BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH
* * *
In the Matter of the Application of Bumblebee Water System, Inc., for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Operate as a Public Utility Rendering Culinary Water Service, or for an Exemption from Public Service Commission Regulation
HEARING PROCEEDINGS
TAKEN AT: Public Service Commission Hearing Room 451 160 East 300 South Salt Lake City, Utah
DATE: Tuesday, December 3, 2013
TIME: 9:40 a.m.
REPORTED BY: Scott M. Knight, RPR

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2	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE	E: MELANIE A. REIF	
3	FOR DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTI	LITIES:	
4	PATRICIA E. SCHMID, ESQ.,		
5	ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENE 160 East 300 South, Fifth Floor	RAL	
0	Salt Lake City, Utah 84114		
6			
7	BUMBLEBEE WATER SYSTEM	I, INC.:	
'	BRENT A. BLANCHARD, ESQ.,		
8	BLANCHARD LEGAL SERVICE	S	
9	321 North Mall Drive, Suite R20 St. George, Utah 84790	1	
10	* * *		
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	THE HEARING OFFICER: We'll be on the record.
3	Thank you, everyone, for joining us this morning.
4	My name is Melanie Reif, and I'm the administrative law
5	judge for the Utah Public Service Commission. This morning
6	is the hearing in the matter of The Application of Bumblebee
7	Water System, Inc., for a Certificate of Convenience and
8	Necessity to Operate as a Public Utility Rendering Culinary
9	Water Service, or for an Exemption from Public Service
10	Commission Regulation. This is Docket 13-2567-01.
11	Let's start by taking appearances, please,
12	starting with the Applicant.
13	MR. BLANCHARD: Good morning. This is Brent
14	Blanchard with Blanchard Legal Services representing the
15	Applicant on the legal side. I'm also here in the capacity
16	as a secretary of Bumblebee Water.
17	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Blanchard.
18	And just for clarification, you're joining us by telephone
19	this morning?
20	MR. BLANCHARD: Yes, that is correct.
21	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
22	MS. SCHMID: Patricia E. Schmid with the attorney
23	general's office representing the Division of Public
24	Utilities. And with me, as the Division's witness, is Mark
25	A. Long.

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1	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Ms. Schmid.
2	Mr. Blanchard, this is your application.
3	Typically, I would start with you. And just for
4	clarification, the Commission does have on file your
5	application and the various subsequent filings that you've
6	made. And perhaps to make things move a little more
7	smoothly this morning, the Commission takes judicialexcuse
8	meadministrative notice of those filings.
9	And the purpose of the hearing this morning is to
10	clarify the status of the application. And we can do that
11	when wedo that a little bit further when we hear from the
12	Division. But also, I'd like to get a little clarification
13	from you as well as to what it is that you're seeking and
14	whether you believe that what you have submitted thus far
15	has been completed inasmuch as the Division has requested
16	further information from you.
17	MR. BLANCHARD: Okay. Very good.
18	THE HEARING OFFICER: So you areyou may
19	MR. BLANCHARD: What we have is the originalthe
20	developer is not the original developer. Iron Dirt acquired
21	the property a little bit more than a year agoin fact, I
22	think it's fully a year and a half agowhich included the
23	transfer of enough water rights to service the lots that
24	arethat has been platted out.
25	And it's my understanding that thethe Iron
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County Commissionyou know, the plat and the lots are
already approved. But it's far enough outside of Cedar City
and Kanarraville. It's west of what's known as Quichapa
Lake. It used to be a dry lake out there in the Cedar
Basin. And there's an existing water system which needed
extensive refurbishing and repairs to it in order to
effectively deliver water to those lots.
Obviously, you can't sell residential lots and
construct homes on them unless there's some water to service
those lots. And the purpose of setting up Bumblebee Water
after initially starting the predecessor nonprofit Mutual
Water Association in August of 2012, the developer decided
that it might be easier and definitely more transparent for
the purchasers of the lots there if the water system were
regulated as a public utility.
So starting in August of 2013, I started the
process of completing the legal work to change the name to
Bumblebee Water System, Inc. It's continuing on as a
nonprofit corporation. And the developer is simply wanting
to bring that land to its highest and best use.
In looking at the regulations, thethe water
system's already been approved by the Department of
Environmental Quality and the infrastructure has been
brought up to speed. So lots can be connected. They can
start delivering water service. I believe they had the

