

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES DIVISION

- - - - - X
IN RE: :
: DOCKET NO. RPU-2019-0001
INTERSTATE POWER AND LIGHT :
COMPANY : **VOLUME III**
- - - - - X

Iowa State Fairgrounds
Varied Industries Building
Second Floor
3000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa
Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Met, pursuant to adjournment, at 8:30 a.m.

BEFORE: THE IOWA UTILITIES BOARD

GERI D. HUSER, Chairperson (Presiding)
NICK WAGNER, Board Member
RICHARD W. LOZIER, JR., Board Member

(Pages 569 through 774)

EDIE SPRIGGS DANIELS - CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

1	APPEARANCES:	
2	For IPL:	ANDREW CARDON, ESQ.
3		Senior Attorney
4		200 First Street SE
5		Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401
6		ERIC J. CALLISTO, ESQ.
7		Michael Best & Friedrich, LLP
8		100 East Wisconsin Avenue
9		Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
10	For the Office of	JENNIFER C. EASLER, ESQ.
11	Consumer Advocate:	JOHN S. LONG, ESQ.
12		JEFF COOK, ESQ.
13		1375 East Court Avenue
14		Des Moines, Iowa 50319
15	For Jonathan Lipman,	JAY MARCUS, ESQ.
16	AIA & Associates:	1946 Mansion Drive
17		Fairfield, Iowa 52556
18	For the Large Energy	HALEY R. VAN LOON, ESQ.
19	Group:	Brown Winick Law Firm
20		666 Grand Avenue
21		Suite 2000
22		Des Moines, Iowa 50309
23	For IBEC:	THOMAS C. GOODHUE, ESQ.
24		Nyemaster Goode, P.C.
25		700 Walnut Street
		Suite 1600
		Des Moines, Iowa 50309
	For ADM:	DANIEL E. FRANK, ESQ.
		Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP
		700 Sixth Street, N.W.
		Suite 700
		Washington, D.C. 20001
	For the Large General	AMANDA JAMES, ESQ.
	Service Group:	Sullivan & Ward, P.C.
		6601 Westown Parkway
		Suite 200
		West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

1	APPEARANCES:	
2	For the Decorah Area	SHEILA K. TIPTON, ESQ.
3	Group:	Brown Winick Law Firm
4		666 Grand Avenue
		Suite 2000
		Des Moines, Iowa 50309
5	For the Environmental	JOSHUA T. MANDELBAUM, ESQ.
6	Intervenors:	MICHAEL R. SCHMIDT, ESQ.
7		Staff Attorneys
8		505 Fifth Avenue
		Suite 333
		Des Moines, Iowa 50309
9	For the Sierra Club:	S. LAURIE WILLIAMS, ESQ.
10		Staff Attorney
		1536 Wynkoop Street
		Denver, Colorado 80202
11	For Walmart:	DAVID L. WOODSMALL, ESQ.
12		300 East High Street
13		Suite 204
		Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
14	For ITC Midwest:	BRET A. DUBLINSKE, ESQ.
15		BRANT M. LEONARD, ESQ.
16		Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
		505 East Grand Avenue
		Suite 200
		Des Moines, Iowa 50309
17		AMY MONOPOLI, ESQ.
18		ITC Holdings Corp.
19		27175 Energy Way
		Novi, Michigan 48377
20	For ChargePoint:	MATTHEW C. McDERMOTT, ESQ.
21		Belin McCormick, P.C.
22		666 Walnut Street
		Suite 2000
		Des Moines, Iowa 50309
23	(via webinar)	SCOTT DUNBAR, ESQ.
24		Keyes & Fox, LLP
		1580 Lincoln Street
		Suite 880
25		Denver, Colorado 80203

1 APPEARANCES:

2 For the Iowa Brotherhood JAY M. SMITH, ESQ.
3 of Electrical Workers, Smith & McElwain Law Offices
4 Local 204: 3209 Ingersoll Avenue
Suite 104
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

5 For MidAmerican: ANDREW MAGNER, ESQ.
6 666 Grand Avenue
Suite 500
7 Des Moines, Iowa 50309
8
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1	<u>I N D E X</u>					
2	<u>WITNESS</u>	<u>DIRECT</u>	<u>CROSS</u>	<u>REDIRECT</u>	<u>RE CROSS</u>	<u>BOARD</u>
3	<u>For IPL:</u>					
4	Roger Morin	577	579(Long)			583
5	Wendi Cigrand	584		607		585
6	Neil Michek (recalled)					656
7	David Vognsen (recalled)			747		742
9	Neil Michek (recalled)	752	763 (Tipton)	766 (Tipton)	771 (Tipton)	767
10			765 (Van Loon)	768		
11	<u>For OCA:</u>					
12	Sheila Parker	614		618		616
13						620
14	Blake Kruger	621	631 (Callisto)	634		622
15						632
16	Marcos Munoz	638	651(Callisto)			636
17	Scott Bents	663	670 (Callisto)	672		639
18						664
19	Seth Davison	673	675(Callisto)			671
20			688(Frank)			
21			693(Callisto)			
22	<u>For LEG:</u>					
23	Robert Latham	705	706(Frank)			
24	<u>For ADM:</u>					
25	Robert Stephens	710	710 (Callisto)	715		713
						718

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For DAG:

For the Environmental Intervenor:

Kerri Johannsen 729 734(Callisto) 730

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: The Iowa Utilities Board
3 is in session.

4 The Board moved into closed session
5 pursuant to section 21.5(1)(f) allowing the Board
6 to conduct questions while dealing with confidential
7 material. The Board moved out of confidential
8 session last evening, and we are at that point where,
9 Mr. Callisto, you may call your next witness.

10 MR. CALLISTO: Your Honor, before we do
11 that, just one administrative issue.

12 Board Member Wagner yesterday had--I think
13 it was yesterday. I'll just say in the prior part of
14 the hearing. It's starting to merge a little bit in
15 my mind. Board Member Wagner had a question--and I
16 believe it was to Mr. Vognsen, but it could have been
17 to Mr. Michek--asking if he had a five-year look at
18 the impact of the RER, and what we provided was a
19 document that had two years. I'm sorry. It was the
20 Chair.

21 Overnight we've created that document so
22 that we can provide to the Board a five-year look of
23 the company's view of the impact of the RER.

24 Mr. Michek can certainly talk about that
25 directionally in public session; but, of course,

1 there are elements of it that would have to be in
2 closed if we're going to walk through the specific
3 document, but we would like to give the Board the
4 opportunity to ask questions on that. We assume that
5 he's going to be a witness again, Mr. Michek.

6 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Michek is going to
7 be a witness again, so do you wish to call him now
8 and then bring him back later, or do you want to go
9 right to Mr. Morin?

10 MR. CALLISTO: I think we'll go to Dr. Morin,
11 and then we'll just take it from there.

12 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: All right.

13 MR. CALLISTO: Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Are there any other
15 issues that any party wishes to bring up before we
16 begin?

17 MR. LONG: Board Chair.

18 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Long.

19 MR. LONG: I just wanted to clarify that the
20 cross-examination that I will conduct on Dr. Morin
21 will be in the gas docket, RPU-2019-2.

22 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto?

23 MR. CALLISTO: IPL calls Dr. Roger Morin.

24
25

1 ROGER A. MORIN,
2 called as a witness by Counsel for Interstate Power
3 and Light Company, being first duly sworn by
4 Chairperson Huser, was examined and testified as
5 follows:

6 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You may be seated.

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Just hold on one second
9 before you begin, Mr. Callisto.

10 Ms. Tipton, it appears that you may have
11 information related to whether or not Mr. Marcus is
12 in attendance today.

13 MS. TIPTON: Yes. He told me that he was
14 going home last night. He was finished.

15 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Okay.

16 Mr. Callisto?

17 DIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. CALLISTO:

19 Q. Dr. Morin, please state and spell your name
20 and give us your title as well.

21 A. My name is Roger A. Morin, M-o-r-i-n. My
22 title is emeritus professor of finance and
23 distinguished professor for regulated industry at the
24 Robinson College of Business, Georgia State
25 University, University Plaza, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

1 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Morin, you're going
2 to have to pull that mic just a little bit closer.

3 THE WITNESS: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Thank you.

5 BY MR. CALLISTO:

6 Q. Dr. Morin, I'm first going to ask you about
7 the electric case just to get your testimony in, and
8 then we will turn to the gas case.

9 Did you cause to be filed in the electric
10 docket, RPU-2019-0001, direct and rebuttal testimony?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And if I asked you the same questions, would
13 you give the same answers?

14 A. I would.

15 Q. Turning to the gas case, RPU-2019-0002, did
16 you cause to be filed direct and rebuttal testimony
17 in that case?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. And if I asked you the same questions, would
20 you give the same answers?

21 A. Yes.

22 MR. CALLISTO: Dr. Morin is available for
23 cross for the gas case.

24 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Long.

25 MR. LONG: Thank you.

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. LONG:

3 Q. Good morning, Dr. Morin.

4 A. Good morning, sir.

5 MR. LONG: For the record, this cross-
6 examination is in the gas case.

7 BY MR. LONG:

8 Q. Dr. Morin, is it correct that you presented
9 results based on DCF analyses in your exhibits--I
10 believe they are labeled Direct Exhibits 1 through
11 8(G).

12 A. Yes. Among other results, yes.

13 MR. LONG: Thank you.

14 Could we go to Exhibit 3(G), Dr. Morin's
15 Direct Exhibit 3(G) in RPU-2019-0002?

16 THE WITNESS: I have it.

17 BY MR. LONG:

18 Q. Please look at the numbered line 6,
19 South Jersey Industries.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Is it true that the listed ROE for
22 South Jersey Industries is 17.77 percent?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. And isn't it also true that you used this
25 ROE from the proxy company South Jersey Industries of

1 17.77 percent to compute your average, which is
2 9.58 percent?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And the average of 9.58 percent is the
5 result of this DCF analysis, which I believe in your
6 direct testimony you rounded up to 9.6.

7 A. Correct, sir.

8 Q. Thank you.

9 So you did not exclude South Jersey Industries
10 when computing this result in this DCF analysis; is
11 that correct?

12 A. That is correct, because one can certainly
13 make the case that that number is unsustainable in
14 the long run and perhaps should or could be
15 eliminated from the average, and perhaps it works in
16 the reverse as well. The low number, 6.2, should
17 perhaps be eliminated as well.

18 I was a little reluctant to do that because
19 one of the problems with the gas industry right now
20 is our samples are dwindling. A lot of gas companies
21 are being bought out. Southern Company bought
22 Atlanta Gas Light. Duke Energy bought Piedmont Gas.
23 So basically the sample is becoming awfully small,
24 and that's a bit of a problem. But for reasons of
25 consistency, at least in the gas case, I did present

1 the numbers of the gas industry.

2 Q. You mentioned potentially removing low
3 numbers. Is it true that in other cases you have
4 removed numbers that you consider to be too low from
5 your DCF analysis?

6 A. Yes. But there's a very good reason for
7 removing low numbers that are below the cost of debt.
8 It doesn't make any sense to have the cost of equity
9 less than the cost of debt, so in that case I would
10 do the same thing that FERC does, eliminate the
11 numbers that are less than the cost of debt.

12 MR. LONG: I'm going to introduce a document
13 that I want introduced as a hearing exhibit.

14 BY MR. LONG:

15 Q. Dr. Morin, would you agree that this is
16 an excerpt of my cross-examination of you in
17 Iowa-American's rate case in Docket No. RPU-2016-2
18 before the Iowa Utilities Board?

19 A. Yes. I have not so fond memories of that,
20 yes.

21 Q. I'll try to make it brief.

22 Would you please now turn to page 5 of 6
23 in my exhibit? In the transcript numbering, it is
24 page 111.

25 A. I have it.

1 Q. So I believe you referred to this earlier.
2 You removed SJW Water because it was too low because
3 your screen is if it's lower than the cost of debt,
4 you remove it?

5 A. Yes, sir, that's correct.

6 Q. Is there any corresponding screen for
7 numbers that are too high?

8 A. Not really, not formally. One way to do it
9 is to use a statistic known as standard deviation,
10 and any time you have a number that's more than two
11 standard deviations away from the mean, you should
12 think about removing it. But if we want to cut to
13 the chase here, I don't have any problem removing
14 that number.

15 MR. LONG: No further questions.

16 THE WITNESS: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Long, do you wish to
18 move OCA Hearing Exhibit 1 into the record?

19 MR. LONG: Yes, in the gas docket.

20 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: OCA Hearing Exhibit 1 in
21 RPU-19-2, is there any objection?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Hearing none, the
24 exhibit is admitted.

25

1 (OCA Hearing Exhibit 1 [RPU-2019-2]
2 was received in evidence.)

3 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Dr. Morin, you just
4 mentioned that with a DCF, the proxy group is
5 dwindling for gas companies.

6 Would that, then, in general, lead the Board
7 and commissions to look at the DCF as perhaps not a
8 good model to be using in decisions when looking at
9 ROE?

10 THE WITNESS: I would still aver to the DCF
11 and perhaps give less weight to the DCF results on
12 the gas peer group and give all the weight deserved
13 by the combination gas and electric peer group.

14 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Okay. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Is there any other party
16 that has any questions in the gas case?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto?

19 MR. CALLISTO: Nothing further.

20 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: The witness may step
21 down.

22 You may call your next witness.

23 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

24 (Witness excused.)

25 MR. CARDON: Interstate Power and Light

1 calls Ms. Wendi Cigrand.

2 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Cigrand, would you
3 please raise your right hand?

4 WENDI CIGRAND,
5 called as a witness by Counsel for Interstate Power
6 and Light Company, being first duly sworn by
7 Chairperson Huser, was examined and testified as
8 follows:

9 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Cardon.

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. CARDON:

12 Q. Ms. Cigrand, will you please state and spell
13 your name for the record?

14 A. Yes. Wendi Cigrand, W-e-n-d-i, C-i-g-r-a-n-d.

15 Q. And what is your position with Alliant Energy?

16 A. I'm the director of customer support
17 services.

18 Q. Can you please provide a brief summary of
19 your education and work experience?

20 A. I have a bachelor's degree from Buena Vista
21 University in Storm Lake, and I have been with the
22 utility for 19 years, beginning in billing and mostly
23 concentrated around the customer-facing pieces of the
24 utility, the call center, billing functions.

25 Q. Can you please explain your responsibilities

1 as director of customer support services?

2 A. Yes. I'm responsible for all the customer-
3 facing interactions in the call center on our voice
4 channels, as well as the self-service channels, and
5 ensuring that customer complaints, issues, comments
6 are handled efficiently. We also focus a lot of
7 attention on process improvement.

8 Q. And in what location are you based?

9 A. I'm based in Cedar Rapids. My call center
10 manager is based in Cedar Rapids, and the majority of
11 our customer service staff is based in Iowa.

12 MR. CARDON: Yesterday the Board indicated
13 it had specific questions for Ms. Cigrand. Rather
14 than try to restate those questions, I'll make
15 Ms. Cigrand available for Board questions.

16 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Is there any party that
17 has any questions for Ms. Cigrand?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Cigrand, we would
20 like it if you would simply start with an overview of
21 the customer service call center and the process in
22 which you handle the complaints that come in and the
23 timelines it takes to answer those calls.

24 THE WITNESS: Okay. There are a few
25 channels that customer complaints come in. Some are

1 through the Utilities Board. Those are answered by
2 staff dedicated to the Board staff. They answer an
3 e-mail box and are available by phone, and they are
4 staffed the same hours that the Board staff works, so
5 they can quickly respond to those complaints.

6 We also get some complaints through our
7 executives. Customers may write a letter or call
8 them directly. Those are handled by that same
9 regulatory complaint staff.

10 The majority of our complaints come through
11 our customer service center while our associates are
12 talking to customers. They'll file a case in our
13 billing system. It allows them to capture the main
14 topic of their complaint, any subtopic. They can
15 open that case and close it if they were able to
16 resolve the complaint while they had the customer on
17 the phone, or if they need to escalate that to a
18 different department or perhaps someone asked to
19 speak to a supervisor, they can escalate it through
20 our billing system to the party that can respond.

21 The majority of our internal complaints that
22 come through the call center are closed between 24
23 and 48 hours after receipt.

24 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: What is the average call
25 wait time?

1 THE WITNESS: We have been averaging, for a
2 monthly average speed of answer in the call center,
3 90 seconds or less for all of this year.

4 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You indicate that
5 there are staff assigned specifically to the
6 Utilities Board and then staff that work outside of
7 that category.

8 How many customer service representatives
9 work with the Utilities Board complaints?

10 THE WITNESS: We have three people who
11 answer those complaints and a manager over that
12 group.

13 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And then the other side?

14 THE WITNESS: There are approximately 143
15 associates answering the phones in Iowa, and there
16 are 31 in Madison.

17 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Do they take calls from
18 both states?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes. All of our associates
20 take calls for both states. Those calls are tracked,
21 and there's an affiliated agreement where we can
22 true-up that financial difference from one utility to
23 the other one.

24 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And I'm not going to
25 assume. The three individuals and the manager

1 operate where, out of what location?

2 THE WITNESS: One is in our Centerville
3 office, one is in Cedar Rapids, one is in Madison,
4 and that manager is in Madison.

5 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And then the 143
6 associates and 31 others, where is their location?

7 THE WITNESS: The 31 are in Madison. And
8 you'll have to forgive me. I believe that
9 approximately 70 of the 143 are in Centerville, but
10 the remainder are in Cedar Rapids. It's a fairly
11 even division for Iowa, how many are in Cedar Rapids
12 and how many are in Centerville.

13 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Are any of the customer
14 service managers or management team in Iowa?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes. We have five team leads
16 and the call center manager over all three managers
17 reside in Iowa, and there is one call center team
18 lead in Madison.

19 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Is there a different
20 average wait time for customers peak versus non-peak?

21 THE WITNESS: It does vary throughout the
22 day depending on the call arrival patterns. It can
23 also vary if we have an outage. Outage and emergency
24 calls are prioritized first, then the customer
25 service calls, so that can cause a little bit longer

1 wait time.

2 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: For those that are
3 Utilities Board staff versus those that are in the
4 call centers, is the average wait time different?

5 THE WITNESS: That's a good question. There
6 isn't a measurement on that staff that supports the
7 Utilities Board complaints. They have a general
8 mailbox and then their general phone numbers.
9 Most of those complaints come into a
10 complaints@alliantenergy.com e-mail box.

11 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You made--or I heard you
12 state that the hours of those staff assigned to the
13 Utilities Board are consistent with the hours of the
14 IUB. What are those hours?

15 THE WITNESS: Those are actually probably a
16 little broader. Our first person is in by 7 a.m.,
17 and the last one ends no earlier than 5 p.m., and
18 sometimes they stay later.

19 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Are you familiar with
20 any of the testimony that's been filed by Ms. Parker
21 or Mr. Bents?

22 THE WITNESS: I have read Ms. Parker's
23 testimony. I am not familiar with Mr. Bents'.

24 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. McConnell, would you
25 please call up Mr. Bents' testimony at page 21? I

1 guess go back to page 20, the question that starts on
2 the bottom of the page.

3 Could you read the question? You don't
4 need--I need you to read it. I want you to be
5 familiar with it.

6 THE WITNESS: Certainly. "How many
7 complaints involving IPL are related to billing, high
8 bills, or rates/charges, independent of rate case
9 comments?"

10 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Would you read the
11 answer?

12 THE WITNESS: The majority of them. In
13 2014, 20 out of the 35 (57 percent) complaints
14 submitted involving IPL had the terms 'billing,'
15 'high bill,' or 'rates/charges' in the Docket
16 Description. In 2015, 25 out 39 (64 percent) had
17 those terms. In 2016, there were 431 out of 442
18 (98 percent). In 2017, it was 58 out of 83
19 (70 percent), and in 2018, it was 470 out of 496
20 (95 percent) complaints. It should be noted that in
21 2018, the term 'high bill' was specifically
22 identified in 408 of those complaints."

23 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You've previously stated
24 you are not familiar with Mr. Bents' testimony. Do
25 you know whether this information was provided to

1 anyone in the customer service area?

2 THE WITNESS: I don't know that this
3 particular information was, but we do pay attention
4 to what the main categories of the complaints are
5 coming in, and that's where we spend some time doing
6 process improvements, communication, perhaps Q and A
7 with the staff on how to better handle those types of
8 calls.

9 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: So then you are familiar
10 with the situation and the occurrence of the increase
11 in the number of complaints that the Utilities Board
12 has received.

13 What has IPL implemented as it relates to
14 procedures to address the high percentage of high
15 bill complaints?

16 THE WITNESS: We have brought our staff back
17 in for more extensive training on high bill, what
18 could perhaps help customers understand their energy
19 usage.

20 High bill is a little bit difficult in that
21 we don't expect our customers to understand all of
22 the ins and outs of the energy business. That's
23 really our business, and a customer isn't interested
24 in that.

