 119:5 112:24 turn [2] - 22:7 124:17 tolerance [1] - 71:4 wants [3] - 72:12, 81:12, turned [1] - 55:5 USPS [1] - 96:22 121:23 tongue [1] - 116:16 TV [1] - 69:3 utilities [1] - 127:13 tonight [11] - 9:4, 45:6, warranty [1] - 75:18 twenty [1] - 88:15 utility [2] - 37:18, 112:18 76:23, 76:24, 95:16, water [10] - 29:16, 56:1, twenty-four [1] - 88:15 utilized [3] - 17:24, 48:17 103:19, 110:20, 121:15, 63:12, 64:6, 91:6, 91:9, two [29] - 4:23, 5:23, 7:6, vacant [1] - 18:1 121:20, 122:20, 130:11 92:18, 107:17, 124:13, 12:5, 12:7, 12:8, 12:14, validity [3] - 6:17, 105:9, took [3] - 13:23, 17:2, 90:22 128.16 14:21, 15:3, 23:16, 25:24, 105:13 top [11] - 17:22, 28:21, 28:22, Water [1] - 29:16 26:13, 34:6, 38:6, 38:9, valuation [1] - 125:13 73:10, 73:24, 83:2, 102:8, watershed [1] - 63:9 67:2, 68:2, 84:16, 90:7, valuations [1] - 125:7 111:12, 113:23, 116:8, waterway [1] - 23:10 95:17, 96:19, 96:20, 99:3, value [5] - 58:1, 58:6, 58:17, 134:19 ways [2] - 44:5, 119:17 107:20, 111:17, 119:13, 71:8, 125:9 topic [5] - 15:11, 27:11, weed [2] - 113:1, 113:6 129:23, 135:4, 135:6 values [3] - 58:15, 59:10, 97:10, 102:2, 107:2 weeds [2] - 99:22, 112:24 type [5] - 13:7, 24:21, 57:9, 124:20 total [4] - 59:21, 61:7, 61:19, week [1] - 130:1 103:3, 112:11 variation [1] - 107:20 121:3 types [5] - 13:1, 39:16, weigh [1] - 102:16 vast [1] - 64:1 touch [3] - 65:16, 66:5, 110:7 43:20, 56:19, 63:13 weighed [1] - 102:20 touching [1] - 52:4 vegetation [19] - 10:23, typewritten [1] - 140:8 weight [1] - 22:19 12:17, 16:7, 16:10, 16:13, **Tovey** [1] - 86:19 typical [1] - 66:13 weighting [1] - 124:2 16:16, 16:19, 24:21, 28:23, towards [1] - 91:18 typically [4] - 19:8, 19:14, welcome [1] - 26:1 29:12, 31:22, 36:18, 48:6, towers [2] - 69:13 74:1, 113:11 welfare [6] - 60:10, 120:18, 48:13, 48:20, 64:4, 75:1, town [4] - 74:15, 91:18, **U.S** [2] - 75:8, 75:9 121:2, 122:4, 123:18, 113:21 91:20, 93:9 ultimately [3] - 6:7, 96:7, 134:18 vegetative [35] - 7:22, 9:1, Township [9] - 20:20, 22:12, 99.10 west [12] - 11:15, 12:11, 9:7. 9:12. 9:13. 9:19. 38:12, 47:24, 59:22, 59:23, 14:20, 19:17, 33:6, 33:8, unanimous [1] - 138:23 12:10, 14:5, 14:18, 15:2, 63:21, 101:5, 107:3 33:9, 33:12, 34:2, 43:4, unclear [1] - 118:18 15:18, 16:24, 17:5, 17:16, township [3] - 20:22, 124:11, 43:7, 74:21 under [18] - 13:2, 17:24, 17:19, 24:13, 27:23, 32:10, 129:11 western [1] - 20:5 28:1, 30:18, 31:13, 57:21, 32:11, 32:16, 32:21, 34:4, townships [1] - 128:6 Westervelt[1] - 3:3 57:22, 65:7, 98:8, 98:15,

35:20, 35:23, 36:1, 36:3,

wet [2] - 90:20, 108:13 whole [6] - 13:5, 29:22, 55:3, 70:19, 71:19, 112:19 William [2] - 3:3, 30:8 WILLIAM [9] - 9:24, 10:4, 30:2, 30:10, 31:14, 32:2, 104:6, 115:24, 116:4 willingness [1] - 127:21 wind [3] - 32:12, 121:12, 122:11 wire [1] - 74:14

wise [1] - 131:21 wish [2] - 61:6, 86:1

**wondered** [1] - 66:1 **word** [3] - 31:2, 31:16,

129:21

words [1] - 25:19

work [28] - 18:12, 22:11, 22:14, 23:12, 23:18, 44:24, 53:15, 53:17, 53:18, 70:24, 77:2, 80:2, 97:2, 101:3, 105:23, 108:1, 108:20, 108:23, 109:16, 110:1, 110:15, 110:18, 110:22, 112:11, 119:5, 127:22, 132:4

worked [3] - 27:22, 28:10, 44:13

working [15] - 10:14, 23:8, 37:17, 39:7, 41:5, 52:2, 55:24, 56:22, 63:19, 70:14, 99:9, 106:3, 110:16, 112:13, 128:7

**works** [3] - 89:5, 133:19, 138:16

world [1] - 25:22

**worth** [5] - 31:21, 64:9, 71:10, 71:12, 99:15

11.10, 11.12, 33

written [1] - 122:7 wrote [1] - 130:15

yard [1] - 35:3

**year** [19] - 22:20, 29:5, 59:20, 60:19, 60:20, 60:22, 61:14, 65:1, 75:17, 75:19, 77:24, 78:3, 81:18, 108:6, 135:4, 135:6, 135:9, 135:11

years [12] - 49:16, 49:22, 55:14, 60:19, 61:1, 71:9, 71:13, 71:18, 71:24, 74:24, 75:24, 89:9

yellow [1] - 14:18

**ZBA**[7] - 4:9, 5:12, 11:2, 115:7, 122:21, 123:8, 130:4

**zone** [5] - 81:16, 84:7, 92:7, 93:12, 93:13

**zoned** [3] - 65:10, 66:19, 98:11

**ZONING** [8] - 1:11, 2:2, 4:16, 5:8, 5:19, 117:17, 118:3, 139:10

**zoning** [36] - 2:7, 5:23, 6:22, 14:2, 14:22, 27:2, 32:8,

56:18, 62:16, 62:18, 63:4, 65:7, 66:5, 66:20, 90:6, 90:14, 98:8, 98:17, 98:20, 100:13, 100:15, 100:17, 104:9, 104:12, 104:13, 104:18, 104:24, 105:2, 105:4, 105:5, 105:6, 120:9, 120:12, 130:21, 131:4, 132:14

Zoning [12] - 2:20, 6:6, 7:23,

8:4, 8:12, 8:15, 10:20, 87:15, 115:18, 118:6, 122:13, 140:6 **zoom** [2] - 32:24, 43:19

zoomed [1] - 14:22