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1	physical capability to deliver water two or three months
2	ago.
3	And at this point, ityou know, it really makes
4	little difference to the developer and to Bumblebee Water
5	whether it's regulated as a public utility or if it's
6	granted an exemption once the Public Service Commission is
7	satisfied withwith the tariff or the water rates and some
8	of the additional details that we're still going through
9	from the second and third data requests a couple of weeks
10	ago.
11	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
12	MR. BLANCHARD: So how wellhow well does that
13	address your information concerns and what you need to know
14	fromfrom the Applicant?
15	THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Blanchard, let me ask
16	you a couple of questions. Is it your understanding that
17	you have fully responded to the questions that the Division
18	has asked?
19	MR. BLANCHARD: No, not at this point. There was
20	a second set of data requests I believe that was on the
21	20th of Novemberand a third set of data requests on the
22	23rd of November. We have not yet responded to those, but
23	I'm working on it. Should have it to you either next week
24	or the week after that.
25	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. I believe Ms. Schmid

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4	has requested an encortupity to specify
1	has requested an opportunity to speak.
2	Ms. Schmid, do you want to give your presentation
3	now or did you want to address the status of the
4	application?
5	MS. SCHMID: If I could just briefly address the
6	status of the application. First, with regard to the second
7	and third data requests that are outstanding, those pertain
8	to ratemaking issues and so can be separated from the CPCN
9	proceeding. And I believe there's a separate docket, a
10	T-docket
11	THE HEARING OFFICER: There is.
12	MS. SCHMID:that has been open to address the
13	rate issues.
14	And then, second, just to cut to the chase, the
15	Division believes the application is complete and has a
16	recommendation to approve.
17	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Very well.
18	Mr. Blanchard, did you hear Ms. Schmid okay?
19	MR. BLANCHARD: Actually, no. I wasI had the
20	sense that she was going to have a break there in just a
21	minute. Iyour Honor, I can hear you just fine, but I can
22	only make out about every third word from Ms. Schmid.
23	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Well, she is speaking
24	into a microphone, so I do apologize for you not being able
25	to make that out. But let me just paraphrase what she



stated. What she stated is that with respect to the second
and third requests for information, the Division is of the
position that those pertain to the tariff docket, which you
may already know as 13-2567-T01. So she does not believe
that those are relevant for purposes of the Commission's
consideration of whether a CPCN is issued as a result of
this hearing.
And the last point that she made was, it is the
Division's position that the application for the CPCN is
complete, soand in fact, the Division recommends approval
of that. So I think we're in a good position to continue to
move forward, with that being said. So I'm assuming you
don't have any disagreement with that?
MR. BLANCHARD: No full disagreement. That's
that's consistent with what we heard from previous
communications from the the water rights I'm sorry the
public utilities division. And we're very happy with their
cooperation, and especially with their assistance in this
process.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you. I know
they appreciate that. And thank you for your acknowledgment
of that.
Mr. Blanchard, may I ask you just a couple of
questions before I move to the Division? I wanted to get a
bit of clarification. And I think what I'd like to do,

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because part of this last portion, I do want to make sure I have you sworn in as a witness. And inasmuch as you've indicated that you serve as a secretary for Beehive [sic] Water System, Inc., I think this would be a good opportunity to do that. So this is a little bit awkward because you're on the telephone, but if you would kindly raise your right
indicated that you serve as a secretary for Beehive [sic] Water System, Inc., I think this would be a good opportunity to do that. So this is a little bit awkward because you're on
Water System, Inc., I think this would be a good opportunity to do that. So this is a little bit awkward because you're on
to do that. So this is a little bit awkward because you're on
So this is a little bit awkward because you're on
-
the telephone, but if you would kindly raise your right
hand. And do you swear that the testimony you are about to
give is the truth?
MR. BLANCHARD: Yes, I solemnly affirm that.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you.
BRENT BLANCHARD,
being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as
follows:
EXAMINATION
BY THE HEARING OFFICER:
Q So for clarification, thethe residential
development that you referred to earlier, is that
residential only or is there any commercial that has been
approved in there?
A It's a residential-only. It's, you might say, a
little bit behind the times. It's not one of those mixed-
use development ideas. And withwith the number of lots
there, it would be kind of hard to have it support mixed
use.