25 What will be very helpful and what we have

1 seen in a decline in complaints so far this year is
2 the very low estimation numbers because of the AMI
3 meter implementation. That had caused some
4 fluctuation in bills, and oftentimes they may have
5 been estimated simply because there was a dog in the
6 yard or we couldn't get to the meter. It causes some
7 abnormal swings up and down in customer usage.

8 What we would like to do as we implement a
9 new My Account solution, which is the self-service
10 portal, an app for our customers, if we are able to
11 share some of that granular AMI data--and I know that
12 that is still under consideration--there are high
13 usage alerts customers can sign up for. They can own
14 how they want to receive that information. They can
15 set a usage threshold for the month, and they can
16 determine whether they want to know at 25 percent,
17 50 percent, 75 percent of that usage. It will allow
18 them to understand how they're using energy in real
19 time.

20 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And when do you expect
21 that My Account to roll out?

22 THE WITNESS: That will go live by the end
23 of January 2020.

24 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And with any training
25 plan, I assume it's starting now, so can you explain

1 to me what training is being set up to provide to the
2 customers so that they understand how to use and
3 operate the system?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes. The system is very
5 intuitive. It's being used by several utilities now,
6 the base system that we purchased. And so it's
7 more--I would liken it a little bit more to an Amazon
8 experience where it's very intuitive how a customer
9 would use it.

10 However, there are opportunities for us to
11 leverage quick how-to videos, how to get registered,
12 how to set up, maybe, auto pay or budget bill.
13 They'll be able to actually enter into their own
14 payment arrangement online if they want to. They can
15 get bill reminders.

16 So there will be--we'll use our social media
17 channels, Facebook, things like that, for video
18 snippets. We'll have bill inserts. There will be
19 mailings to customers.

20 Probably our first challenge is the
21 one-third of our customers that are on our current
22 platform, getting them through the transition to the
23 new platform, so that will be a lot of communication
24 to them about what that means for them, in
25 particular, and what, if any, action they need to

1 take.

2 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Do you know what
3 percentage of your customers are considered to be low
4 and moderate income?

5 THE WITNESS: I am aware that I believe
6 25 percent of our customers have a median wage of
7 25,000 and 15 percent have 50,000 as their income.

8 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And your testimony
9 seems to indicate that all of this information is
10 going to be available on an online account. Is that
11 accurate?

12 THE WITNESS: Let me make sure I understand.
13 The information that I explained as in--

14 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Is the My Account
15 electronic?

16 THE WITNESS: It is.

17 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: How have you set up the
18 training for those customers that don't have in-home
19 Internet or computer systems?

20 THE WITNESS: It actually works on a smart
21 phone as well. There's a desktop portal. They can
22 leverage that from any mobile device or computer, or
23 they can use their smart phone.

24 We'll always still have our voice channel as
25 well, so they're welcome to call us as well. There's

1 just a high percentage of our customer base that
2 would like to do self-service. We see that even as
3 we survey our customers. They're more satisfied in
4 the self-service area, so they want that, and they
5 want a few more tools. It won't satisfy every
6 customer's want or need, and so we'll have that voice
7 channel as well.

8 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And the training you've
9 identified are videos. I mean are there help lines
10 that are going to be made available for customers,
11 and when is that starting?

12 THE WITNESS: That marketing plan starts, I
13 want to say, towards the end of next month. It's a
14 little bit--we don't want to say it too far in
15 advance. That's confusing to customers if the tool
16 isn't coming online yet. But we'll also have--we
17 have a dedicated web support thread. As you call in
18 to Alliant Energy, if you say "web support" to our
19 voice recognition system, you'll be channeled to an
20 agent, and that pops up on their screen so they know
21 that's what the question is about.

22 The other real benefit to our customers in
23 us going live with that in January is that it will
24 lower call volume time for us, typically, and so that
25 allows us a little more dedicated time to ensure that

1 that's a smooth transition.

2 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Are you aware of the
3 percentage of C files, CIs, and verbals that the
4 Iowa Utilities Board receives that are related to
5 IPL?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: What is that percentage?

8 THE WITNESS: As far as your percentage of
9 total complaints?

10 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Yes.

11 THE WITNESS: I don't know that. I'm sorry.
12 I thought you meant of our complaints.

13 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: What do you believe the
14 percentage is of your complaints?

15 THE WITNESS: In the scope for this year,
16 it's fairly low. Most of our complaints come in
17 through our call center; however, I am aware that
18 there's a lot more work involved in an IUB complaint.

19 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And we do not have
20 anyone that's testified to this, but the number that
21 I've been provided with is we're ranging between 60
22 and 70 percent of all of our customer complaints are
23 related to IPL.

24 Does that surprise you?

25 THE WITNESS: We have a lot going on in the

1 utility, and I think that some of those changes have
2 caused customers to have questions.

3 What I can say is although there were many
4 complaints about the AMI implementation, now that the
5 majority of those meters are in and we're actually
6 getting the reads from them, internally we had seven
7 complaints last month about AMI, and it was really
8 more customers that wanted to make sure--perhaps
9 they're on the opt-out. They want to make sure
10 they're still on the opt-out, and they are, so we
11 just reassure them.

12 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: So as we head into the
13 moratorium, the increase in cases seems to be about
14 the process used to handle previous unpaid balances
15 for other persons. What standard or requirement does
16 IPL use to determine when to transfer a bill from one
17 customer's account to another?

18 THE WITNESS: If you're speaking to maybe
19 the roommate rule, I hope--

20 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Say that again.

21 THE WITNESS: The roommate rule, perhaps.
22 So if someone lives at a premise and they don't pay
23 their bill and someone else is looking to sign up to
24 put that account in their name, if that person who is
25 now signing up to put that account in their name has

1 lived there for the duration of all that usage, then
2 they benefited from the service, and so that balance
3 then becomes theirs. They can have a payment
4 arrangement on that balance.

5 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Oh, I understand the
6 rule.

7 THE WITNESS: Okay.

8 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: My question is, what's
9 the procedure that's used by IPL to determine that?

10 THE WITNESS: We have a few things that we
11 use. We use a piece of software to help us determine
12 where that individual has been receiving mail or what
13 their last registered mailing address was. That
14 helps us know if that's what's occurring. Typically
15 we don't look into that unless there's quite a
16 significant balance that seems to be at that premise.
17 Sometimes it will happen that there's a lot of people
18 calling in attempting to get service at a certain
19 premise where there is a large balance due.

20 So there are a few key things that the
21 associate will see and maybe start to instigate a few
22 more of these questions that they ask just to try to
23 determine was that person living here that entire
24 time.

25 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: What is the software

1 called?

2 HE WITNESS: It's a LexisNexis product.

3 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: With the use of the AMI
4 meters, we understand that disconnections will be
5 much easier. It's cutting down on costs. There's
6 been testimony that's been provided throughout the
7 case as it relates to that process.

8 What standard or requirement does IPL use to
9 determine when to begin that disconnection process?

10 THE WITNESS: There is a timeline of events
11 that are triggered within our billing system, so the
12 bill is rendered, for instance, day one. On day 20
13 that bill is due. Four days later the system goes
14 through a due-date processing if payment has not been
15 received. Then it enters into pieces where
16 eventually a 12-day disconnect letter is sent to the
17 customer. Before the actual disconnect happens,
18 there's a phone call placed to the customer.

19 So if the disconnect should occur, what
20 we're finding is very beneficial for our customers
21 from the AMI implementation is that once they call us
22 and settle that issue, either by entering into a
23 payment arrangement or paying the balance--they have
24 a few options depending on their situation--there is
25 a system job that sends that connect signal to that

1 meter, and that customer is right back on very
2 quickly. That was oftentimes an area where customers
3 would get frustrated when we couldn't guarantee a
4 time that the truck would come to connect their
5 service because it depended on where they were
6 located, where our field personnel were located. We
7 couldn't really gauge that for them, where now
8 they're turned on right away.

9 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: As you are aware,
10 we received numerous calls as it relates to
11 misinformation and miscommunication regarding the
12 opt-out on the rollout of the smart meters.

13 We also have electronically available those
14 conversations that we've had with IPL.

15 How have you improved your training
16 practices for the call centers related to those
17 problems?

18 THE WITNESS: We did have a few stumbles
19 with that process. As we were rolling out those
20 meters, some parts of our territory would get the
21 postcard that this was coming, while others it was
22 happening, and there was a little confusion amongst
23 our staff.

24 When we were alerted to the fact that our
25 customers are getting some misinformation, we took

1 that very seriously. We pulled the associates aside
2 in groups off the phone to really explain the parts
3 and pieces in the billing system that they needed to
4 look at and what it meant, because there are certain
5 notes on every account that would let them know what
6 stage of implementation they were in.

7 Once we did that, we monitored it very
8 closely, and I believe for the most part that helped
9 everyone understand exactly what they were looking at
10 and how important it was for those customers who
11 really wanted to be assured that they were on the
12 opt-out.

13 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Do you handle the unique
14 complaints differently than you do billing or service
15 complaints?

16 THE WITNESS: I guess I would say that I
17 try--I think my staff and I look at a complaint as
18 what are the unique situations for that customer.
19 There's different levers that can be pulled, there's
20 different activities that are going on, so it's
21 really rather important to really look at the whole
22 situation for every complaint, because there could be
23 a slight nuance that would help guide you on the
24 right way to respond to that complaint.

25 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And you're aware that we

1 received a large number of complaints during the
2 customer comment meetings that led to us opening C
3 files or other proceedings.

4 One specific instance--and I think there are
5 four or five others--relates to landowners and wind
6 farms.

7 How are those treated and how do you address
8 those customer issues when they're related to
9 third-party contracts or providers of service to IPL?

10 THE WITNESS: We oftentimes get complaints
11 that are a bit outside of our area of expertise, but
12 because we're somewhat the funnel, that's where
13 customers come, and so we work very closely with
14 people in the company who are more close to that
15 information. Sometimes they may take that complaint
16 and speak to that customer directly. Sometimes they
17 may inform us, if it's maybe not quite so technical,
18 how we could help that customer. But we don't really
19 get into a lot of the issues outside our area because
20 that's not really where we're subject-matter experts,
21 but we do take the responsibility of taking care of
22 that complaint to completion very seriously.

23 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: So whether you have
24 jurisdiction or authority over the particular issue,
25 you try and take care of that customer; correct?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: The Iowa Utilities Board
3 is encountering that same issue where we may not have
4 jurisdiction, but they are IPL customers, and we're
5 trying to figure out how to deal with that.

6 Do you have any suggestions for us?

7 THE WITNESS: I think that would be a good
8 topic for us to sit down and walk through what you're
9 saying, and perhaps that relates to a process we use
10 internally or how we could develop that together.

11 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Are you aware that there
12 have been situations that have arisen related to the
13 2019 winter interruption of service to interruptible
14 customers?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: What process or
17 procedure did IPL follow to notify a customer of the
18 interruption of service?

19 THE WITNESS: We used the same type of
20 communication plan that we use for every interrupt.
21 I believe that, understandably, our customers were a
22 bit surprised to be interrupted in the wintertime.
23 It's not a normal-type interrupt.

24 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Do you know how many
25 customers were unable to lower their usage to meet

1 their identified thresholds?

2 THE WITNESS: I do not have that information
3 with me, but we do have it.

4 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: What alternatives did a
5 customer have if the customer was unable to contact
6 an IPL representative during this time period?

7 THE WITNESS: Well, they should have been
8 able to. Many did, because most of those customers
9 have an assigned key account manager, but they also
10 can contact the call center. They have a line that
11 gives them priority to get to someone that's
12 specifically knowledgeable for interrupts, at least
13 to get them to someone else that can help in a timely
14 manner, because it is a very time-sensitive issue.

15 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Are your representatives--
16 are the three staff--are the staff that are-- Strike
17 that.

18 Are the staff that are assigned to the
19 Utilities Board able to provide the Utilities Board
20 with that key account manager to assist in those
21 situations?

22 THE WITNESS: I don't see why they couldn't.
23 We do that for our customers. I would think they
24 could.

25 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Is it considered

1 confidential who that person is that is assigned to
2 that customer?

3 THE WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.

4 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Are you aware of the
5 number of interruptible customers that we've had to
6 open files on?

7 THE WITNESS: I'm aware of three.

8 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Would it surprise you--
9 What do you think that refund amount was?

10 THE WITNESS: In total, the penalties?

11 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: These are the refundable
12 amounts that were paid back to the customer.

13 THE WITNESS: I don't have that off the top
14 of my head, and I would rather not ballpark it, but I
15 could get it for you. There's a few components
16 there, if it's a refund of the penalty or a refund of
17 the new established demand.

18 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And I've decided not to
19 go any further because I don't have the--I don't know
20 the difference. I just have the total.

21 Do you know, is there statistical
22 information on how common significant billing errors
23 are; for instance, over a thousand dollars on a
24 residential or commercial?

25 THE WITNESS: We do track larger billing

1 adjustments. That is a monthly meeting where there
2 is kind of a deep dive into sort of a five why, if
3 you will, of what caused the issue and allows us to
4 learn from it.

5 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Are you aware that IPL
6 is proposing a Renewable Energy Rider?

7 THE WITNESS: I am a bit aware, but
8 certainly not a subject matter expert.

9 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Do you know whether or
10 not that's going to be a separate line item on the
11 bill for the customer?

12 THE WITNESS: I can't recall.

13 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Are you aware that
14 customers currently find the bills confusing and less
15 than transparent?

16 THE WITNESS: Absolutely. And I'll tell
17 you, there's a piece in the My Account where they can
18 look at their complete bill. Of course, we provide
19 that. But there's also a recap of just a simplified
20 line item of their usage. That way if they don't
21 care to know every line item on the bill and they
22 would rather just see that quick amount of what was
23 my usage, what was my total, that's available for
24 them, and that is something that has been asked for
25 for years. Utility bills aren't simple to understand

1 for non-utility people.

2 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: With all the technology
3 that we have available and the more transparent that
4 our legislative bodies and others are requesting that
5 we become, do you have ideas on how to make that bill
6 more transparent and explain the components of the
7 utility bill?

8 THE WITNESS: It's difficult to try to
9 explain what those line items are in customer-
10 friendly terms, so it's something that we continue to
11 work towards. It just doesn't seem to be very easy.

12 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Sounds like a good
13 strategic plan item, doesn't it?

14 THE WITNESS: It may be.

15 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Hold on one second.

16 THE WITNESS: Sure.

17 (Pause.)

18 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Cardon?

19 MR. CARDON: Thank you, Board Chair.

20 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. CARDON:

22 Q. I have just a few follow-up notes that I was
23 hoping you could clarify a few additional things.

24 The Board Chair had asked you a few
25 questions about whether call center employees answer

1 calls from both jurisdictions.

2 Do you recall that questioning?

3 A. I do.

4 Q. Do you provide training to the call center
5 staff to be able to adequately answer questions for
6 both states?

7 A. We do.

8 Q. The Board Chair had some questions about the
9 My Account rollout and how it will be available for
10 customers that may not have Internet access, and I
11 believe you indicated that they'll be able to use an
12 app on their phone to get to that information.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you also explain how that works with the
15 voice system to make it easier for customers? How
16 does the My Account work with the voice system that
17 will make it easier for customers to use those
18 systems together?

19 A. Okay. And maybe this is what you're getting
20 to. There are parts and pieces we built into the
21 My Account that we can reuse in our voice recognition
22 system, so it will create more of a likeness between
23 the different channels, whether you're on the app or
24 the desktop or in the voice recognition system, so it
25 will help customers have some continuity in how they

1 get what they need transacted with Alliant, and so
2 we're pretty excited to be able to reuse some of that
3 functionality in future endeavors to make our
4 customer service more effortless.

5 Q. The Board Chair had you read part of
6 Mr. Bents' testimony about the number of complaints
7 received.

8 Do you recall that testimony?

9 A. I do.

10 Q. Mr. Bents doesn't state the resolution of
11 those complaints. What was the resolution of those
12 complaints, just in general?

13 A. So some of the peak complaint years were in
14 reference to putting in a new billing system, so we
15 are about three-and-a-half years post implementation
16 of a new billing system, which is a major
17 undertaking, so there were a few things that occurred
18 during those years, but those complaints were handled
19 as swiftly as we could, and we took those very
20 seriously.

21 There are some significant changes in our
22 billing system. One of those changes is to implement
23 some of the collections items in the system, and
24 that's actually what we're going to face to customers
25 on the My Account so that they can use the same path

1 that our associates do through that tool, set up
2 their own payment arrangement or sign up for budget
3 or automatic payment. They can do more things on
4 their own.

5 Q. And all of these options will make it easier
6 for customers?

7 A. Yes. And they're asking for them, and
8 they're getting them with other providers they do
9 business with, so we should do the same.

10 Q. Has IPL been reviewing the complaints and
11 comments filed in this rate review and reaching out
12 to customers when appropriate?

13 A. We have received some of those files. If
14 the complaint seemed to have an open issue that the
15 customer was still concerned about, we certainly did
16 call them back. Some of those comments were for our
17 commercial/industrial customers where we forwarded
18 those to the key account manager so that they could
19 follow up with the customer.

20 Q. The Board Chair had some questions about the
21 AMI capability, and you indicated that as a result of
22 the AMI system, customers can be reconnected more
23 quickly and easily.

24 Is IPL also proposing to lower its
25 reconnection charge in this case?

1 A. Yes, we are. And in addition to the
2 collections piece, I think it's important to know
3 that if a customer calls in to start service with
4 Alliant and their meter is disconnected, we can
5 connect it seven days a week, every week of the year.
6 So oftentimes in moving, that's a frustration from
7 our customers in the past, of "I had a hundred things
8 to think about. I didn't think about calling you,"
9 or perhaps they're serviced by two utilities and they
10 thought they called us, but they didn't, and so
11 that's really a nonissue now as far as the electric
12 meter goes because we can issue that reconnect for a
13 start service immediately.

14 Q. The Board Chair had asked you some questions
15 about unique complaints, and I think the phrase that
16 you used was, you know, that you always look at the
17 levers that can be pulled. By that do you mean
18 you're looking at all the options available to
19 customers?

20 A. Yes. There are many different solutions
21 that we can offer based on the specific situation
22 that that customer is experiencing.

23 Q. And the Board Chair had asked you about some
24 specific situations, and I believe you indicated the
25 roommate rule.

1 Is IPL being consistent with the way it's
2 addressing those complaints?

3 A. I believe we are.

4 Q. The Board Chair had asked you about the
5 winter interruption complaints.

6 Is IPL following up with some additional
7 process improvements and training to help ensure that
8 customers receive clear communications?

9 A. We absolutely are. We have now included
10 that in our annual training with those interruptible
11 customers, that that's a possibility and they should
12 be ready for that to happen.

13 We also did some value screening where we
14 took the entire process from beginning to end and
15 looked for ways to make that clearer, used that
16 customer feedback. If they didn't understand a
17 message that we left for them, how can we reword that
18 message so that it resonates. We've made several
19 changes to the communication templates, and that
20 would be when the call goes out to notify them, what
21 is that verbiage and how is it more clear.

22 Q. I guess just my last question, the
23 Board Chair had asked about the Renewable Energy
24 Rider being a line item on a bill. After the rate
25 case is over, is IPL going to be providing additional

1 training to its customer service staff to help answer
2 customer questions about the rate case?

3 A. Absolutely. And typically if there are
4 changes to the bill, we'll have a mocked-up new bill
5 format so they can see it, and that also resonates
6 more. It used to look like this. Now it's going to
7 look like this, and what those parts and pieces mean
8 in customer-friendly terminology.

9 We also have brochures that are called
10 "Understanding Your Bill", and so those would be
11 updated as well, and we could send those to customers
12 or have those available on our web site.

13 MR. CARDON: Thank you, Ms. Cigrand. I
14 don't have any further questions.

15 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You may step down.

16 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

17 (Witness excused.)

18 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto, do you
19 have any further witnesses that you wish to call?
20 Mr. Vognsen and Mr. Michek will just need to wait.

21 MR. CALLISTO: That's fine. Those are the
22 only two, and I don't have--we can call Mr. Vognsen,
23 because I believe the Board has some questions for
24 him still.

25 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: I think it's in closed

1 session, which is why I'm going to put it off, unless
2 there is an objection to that.

3 Ms. Easler, you may call your first witness.

4 MS. EASLER: OCA calls Sheila Parker.

5 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Good morning, Ms. Parker.

6 THE WITNESS: Good morning.

7 SHEILA J. PARKER,
8 called as a witness by Counsel for the Office of
9 Consumer Advocate, being first duly sworn by
10 Chairperson Huser, was examined and testified as
11 follows:

12 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You may be seated.

13 Ms. Easler.

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MS. EASLER:

16 Q. Please state your name and place of
17 employment for the record.

18 A. My name is Sheila Parker. I'm employed by
19 the Office of Consumer Advocate.

20 Q. And what position do you hold with the OCA?

21 A. I'm a utilities specialist.

22 Q. Did you cause to be filed direct and
23 rebuttal testimony and exhibits in this proceeding?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you have any corrections to make to this

1 prefiled testimony?

2 A. Consistent with the settlement, we were
3 withdrawing our testimony regarding a subsequent
4 proceeding, so I do have three references in my
5 testimony that I would like to identify.

6 Q. Okay. Maybe for understanding, I would
7 reference the settlement agreement, Article XVII, on
8 page 22.

9 Ms. Parker, could you walk us through the
10 portions of your testimony that you think are
11 affected by that term?

12 A. Yes. I'll start with my direct testimony,
13 page 25, on line 20, beginning with "The Board..."
14 And it continues to page 26, the end of line 2.

15 The next reference is in my direct testimony
16 on page 35, beginning on line 19, the sentence that
17 begins with "Thus..." and continues to line 20,
18 "review process."

19 Then I would move to my rebuttal testimony,
20 at page 18, the sentence that begins on line 17, "The
21 importance..." And it ends on line 19.

22 That completes that withdrawal.

23 Q. Thank you.

24 If asked the same questions as posed in your
25 prefiled testimony today, would your answers be the

1 same?

2 A. Yes.

3 MS. EASLER: This witness is available for
4 cross-examination.

5 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Are there any parties
6 that wish to cross-examine Ms. Parker?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Board Member Lozier?

9 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: No.

10 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Parker, Mr. Brummond
11 in his testimony referred to some of your testimony.

12 Are you familiar with Mr. Brummond's
13 testimony?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Do you believe that--
16 Are you familiar with his testimony on the energy
17 efficiency legislation and the reference to how those
18 funds would come back to customers?

19 THE WITNESS: In general, yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: In your opinion, what
21 was the legislature's intent with the reduction of
22 the energy efficiency clause?

23 THE WITNESS: Could we go ahead and pull up
24 the section of his testimony so I can get it in
25 context, please?

1 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. McConnell, go down--
2 I'll just find it. Keep going.

3 MR. CALLISTO: Your Honor, we believe it may
4 be page 12, if I understand what you're asking for.

5 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: I appreciate the
6 assistance. I'm trying to pull it up on EFS right
7 now.

8 Go down a little bit further, Ms. McConnell.

9 So my understanding of your testimony is
10 that you were trying to set out that the energy
11 efficiency reductions are being used by IPL to reduce
12 the amount of increase that would be proposed in this
13 rate case. Is that a correct interpretation of your
14 testimony? And if not, tell me what your intent was.

15 THE WITNESS: In my testimony I discuss the
16 rider impacts, specifically the Energy Efficiency
17 Rider. I recognize that the energy efficiency costs
18 in 2020 will be less than they are in 2018 due to the
19 new five-year energy efficiency plan.

20 Initially customers would have seen, but for
21 the rate case, a reduction in energy efficiency costs
22 and a reduction in the energy efficiency rider.

23 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Do you have any idea
24 what percentage reduction customers would have seen
25 from the changes the legislature made?

1 THE WITNESS: I didn't do the calculation
2 for a percentage impact, but as we can see in the
3 testimony that's on the screen, it was \$180 million
4 over five years.

5 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And are the customers
6 receiving a reduction in their bill?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes. The energy efficiency
8 costs will be lower than they were in 2018.

9 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: But will the customers
10 see a reduction in their bill from the change that
11 the legislature made?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes. There will be a line
13 item on their bill, and the energy efficiency cost
14 will be less.

15 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And the overall customer
16 rate will decrease?

17 THE WITNESS: The Energy Efficiency Rider
18 will decrease, but the base rates are separate from
19 the Energy Efficiency Rider.

20 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Easler, I have no
21 further questions.

22 MS. EASLER: Thank you.

23 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MS. EASLER:

25 Q. Ms. Parker, in your direct testimony at

1 page 14, I believe you're addressing the \$180 million
2 reduction that Mr. Brummond points out.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Could you explain the concern you're raising
5 there?

6 A. Essentially, it was what I was trying to
7 explain to Board Member Huser, that customers--the
8 energy efficiency spending in the new five-year plan
9 as a result of the recent legislation has decreased.
10 Coming on the heels of the rate increase and
11 information that was given to customers that they
12 would be seeing a reduction in their bills, it's
13 masked by the current proceeding with the rate
14 increase, though absent the filing of the rate case,
15 though, right now, the customers would have seen a
16 reduction in their bill due to the decreased energy
17 efficiency spending.

18 Q. And was that information about those impacts
19 communicated as part of the overall bill impact in
20 this rate case?

21 A. The customer notice just--the base rates and
22 then I believe IPL's customers received additional
23 information from IPL that included the riders, not
24 only the energy efficiency, but the riders that are
25 in the section of my testimony beginning at page 12

1 through 16.

2 MS. EASLER: Thank you. That's all I have.

3 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Board Member Wagner?

4 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Ms. Parker, you just
5 mentioned that without this proceeding, this rate
6 increase, customers would have seen a decrease in
7 their overall bill.

8 THE WITNESS: Due to the reduction in the
9 energy efficiency, correct.

10 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Every customer, no
11 matter what? What if a customer used more energy
12 than they did previously, would they see a decrease
13 in their bill?

14 THE WITNESS: If I can clarify, a reduction
15 in their energy efficiency aspect of their bill.

16 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Okay. So just the
17 EECR?

18 THE WITNESS: That's what I'm talking about
19 here, yes.

20 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Okay. Not the overall
21 bill. I just want to clarify that. I thought that's
22 what you meant, and then I heard you say overall
23 bill.

24 Okay. Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Parker, you may step

1 down.

2 (Witness excused.)

3 MS. EASLER: Ms. Easler, you may call your
4 next witness.

5 MS. EASLER: OCA calls Blake Kruger.

6 BLAKE J. KRUGER,
7 called as a witness by Counsel for the Office of
8 Consumer Advocate, being first duly sworn by
9 Chairperson Huser, was examined and testified as
10 follows:

11 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You may be seated.

12 Ms. Easler.

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MS. EASLER:

15 Q. Please state your name and place of
16 employment for the record.

17 A. My name is Blake Kruger. I work for the
18 Office of Consumer Advocate.

19 Q. Did you cause to be filed direct and
20 rebuttal testimony and exhibits in this proceeding?

21 A. I did.

22 Q. Do you have any corrections or additions to
23 make to this prefiled testimony?

24 A. No.

25 Q. If asked the same questions as posed in your

1 prefiled testimony today, would your answers be the
2 same?

3 A. Yes.

4 MS. EASLER: Mr. Kruger is available for
5 cross-examination.

6 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Mr. Kruger, you're
7 familiar, no doubt, with the Board's rules with
8 respect to settlements.

9 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Specifically,
11 199, Iowa Administrative Code, 7.18, provides that
12 the Board will not approve a settlement unless it's
13 reasonable in light of the whole record, consistent
14 with law, and in the public interest, and I would
15 like to take those three elements one at a time.

16 Would you explain to us how the proposed
17 settlement is reasonable in light of the whole
18 record?

19 THE WITNESS: How the settlement is
20 reasonable in light of the whole record?

21 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Yes.

22 THE WITNESS: I think the settlement was a
23 process that OCA engaged in with other parties--or
24 IPL engaged in with OCA and other settling parties
25 and went through an extensive process, going through

1 the various issues that were in this case over a
2 period of weeks, and met with a compromise on certain
3 issues, and OCA and the other parties all agreed that
4 the issues were resolved through this compromise.

5 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: The part that
6 interests me about the rule is the part that refers
7 to the whole record. Are there parts of the record
8 that were not considered in reaching this settlement?

9 THE WITNESS: I believe that there were
10 certain issues in this case that are still to be
11 worked out in this hearing. Those include some
12 certain rate design aspects. But as far as the
13 revenue requirement, we found compromise on the
14 revenue requirement and filed the settlement
15 regarding the overall revenue requirement in this
16 case.

17 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: And going to the next
18 element, can you tell me how the settlement is
19 consistent with law?

20 THE WITNESS: I'm not an attorney, but it's
21 my understanding that the attorneys present
22 throughout the settlement process all adhered to the
23 law, and the settlement was consistent with the law.

24 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: And the final element
25 is that the settlement must be in the public interest.

1 You've talked about a compromise among the
2 parties on various aspects of the settlement,
3 including the revenue requirement.

4 Can you tell me how that compromise aligns
5 with the public interest?

6 THE WITNESS: Sure. The Office of Consumer
7 Advocate represents all consumers, and throughout the
8 settlement process, the Office of Consumer Advocate
9 raised different issues, and throughout that process
10 we felt like the settlement met the customers'
11 interests and served the public and served the best
12 interest of customers through the revenue requirement
13 that we had determined through the settlement.

14 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Did you ever attend
15 any of the customer comment meetings that we held
16 across the state?

17 THE WITNESS: I did.

18 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: And did you hear
19 comments from people how the proposed increase in
20 their rates would have an adverse effect on them?

21 THE WITNESS: I did.

22 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: And did you give
23 consideration to those comments?

24 THE WITNESS: I think we absolutely did.

25 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: As I recall, there

1 were comments from low-income people.

2 Do you recall that?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes.

4 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: And a number of people
5 said that they would have trouble deciding whether to
6 pay their utility bill or purchase food for their
7 children.

8 Do you recall those comments?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: And other comments
11 from large industrial users to the effect that it
12 would have a serious adverse effect on their bottom
13 line.

14 Do you recall those?

15 THE WITNESS: I do.

16 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: And do you recall the
17 comments from the Decorah Area Group how it would
18 have an adverse effect on Luther College and the
19 entire community?

20 THE WITNESS: I was not at the Decorah
21 meeting, but I heard the representations of the
22 Decorah witnesses in this case.

23 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: In reaching the
24 settlement did you consider all of those comments?

25 THE WITNESS: We did.

1 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: And you believe the
2 settlement is in the public interest; correct?

3 THE WITNESS: We do.

4 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Thank you. I have
5 nothing further.

6 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Kruger, have you
7 heard in the testimony previously provided the
8 question that I've asked in relationship to the
9 UIPlanner and your testimony on transparency?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And I had some
12 difficulty in getting a response on the transparency
13 provisions for the UIPlanner. I would like you to
14 restate for me why you believe that the UIPlanner
15 would provide additional transparency for customers.

16 THE WITNESS: I would point to page--I
17 believe it's 21 or 22 of my rebuttal testimony.
18 Page 21--or 22 through 24 are, I believe, the page
19 numbers in which I address this concern.

20 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Page 24, if you go to
21 24, line 4.

22 THE WITNESS: Page 24, and really the
23 prelude are really the two pages previous to that.

24 One of the biggest challenges that OCA had
25 in reviewing this case was IPL's use of the UIPlanner

1 and particularly their use of manual adjustment. I
2 think on page 22--or 23 I highlight some of the
3 larger manual adjustments that IPL had utilized in
4 coming up with its own O and M forecast.

5 OCA sought additional support for some of
6 the increases in O and M expenses, and OCA Witness
7 Helmuth Schultz testified to that difficulty in terms
8 of what OCA viewed as support and what IPL identified
9 as support.

10 Throughout that process the UIPlanner
11 Regulatory Module--and that's what I allude to on
12 page 24 of my testimony. That information that I
13 have on page 24 shows that--and this is all
14 information that's copied from and attributed to the
15 Utilities International web site, and that's
16 footnoted at the bottom of the page there.

17 Those things specify that the UIPlanner
18 Regulatory Module produces more accurate and
19 auditable regulatory results. What I mean by that is
20 the difficulty that we had with the UIPlanner in
21 terms of IPL is that IPL forecasts it in terms of
22 GAAP accounting and not FERC accounting, and we set
23 rate base on FERC account numbers, and so what the
24 UIPlanner and Mr. Fields' testimony describes is they
25 have to run through kind of what they call a FERC

1 spin process, and after they do the FERC spin
2 process, they have to run through a number of other
3 adjustments, one of which are called manual
4 adjustments that rely upon analyst's judgment to make
5 those adjustments.

6 I don't know that the Regulatory Module
7 completely eliminates the manual adjustments, but
8 based on our understanding of the Regulatory Module,
9 it would be much more consistent and provide more
10 accurate and auditable results, and it would also be
11 a lot more transparent than the process that we dealt
12 with in this case.

13 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And in your opinion,
14 what needs to happen in order for that transparency
15 to occur?

16 THE WITNESS: The transparency to occur
17 through the Regulatory Module?

18 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Correct.

19 THE WITNESS: I think the Regulatory Module
20 would be a good first step, or at least getting
21 further detail related to the Regulatory Module. OCA
22 sought information related to the cost impact of it.
23 We were unable to obtain that information from IPL.

24 Really, we would like to take the next step
25 in understanding the Regulatory Module to see if

1 there would be a better fit for providing that
2 increased transparency as the Utilities International
3 web site attributes.

4 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And why were you unable
5 to obtain that information from IPL?

6 THE WITNESS: IPL said that they didn't
7 have that cost information. We sought this through
8 numerous data requests.

9 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And the Regulatory
10 Module that you're discussing, do you believe that
11 will allow more transparency for OCA, more
12 transparency for information that the IUB receives,
13 and more transparency for legislative inquiries
14 related to billing assumptions?

15 THE WITNESS: Especially the first two. I
16 can't speak to the legislative billing assumptions,
17 but I think for the first two it would be much more
18 transparent in terms of--especially if the UIPlanner
19 Regulatory Module would forecast in FERC accounting,
20 then we could have more auditable results where we
21 could have--especially if the forecasts are more
22 auditable where the FERC account numbers line up with
23 the annual report information that's reported by IPL,
24 we could have a direct comparison of how the forecast
25 lines up with actual results for that year. It would

1 give us more confidence in trusting the forecast.

2 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And throughout your
3 testimony, but on page 13 of your rebuttal, you
4 discuss the new future test year law and the
5 determination of IPL whether to charge customers for
6 assets that are not in service and considered used
7 and useful.

8 Has that issue been resolved in the
9 settlement?

10 THE WITNESS: In the settlement we are using
11 a 13-month average test year. I believe the used and
12 useful standard within the 13-month average is that
13 the asset must be used and useful within that year.
14 We are not adhering to the Phase I or Phase II
15 approach within the settlement.

16 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Are there any unsettled
17 issues where this issue may come up?

18 THE WITNESS: Unsettled issues where the
19 issue of the Phase I/Phase II may come up?

20 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Yes.

21 THE WITNESS: As far as this proceeding
22 goes, it's my understanding that the 13-month average
23 rate base approach is what we've settled upon using
24 in this case.

25 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Easler?

1 MR. CALLISTO: Your Honor, I do have one or
2 two follow-up questions.

3 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto.

4 MR. CALLISTO: Thank you.

5 CROSS-EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. CALLISTO:

7 Q. Mr. Kruger, in response to a question from
8 Board Member Lozier about the Board's rules on
9 accepting a settlement, I just want to make sure we
10 we're clear.

11 It's accurate that OCA looked at the whole
12 record in reaching its position in support of the
13 settlement on the settled issues?

14 A. On the settled issues, yes.

15 Q. And on UIPlanner, are you prepared to say
16 that OCA would support any expenditure of costs by
17 IPL to get the Regulatory Module from UIPlanner?

18 A. I think the cost aspect of the Regulatory
19 Module should be a cost that--at least a portion of
20 it should be shared by IPL. If IPL chose a future
21 test year, the burden of proving its expenses is on
22 IPL, and the expenditures should either be borne by
23 IPL or borne as part of a rate-case expense for a
24 future-test-year case, which would be amortized.

25 MR. CALLISTO: No further questions.

1 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: I do have a question
2 on that, Mr. Kruger.

3 With respect to rate-case expenses, can you
4 point to any other expenses that a utility has
5 expected its shareholders to cover for a rate case?

6 THE WITNESS: I'm not following you. I'm
7 sorry.

8 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: So you said the cost
9 of the Regulatory Module should be partially borne by
10 IPL because they are the ones asking for a rate
11 increase and they are the ones bringing forth a rate
12 case.

13 Are there any other expenses that you can
14 point to that the utility is required to pay for that
15 they do not get recovery of regarding a rate case?

16 THE WITNESS: I can't think of any off the
17 top of my head, but for clarity, rate-case expenses
18 are amortized, and I believe in the past few years
19 they have gone through a rider mechanism, and those
20 have been amortized over three years. So, for
21 instance, the rate-case expenses in this case would
22 go through a three-year rider mechanism.

23 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Correct.

24 THE WITNESS: And the ratepayers would pay
25 for that.

1 As far as do shareholders pay for certain
2 aspects of prepping for a rate case, there may be
3 certain aspects of that, but I can't speak with
4 clarity on that right now.

5 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Okay. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Easler, hold on.

7 Mr. Kruger, you're aware that all the
8 testimony for subsequent proceeding has been
9 withdrawn?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Do you have or are you
12 willing to express an opinion related to what that
13 subsequent proceeding looks like, even though all of
14 the testimony has been withdrawn?

15 THE WITNESS: I was not really the witness
16 that testified on the subsequent proceeding. Really,
17 the only thing I have as far as the subsequent
18 proceeding goes is a certification process for rate
19 base, meaning that a rate base that goes into service
20 in 2020 that customers are paying for, to make sure
21 they go in service in 2020 and customers are not
22 paying for something that is supposed to go in
23 service in 2020 and the company is saying, "Well,
24 we're going to push this off until 2021 or 2022, but
25 we already put those in our customer rates."

1 So the certification process that I
2 mentioned in my testimony would ensure that customers
3 are only paying for assets that truly only go into
4 service and are used and useful and providing
5 benefits to customers.

6 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And Board Member Wagner
7 asked you about whether the utility below the line
8 should be paying for it. So set that aside.

9 The UIPlanner is meant to streamline, make
10 things more transparent, more efficient. That's how
11 I've interpreted your testimony.

12 THE WITNESS: That's right.

13 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And avoid some of the
14 data requests and other criteria that we're currently
15 having to go through as we determine how to do a
16 future test year in Iowa.

17 THE WITNESS: Correct.

18 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Do you have a position
19 on how it's paid for beyond the fact that you believe
20 it will be more efficient and more effective in Iowa?

21 Strike that. You don't have to answer that.

22 Ms. Easler?

23 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MS. EASLER:

25 Q. Mr. Kruger, I just want to follow up with

1 you a bit on the questions you received from
2 Board Member Lozier.

3 Do you think the settled revenue requirement
4 will achieve just and reasonable rates in relation to
5 IPL's \$203 million rate increase request in this
6 case?

7 A. I do.

8 Q. Are there any particular provisions in the
9 settlement that you would want to identify in support
10 of that?

11 A. I do. One of the biggest pieces throughout
12 the settlement and probably the largest piece of the
13 settlement that OCA considers that really benefits
14 ratepayers is the assurance of the PTC carryforward
15 issue. The PTC carryforward issue was probably OCA's
16 No. 1 issue in this case, and achieving or seeing a
17 5 percent return on the PTC carryforwards was much
18 closer to OCA's position, and I believe it was IPL's
19 Witness Michek who testified that it has the impact
20 of lowering that PTC carryforward balance throughout
21 the life of these PTC carryforwards, as expected by
22 IPL, by 35 percent, and that's 35 percent compared to
23 the total--

24 Q. That may get into confidential.

25 A. I was just going to reference a page number

1 in my testimony where that number exists. Thank you.
2 I believe it's on--the number exists on page 47 of my
3 rebuttal testimony, which is a confidential number,
4 but it is a large figure, and that really represents
5 enhanced protections for customers.

6 There are also other enhanced protections
7 for customers related to stakeholder involvement.
8 There are some distribution and grid modernization
9 aspects that involve stakeholder involvement and a
10 lookback of the prudence of these investments.

11 So there are a number of customer benefits
12 and enhancements that this settlement provides that
13 ensure that customers are getting the full benefit of
14 that \$127 million, and OCA believes that this
15 settlement is consistent with the public good, it is
16 consistent with consumers getting the benefit of
17 this, and we feel that it is a good settlement.

18 MS. EASLER: Thank you. That's all I have.

19 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Mr. Kruger, you're
20 familiar, no doubt, with the regulatory principle
21 that elements that are placed in service must be used
22 and useful.

23 THE WITNESS: Yes.

24 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: We've heard testimony
25 in this case that IPL is not able to use its

1 production tax credits currently; correct?

2 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

3 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: So how is a production
4 tax credit used and useful when they can't use it?

5 THE WITNESS: I think the difference there
6 is that IPL is providing the benefit of the
7 production tax credits. They're paying that money to
8 customers as they earn it, and the proposed mechanism
9 for that is through the Renewable Energy Rider in
10 this case. So as IPL is earning it, even though they
11 can't use it, they are paying that to customers,
12 but not expecting to receive that money from the
13 Federal Government until they're out of this net
14 operating loss position.

15 So for the fact that they are paying that to
16 customers and they're providing them the benefit
17 right now, I think that is probably the best example
18 of how it is used and useful in this case.

19 For the testimony that IPL and OCA presented
20 on behalf of OCA Witness Schultz, and also
21 accompanied by myself in my testimony, for the tax
22 planning strategies and for a number of other
23 reasons, we determined that a lower rate of return is
24 more appropriate than the full equity return for this
25 case, and that is why the settlement agreed upon a

1 5 percent return as opposed to what IPL was asking
2 for, which I believe was 9.8 in this case.