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1	Q Okay. And how many lots?
2	A Oh, I would actually have to refresh my memory
3	with documents.
4	Q I believe
5	A I believe it's 52.
6	Q The Divisionthe Division statesand I believe
7	it's stated elsewhere in some of the other documentsthat
8	the maximum is 58. Does that sound right to you?
9	A Oh, yes. Yes, it's 58.
10	Q Okay. And how many houses exist right now?
11	A There's oneone house constructed, and I believe
12	there may be some foundational work being done on a second,
13	but I'm not sure of that. But I do know that one house has
14	been constructed
15	Q Okay.
16	Aand it's ready to sell to a water user.
17	Oh. And for your information, the electrical
18	utility is already extended out into that subdivision,
19	soyeah, thereally the only thing left here is theis
20	the water system to be approved.
21	Q Okay. Is there anyone occupying that house that
22	was constructed inatsometime ago?
23	A No. It had been under contract in September or
24	October. Didn't close escrow for a number of reasons, and I
25	believe it may be under contract again

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1	Q Okay.
2	Abut hasn't closed yet.
3	Q Okay. And do you have otherother lots that are
4	under contract or closed?
5	A I believe there's only one other lot which is
6	under contract. It does not have a completed structure on
7	it yet.
8	Q Okay. So you're not actually providing water
9	right now; you're seeking the ability to do so?
10	A Yeah, we're seeking the ability to do so. And,
11	you know, in all candor, I believe that the developer has
12	been using some water from the system for construction
13	purposes, but my understanding is there's been no culinary
14	use.
15	Q Okay. Mr. Blanchard, let me just make sure that
16	on the record that I confirm your proper means of
17	communication. Whenwhen the Commission sends notices or
18	issues orders in a matter, if we have an e-mail on file, we
19	will typically rely on that. And on your stationery, I
20	believe we obtained the following e-mail address:
21	blanchardlaw1@gmail.com. Is that still a good e-mail
22	address for you?
23	A Yes, that's still a good e-mail address. In fact,
24	I was reviewing some e-mails from the Public Servicefrom
25	the PSC this morning. I can tell you that on occasion, and

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4	for reasons that I do not know if there's an assidental
1	for reasons that I do not know, if there's an accidental
2	omission of the numeral "1" at the end of "blanchardlaw,"
3	I'm hearing from other people that they don't get a
4	"No""No User Found" bounceback if somethingthey try to
5	send something to me without that numeral in there.
6	Q Okay. Justjust to alleviate any concern you
7	might have with respect to that, we do have you as being
8	identified with the numeral "1" afterwardsI mean, the
9	actual number "1."
10	A I do appreciate that.
11	Q Okay. Is there an alternative e-mail address that
12	you would like us to have on file as a secondary e-mail
13	address shouldshould there be a problem?
14	A Yeah, there'sthere's another secondary
15	actually, I have two secondaries. Would you rather have one
16	with a separate e-mail provider or another one with Gmail?
17	Q It's your preference. We would like to be sure
18	that the communication that we're providing is reaching you,
19	so whatever you think is the most reliable.
20	A I'll go ahead and go withwith my other one,
21	because when I first set up these e-mails, I didn't trust
22	every one to be available 24 hours every single day. So
23	let's go with blanchardlaw1@yahoo.com. Everything's the
24	same except the provider is Yahoo.com.
25	Q Okay.

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1	A That was actually the first one I set up after I
2	got out of law school.
2	Q Okay. Thank you.
4	Mr. Blanchard, I'm going to come back to you once
- 5	
	we hear from the Division, so I will likely have more
6	questions for you. But before we actually move on to the
7	Division, let me ask you one final question: Is it your
8	testimony that granting a CPCNotherwise known as the
9	certificate of public convenience and necessityfor
10	Bumblebee Water System, Inc., to provide water to the
11	community of 58 residential lots is in the public interest?
12	A Yes, I do believe it is in the public interest.
13	The surrounding area there has been experiencing significant
14	growth over the last ten years. And it'sit's kind of a
15	natural fill-in to put the lands there to the highest and
16	best use. The area wherethat Bumblebee would serve is
17	only marginally suitable for agricultural purposes. And
18	with population growth in Iron County, Utah, it appears it
19	would definitely be in the public interest for Bumblebee
20	Water to operate as a public utility, be appropriately
21	regulated, and provide quality drinking water for the new
22	residents moving into the subdivision.
23	Q Okay. And with respect to the tariff issue, you
24	do recognize that that is a separate issue which will be
25	addressed under a separate docket and addressed separately