3 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Easler, anything
5 further?

6 MS. EASLER: Nothing further.

7 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: The witness may step
8 down.

9 (Witness excused.)

10 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You may call your next
11 witness.

12 MR. LONG: OCA calls as its next witness
13 Marcos Munoz.

14 MARCOS MUNOZ,
15 called as a witness by Counsel for the Office of
16 Consumer Advocate, being first duly sworn by
17 Chairperson Huser, was examined and testified as
18 follows:

19 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You may be seated.

20 Mr. Long.

21 MR. LONG: Thank you.

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. LONG:

24 Q. Mr. Munoz, did you file or cause to be filed
25 rebuttal testimony on September 10th and direct

1 testimony on August 1st in this case, including
2 schedules and workpapers?

3 A. Yes, I did.

4 Q. Do you have any corrections or changes?

5 A. I do not.

6 MR. LONG: Okay. With that, Mr. Munoz is
7 available for questions.

8 MR. CALLISTO: Your Honor, IPL has been
9 listed as having cross, but we withdraw our cross.

10 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Mr. Munoz, were you
11 here this morning for Dr. Morin's testimony?

12 THE WITNESS: I was, yes, sir.

13 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And you heard him
14 mention that in the gas industry, the pool of proxy
15 companies has been shrinking.

16 Do you agree with that?

17 THE WITNESS: Not necessarily. Compared to
18 what? Where it used to be or what it should be or
19 compared to the other electric utilities? I'm not
20 sure. Maybe more specifically, the list of gas
21 companies that have been--there's been some
22 consolidation in the gas industry.

23 The problem with the gas proxy, generally
24 speaking, is that it composes a mix of gas
25 exploration holding entities and a lot of operating

1 subsidiaries that aren't utilities, so it's a broader
2 mix, and some of the consolidated holding companies
3 have bought a lot of the smaller gas systems or
4 distribution systems, and that's why you see a more
5 narrow focus, a more narrowing of the amount of gas
6 utilities, but it's never been that big to begin
7 with.

8 I don't necessarily really know what exactly
9 a good amount of gas companies really is, so I
10 wouldn't be able to say that it is smaller. Smaller
11 compared to what, No. 1, and it has a fair amount to
12 get reasonably accurate estimates, if you want to.

13 I tend to not put a lot of weight,
14 personally, on the gas proxy because I don't think
15 it's representative of the amount of utilities that
16 we have here, specifically IPL in this case. I do
17 use it, but I don't put a lot of reliance on the gas
18 proxy group in the same manner that some other
19 witnesses usually do.

20 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: In your testimony
21 you've argued that the Board should use a DCF model,
22 primarily. Is that on the electric side, not the gas
23 side, then? At least based on what you've said here,
24 you said there is a problem with the gas because of
25 the exploration and the other things that you've

1 mentioned, so in a gas case, should the Board and
2 commissions in general be putting less emphasis on
3 the DCF model?

4 THE WITNESS: Not on the DCF itself, but
5 just on the reliance of the--

6 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Not necessarily--
7 Okay. So let me rephrase. The results that are
8 obtained from using the DCF model, should those
9 results bear less weight given conditions mentioned
10 by both Dr. Morin and now you with the addition of
11 those exploration side, and that?

12 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I would generally agree
13 that, yes, not on the DCF, but probably less reliance
14 on the gas--when you're looking at a combination
15 utility like IPL, probably a little less reliance on
16 the gas proxy results and probably more reliance on
17 the combination proxy results because IPL is a
18 combination utility that has both gas and electric
19 operations, so the broader scope of risk encompassed
20 in the combination utility is probably more
21 appropriate and reasonable for a company like IPL.

22 If we're talking about Black Hills or
23 Liberty, or something like that, maybe a little more
24 emphasis on the gas, but again, those problems will
25 still arise with the sample size and the proxy

1 companies themselves.

2 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: What would you say, in
3 general, in using the DCF as an appropriate proxy
4 size?

5 THE WITNESS: That's a good question. I
6 don't have a specific answer for that. You know, the
7 sample of fitness in statistics is usually they say
8 anything more than 30, but we have a utility--you
9 know, the amount of consolidations in the electric
10 industry that is shrinking over time.

11 I remember when I started working in 2010 at
12 the OCA, my ex-co-worker used to make me go make
13 copies of the Value Lines, and I remember there were
14 54 or 65, something in that range--I think over 60
15 electric utilities in Value Line, and now that number
16 is shrinking, and we're down to 42, I want to say, or
17 38, something like that. I can't really recall the
18 exact number. So that pool is shrinking over time.

19 You know, it's really hard to say that, you
20 know, anything over 30--when you're dealing with
21 sample sizes of 15, 14, 10, I mean what we call the
22 sample statistical degrees of freedom is not going to
23 create a lot of statistical unreliability on the
24 results that you will have to disregard them,
25 essentially. I think that you're going to have some

1 fair fitness in distribution and get some accurate
2 results by just relying on your average, if you're
3 looking at reasonable risk comparisons between the
4 companies.

5 So if there's some similarities and you're
6 calculating the risk appropriately, which that's what
7 I did, you will get accurate results--more accurate
8 results by relying on the average. You won't be very
9 inaccurate between comparing 15 to 10 or comparing 17
10 to 11 or 12.

11 I don't know if that got to your answer.
12 That's a pretty long way.

13 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: It did. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: The Board will take a
15 15-minute recess.

16 (Short recess.)

17 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Munoz, you know
18 that you were previously sworn in before we went to
19 recess.

20 THE WITNESS: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Board Member Wagner and
22 I are going to switch back and forth for a minute.

23 THE WITNESS: Do you mind if I test it? Is
24 it working? I don't think it's working, the
25 microphone.

1 It's working now. Sorry.

2 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: There we go. The music
3 was working great this morning; right?

4 THE WITNESS: Was it Cranberries, or
5 something? I can't remember what was playing. It
6 was rock-out music.

7 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Do you have any concerns
8 remaining on the impact of the RTS tariff and on that
9 metering or distributed generation?

10 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I think that was one of
11 the issues that was not settled, was our concerns--my
12 concern specifically that I listed in my rebuttal
13 testimony that I believe that any potential impact of
14 the RTS on net metering needs to be part of the
15 broader net metering docket, because it needs to
16 consider all the impacts that it will have on the net
17 metering policy in Iowa.

18 It is an added cost, essentially, that we're
19 burdening customers with by, you know, requiring them
20 to pay transmission rates and not taking a holistic
21 approach and determining if we need to reflect
22 avoided transmission costs as part of the benefits of
23 net metering.

24 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Thank you.

25 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Is it your contention

1 that all transmission costs are burdening customers?

2 THE WITNESS: No.

3 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Just solar or anybody
4 who has got a net metering arrangement?

5 THE WITNESS: It depends on whose
6 transmission costs. It is a part of cost of service,
7 but I think my position is that it needs to be part
8 of the broader review of net metering policy, because
9 as I heard testimony yesterday, not all the energy
10 produced through back-of-the-meter generation goes
11 back into the transmission system. Some of it stays
12 within the distribution system. That was Mr. Nielsen's
13 testimony.

14 So there's a benefit associated with net
15 metering deployment to the whole grid, and that needs
16 to be part of the holistic review, so it's not that
17 the transmission cost is a burden or it isn't. It's
18 that we need to evaluate in totality the impact it
19 will have on net metering and the net metering policy
20 in the state.

21 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: So is the impact of
22 transmission costs a net metering issue or is it an
23 overall customer issue that needs to be looked at?

24 THE WITNESS: Well, it's an overall customer
25 issue, but I think specifically the issue that I

1 testified on the modification of the net metering
2 pilot tariff to--or the RTS rider, excuse me, to
3 apply to all kilowatt-hours delivered to all
4 customers, with the exception of net metering, yes,
5 this is part of the overall cost of service, but
6 there are holistic benefits associated with net
7 metering deployment, and the transmission cost
8 impacts need to be part of that totality evaluation.

9 We didn't set net metering rates or net
10 metering policy in the context of a rate proceeding.
11 We did it through a separate docket proceeding. So I
12 think a different docket proceeding is more
13 appropriate to address the impact of transmission
14 services on net metering.

15 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: You mentioned paying
16 transmission costs on generation. Do net metering
17 customers pay based on what they generate or what
18 they are using from the utility?

19 THE WITNESS: I think customers pay on the
20 net of service provided.

21 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Currently today?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes.

23 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And under the tariff
24 change--or under this change, would they pay for
25 everything they generate and everything they use?

1 THE WITNESS: I believe the proposal is to
2 pay only on the kilowatt-hours delivered through the
3 transmission system into the distribution system that
4 are delivered to those customers. In essence, it is
5 to all customers, which will include net metering
6 customers.

7 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: So in the case where a
8 customer net meters their bill to zero--or their
9 usage to zero, does that mean they never used the
10 transmission or distribution grid?

11 THE WITNESS: No. It isn't that they never
12 used it; but, again, it's not necessarily the cost
13 impact of transmission services. It's that it needs
14 to be part of a broader discussion of benefits and
15 costs, not just costs in isolation. That's
16 essentially my overall position.

17 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Well, isn't this a
18 case where we're looking at broader overall costs?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes, but I think when we're
20 dealing with net metering specifically, we're dealing
21 with a very specific type of energy generation or a
22 specific set of tariffs that are designed or
23 implemented through PURPA requirements outside of the
24 context of a rate proceeding. And maybe I'm getting
25 a little bit ahead of myself because I'm not sure I

1 really understand the difference between PURPA
2 requirements and what the requirements are in the
3 context of a broader rate proceeding or how they
4 impact one another.

5 I think, again, my position is that it needs
6 to be part of a broader context or a broader review
7 and evaluation of costs and benefits, not a
8 unilateral position on costs through a tariff.

9 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And you don't feel
10 that this is a broad enough case to bring into
11 account transmission costs to all customers, not just
12 customers dealing with net metering?

13 THE WITNESS: Specifically for net metering,
14 I will say that is correct, this is not the
15 appropriate context, because when we're dealing with
16 net metering, we're looking at, you know, there's
17 banking requirements of those energy credits that you
18 have that you can carry through the year, and those
19 requirements are valued at the avoided cost rate.
20 The avoided cost rate does not take into
21 consideration transmission avoided costs.

22 So there is a whole slew of costs and
23 benefits associated with some net metering customers
24 that are a little unique that are addressing
25 requirements of specific elements of federal policy,

1 but it is not very specific to just cost line items
2 in a rate proceeding.

3 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Do you recall how the
4 avoided cost is determined in Iowa, how that's
5 determined?

6 THE WITNESS: I think it's the use of the
7 locational marginal price, the forecasted 12-month
8 locational marginal price. That's for energy. And
9 for capacity, I think it's the zonal price
10 established under the MISO capacity construct.

11 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: You said that doesn't
12 take into account transmission?

13 THE WITNESS: I believe it doesn't take into
14 account transmission costs--or a transmission avoided
15 cost determination, that is correct. It takes into
16 account line losses or a transmission loss factor,
17 but it doesn't take into account a transmission
18 avoided cost rate.

19 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Okay. With respect to
20 the Renewable Energy Rider, can you explain why you
21 feel that's beneficial--why the OCA feels that's
22 beneficial?

23 THE WITNESS: Well, one of the things that
24 we secured as part of the settlement, as Mr. Kruger
25 alluded to earlier, is securing a reduction on the

1 PTC balance carryforwards, the revenue requirements
2 for those carrying costs that will flow through the
3 rider, and that's a significant reduction, and it is
4 a big risk mitigation piece.

5 You know, one of the things that OCA was
6 concerned with was transferability of costs that are
7 automatically recovered through the transmission
8 rider.

9 The fact that we have made steps to reduce a
10 lot of that uncertainty or bring to bear or have more
11 consistent or transparent or reduction of costs that
12 are recovered through the transmission rider is a
13 great benefit. Based on the evaluation projections
14 that we looked at, the transmission rider will result
15 in consistent net energy benefits, taking into
16 account net energy margin sales and net energy margin
17 benefits, a reduction of the PTC carryforwards; and
18 another component of that was the O and M, moving the
19 O and M expenses from the transmission rider to base
20 rates.

21 As part of our discovery we couldn't secure
22 information that will guarantee O and M expenses to
23 be predictable for anything more than two years,
24 because a contractual agreement is only guaranteed
25 for two years.

1 I'm not going into confidential? Okay.

2 So one of the things that we did is we
3 removed those costs in base rates, so it removed a
4 lot of that uncertainty, and based on the projections
5 that we made, we feel that the transmission rider in
6 its current construct, although we're still concerned
7 about some elements of it, it still will provide--it
8 still will result in benefits to customers in the
9 long run.

10 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: All right. Thank you.

11 MR. CALLISTO: Your Honor, I do have one or
12 two questions as follow-up to Board Member Wagner's
13 questions.

14 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Go ahead, Mr. Callisto.

15 MR. CALLISTO: Thank you.

16 CROSS-EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. CALLISTO:

18 Q. Mr. Munoz, transmission costs are being
19 decided in this rate review; is that correct?

20 A. I don't believe so.

21 Q. Not transmission costs. Let me rephrase
22 that.

23 The allocation of transmission costs are
24 being decided in this rate case; is that correct?

25 A. Yes. I believe that Mr. Davison is probably

1 more appropriate to answer questions on the
2 transmission cost allocation.

3 Q. And the class cost of service that will
4 allocate that, as well as the issue of the
5 transmission rider, are topics of substantial
6 testimony in this case?

7 A. Yes. That's still under contention. Again,
8 I'm not a class cost-of-service witness, so I
9 wouldn't be able to answer any of those questions.

10 Q. And all parties with an interest in the
11 issue of the transmission costs and how they should
12 be appropriately allocated to customers are in this
13 case?

14 A. I believe so, but you'll want to confirm
15 that with Mr. Davison.

16 Q. And you had a response to one of
17 Board Member Wagner's questions that talked about
18 DG as a specific type of generation with its own
19 tariff, and that, at least in part, in your
20 estimation, is a reason why this should be done--the
21 issue of the transmission costs should be addressed
22 in a separate docket; is that correct?

23 A. It should be part of the net metering--in
24 the context of a net metering docket, yes.

25 Q. Because it's a separate kind of generation

1 with its own tariff; correct?

2 A. Yes. It's a separate type of customer. I
3 wouldn't even consider it a class customer.

4 Q. And you're aware that in this case the issue
5 of costs allocated to standby generation, as
6 evidenced by the participation of a number of parties
7 in this case, is highly contested?

8 A. I mean I am aware because I sit next to
9 Mr. Davison, but not other than that.

10 Q. And that's a separate kind of generation as
11 well; that is, the customers who take under that
12 separate tariff are generating their own energy?

13 A. Sure.

14 Q. And the Board has the opportunity and will
15 have presumably decided that issue, the allocation of
16 costs to that customer class, in this rate case?

17 A. I'm not a class cost-of-service expert
18 witness, Mr. Callisto.

19 Q. I'm just asking you about your knowledge of
20 what issue is being taken up in this case, not the
21 class cost of service specifically.

22 A. Yes, I am aware that class cost of service
23 and rate design and transmission cost allocation is
24 still under contention.

25 Q. And your position on the merits on this

1 issue was not raised in your direct testimony;
2 correct?

3 A. No, it was raised in rebuttal.

4 Q. And in your rebuttal testimony you adopted
5 the positions of other parties; correct?

6 A. I adopted Ms. Johannsen's from ELPC, the
7 Environmental Intervenors, position, yes.

8 Q. And you've done no independent analysis
9 yourself on this issue?

10 A. I think that was the point of my testimony,
11 is that we need to have an independent analysis to
12 assess the impact of transmission costs--transmission
13 changes in the tariff as it relates to net metering.

14 MR. CALLISTO: No further questions.

15 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Long?

16 MR. LONG: No questions.

17 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: The witness may step
18 down.

19 (Witness excused.)

20 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Easler, we are
21 thinking about calling Mr. Michek back up, get
22 his public testimony done prior to Mr. Davison or
23 Mr. Bents.

24 MS. EASLER: Mr. Bents, yes. Okay.

25 MR. CALLISTO: Your Honor, on Mr. Michek,

1 there are two topics I'm aware that the Board--or at
2 least the one, I believe, is probably the UIPlanner.
3 That was a topic of yesterday and also this morning.
4 The other, which is the one that we presented this
5 morning, is the Renewable Energy Rider analysis the
6 company has done for the five-year lookout.

7 The first topic is certainly something of, I
8 believe, probably 100 percent public session. The
9 Renewable Energy Rider discussion, I think to be of
10 value to the Board, is something that should be done
11 in confidential.

12 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: We understand that we
13 have to pull him and Mr. Vognsen back up when we go
14 into closed session. I thought I would take care of
15 the public as much as we could.

16 MR. CALLISTO: Okay. I just wanted to make
17 sure.

18 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: I think there's only two
19 questions.

20 MR. CALLISTO: Thank you.

21 IPL calls Mr. Michek back to the stand.
22
23
24
25

1 NEIL E. MICHEK,
2 recalled as a witness by Counsel for Interstate Power
3 and Light Company, having been previously duly sworn
4 by Chairperson Huser, was examined and testified
5 further as follows:

6 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Michek, you've
7 previously been sworn in.

8 Do you understand that?

9 THE WITNESS: I understand that.

10 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Board Member Wagner.

11 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Mr. Michek, I'm going
12 to give this another shot, and hopefully you're the
13 right witness.

14 With respect to cloud services, how are
15 cloud services treated in Iowa with respect to O and
16 M expense or capital expense? And then I will go
17 into that a little further.

18 THE WITNESS: Cloud-based services are an
19 O and M expense.

20 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And is that by rule,
21 law, or just how it's traditionally been handled?

22 THE WITNESS: It is by GAAP accounting
23 rules, to my knowledge.

24 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Okay. And does IPL
25 have any cloud services?

1 THE WITNESS: The one that I--and I just
2 confirmed with Ms. Cigrand. The My Account software
3 or program that she was mentioning earlier will be a
4 cloud-based system. Outside of that, I'm not aware,
5 but I believe we do have others. I just don't know
6 the details.

7 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: So data for AMI,
8 that's collected through the AMI system, or any of
9 that, that is all collected and stored in-house, if
10 you will?

11 THE WITNESS: I am not certain if the data
12 is stored in-house or on the cloud.

13 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Okay. Thanks. I
14 guess do you know if there's anywhere that that is
15 specifically outlined in any exhibits on what that
16 amount is?

17 THE WITNESS: Not that I'm aware of or not
18 that I recall.

19 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Okay. Mr. Callisto,
20 remind me, is that the the only issue?

21 MR. CALLISTO: The only other information is
22 if you wanted additional information on the
23 UIPlanner.

24 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You've heard the
25 testimony on the UIPlanner. What information can you

1 provide to the Board in regard to the UIPlanner, and
2 why would you believe that it would not provide more
3 transparency and efficiency to this process?

4 THE WITNESS: Well, first, I don't think
5 I've ever gone on record that it wouldn't provide
6 more transparency. We had a technical conference
7 session with Board staff, parties, anyone that was
8 available to attend earlier this year, you know, at
9 your direction, where we walked through the UIPlanner
10 system.

11 We just do not have the Regulatory Module at
12 this stage. Part and parcel of that is we are
13 currently going through an upgrade of that system,
14 the underlying financial system. We needed new
15 hardware. We've had the system for 10 years, and it
16 was basically starting to run too slow and
17 inefficiently, and there's kind of a rebuild going on
18 in this calendar year. It's supposed to be done by
19 the end of the year.

20 Before we could move to a Regulatory Module
21 platform, we need to get that done and ensure that
22 that's working appropriately, because anything that
23 the Regulatory Module utilizes would be pulled from
24 that underlying system.

25 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Do you know what the

1 cost of that Regulatory Module is?

2 MR. CALLISTO: Your Honor, we have a number,
3 and Mr. Michek can testify about where we got the
4 number and when. We would consider the number itself
5 confidential. I think we can give a directional
6 indication of what that would be in the form of
7 number of digits, so an X-digit figure.

8 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto, I thought
9 the data requests that were provided by OCA were
10 requesting that, and that was not provided or not
11 available.

12 MR. CALLISTO: What we have is dated
13 information from years ago, so there's not been a
14 conversation of any recent amount or recent vintage
15 with UI or with the organization that creates the
16 UIPlanner. We are a UIPlanner customer, so we have
17 UIPlanner, of course. What's at issue here is the
18 Regulatory Module.

19 THE WITNESS: If I may just add to what
20 Mr. Callisto said--and we mentioned this in the
21 technical conference--the UIPlanner, while it is a
22 system that UI provides to a number of utilities, is
23 completely customized to each individual utility or
24 each individual holding company of utilities, and
25 that would include the Regulatory Module would be

1 customized for IPL differently than WPL. The cost
2 information that Mr. Callisto alluded to earlier was
3 from WPL and is several years old.

4 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Mr. Michek, do you
5 agree with OCA Witness Kruger on the increased
6 transparency and reduction in costs that that might
7 provide, and other benefits?

8 THE WITNESS: Generally speaking, if
9 appropriately designed, I think it could certainly
10 provide efficiency in our development of rate-case
11 information. I think it would provide consistency
12 amongst ratemaking schedules, including--and
13 potentially up to and including class cost-of-
14 service-type information so that it is kind of
15 automated and tied together. That's the entire basis
16 of a UIPlanner-type system.

17 As to transparency, I think there would be
18 transparency in, you know, the underlying schedules.
19 There is probably-- One of the key items that
20 Mr. Kruger testified to this morning and in his
21 written testimony is issues with translation between
22 the way we budget to operate our company and into a
23 regulatory or a FERC account basis. That is going to
24 take some significant work in order to make that more
25 transparent, regardless of the UIPlanner. That

1 budget process is just done at a considerably higher
2 level or more summarized level and then has to be
3 brought back down. UIPlanner itself won't provide
4 that transparency. Any additional transparency would
5 be caused by the way we design that system just to
6 try to provide that transparency.

7 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Do you agree that it
8 might lead to a reduction in the number of data
9 requests by parties?

10 THE WITNESS: I would certainly hope so.

11 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: If IPL were to utilize
12 and obtain the Regulatory Module, are there any
13 expectations that the company would have towards the
14 number of data requests or efficiency, that type of
15 thing?

16 THE WITNESS: Well, certainly before we
17 would embark on it, just as we've testified on
18 various projects, you know, there would be some
19 analysis of that cost relative to what we think the
20 benefits will be, and try to quantify them into a
21 financial number. There are certainly some
22 regulatory process items, as I just mentioned, that
23 would be efficiency.

24 As far as expectations on, you know,
25 reduction of data requests, I really don't know. I

1 do believe that the number of data requests that we
2 responded to in this proceeding in part was due to
3 the UIPlanner and the difficulty of transparency and
4 very much in part to this being the very first
5 forecasted test year.

6 As I have discussed with you in prior
7 meetings, we have been doing forecasted test years in
8 Wisconsin for as long as I have been in this
9 business, and it would take multiple cases to get to
10 the data-request level that was dealt with in this
11 proceeding. It's new, and we recognize it's new, and
12 we strived to get all the information we could to all
13 parties.

14 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: All right. Thank you.

15 MR. CALLISTO: Nothing further.

16 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: The witness may step
17 down.

18 (Witness excused.)

19 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Easler, Mr. Long?

20 MR. LONG: OCA calls as its next witness
21 Scott Bents.

22 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Good morning, Mr. Bents.

23 MR. BENTS: Good morning.

24 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Please raise your right
25 hand.

1 SCOTT C. BENTS,
2 called as a witness by Counsel for the Office of
3 Consumer Advocate, being first duly sworn by
4 Chairperson Huser, was examined and testified as
5 follows:

6 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You may be seated.
7 Please make sure your mic is on and speak clearly
8 into it.

9 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'll do my best.

10 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Long.

11 MR. LONG: Thank you.

12 DIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. LONG:

14 Q. Mr. Bents, did you file or cause to be filed
15 rebuttal testimony on September 10th, rebuttal
16 testimony on August 15th, and direct testimony on
17 August 1st, as well as accompanying exhibits?

18 A. Yes, I did.

19 Q. Do you have any corrections or changes to
20 make?

21 A. I do have one correction that I just learned
22 of this morning to make to my direct testimony on
23 page 21, line 4. Between the word "out" and the
24 number "39," I omitted the word "of."

25 Q. Any other corrections?

1 A. No other corrections.

2 Q. Would the statements you made in the filed
3 testimony be the same if you made them today?

4 A. Yes, they would.

5 MR. LONG: Okay. With that, Mr. Bents is
6 available for questioning.

7 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Board Member Wagner?

8 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Thanks.

9 We can stay on that. We'll start with that
10 since that's where we were.

11 Mr. Bents, in that portion of your testimony
12 you are concluding that customers are not as
13 concerned with reliability because that's the only--
14 not the only, but a majority of the complaints that
15 the IUB receives is about high bills. Is that a
16 correct synopsis of your testimony in that section?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes, that's a good summary of
18 my conclusion.

19 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Do you think customers,
20 when they have an issue with service, are more likely
21 to contact the company or the IUB?

22 THE WITNESS: If I had to speculate, I would
23 imagine that they would call the utility first before
24 filing a customer complaint with the IUB.

25 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And so it could be

1 customers are concerned about reliability. We just
2 don't hear about it because they go to the company
3 first.

4 THE WITNESS: That's very possible, although
5 I guess you could say that they may go to the company
6 first when their bills are high too. I don't know
7 for sure.

8 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: You also in your
9 testimony and in general--and I don't have a specific
10 location, but you allude to that IPL should not be
11 recovering for AMI because they're not utilizing all
12 the functions of AMI. Is that also a correct
13 synopsis of your testimony?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes. That what's in my
15 testimony, and as part of the settlement, there is an
16 informal process that's being established now to give
17 the settling parties input on that.

18 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And you also mentioned
19 implementing AMR instead of AMI.

20 THE WITNESS: Yes, I did.

21 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And it was because the
22 functions that they are implementing in AMI are
23 effectively the same for AMR; correct?

24 THE WITNESS: Yeah. My contention was that
25 AMI, as implemented, only had a few more features

1 than the AMR did.

2 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: So for the utility to
3 implement those other features that AMI provides, if
4 they had gone with AMR, how would they achieve those
5 features? Would they then have to switch out their
6 meters again to AMI?

7 THE WITNESS: If they wanted to have
8 additional features, yeah, they would have had to
9 switch from AMR to AMI.

10 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: So is there a benefit
11 of installing AMI today that provides them with the
12 opportunity to add those features without having to
13 replace meters?

14 THE WITNESS: I think you're saying--if
15 you're asking if AMI allows them to sort of leapfrog
16 the AMR technology, then I guess that would be true.

17 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And if they had gone
18 with AMR and then decided to move up, customers would
19 have to pay for both AMR meters and then again the
20 AMI meters; is that correct?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, that's correct.

22 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: So there is a benefit
23 in going directly to AMI, that customers wouldn't
24 have to pay that?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes, that would be correct in

1 that they wouldn't have to do a second upgrade from
2 AMR to AMI.

3 I think the main contention in my testimony
4 was that the AMI was being implemented without
5 providing additional features that AMI is capable of.

6 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Going back to
7 reliability, your testimony indicated that the
8 Board's rules with respect to reliability metrics do
9 not follow IEEE standards.

10 THE WITNESS: Yes. Okay. And let's see. I
11 have to refresh my memory on this, but the Board's
12 rules in Chapter 20 when it comes to service
13 reliability don't follow the current IEEE standard
14 when it comes to excluding major events--or the
15 definition of major events, I should say, and that is
16 why I asked for, in a data request that I filed as an
17 exhibit in my testimony, IPL to provide their safety
18 and safety metrics that were calculated per IEEE
19 standards.

20 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: The analysis that you
21 have in your testimony is based on the IEEE standards?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, because that would allow
23 an apples-to-apples comparison to other utilities.

24 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Do you think the Board
25 needs to change their rules to match the IEEE

1 standards?

2 THE WITNESS: I do, and actually in that
3 rulemaking I think we have filed some comments in
4 that regard.

5 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: All right. Did you do
6 any analysis on how reliability and those metrics are
7 related to spending by a utility?

8 THE WITNESS: I did not analyze the spending
9 and reliability comparison, no.

10 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Do you know of any
11 studies or analysis that has done that?

12 THE WITNESS: I am not aware of any, but I
13 think that would be an interesting thing to look at.

14 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Finally, my last
15 question is--actually, my second to last--does the
16 settlement change in any way the plans of IPL with
17 respect to their undergrounding?

18 THE WITNESS: I don't think that it changes
19 their plans, but it does establish an informal
20 process for the settling parties to review and weigh
21 in on that undergrounding, because that falls under
22 the base distribution investments.

23 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Okay. Do you know
24 where that is at in the settlement? Can you point to
25 that in the settlement or a general--

1 THE WITNESS: I think it starts on page 12,
2 but I'm not a hundred percent certain.

3 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: My final question is,
4 is this the first time you've had the opportunity to
5 testify in front of the Board?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes, it is, and I was told
7 that I'm supposed to bring treats, but I didn't think
8 that was a good idea.

9 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Thank you. I have no
10 further questions.

11 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Mr. Bents, you had a
12 discussion with Board Member Wagner about AMI.

13 Can you identify some of the benefits of AMI
14 that IPL is not using and does not plan to use?

15 THE WITNESS: Sure.

16 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Excuse me. Has no
17 current plans to use.

18 THE WITNESS: As far as no current plans to
19 use, I think one thing that came out was--or has been
20 mentioned by other witnesses was time-of-use rates
21 and allowing the integral data that's provided by AMI
22 to be used for that.

23 Another example, I think, could be
24 controllable thermostats where a customer's HVAC
25 system could be controlled by data provided by the

1 AMI meter. In-home displays is another example.

2 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Anything else that you
3 can think of?

4 THE WITNESS: Not off the top of my head.
5 I'm sorry.

6 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: And you briefly
7 discussed undergrounding. Is it your understanding
8 that undergrounding has a significant additional cost
9 in lieu of overhead lines?

10 THE WITNESS: The research that I've done
11 shows that undergrounding is fairly expensive
12 compared to overhead lines.

13 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Is a utility required
14 to come to the Utilities Board before taking on an
15 expenditure in that amount?

16 THE WITNESS: That, I don't know.

17 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Okay. All right.
18 Thank you. Nothing further.

19 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Long?

20 MR. CALLISTO: Your Honor, I do have one.

21 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto.

22 MR. CALLISTO: Thank you.

23 CROSS-EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. CALLISTO:

25 Q. Mr. Bents, do you agree that undergrounding

1 is a distribution expense?

2 A. That's how I understand IPL Witness Dyer's
3 testimony, yes.

4 MR. CALLISTO: Could you please put up the
5 settlement agreement, page 13?

6 BY MR. CALLISTO:

7 Q. And I will ask you to read at the top of
8 page 13 from Article X, section B, the sentence that
9 begins "IPL shall not be limited..."

10 A. "IPL shall not be limited in undertaking
11 base distribution work for the maintenance,
12 operation, safety, or reliability of the distribution
13 system, including on project-specific bases, deploying
14 ADMS or line sensors."

15 Q. So you understand that sentence to be an
16 agreement among the settling parties that IPL is not
17 limited to undertake its base distribution work for
18 the reasons listed there?

19 A. Yes.

20 MR. CALLISTO: No further questions.

21 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Bents, if you have
22 the knowledge to answer this question, where would
23 the Board be informed of what is being expended in a
24 future test year that would fall under the sentence
25 you just read?

1 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. I don't think I do
2 have the knowledge on that.

3 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Do you believe that
4 undergrounding is the most beneficial for customers
5 in Iowa?

6 THE WITNESS: I think there are circumstances
7 and locations where it does make a lot of sense, and
8 I think there are other locations where it's not as
9 useful.

10 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Long?

11 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. LONG:

13 Q. Regarding undergrounding, Mr. Bents, could
14 you give us a little bit of a history of IPL's
15 statements about what it plans to do with
16 undergrounding and include where sort of they left
17 off the last we heard?

18 A. Sure. In IPL's initial filed direct
19 testimony, they said that undergrounding would be
20 performed in situations where it made sense from a
21 total life-cycle cost analysis.

22 Then during the discovery process, we found
23 that undergrounding was going to be performed as a
24 default as long as six criteria were met. None of
25 those criteria included a total life-cycle cost

1 analysis.

2 Then I think in the prehearing brief we
3 learned that IPL intended to perform undergrounding
4 where it made sense on a cost analysis basis, but
5 only at the rate of their standard replacement or
6 rebuilding for distribution lines, I think one-and-a-
7 half to two percent per year.

8 MR. LONG: Nothing further.

9 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: The witness may step
10 down.

11 (Witness excused.)

12 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Cook, you may call
13 your next witness.

14 MR. COOK: OCA calls Seth Davison.

15 SETH A. DAVISON,
16 called as a witness by Counsel for the Office of
17 Consumer Advocate, being first duly sworn by
18 Chairperson Huser, was examined and testified as
19 follows:

20 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You may be seated.

21 Mr. Cook.

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. COOK:

24 Q. Please state your name for the record.

25 A. Seth Davison.

1 Q. And by whom are you employed?

2 A. The Office of Consumer Advocate.

3 Q. What is your position with the Office of
4 Consumer Advocate?

5 A. I am a utility analyst.

6 Q. Did you prepare direct testimony and
7 exhibits and rebuttal testimony and exhibits filed in
8 this proceeding?

9 A. I did.

10 Q. Are you aware that Article XVII of the non-
11 unanimous partial settlement agreement anticipates
12 the parties withdrawing their testimony concerning
13 the subsequent proceeding?

14 A. I am familiar with Article XVII.

15 Q. Your direct testimony contains the following
16 references to subsequent proceeding: Page 4, lines 9
17 through 11; page 5, lines 1 and 2; page 36, lines 17
18 through 21; page 37, lines 1 through 17.

19 Your rebuttal testimony contains the
20 following references to subsequent proceeding:
21 Page 2, line 15; page 3, line 9; page 17 through
22 page 20.

23 Would you like to withdraw these portions of
24 your testimony?

25 A. Yes, I would.

1 Q. Do you have any other corrections or
2 additions to your direct or rebuttal testimony?

3 A. I do not.

4 Q. As you sit here today, are you declaring
5 that the testimony you previously filed is true and
6 correct?

7 A. I am.

8 MR. COOK: OCA makes Mr. Davison available
9 for cross-examination.

10 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto.

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. CALLISTO:

13 Q. Mr. Davison, please describe the AED
14 methodology.

15 A. Okay. So the AED is a measure of each
16 individual class's utilization on an average and
17 excess basis. It calculates each class's average
18 usage by taking the total load for that individual
19 class in a test year and dividing that by the number
20 of hours in the year, 8760, and then it takes that
21 average, and then the non-coincident peak of that
22 individual class and the delta between the non-
23 coincident peak and the average for that class is
24 used to determine the excess portion, and then
25 they're weighted accordingly.

1 Q. And it's your suggestion in this rate case
2 that as to the AED allocation or the AED cost-of-
3 service approach, that IPL use what you characterize
4 as, I believe in your words, a blended approach,
5 50 percent based on 2016 and 50 percent based on
6 2018; correct?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. And in suggesting that approach and in
9 making your testimony, did you review the average
10 component and excess component for each of those
11 years--that is, 2016 and 2018--on a class basis?

12 A. No. I just looked at the final allocation.
13 I mean inherent in that I looked at that; but, no, in
14 the calculation of the blended approach, as you
15 characterize it--I believe I said composite--I just
16 took the final allocation that resulted in those
17 individual test years.

18 Q. Maybe we're talking about the same issue. I
19 have another exhibit.

20 A. Okay.

21 MR. CALLISTO: This will be IPL Hearing
22 Exhibit 9, and I'm also going to give you No. 10, as
23 well, at the same time.

24 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto, is this
25 one 8?

1 MR. CALLISTO: That should be 9.

2 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: This is 8?

3 MR. CALLISTO: That should be 10.

4 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Got it.

5 MR. CALLISTO: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto, you may
7 proceed.

8 MR. CALLISTO: Thank you.

9 BY MR. CALLISTO:

10 Q. Is it correct, Mr. Davison, that your
11 Rebuttal Workpaper No. 1 was based upon IPL's
12 response to OCA Data Request 481, Attachment A, and
13 that that Attachment A is what I have presented to
14 you as IPL Hearing Exhibit 9?

15 A. I believe so. We could pull up my
16 workpaper, my Rebuttal Workpaper 1, to confirm that,
17 but I believe that's correct. Yes, it is.

18 Q. And please describe what is represented in
19 Hearing Exhibit 9.

20 A. Excuse me, sir. Which one is which?

21 Q. I'm sorry. Hearing Exhibit 9 is the
22 numbers, the one that's up on the screen right now,
23 and it's double-sided.

24 A. Okay. What is being identified in this
25 exhibit is the inherent volatility in the average

1 and excess allocator. It is a key flaw of the
2 allocator.

3 Q. And this shows the average and excess
4 percentages for each of the classes that you used in
5 your rebuttal testimony; correct?

6 A. More or less. I mean in this one we have a
7 combined approach resulting from in one of the rate
8 cases that resulted in this test-year data, there was
9 a split between the LGS and bulk customers; but, yes,
10 more or less, yes.

11 Q. And so working down from the top--and I'm
12 looking down the rows now. I'm sorry they're not
13 numbered, but it's the same on the front and the
14 back. The top row is the ratios for the residential
15 class?

16 A. Yeah. Those look like that would be, yes.

17 Q. And the next row is GS, followed by LGS,
18 high load factor, and then the combined LGS/HLF that
19 you just talked about?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And based upon your knowledge of these
22 numbers that you received from IPL and used in your
23 rebuttal testimony, is it your opinion, looking now
24 at Exhibit 10, that Exhibit 10 is a full and fair
25 representation of those same ratios from the data set

1 that I just provided to you as to residential
2 specifically?

3 A. It's a lot more fun to look at; but, yes, I
4 think so.

5 Q. And would you agree that looking at the
6 chart that presents those figures, that the 2016
7 excess percentage is anomalous vis-à-vis the other
8 excess numbers in that chart?

9 A. I would not.

10 Q. And what's your basis for that statement?

11 A. If you look at the test-year data, it was
12 taken over since 2001, and so there could be
13 significant system usage characteristics, as well as
14 variations in weather, that could be driving these
15 results.

16 Q. Is it possible that the billing estimation
17 issue that occurred in 2016 with the residential
18 class could have impacted the excess component for
19 that year?

20 A. It is possible, but I would hope that IPL
21 would have raised that in RPU-17-1.

22 Q. So your statement that I think you just made
23 is in reference to the fact that IPL used this same
24 information in its last electric rate case?

25 A. Yes, without any consideration of it being

1 an anomalous year.

2 Q. And the use of that information in 2016,
3 because it was the most recent at that time,
4 obviously didn't have the benefit of what we now see
5 in 2018 where that figure has risen back up to
6 historical levels, did it?

7 A. I disagree with the historical-level
8 characterization, because if we look at the average
9 and excess allocation that IPL used in RPU-10-1, it's
10 more similar to that than RPU-17-1 or the current one
11 that IPL is proposing in this rate case.

12 Q. I'm sorry. Could you say that again?

13 A. If you look at the allocation level that IPL
14 presented in RPU-17-1, it is closer to that which IPL
15 also presented in RPU-10-1, which was used in the
16 prior rate proceeding to determine the allocation of
17 generation and transmission expenses.

18 Q. Mr. Davison, let's change topics. I want to
19 talk about your suggestions concerning the allocation
20 of costs for key account managers.

21 Please describe, in your view, why a labor
22 allocator is developed to allocate costs in a class
23 cost-of-service study.

24 A. Mr. Vognsen touched on this yesterday when
25 you guys were talking about socialization costs and

1 directly assigning them, and he said it is for those
2 costs which are difficult to kind of parse out
3 individually which classes should receive them.

4 So in a class cost-of-service study, the
5 largest expense category that IPL elects to use the
6 labor allocator for is, I believe, the general,
7 common, and intangible plant.

8 Q. And that's a category of costs that the
9 company incurs to serve a variety of functions over a
10 variety of business uses; correct?

11 A. Yes, it is.

12 Q. And that makes sense to use the labor
13 allocator, because as you just said, you can't
14 distinguish where those costs go in an easy way?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But the labor allocator also is used to
17 assign costs that are more easily distinguishable;
18 correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So things like software costs are allocated
21 pursuant to the labor allocator?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that could be allocated, for example,
24 instead of on the labor allocator, but based upon the
25 number of bills, if it's billing software, as an

1 example?

2 A. No, because as you characterized it earlier,
3 it's hard to parse out, and I don't know if we can
4 weight each number of bill equally and the economic
5 impact it has to that end-use customer. I don't know
6 if that's a good way to characterize that or if that
7 would be a wise way to do that.

8 Q. So just to continue with that hypothetical,
9 if the company has, as it does, CIS software that
10 deals with billing, customer information service
11 software, you don't believe that that software, which
12 is currently allocated under the labor allocator, in
13 a broad way could be used--could be allocated more
14 specifically to customers based upon the number of
15 bills?

16 A. Not a pure bill number. I'm thinking there
17 should be some sort of weighting convention added to
18 that.

19 Q. But it could be teased out and done
20 differently in a way than it's done right now using
21 the labor allocator?

22 A. I suppose.

23 Q. The same question for you on regulatory
24 assessment costs. Some of those go through the labor
25 allocator; correct?

1 A. I believe so, subject to check.

2 Q. And could those costs also be assessed to a
3 customer class based upon the type of filing or
4 docket which we're addressing on a particular issue?

5 A. I guess. That would be a really difficult
6 thing to do, and that would be a hard call for me to
7 make and decide how to weight those.

8 Q. But it would take the same kind of analysis,
9 perhaps, that you've done in your testimony to get to
10 the ability to tease out the KAM costs differently;
11 correct?

12 A. No, because if you look at my Direct
13 Exhibit 11 response to OCA Data Request 356, page 2,
14 there is information available on that as far as how
15 much time each type of KAM spends serving each type
16 of customer class. I think that would be far more
17 difficult in the context in which you're speaking.

18 Q. But you have not looked at that, have you?

19 A. I have not, no.

20 Q. You have looked carefully at the KAM costs?

21 A. As carefully as I could, yes.

22 Q. Isn't it reasonable to say you picked just
23 one cost that's typically assigned to the labor
24 allocator when in fact a number of costs could be
25 teased out and addressed differently?

1 A. Yes, but this is a readily identifiable one,
2 and given your exchange with Mr. Vognsen last night,
3 socialization is a slippery slope, as you characterized
4 it.

5 Q. Is it realistic to do this with all the
6 costs that are currently assigned to the labor
7 allocator?

8 A. No; but those that are easily recognizable,
9 such as this that you spoke of last night, it is.

10 Q. Okay. Let's change topics to uncollectibles.

11 When you just mentioned a second ago you
12 believe that direct assigned is possible, that's what
13 you're doing or advocating for with the KAM account
14 costs; correct?

15 A. With the KAM expenses, yes.

16 Q. But you're not doing that with uncollectibles?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. And you prefer a class allocation based on a
19 percentage of total revenues as opposed to a direct
20 class assignment for uncollectibles; correct?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. And I believe you give three reasons in your
23 testimony for why you believe that's the case:

24 The first is that the Board approved your
25 approach in the last rate case; is that right?

1 A. It wasn't mine, but our Office's, yes, sir.

2 Q. But you recognize that IPL said they would
3 agree, as part of that rate case, that they would
4 revisit that issue?

5 A. In the context of a historic test year,
6 right.

7 Q. And how is that different here?

8 A. It's a forward-looking test year.

9 Q. How does the fact that it's a forward-
10 looking test year make IPL's current position any
11 different?

12 A. Because historically that's how they've been
13 incurred. However, in a forward-looking test year,
14 the best allocator, as I say in my testimony, that
15 captures the potential size of any future revenue
16 deficiencies would be the revenue collected from each
17 class themselves.

18 Q. I think this is sort of the second reason
19 why you indicated.

20 So the first, right, is that this is the way
21 this has always been done?

22 The second is you think it's better in a
23 future test year.

24 Can you point to in this future test year
25 any anticipated uncollectibles from large industrials

1 or high load factor customers?

2 A. You can't anticipate uncollectibles.

3 Q. But we certainly have a large amount of data
4 that shows that there's a large amount of
5 uncollectibles from the residential rate class.

6 A. And you have a large amount of data that
7 suggest where your potential uncollectibles come
8 from, and that's your forecasted revenue for each
9 class.

10 Q. And can you point to any historical data
11 that shows from the large industrial classes, high
12 load factor classes, or other large customers
13 uncollectibles that would support your analysis?

14 A. No.

15 Q. I think your third reason for the approach
16 you suggest for uncollectibles is what you refer to
17 at page 26 of your direct as interclass equity.

18 A. Right. Yes, sir.

19 MR. CALLISTO: Can we turn to page 26 of his
20 direct, please?

21 BY MR. CALLISTO:

22 Q. Could you please read the question that
23 begins on your direct testimony at line 12 and the
24 first two sentences of your answer?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 "Why does consideration of the final revenue
2 allocation in the previous electric rate proceeding
3 provide further credence to this approach?"

4 "Answer: It is a matter of interclass
5 equity. In RPU-2017-1, an arbitrary adjustment to
6 the final revenue allocation resulted in a shift of
7 roughly \$37 million (29 percent) of the final
8 increase from the industrial classes to the
9 residential and small customer classes."

10 Q. You can stop there.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. So this, in your view, is an element of
13 rough justice, to rebalance the equation?

14 A. Well, it's actually quite congruent with the
15 adjustment on the revenue allocation that IPL elected
16 to make. It was a weighting of the final increase.
17 80 percent would be based on the current collection
18 of revenues and 20 percent would be based on the
19 actual class cost of service. I believe that's
20 correct, subject to check. And that was done, in my
21 opinion, to avoid rate shock. Actually, I think that
22 was what was cited in the order. So you could say
23 that was an interclass equity decision made by IPL
24 then.

25 Q. But that is as to the whole allocation;

1 correct?

2 A. Yeah, and I'm just--yeah, just one small
3 part.

4 Q. Sure. You're just trying to use this piece
5 to make up what you think was inequitable in the last
6 rate case?

7 A. You made a great point. It applied to the
8 whole class cost of service, which is way more
9 significant than what I'm suggesting here.

10 MR. CALLISTO: No further questions.

11 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Goodhue?

12 MR. GOODHUE: No questions, Your Honor.

13 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Frank?

14 MR. FRANK: Thank you, Your Honor. I just
15 have a couple of questions.

16 CROSS-EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. FRANK:

18 Q. Returning to the subject of the AED
19 methodology for purposes of determining cost
20 allocation, specifically, you applied your AED
21 methodology in allocating costs for transmission;
22 correct?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. And you have used what you had called the
25 composite AED methodology in this case?

1 A. Yeah. I equally weighted the 2015 test year
2 load research data with the 2018 test year load
3 research data because I was concerned with the use of
4 the 2018 test year's load research data only in one
5 instance, in determining the final increase, so
6 that's not really how costs were going to be caused.

7 Q. And that was a form of the average and
8 excess demand methodology; right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you did not provide testimony about the
11 use of the 12-CP allocator for transmission costs;
12 correct?

13 A. I did not.

14 Q. Would you be opposed to the use of a 12-CP
15 allocator for transmission costs?

16 A. As proposed by ADM Witness Stephens in this
17 current proceeding, no. However, I would like to
18 couch that by saying there are significant concerns
19 of rate shock and shifts in costs related to a
20 movement to that allocator, so if that allocator or
21 allocation scheme were to be used for the
22 transmission costs, it would have to be gradually
23 phased in for it to be equitable, in my opinion.

24 Q. So when you're referring to rate shock and
25 shifts in costs, are you referring to the results of

1 applying a class cost-of-service study based on 12-CP
2 for transmission costs so that it doesn't result in
3 the shifting of the allocation of revenues from one
4 class to another?

5 A. Yes. Perhaps it would be best to pull up
6 ADM Direct Stephens testimony.

7 Q. Perhaps page 34?

8 A. Is that Table 4?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. All right.

11 Q. While they're doing that, you did review
12 Mr. Stephens' direct testimony; correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Including page 34?

15 A. I was referencing Table 4, so probably
16 page 33. Thank you.

17 So as outlined in my testimony, my direct
18 testimony on page 12--I'm sorry to jump around like
19 this--I show that a three-and-a-half percentage point
20 change in the average and excess allocation results
21 in a huge shift of costs.

22 I'm good to stay here. Sorry.

23 That was just illustrated to say that
24 we're now talking about for the LGS class, if we
25 look at this Table 4 here, I mean that's almost a

1 15 percentage point change, and if I had just used
2 the three-and-a-half percentage point change and the
3 shift in costs that would result in that, that's why
4 I would have to recommend a phased-in approach if the
5 Board were to find a 12-CP to be the best approach to
6 allocate transmission costs.

7 Q. And just so we're clear, if we can turn to
8 page 34 and Table 5, this is another representation--
9 Yes, this is the right page. Sorry.

10 This is just another representation of the
11 dollar value associated with that shift that you're
12 talking about; correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So when we look at the LGS class, it goes
15 from \$111 million based on IPL's proposal to
16 \$155 million under ADM's proposal which used the
17 12-CP methodology; correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So when you're talking about a phase-in, are
20 you talking about phasing in the use of a different
21 class cost-of-service study as the allocator or are
22 you talking about the allocation of revenues?

23 A. The allocator. I mean that would be my idea
24 right now. Just on the stand at the moment, that's
25 what I would do. Perhaps there's a better methodology

1 to phase in such an approach.

2 Q. Okay. So it would be worth exploring if
3 the Board decided that use of a 12-CP transmission
4 allocator would be appropriate?

5 A. Okay. Yeah. If the Board were to decide
6 that it would be appropriate, I would say it would
7 have to be necessary to phase it in, and the
8 methodology by which that would be done could be
9 explored.

10 Q. Do you have any idea what the phase-in would
11 be? Three years, for example?

12 A. I could not say. If you were to do it over
13 too long of a time, I mean you would have subsequent
14 rate review proceedings, and stuff like that, that
15 would kind of muddy the waters, but you wouldn't want
16 to do it too aggressively, so I hesitate to say.

17 Q. Something to be explored?

18 A. Something to be explored, yes.

19 MR. FRANK: Thank you. That's all I have.

20 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Are there any other
21 parties that wish to ask any questions of this
22 witness?

23 MR. CALLISTO: Your Honor, if I may be
24 indulged with one follow-up, or two, to what ADM just
25 asked.

1 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto.

2 FURTHER CROSS-EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. CALLISTO:

4 Q. Mr. Davison, staying on this same table, the
5 ADM approach, as counsel just noted, shifts a large
6 amount of money, in your opinion, from--or at least a
7 large amount of money to LGS; is that correct?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. It also shifts a large amount of money away
10 from the residential class; is that right?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And that's about \$27 million based upon my
13 rough math.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So it's a \$27-million savings to residential
16 customers.

17 A. If the Board were to adopt the approach and
18 it was after a phase-in, if we just look at these
19 numbers in isolation, all else equal, yes.

20 Q. And if it was reversed--that is, if the
21 \$27 million instead of being a benefit under the ADM
22 approach to OCA--excuse me--to the residential class
23 was actually to its detriment--that is, it increased
24 it by \$27 million--would you still be taking the
25 position that you have today?

1 A. No. The reason that I took the position
2 that I have is actually it's a good example of what
3 you provided me with in your Hearing Exhibits 9 and
4 10. It shows the inherent volatility in the average
5 and excess allocation.

6 If you use the 12-CP approach, it takes into
7 account the variability of each class's use
8 throughout the year, and it does not pin the entire
9 allocation of these massive expense categories on one
10 peaking hour. It's similar to the approach that WPL
11 uses. It is the approach WPL uses.

12 Q. So I understand it to be that your position
13 would be unchanged under the hypothetical I just gave
14 you.

15 A. If it was the--also, it is how--yeah, my
16 position would be unchanged.

17 MR. CALLISTO: Thank you. No further
18 questions.

19 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Mr. Davison, is the
20 OCA generally in favor or opposed to a nonstandard
21 meter charge?

22 THE WITNESS: To the extent that there are
23 unique costs that are incurred and they're well-
24 calculated, those incremental costs should be
25 recovered by those causers of those incremental

1 costs. For instance, rolling a truck. If they're
2 going to read twice a year, there's a cost associated
3 with that, and it's unique because there's no need
4 for meter readers beyond those who elect for this
5 provision. So I think there are certain costs that
6 may not be appropriate to socialize and should be
7 recovered.

8 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And so the costs that
9 can be attributed to nonstandard meters should be
10 charged to those customers? We might disagree--in
11 your testimony you do have some disagreement on the
12 charges, and I'll get to that in a minute, but
13 generally you do feel that there should be a charge
14 for customers who are causing those costs?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

16 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And with respect to--
17 there's a couple of areas, and I just want to
18 understand your position a little bit better.

19 THE WITNESS: Okay.

20 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: On the nonstandard
21 meter, in your testimony you mention that for
22 customers who are choosing the reduced transmit AMI
23 meter, there should be no charge to them, a zero
24 charge for their choice of using a meter that
25 transmits less frequently; is that correct?

1 THE WITNESS: Yeah. An AMI meter, yes.

2 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Can you just walk
3 through that a little bit more with me and explain
4 why you don't feel there's any cost?

5 THE WITNESS: There's no cost in rolling a
6 truck to have those meters be read, so when you
7 eliminate that cost and the other costs I take issue
8 with that you referenced earlier, they don't cause
9 any costs, in my opinion; and furthermore, it
10 advances the utility's goal of having this metering
11 infrastructure be ubiquitous in their service
12 territory, and to the extent that--yeah, I mean it
13 just advances their common goal--or their stated goal,
14 rather.

15 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: I just want to be
16 clear. I think what you were getting to is you don't
17 have to roll a truck to read those meters so there's
18 no cost, but you kind of said like there's no cost to
19 roll a truck.

20 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

21 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: What you meant was the
22 fact that they don't have to roll a truck to read a
23 meter, that that's why there's no cost.

24 THE WITNESS: Right, and that's the bulk of
25 the charge.

1 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: With respect to if
2 they do have to program the system specifically for
3 those options, should those be included or not?

4 THE WITNESS: I have an issue with that
5 because these customers are also paying for the
6 expense of--I don't know. I actually believe in
7 socializing that cost because it's something like if
8 you socialize it across all ratepayers, it's
9 something like six cents, which if we had no quibbles
10 with 87 cents per month, which Board Member Lozier
11 pointed out yesterday, we shouldn't have it there,
12 especially if it's advancing metering technology.

13 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: So then later on when
14 you adjust for--what were the other-- I'm sorry.
15 I'm just going back. There were a couple of other
16 adjustments that you mentioned with respect to all of
17 the nonstandard meter alternatives, which brings what
18 you would recommend as a \$3.43 per month charge; is
19 that correct?

20 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. And one moment. I
21 said "our" earlier. I should have said the
22 company's. I misspoke, just for the record. Sorry.

23 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: So that reduction from
24 the \$5, I believe it was, 47 cents proposed by IPL--

25 THE WITNESS: You're correct.

1 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: --that represents the
2 costs for taking out what you would say should be
3 socialized for the IT costs for the minimal pulse,
4 and then what other?

5 THE WITNESS: You mean that referenced
6 testing?

7 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Well, so walk through
8 with me the difference between the \$5--and I can't
9 remember if it was 47 or exactly what it was, but the
10 \$5 that IPL has proposed and your calculation--your
11 recommendation of \$3.43. What accounts for the
12 difference of roughly \$2 in that?

13 THE WITNESS: So it was the amortization of
14 the IT costs, which was \$50,000-and-change each year,
15 and then it was the elimination of the potential
16 meter replacements associated with potential moves of
17 customers, which was \$26,000, and I believe that
18 makes up the entire delta.

19 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Okay. So those two
20 components?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

22 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: With the IT costs, if
23 there were IT costs related to the other meters that
24 they've got to design a system such that they can
25 input those manual reads, those costs should be

1 included?

2 THE WITNESS: I believe so.

3 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And then finally you
4 mentioned that your \$3.43 is predicated upon all the
5 current facts, but if the Board did indeed rule that
6 the minimal pulse AMI meters should not include a
7 charge, that would impact your recommended \$3.43.
8 Can you explain how that would impact that?

9 THE WITNESS: You would pull those customers
10 electing to take--because I assume--I think in this
11 pool I provided the number of customers, and it
12 included both reduced frequency transmission
13 customers and those who are still going to have
14 their analog meter, so if you pull that out, the
15 denominator gets smaller.

16 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: So you would spread
17 the same amount of costs over a smaller number of
18 customers?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

20 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: That's all the
21 questions I have. Thank you.

22 THE WITNESS: Board Member Wagner.

23 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Go ahead.

24 THE WITNESS: It would also potentially
25 reduce the number of like truck rolls, and stuff like

1 that, so there might be some offsetting cost
2 reductions as well, so there's that to consider.

3 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Okay. With respect to
4 the AED allocator that has been discussed, what's
5 your position on the possibility of IPL updating that
6 allocator each year for use in the transmission
7 rider?

8 THE WITNESS: I think that isn't a bad idea
9 because as we discussed--there was a dialogue
10 between--I forget which witnesses and which counsel.
11 Sorry. But, you know, it's locked in stone, but it's
12 not necessarily how those are being incurred,
13 especially if there was a movement to a 12-CP
14 approach, because as we discussed yesterday, that's
15 how MISO incurs that cost, so it would be updated
16 each year. I don't have any opposition to that.

17 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And if the Board were
18 to do a phased-in 12-CP approach, would that be
19 called arbitrary later on by the OCA?

20 THE WITNESS: Not by this witness.

21 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: The terminology "labor
23 allocator" and "labor indicator" have been used
24 throughout your testimony. Is there a difference
25 between the two?

1 THE WITNESS: Did I say "indicator"
2 anywhere? I'm not familiar. If I did, I'm sorry.
3 If I did, it was the wrong use. It should say
4 "allocator," "labor allocator," everywhere.

5 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And describe that for
6 me. What is that?

7 THE WITNESS: The company takes the labor
8 expense associated with--it's difficult. Could we
9 actually pull up my Workpaper No.1? There shouldn't
10 be anything confidential.

11 So there's labor expenses associated with
12 different aspects of the utility, and then--

13 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Let her catch up with
14 you.

15 THE WITNESS: Okay. If you don't have my--
16 Oh, there. Thank you.

17 Then the tab on the bottom, it should be all
18 the way to the left. That's the one. All right. So
19 scroll down slightly, please.

20 Okay. So as we see here in lines 32 through
21 38, those are lines that are delineated in the
22 document itself. It's actually rows within the Excel
23 file about 46 through 52. Yeah. So that's the labor
24 allocator development, and so what there are is there
25 are different labor expenses associated with

1 production, transmission, distribution, customer
2 accounting, and then customer service and
3 information, CSI, CSI. And then so those labor costs
4 are presented in aggregate in column D, and then the
5 appropriate--or the corresponding allocator is
6 presented in column C, and that's how, then, that
7 total sum of input total, is what it's labeled as
8 there, is allocated, then, across customer classes.

9 For instance, in line 32 the production and
10 generation is allocated in accordance with the
11 average and excess demand allocator for generation,
12 and then at the end of that, each of those are
13 summed, and that's how they then derive--the total is
14 summed, and then each class's allocation is summed,
15 and then we divide each class's allocation by the
16 total, and that's how we derive the labor allocator.

17 When I say "we," I'm speaking colloquially.
18 Sorry.

19 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Can you repeat that last
20 part? "When I say 'we,' I'm speaking..."

21 THE WITNESS: I don't mean like OCA. I mean
22 like we, I guess, the class cost-of-service analysts.

23 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Thank you.

24 THE WITNESS: Yes.

25 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Cook?

1 MR. COOK: Nothing further.

2 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Davison, you may
3 step down.

4 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

5 (Witness excused.)

6 MR. CALLISTO: Your Honor, I have once again
7 been reminded that I need to move No. 9 and 10 into
8 evidence.

9 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: IPL is moving Hearing
10 Exhibits 9 and 10. Is there any objection?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Hearing none, they are
13 admitted.

14 (IPL Exhibit Exhibits 9 and 10
15 were received in evidence.)

16 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Is there any witness
17 that that has to go before lunch?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Great. See how long I
20 took to ask that question.

21 When we return, the first witness we will
22 call, Ms. Van Loon, will be yours. We will then move
23 to Mr. Frank, and then to Ms. Tipton.

24 So seeing no questions on that, the Board
25 will take a one-hour-and-10-minute recess. We will

1 return at 1 o'clock.

2 The intent is to complete today. The intent
3 is to go into closed session with Mr. Vognsen and
4 Mr. Michek, if that's required, the last thing of the
5 day.

6 Seeing nothing else, we are recessed.

7 (Recess at 11:50 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.)
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1 AFTERNOON SESSION (1:00 p.m.)

2 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: The Iowa Utilities Board
3 is back from lunch, and we are ready to begin.

4 Ms. Van Loon, you may call your witness.

5 MS. VAN LOON: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 The Large Energy Group calls Dr. Robert
7 Latham.

8 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Good afternoon.

9 DR. LATHAM: Good afternoon.

10 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Please raise your right
11 hand.

12 ROBERT LATHAM,
13 called as a witness by Counsel for the Large Energy
14 Group, being first duly sworn by Chairperson Huser,
15 was examined and testified as follows:

16 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You may be seated.

17 Ms. Van Loon.

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MS. VAN LOON:

20 Q. Dr. Latham, could you please state your name
21 for the record?

22 A. Robert Latham.

23 Q. Did you cause to be filed both direct and
24 rebuttal testimony and exhibits in this docket?

25 A. Yes, I did.

1 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to
2 that testimony or exhibits?

3 A. None.

4 MS. VAN LOON: I hereby tender this witness
5 for cross-examination.

6 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Frank.

7 MR. FRANK: Thank you, Your Honor.

8 CROSS-EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. FRANK:

10 Q. Good afternoon, Dr. Latham.

11 A. Good afternoon.

12 Q. Dr. Latham, you testified that class cost-
13 of-service studies and resulting rates should be
14 designed to avoid creating subsidies from one class
15 to another; correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And by "subsidy," you mean costs or revenues
18 that are properly allocated to one customer class are
19 in fact allocated to another customer class; correct?

20 A. That's a fairly good description, yes.

21 Q. And a subsidy also could occur if a customer
22 class causes costs to be incurred by the utility, but
23 does not pay for those costs because they've been
24 allocated to other customer classes; correct?

25 A. That's one of our principles, yes, the

1 Large Energy Group.

2 Q. A fundamental principle?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And a subsidy also would include the
5 allocation of revenues-- Let me start that question
6 again, please.

7 A subsidy would occur if a reduction in
8 revenue allocation to one customer class as informed
9 by a class cost-of-service study were in fact
10 allocated to a different class; correct?

11 A. Could you repeat that?

12 Q. I hope so.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. A subsidy would include the allocation if
15 a-- Let me break it down. Let me do it this way.

16 If a class cost-of-service study indicates
17 that revenue allocations should be reduced for one
18 customer class--are you with me so far?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. --but in the design or the actual allocation
21 of those revenues that reduction or part thereof were
22 allocated to a different class, that would be a
23 subsidy; correct?

24 A. There is a time dimension in that. It is
25 not necessarily so, so to speak. As the Board has

1 done with those types of situations, there's like a
2 three- or four-year period by which some of those
3 changes are accommodated, so it really depends upon
4 what the--

5 Q. It might be a phase-in, for example?

6 A. Yes, right.

7 Q. Okay. But if a class cost-of-service study
8 indicated that there should be a reduction in the
9 revenue allocation from one customer class and that
10 reduction were accomplished--or that reduction were
11 made smaller because some of the reduced revenues
12 were allocated to a different class, that would be a
13 subsidy, even if it occurred over time?

14 A. I think so. I'm not really sure I'm
15 completely following you on that because I keep going
16 through in my mind--

17 Q. Dr. Latham, let's try it this way.

18 A. Sure.

19 Q. Let's say a class cost-of-service study
20 indicated that Customer Class A was due a reduction
21 in revenues of \$10 million, but in fact in the design
22 of rates that \$10 million reduction were reduced to
23 \$5 million.

24 A. Right.

25 Q. And the other \$5 million reduction was

1 allocated to a different customer class, say
2 Customer Class B.

3 That would be a subsidy of Customer Class B;
4 correct?

5 A. I believe so, but with the caveat that those
6 things are not static, yeah.

7 MR. FRANK: Thank you. That's all I have,
8 Your Honor.

9 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto?

10 MR. CALLISTO: No.

11 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Van Loon?

12 MS. VAN LOON: No redirect.

13 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You may step down.

14 THE WITNESS: Oh, no.

15 (Witness excused.)

16 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Frank.

17 MR. FRANK: Your Honor, ADM calls
18 Robert Stephens to the stand.

19 ROBERT R. STEPHENS,
20 called as a witness by Counsel for Archer Daniels
21 Midland Company, being first duly sworn by
22 Chairperson Huser, was examined and testified as
23 follows:

24 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You may be seated.
25 Mr. Frank.

1 MR. FRANK: Mr. Stephens' direct, rebuttal,
2 and additional rebuttal testimony and exhibits have
3 been previously filed.

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. FRANK:

6 Q. Mr. Stephens, do you have any corrections or
7 additions to your testimony?

8 A. Yes. I have one minor correction to page 20
9 of my direct testimony.

10 Should I proceed or should I wait?

11 Q. Please tell us what the correction is and
12 identify on the page where the correction is, please.

13 A. The correction is in Footnote 27. There's
14 an improper reference there. That reference should
15 be to Docket No. RPU-2017-0001, and the date should
16 be February 2nd, 2018.

17 That's the only correction.

18 MR. FRANK: Thank you, Mr. Stephens.

19 Mr. Stephens is available for questions.

20 CROSS-EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. CALLISTO:

22 Q. Mr. Stephens, would you agree that the
23 transmission system is designed to serve load
24 24 hours a day?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Would you please turn to page 34 of your
2 direct testimony, Table 5?

3 A. (Witness complies.)

4 Q. And your recommendation, as I understand
5 Table 5 and as has been discussed earlier by some
6 prior witnesses, is a reduction using your 12-CP
7 approach and the charges through the RTS to the
8 standby class of somewhere around \$5.5 million?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And among other things, that will lead to an
11 increase in the LGS class of about \$43.4 million?

12 A. I'm not sure what you mean by "among other
13 things."

14 Q. I mean among other changes to other classes.
15 I'm focusing specifically on the LGS class.

16 A. Yes. If you go all the way to cost of
17 service in a flash-cut approach, it would increase
18 costs to the LGS class by approximately the amount
19 you stated.

20 Q. And you've not testified anywhere in this
21 case that the Board should do anything other than
22 your 12-CP approach, have you?

23 A. No, I haven't, but I did hear evidence
24 earlier today that suggests maybe a phase-in might be
25 appropriate.

1 Q. And can you please turn to page 35 of your
2 direct testimony?

3 A. (Witness complies.)

4 Q. And could you please read the sentence on
5 line 5 that begins "The resulting"?

6 A. "The resulting increase to other classes, on
7 average, would be minor."

8 Q. And is it your position that an increase to
9 the LGS class of \$43.4 million is minor?

10 A. I was referring to other classes, on
11 average, in that statement, and whether or not that
12 would be minor to any particular class would depend
13 on what you're comparing it to, if you're looking at
14 their transmission rates--excuse me--their
15 transmission charges only for the total bill, a host
16 of factors.

17 Q. So you would agree that's not a minor shift
18 in transmission charges to the LGS class?

19 A. I'm sorry. Did you say it was 43 million?

20 Q. I have 43.4 million.

21 A. A \$43 million increase to this component of
22 their bill, which would be 112 million, on average,
23 would be a relatively large percentage of that bill
24 component.

25 Q. And you footnote that statement at

1 Footnote 37; correct?

2 A. When you say "that statement," you mean the
3 sentence at lines 5 and 6?

4 Q. Correct.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And--

7 MR. CALLISTO: Strike that. No further
8 questions.

9 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Mr. Stephens, you
10 mentioned that earlier there was a discussion of a
11 phase-in of a 12-CP allocation.

12 How would you--or what would be your
13 preference on how that were to occur?

14 THE WITNESS: In that circumstance I think
15 it would be up to the Board to determine what a
16 proper phase-in period would be, but if we concede,
17 for the sake of discussion, that that's a three-year
18 period, then what I would recommend is for the rate
19 RTS charges, the first effect as a result of this
20 case, which would be January 1st of 2020, would be
21 moved 33 percent of the way from the current charges
22 to the cost-based charges of 12-CP. Then in the
23 following year, in a three-year phase-in, they would
24 be moved 50 percent of the way of the remaining
25 distance to cost-based charges under a 12-CP

1 allocation, and then in the third year they would be
2 moved the final way to 12-CP allocation.

3 One open question that I would want to give
4 some more thought about is whether it would be
5 necessary to recalculate the 12-CP allocator each
6 year versus using the 12-CP allocator that is
7 determined in this case, and I believe that it would
8 be most accurate and most cost-based to recalculate
9 it each year and move a third of--or the remaining
10 way, whichever, toward the new 12-CP allocation
11 because that best reflects the costs that are imposed
12 on IPL through transmission charges from MISO.

13 If necessary, you wouldn't have to update it
14 every year for the 12-CP allocator.

15 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And is three years the
16 right number, or should it be four, five, 10?

17 THE WITNESS: Three years is very often used
18 for phase-ins, and I think that would certainly be
19 reasonable. If the Board felt it necessary to extend
20 it a little further, I can't say, as I sit here,
21 that it would be unreasonable. However, I do share
22 Mr. Davison's concern that if you string it out too
23 long, you end up with cost subsidies being in place
24 for longer than necessary.

25 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: But it sounds like

1 whatever the period is, you would do it equally in
2 each of those periods. So, for example, four years,
3 it would be 25 percent per year, or as you mentioned,
4 three years, it would be 33 percent per year,
5 although one of those years would have to be more
6 than 33 percent.

7 THE WITNESS: Generally, yes. If the Board
8 had a reason why it needed to moderate rates a little
9 differently because the 12-CP allocator changed that
10 much in that given year, the Board may need to
11 moderate rates a little differently, but as a
12 guideline, equal movement for each of the years in
13 the phase-in period.

14 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: All right. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Frank?

16 MR. FRANK: Thank you, Your Honor. Just a
17 couple of questions.

18 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. FRANK:

20 Q. Mr. Stephens, you were asked a question
21 about Table 5 on page 34 and the movement of costs
22 between the classes.

23 Is it ADM's intent to shift costs to other
24 classes?

25 A. No, of course not. ADM's desire, as I

1 understand it, and certainly my interest as a
2 consultant on cost of service, is to try to achieve
3 cost-based rates. If that means that resulting rates
4 are significantly higher for any class, that's an
5 indication of how far from cost they are presently.

6 Q. And then one additional question regarding
7 the phase-in approach if we were to move to a 12-CP
8 allocation.

9 As I understand it, that's a way of
10 mitigating the impact on other customer classes from
11 moving to a 12-CP allocator.

12 A. Yes, as opposed to a flash-cut movement.

13 Q. Could that be handled either through phasing
14 in the 12-CP allocator or could it be done through a
15 phase-in of the changes in revenue allocation, and do
16 you have a preference as between the two?

17 A. I think that in this case it could probably
18 be done through the rider RTS changes each year, and
19 so you don't redo a revenue allocation for the entire
20 case in each year, but RTS charges are reset each
21 year, and if the utility is given a goal of reach
22 cost of service based on 12-CP for transmission
23 charges over a three-year period, for example, in
24 equal increments, they can then take that information
25 and move the third step the first year, a 50 percent

1 step the next year of the remaining, and then the
2 remaining the final year. I'm confident IPL could
3 calculate that.

4 MR. FRANK: Thank you, Mr. Stephens.

5 Your Honor, that's all I have.

6 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Mr. Stephens, I
7 apologize for coming back with another question.

8 In a conversation you just had you mentioned
9 resetting the RTS each year. Is that in the
10 hypothetical example that you were describing or is
11 there currently a plan to reset the RTS each year?

12 THE WITNESS: The RTS charges get reset each
13 year currently, but it's not to update due to
14 allocations, and consequently, this would be a step
15 in the RTS where instead of going all the way to cost
16 of service in one flash-cut year, you tell IPL to do
17 it over three steps, for example.

18 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Okay. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: The witness may step
20 down.

21 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

22 (Witness excused.)

23 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Tipton?

24 MS. TIPTON: DAG calls David Berg.
25

1 DAVID BERG,
2 called as a witness by Counsel for the Decorah Area
3 Group, being first duly sworn by Chairperson Huser,
4 was examined and testified as follows:

5 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You may be seated.

6 Ms. Tipton.

7 MS. TIPTON: Thank you, Your Honor.

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MS. TIPTON:

10 Q. Mr. Berg, are you the same David Berg that
11 filed direct and surrebuttal testimony in this case?

12 A. Yes, I am.

13 Q. Along with exhibits attached to that
14 testimony?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Your testimony and exhibits have been spread
17 on the record by stipulation.

18 Do you have any corrections or additions to
19 make to your testimony?

20 A. No, I do not.

21 MS. TIPTON: With that, we would tender
22 Mr. Berg for cross.

23 MR. CALLISTO: IPL is listed as cross, and
24 we withdraw that request.

25 MS. TIPTON: Your Honor, if I may, yesterday

1 the Board had questions for Dr. Martin-Schramm that
2 related to the waterfall exhibit, IPL Exhibit 4, and
3 also to the LGS supplemental rate issue, and those
4 were referred to Mr. Berg, so if the Board has
5 additional questions or clarification that you need,
6 he's here to respond.

7 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Mr. Berg, I have just
8 a few questions that I want to explore with you.

9 On pages 6 and 7 of your testimony you talk
10 about how the proposed rates punish Luther College.
11 And would you describe in more detail how that
12 punishment is done?

13 THE WITNESS: Yes. There's several ways I
14 could go about this. One of the easy ways might be
15 if I could specifically get up on the screen my
16 Exhibits--I'm pretty sure it's 1 and 2 from my direct
17 testimony, which is the tariffs--the proposed tariffs
18 for both the LGS and the LGS Supplemental. And what
19 would really be great--I don't know if they can get
20 the first page of each side by side. Is that possible?

21 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: She says no.

22 THE WITNESS: She said no. Okay. Well,
23 we'll need the first page of each and switch back and
24 forth. How about that?

25 Now, relative to what they're doing with

1 regard to the rates--so we have the LGS class
2 and then we have the LGS Supplemental class, so
3 Luther College is part of the LGS Supplemental class
4 because they have behind-the-meter generation. They
5 have a solar facility on their campus, and so that
6 based on the way the rate schedules are set up,
7 Luther College is in that Supplemental class.

8 Now, one of the arguments that I made in my
9 direct testimony is from a cost-of-service basis, I
10 don't believe they should be treated any differently.
11 Luther College doesn't export any of that energy onto
12 the grid. They absorb it all within the campus.

13 So, quite frankly, from a cost-of-service
14 perspective, self-generating solar behind the meter
15 is really no different than turning off the lights.
16 It reduces your net load. In fact, I have figures in
17 my direct testimony relative to how much energy
18 conservation Luther has done, which far exceeds the
19 amount of energy that they generate relative to their
20 solar facility.

21 When you look at the rates--and I'm not
22 going to go certainly through all of them, but there
23 are a couple of things to me that are very
24 interesting and, quite frankly, as a cost-of-service
25 expert, I can't figure out how it can be justified.

1 So right now we are looking at--and
2 basically what you can see is you can see both the
3 existing and the proposed rate when you look at
4 what's up on the screen, and I would like to focus on
5 the non-time-of-day option. So within both the LGS
6 and the LGS Supplemental, IPL has a time-of-day
7 option and a non-time-of-day option. So currently
8 Luther is receiving service under the non-time-of-day
9 option. So this is the regular LGS rate.

10 So let's just look at those winter and
11 summer. So you see the non-time-of-day option.
12 Let's look at the energy rates. So you can see that
13 the winter energy rate--this is the regular LGS--goes
14 from 1.253 cents up to 1.43 cents. So they are
15 increasing the winter rate of the regular LGS.

16 But then let's look at the summer rate for
17 the regular LGS. That's actually decreasing from
18 2.301 cents down to 1.971. Now, we're just talking
19 about summertime energy here. So, you know, energy,
20 when you look at a non-time-of-day basis and you look
21 at energy from the energy market, it's a fairly
22 homogenous product relative to sales to LGS versus
23 LGS Supplemental customers, in my opinion.

24 So just again, we've got an increase in the
25 winter energy rate, and actually a decrease in the

1 summer energy rate for regular LGS.

2 Now, if we could switch to the first page of
3 my second exhibit.

4 Now let's look at the energy rates for the
5 LGS Supplemental on the non-time-of-day option. We
6 see an increase in the winter rate, which is actually
7 more than the increase in the winter rate on the
8 regular.

9 Now, you recall on the regular rate, the
10 summer energy rate was actually going down. Now, go
11 back, if you would. Look at what's happening to the
12 summer energy rate for the supplemental. It's going
13 from 2.192 cents up to 2.861 cents. We now have a
14 45 percent differential in the summer non-time-of-day
15 energy rate between the Supplemental class and the
16 regular class in this rate class. These aren't
17 particularly different.

18 If you look at the cost-of-service analysis
19 from IPL, and in particular in Vognsen's testimony,
20 you'll notice in cost of service they don't
21 differentiate between the on- and off-peak and the
22 non-time-of-day options. They only differentiate
23 between the regular LGS and the Supplemental LGS.

24 Maybe we could bring up--it's in Vognsen's
25 direct testimony. I believe it's Table 4 on page 10.

1 Actually, I think-- Excuse me. It's on page 48.

2 So this is results of their test-year 2020
3 cost of service by class. Notice that the large
4 general service--and he's got an increased justified
5 in the far right column. The large general service
6 is showing an increase of \$23 million. The large
7 general service supplementary is actually showing a
8 decrease of 63,000. So relative to their cost-of-
9 service results between large general service and
10 large general service supplemental, very different
11 results in their cost of service in that they're
12 showing LGS regular should be going up more than LGS
13 Supplemental.

14 When you compare what they're doing to the
15 time-of-day rates between the two, the differences
16 are similar, how they're treating LGS and LGS
17 Supplemental. They're making a change in how they're
18 treating the Supplemental on the non-time-of-day
19 basis.

20 Now, again, there's no difference in the
21 cost of service relative to time of day and
22 non-time-of-day, so we wonder what the basis of that
23 is.

24 If we could, I would like to go also, then--
25 I need to look. It's in Vognsen's--I believe it's in

1 his rebuttal testimony. Yes. So Vognsen rebuttal
2 testimony, if we could go to page 41, please.

3 So part of his rebuttal testimony I think
4 was taking issue with some of my comments in my
5 direct about this change. So you'll notice on line 6
6 it says, "The pricing differentials between the LGS
7 and LGS Supplementary groups simply reflect the
8 revenue impacts of interruptible credits and time of
9 use."

10 Then if we go on to the next question, it
11 says, "How did interruptible credits impact the
12 pricing differential?"

13 He comments that, "In Docket"--I'm not going
14 to read the whole docket, but in the Board's final
15 order in March of 2019, IPL's interruptible credit
16 levels were reduced.

17 He basically goes on to say that because of
18 that reduction, which was approved by the Board, of
19 those interruptible credits, it's changing a balance,
20 and what it appears is that they're trying to fix
21 the change of the interruptible credit, which is a
22 demand-related credit, by hitting the non-time-of-day
23 supplemental customers with an exorbitant energy
24 increase to make up for that, and I don't think those
25 two things should be mixed.

1 Actually, then if we go to the next page of
2 this testimony, page 42, you'll notice that starting
3 at line 7, he says, "The proposed rate design
4 encourages greater participation of LGS Supplementary
5 customers in these programs. Utilizing rate design
6 to encourage greater participation in time-of-use and
7 demand response rate options, such as interruptible
8 programs, is a legitimate rate design objective."

9 It appears to me that they want to move
10 people from the non-time-of-day option to the time-
11 of-day option. Rather than eliminating that option
12 through this proceeding, they're making the non-time-
13 of-day option from supplemental customers so
14 egregious that they will have no choice but to make
15 that move, and that's not a cost-based decision, and
16 I don't think that it's correct.

17 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Well, that was quite
18 an answer to what I thought was a fairly simple
19 question. Thank you.

20 So you also indicate that the rate will
21 discourage other similar customers from investing in
22 distributed generation.

23 Does your same analysis apply to other
24 customers, as well as to Luther College?

25 THE WITNESS: Well, what this really goes

1 to, to my feeling, is the fact that the Supplemental
2 exists at all, because I can't envision how Luther
3 College or any other Supplemental customer who has
4 behind- the-meter generation that never exports onto
5 the system impacts the cost to serve as a class.

6 Now, they make comments about these
7 customers participate in these programs more or less
8 than others. Well, then, that should be taken care
9 of in the programs. For instance, the interruptible
10 credit. Well, that should be taken care of in the
11 interruptible credit, not in the regular rate to sort
12 of double reward people who participate in the
13 interruptible credit as opposed to those who don't.

14 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Thank you.

15 You state also that you believe that the
16 rate increase proposed by IPL is inconsistent with
17 state law, and you refer to a specific statute.

18 Could you explain how you believe that
19 statute is applicable to what they're doing?

20 THE WITNESS: Well, I think I want to maybe
21 rephrase your interpretation of what I said.

22 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: All right.

23 THE WITNESS: I'm not making any legal
24 interpretations in my testimony. What I really was
25 saying is that they're discouraging renewables

1 through this rate schedule and that Iowa is renowned
2 as a state that is interested in renewables. And
3 just as an example of a statement I make reference to
4 that. I'm certainly not here to say they're doing
5 anything illegal. I'm basically saying by having
6 this rate differential, which is a discouragement
7 against having supplemental renewable energy
8 generation behind the meter, is against the goals the
9 State of Iowa has.

10 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Okay. Thank you for
11 that clarification.

12 We had a discussion yesterday with
13 Dr. Martin-Schramm about the CEA study that was
14 produced just prior to the municipalization vote in
15 Decorah.

16 To your knowledge, did IPL ever disavow the
17 conclusions of CEA with respect to the projected rate
18 increase over three years?

19 THE WITNESS: No, they certainly did not.
20 In fact, I was actually involved in that. I was
21 actually part of the team that did the feasibility
22 study for the Decorah Group, and so I was at public
23 meetings, and in fact was at the public meeting in
24 city hall when a representative of Concentric Energy
25 Advisers presented the results, and there was a

1 number of IPL people in the room, and oftentimes sort
2 of in public statements IPL stood behind the CEA
3 analysis. So they had ample opportunity to disagree,
4 and never did.

5 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: In Exhibit 4 to your
6 direct testimony you have a table that shows the
7 disparity in rates between Interstate Power and
8 MidAmerican Energy, and just looking at some of those
9 numbers, for example, in 2008--and this is the price
10 per kilowatt-hour, I take it. It's 11 cents for
11 Interstate Power and eight cents for MidAmerican. So
12 by my math, Interstate Power is a 37-and-a-half
13 percent increase over MidAmerican; correct?

14 THE WITNESS: Your math feels right to me.

15 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Okay. I divided three
16 by eight.

17 Then in 2015, it's 14 cents compared to
18 10 cents, which I take it to be a 40 percent increase.

19 THE WITNESS: Correct.

20 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: In 2016, 15 cents to
21 10 cents, a 50 percent increase; and in 2018, 16 cents
22 to 10 cents, a 60 percent increase. So the disparity
23 in rates is increasing over the last 10 years. Is
24 that your understanding?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes; and certainly the graph

1 at the top of this exhibit also shows that visually
2 for people who may not be as numerically inclined.

3 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Okay. Thank you. I
4 have no further questions.

5 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Tipton?

6 MS. TIPTON: I don't have anything for
7 Mr. Berg.

8 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Seeing nothing further,
9 the witness may step down.

10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

11 (Witness excused.)

12 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Schmidt, you may
13 call your first witness.

14 MR. SCHMIDT: IEC calls Kerri Johannsen to
15 the stand.

16 KERRI JOHANNSEN,
17 called as a witness by Counsel for the
18 Environmental Intervenors, being first duly
19 sworn by Chairperson Huser, was examined and
20 testified as follows:

21 DIRECT EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. SCHMIDT:

23 Q. Ms. Johannsen, did you cause to be filed in
24 this case prefiled direct testimony and prefiled
25 rebuttal testimony and accompanying exhibits?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And since the time the testimony was
3 prefiled, do you have any changes, updates, or
4 corrections?

5 A. I do not.

6 Q. And if you were asked the same questions
7 today, would your answers remain the same?

8 A. Yes.

9 MR. SCHMIDT: With the understanding that
10 the witness's testimony and exhibits have been
11 entered into the record, Ms. Johannsen is available
12 for questions.

13 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Ms. Johannsen, on
14 page 7 of your testimony you refer to your concern
15 about monopoly encroachment into the private market,
16 and you suggest that utility programs should be
17 focused on markets that are not otherwise well-
18 served.

19 Would you describe what kind of programs
20 you're talking about with respect to that?

21 THE WITNESS: Sure. The kinds of programs
22 we're thinking about here are things like low-income
23 community solar programs. Community solar in general
24 can be a customer solution that's not otherwise
25 provided for folks who live in apartment buildings,

1 for example.

2 We also think that there is a place for
3 utilities to use non-wires alternative analyses to
4 create cheaper solutions on the grid for things that
5 might otherwise be required in terms of upgrades.

6 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Is it your view that
7 the Board has authority to direct utilities to
8 undertake those programs?

9 THE WITNESS: I don't know the answer to
10 that.

11 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Well, an alternative
12 would be for the Board to respond to that type of
13 program that a utility might bring to the Board.

14 THE WITNESS: Yes. I think that, you know,
15 we did include this as part of the settlement
16 agreement, as part of an overall settlement of these
17 issues. However, one thing that was important for us
18 to include in the settlement agreement was a robust
19 stakeholder process where we want to continue to
20 discuss with IPL changes to these programs in the
21 future that ensure that these are focused in the
22 right areas.

23 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Okay. Thank you. I
24 have no further questions.

25 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Johannsen, would you

1 please turn to your rebuttal testimony, page 2,
2 lines 8 through 10?

3 THE WITNESS: Okay.

4 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Will you help me
5 understand what you think the Board should require?

6 THE WITNESS: Here I think it's important
7 that the staff at IPL--what my testimony was saying--
8 and this is an issue that was part of the settlement
9 agreement. What my testimony was addressing here was
10 ensuring that the IPL staff who might be dealing
11 with intakes in terms of interconnection agreements,
12 et cetera, would not necessarily be the same staff
13 who are talking to customers about the options they
14 have available for utility programs.

15 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Can you tell me where in
16 the settlement agreement this issue is addressed?

17 THE WITNESS: Well, the Environmental
18 Intervenors, as part of the settlement agreement,
19 agreed to withdraw our objections to the renewable
20 energy programs as proposed by Alliant.

21 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Johannsen, are you
22 familiar with the legislative process?

23 THE WITNESS: Yes.

24 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And does that experience
25 give you the ability to have an opinion as to whether

1 or not you know who is lobbying on behalf of certain
2 legislation?

3 THE WITNESS: I have worked up at the
4 legislature for the last couple of legislative
5 sessions, and in my memory, I probably would have
6 some information about who was lobbying on what
7 pieces of legislation, yes.

8 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Are you familiar with
9 the legislation for energy efficiency programs?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Can you tell me what
12 parties lobbied on behalf of that legislation?

13 THE WITNESS: I cannot give you a
14 comprehensive list of the parties that were lobbying
15 on behalf of Senate File 2311. It is my recollection
16 that generally the utilities were supportive of that
17 legislation.

18 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Is it accurate to state
19 that you were probably not supportive of that
20 legislation?

21 THE WITNESS: We were very much opposed to
22 that legislation.

23 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: So you're kind of
24 unbiased because you're opposed, the other parties
25 were in favor of it. Who did the legislators think

1 that that legislation would benefit?

2 THE WITNESS: I think that is a very
3 complicated question, and I think that there was a
4 representation that the legislation would benefit
5 customers. I think that we disagreed with that
6 representation. I cannot speak to what legislators
7 believed or did not believe.

8 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Did you believe that the
9 legislation would reduce customer bills?

10 THE WITNESS: No.

11 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Schmidt, do you have
12 any redirect?

13 MR. SCHMIDT: I do not.

14 MR. CALLISTO: Your Honor, I just have one
15 question, if I may.

16 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: You're pretty good in
17 doing that.

18 Mr. Callisto.

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. CALLISTO:

21 Q. Ms. Johannsen, in response to a question
22 from the Board Chair concerning your testimony at
23 page 2, lines 8 through 10, I believe it's your
24 direct--excuse me--your rebuttal testimony, you
25 raised a concern about cross-subsidization and the

1 ability of the utility to improperly, through that
2 process, influence nonregulated entities; correct?

3 A. That was the general concern, yes, addressed
4 in my testimony.

5 Q. And as you indicated, these tariffs, in
6 particular, have been settled, and you're one of the
7 settling parties on that; correct?

8 A. Yes, we are.

9 Q. And you are aware--or are you aware of
10 Iowa Code Section 476.78 which prohibits cross-
11 subsidization, specifically, "A public utility shall
12 not directly or indirectly include any costs or
13 expenses attributable to providing non-utility
14 service in regulated rates or charges"?

15 A. It is not my understanding that this would
16 be part of IPL's competitive--it was my understanding
17 these programs would be under the regulated utility
18 and not part of IPL's competitive entity.

19 Q. Correct. The statute I just read applies to
20 a public utility, which is IPL.

21 Do you understand that?

22 A. Can you read the statute for me again?

23 Q. I'll read it to you again.

24 "A public utility shall not directly or
25 indirectly include any costs or expenses attributable

1 to providing non-utility service in regulated rates
2 or charges."

3 So we agree, first of all, that what we're
4 talking about with these tariffs are regulated
5 services?

6 A. Right.

7 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto, we're
8 going to pull it up so she can see it.

9 MR. CALLISTO: Sure.

10 THE WITNESS: Okay.

11 BY MR. CALLISTO:

12 Q. So we agree that what IPL has asked for here
13 and what the settling parties have agreed on is a
14 utility service provided pursuant to tariff; correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And then what this statute prohibits is
17 any cross-subsidization of any nonregulated parts--
18 excuse me--prohibits the utility from subsidizing
19 nonregulated activities?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. And so with your understanding of the
22 statutory limits on cross-subsidization, do you still
23 have concerns?

24 A. I'm not a lawyer, but I do not think
25 that this particular statute applies to this

1 particular situation. I think our concern about
2 cross-subsidization is both between the customers
3 participating in this program and the customers
4 who choose not to participate. That's the
5 cross-subsidization issue.

6 There's also an issue with private market
7 actors, such as independent solar companies, competing
8 with the public utility.

9 So I'm not concerned about cross-subsidization
10 between the regulated and nonregulated parts of the
11 utility, which I think is what this statute is
12 referring to.

13 MR. CALLISTO: No further questions.

14 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Schmidt?

15 MR. SCHMIDT: No further questions.

16 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Johannsen, you may
17 step down.

18 (Witness excused.)

19 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto, do you
20 believe that there is any more public testimony that
21 is to be provided today?

22 MR. CALLISTO: The only issue, if the
23 Board is going to--if the Board's request is that
24 Mr. Vognsen speak about the tariff concerning new
25 customers, new large industrial customers, I think

1 what he is going to be able to say can be said in
2 open session.

3 If there's things beyond that issue that the
4 Board believes you need to hear from him in closed,
5 we should perhaps make sure it is a closed session.

6 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. McConnell, do you
7 have it?

8 If all of the parties would please put their
9 attention on the screen or wherever you have what we
10 have on the webinar up.

11 October 2019: Settlement conference
12 scheduled for October 11th; objections to the
13 settlement, October 15th; responses to objections on
14 October 18th; surreplies on October 23rd; expected
15 transcript sometime the week of the 4th; initial
16 briefs due the 12th; reply briefs due the 18th.

17 Somewhere in there we've got four other
18 hearings in the gas case, but other than that, how
19 does that fit for all of the parties?

20 Mr. Callisto?

21 MR. CALLISTO: May I just have one moment,
22 Your Honor?

23 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Yes.

24 (Pause.)

25 MR. CALLISTO: We're fine with that.

1 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. Easler?

2 MS. EASLER: That's fine.

3 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And everyone else just
4 nod your head. If you have an objection, tell me
5 that.

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: All right. We believe
8 we'll have an order out--probably not today--
9 tomorrow, and that order will have all of these
10 dates.

11 The order will also have the initial briefs
12 date due, and then you're probably going to see an
13 additional order sometime in about a week and a half
14 after we've determined what additional information we
15 are going to require you to file in your initial
16 briefs related to both the settlement and those
17 unsettled issues.

18 We were hoping to provide that to you today,
19 but that's not going to happen.

20 So the intent now is to move into closed
21 session. Mr. Vognsen and Mr. Michek will be the only
22 witnesses, I'm aware of, for closed session.

23 MR. CALLISTO: Your Honor, I just wanted to
24 make sure we're on the same page with Mr. Vognsen.
25 The information that he can give on the ICR, the

1 Individual Customer Rate Tariff, is not confidential,
2 so he can't speak to specific customers. He can
3 speak generically about the opportunity that IPL
4 sees, and he can do that in open, if that is the
5 topic that you wanted to talk to him about. I wasn't
6 aware of any other one. That one he can address in
7 the open.

8 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: He can tell us the
9 customer?

10 MR. CALLISTO: He cannot.

11 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Can he tell us the
12 customer in confidential?

13 MR. CALLISTO: He does not know the name of
14 the customer. It's my understanding that the
15 business unit at IPL has the name of the customer.
16 There is great concern about the release of the name
17 of the customer for competitive reasons. It's not
18 only competitor to competitor in that industry; it is
19 competitor to competitor in the utility space to the
20 extent that they may have an interest in going into
21 another utility's territory, and so IPL has great
22 concern about sharing that name.

23 Mr. Vognsen, himself, does not know the name
24 of that customer, but he can give the general
25 contours of what some of those conversations have

1 been to inform you on your interest in the kind of
2 customer that would be attracted by this tariff.

3 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto, did you
4 already give us the five-year?

5 MR. CALLISTO: We have not. We would like
6 to give that to you, and that is a closed-session
7 item.

8 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And who is that?

9 MR. CALLISTO: Mr. Michek.

10 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: The Board is going to
11 take a 15-minute recess and have a conversation about
12 the ICR issue, but who here is not staying for the
13 closed session?

14 Okay. So it is our intent to move into
15 closed session. We do not intend to-- We're going
16 to recess first. We'll be back. You need to stick
17 around.

18 The Board will recess, and we'll be back
19 around 2:15 or when all three Board Members have
20 returned.

21 (Short recess.)

22 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: For the information of
23 the parties, we are going to continue in public
24 session for as long as we can.

25

1 DAVID VOGNSEN,
2 recalled as a witness by Counsel for Interstate Power
3 and Light Company, having been previously duly sworn
4 by Chairperson Huser, was examined and testified as
5 follows:

6 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: We have requested
7 Mr. Vognsen to come back to the stand. He
8 understands, and will state the same, that he has
9 previously been sworn in.

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Board Member Wagner.

12 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Mr. Vognsen, I just
13 want to go through a couple of clarifications from
14 the conversation yesterday on the ICR tariff.

15 Does IPL plan to file a class cost-of-
16 service study for each customer that would seek
17 service under the ICR tariff?

18 THE WITNESS: We would definitely need to
19 run a class cost-of-service study for them being
20 broken out as a separate customer in order to
21 determine if the pricing was appropriate. You know,
22 we would be more than happy to file that as part of
23 the annual filing too.

24 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And in a contract with
25 an ICR customer, would their rates be subject to

1 changes in a future rate case?

2 THE WITNESS: Yes. Because they're broken
3 out into a separate class, then they would be
4 evaluated along with all the other classes.

5 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: So it's not the intent
6 that if you have, say, a five-year contract, that
7 those rates are set and they can't be changed by a
8 rate case?

9 THE WITNESS: Right.

10 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Were you in the room
11 earlier today for a discussion with Mr. Davison from
12 the OCA and Mr. Stephens from--I don't know where--
13 Mr. Stephens--

14 THE WITNESS: ADM.

15 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: ADM. Excuse me.
16 Thanks.

17 Were you in the room for those?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes.

19 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Do you have any
20 general thoughts, comments, anything regarding their
21 testimony on 12-CP and phase-in, potential phase-in,
22 or doing AED each year, any of those topics?

23 THE WITNESS: First of all, I still
24 think there was adequate support in the prior
25 docket for the continuation of the AED allocator

1 for transmission, so I still support the AED
2 allocation for transmission.

3 On the other issue, though, as far as when
4 we update our RTS factor, I see no issue with updating
5 the AED allocator for transmission in association
6 with that.

7 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And that would be on
8 a--

9 THE WITNESS: Yeah, we would file that in
10 October for rates effective the following January.

11 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: And no comments on if
12 the Board were to determine a phase-in of 12-CP,
13 any--

14 THE WITNESS: I don't think we would want to
15 support that.

16 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Any thoughts on a
17 number of years, if it were to happen?

18 THE WITNESS: Fifty.

19 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Fair enough.

20 I think that's all the questions I have.
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Your response seems to
23 indicate that it's not required that you file that
24 class cost of service on the ICR. Help me understand
25 why you wouldn't have to file that.

1 THE WITNESS: Well, we would file it as
2 part of a rate proceeding, you know, the class cost
3 of service showing them broken out, because that
4 would a requirement, but I mean as far as like an
5 informational requirement as part of the annual
6 filings that I talked about yesterday, I mean if that
7 was a condition of the ICR, we would not have any
8 issue of including that with the annual filing when
9 we offer the ICR to a customer to support the rate.

10 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: So is it your position
11 that you could begin using this tariff after it was
12 approved without having a cost-of-service study?

13 THE WITNESS: Well, before we could offer
14 the rate to the customer to determine--to make sure
15 there's no subsidies in the rate, we would have to
16 run a cost of service breaking them out into their
17 own class to determine if the rate was appropriate.

18 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And all of that would
19 require Utilities Board approval?

20 THE WITNESS: I don't necessarily think we
21 would need the approval prior to offering it to the
22 customer. Similar to flexible pricing, we do not get
23 prior Board approval when we offer flexible pricing
24 to a customer.

25 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: But this isn't a

1 flexible pricing proposal.

2 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

3 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: So then what parameters
4 or situations are you applying to it that you're
5 utilizing the flexible rate provisions?

6 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I'm using the filing
7 requirements of the flexible rate provisions because
8 that would really be the alternative. If we did not
9 have an ICR rate, we could use the flexible pricing
10 provisions.

11 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And that was one of
12 the reasons--maybe not very eloquently--that we
13 brought up the MidAmerican tariff that outlines the
14 three pages of different information that the Board
15 requires, and in that conversation did you understand
16 that I was asking if you knew--if IPL would be in
17 agreement with all of the provisions that were
18 applicable and that you would follow them?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes. I mean I would agree to
20 providing the same information that MidAmerican would
21 be providing because, you know, for example, they
22 may be able to offer the ICR rate to a customer
23 located in their service territory, and, you know, we
24 don't want to be at a competitive disadvantage to
25 MidAmerican in not being able to offer a similar type

1 of rate.

2 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: With the same provisions
3 that are set out in the MidAmerican tariff?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: And you understand that
6 there are a number of filings that are confidential
7 and not filed as a public record related to that?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes. For example, flexible
9 pricing, when we file like the contracts on the gas
10 side, those are filed as confidential.

11 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Callisto?

12 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. CALLISTO:

14 Q. Just to make sure we're clear with the
15 Board, Mr. Vognsen, the Board has what I believe
16 would be MidAmerican's comparable tariff, and please
17 let us know--I believe, off memory, that, for
18 example, the capacity figure that IPL is seeking is
19 different than MidAmerican's, so if you could just
20 walk through the pieces that you're aware of that are
21 different so that if in the event the Board approves
22 this tariff request, it will have any nuances to it
23 that are different than what MidAmerican has,
24 assuming that it meets the Board's approval.

25 A. Yes. Following up on that, they have

1 15,000 kW for 12 consecutive months. We have
2 25,000 kW for 12 consecutive months. We have also
3 the requirement that they would be served at a
4 transmission voltage.

5 Let's see. Yeah, we have the same provision
6 as far as if they terminate the ICR, they would have
7 to take advantage of whatever alternative rate they
8 qualified for.

9 Yeah, and again, under the IUB review and
10 approval, the rates, riders, terms, and conditions
11 applicable to the rider ICR are subject to
12 modification by the IUB or any other agency that has
13 jurisdiction.

14 So I agree with that provision.

15 Q. So I understand you to say that you're
16 effectively fine with the substantive provisions of
17 the MidAmerican tariff, with the exception of the
18 capacity figure, which is 25,000 kW, and the request
19 that IPL's tariff be taking service at a transmission
20 level?

21 A. I think they both require transmission.

22 Q. I'm sorry. That's the exception I'm looking
23 at, the termination one. So they're both going to be
24 at transmission.

25 So the only difference, then, is the

1 25,000 kW?

2 A. Yes.

3 MR. CALLISTO: Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: I apologize. The Board
5 does not have copies for everyone, but the Board is
6 submitting IUB Hearing Exhibit 4, which is the
7 MidAmerican Electric Tariff No. 2 Rate ICR,
8 Individual Customer Rate, and it's a three-page
9 document, and we'll be uploading that into the docket
10 for reference purposes.

11 Is there any objection?

12 MR. CALLISTO: None.

13 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Thank you. The hearing
14 exhibit is admitted.

15 (Board Hearing Exhibit 4 was
16 received in evidence.)

17 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Are there any further
18 questions for Mr. Vognsen?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: It is not our intent to
21 take him into closed session--confidential session.

22 You may step down.

23 Hold on.

24 (Pause.)

25 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Mr. Vognsen, you can go.

1 I was just making sure that I'm on the right page.

2 (Witness excused.)

3 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Ms. McConnell, pull up
4 the calendar again. Again, we have the calendar.

5 It is our intent at this point that
6 Board Member Wagner is going to move for us to go
7 into confidential session.

8 It is the Board's intent that when we are
9 done and move out of confidential session, that we
10 will be adjourning the hearing and not taking any
11 further action.

12 Are there any questions from any of the
13 parties?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Hearing none,
16 Board Member Wagner.

17 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: I move to go into
18 closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 21.5(c)
19 and (f).

20 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: I second the motion.

21 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: It's been moved and
22 seconded to go into confidential session. Those in
23 favor of the motion requires a roll-call vote.

24 Chair Huser votes aye.

25 Board Member Wagner?

1 BOARD MEMBER WAGNER: Aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: Board Member Lozier?

3 BOARD MEMBER LOZIER: Aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON HUSER: The Iowa Utilities Board
5 is in confidential session.

6 Can you please verify that everyone left? I
7 would say it's probably about 15, 20 minutes.

8 (Pages 752 through 773 are contained in the
9 confidential portion of the transcript.)

10 (Proceedings concluded at 3:20 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, the undersigned, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of Iowa, do hereby certify that I acted as the official court reporter at the hearing in the above-entitled matter at the time and place indicated;

That I took in shorthand all of the proceedings had at the said time and place and that said shorthand notes were reduced to typewriting under my direction and supervision, and that the foregoing typewritten pages are a full and complete transcript of the shorthand notes so taken.

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 28th day of October, 2019.



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P.O. Box 71484

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P.O. Box 71484

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