1	by the Commission as well?
2	A Yes. We will address that going forward.
3	Q Okay. Thank you, Mr. Blanchard.
4	I am going to turn now to Ms. Schmid. And I'm
5	going to ask her to please speak as clearly as she can
6	directly into her microphone. And Mr. Blanchard, if you
7	have difficulty hearing, please speak up right away, because
8	this is very important and we want you to be able to
9	participate and hear what's happening.
10	MR. BLANCHARD: Very good. Thank you, your Honor.
11	THE HEARING OFFICER: You're very welcome.
12	Ms. Schmid?
13	MS. SCHMID: Thank you. I have turned up the
14	volume, so hopefully it will work better.
15	Mr. Blanchard, can you hear me?
16	MR. BLANCHARD: So far, so good. Thank you.
17	MS. SCHMID: Thank you.
18	Judge Reif, could
19	THE HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Schmid, I don't think
20	your microphone is on.
21	MR. LONG: Can't hear it either.
22	THE HEARING OFFICER: Doesn't appear to be on.
23	MS. SCHMID: The light is on. Now the light's
24	off. Now it's on.
25	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

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1	MS. SCHMID: Off, on.
2	THE HEARING OFFICER: I can hear you barely
3	amplified. I wonder if we can make an adjustment. Just one
4	moment.
5	Okay. Give us a test.
6	MS. SCHMID: Testing one, two, three.
7	MR. BLANCHARD: I heard all of the syllables in
8	"Testing one, two, three."
9	THE HEARING OFFICER: It sounded a bit better to
10	me.
11	Okay. Please proceed.
12	MS. SCHMID: Thank you. The Division would like
13	to call Mr. Mark Long as its witness. Could Mr. Long please
14	be sworn?
15	THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.
16	Mr. Long, please raise your right hand. And do
17	you swear that the testimony you are about to give is the
18	truth?
19	MR. LONG: Yes, I do.
20	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
21	MARK A. LONG,
22	being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as
23	follows:
24	EXAMINATION
25	BY MS. SCHMID:

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i	
1	O Mr. Long. could you placed state your full name
	Q Mr. Long, could you please state your full name,
2	employer, position, title, and business address for the
3	record?
4	A Yes. My full name is Mark A. Long. My employer
5	is the Division ofUtah Division of Public Utilities at the
6	Heber M. Wells Building in Salt Lake City, Utah. And I'm a
7	utility analyst with the Division.
8	Q Mr. Long, have you participated on behalf of the
9	Division in this docket?
10	A Yes, I have.
11	Q I see that memorandums were filed with the name
12	Ron Slusher as the utility technical consultant named there.
13	Could you please address why you are participating now?
14	A Yes. Mr. Slusher's going to be out of the office
15	for a few weeks, and I'm filling in for him.
16	Q So as part of your duties with the Division, is it
17	true that you have reviewed the material in this docket and
18	the memorandums filed by Mr. Slusher and the Division?
19	A That's correct.
20	Q With that, have you read the Division's memorandum
21	dated November 15th, entitled "In the Matter of the
22	Application of Bumblebee Water System, Inc., for a
23	Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Operate as a
24	Public Utility Rendering Culinary Water Service, or for an
25	Exemption from Public Service Commission Regulation, Docket

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1	No. 13-2567-01"?
2	A Yes, I'm familiar with that.
3	Q Do you have any comments to make regarding the
4	recommendation for approval?
5	A Yes.
6	Q Is it perhaps a correction to the memorandum?
7	A Yes. Under the original recommendation, the
8	Mr. Slusher recommended that the CPCN be approved based on
9	Bumblebee Water System amending their bylaws to exclude
10	Article 7, Section 7.1 through 7.4. Upon further review,
11	the Division believes that it should be all of Section 7, or
12	Section 7.1 through 7.12.
13	All of those issues arein the bylaws are
14	contrary to what a regulated utility would be able to
15	perform on theirbe able to perform themselves rather than
16	have the Commission approval. And additionally, most of
17	these issues are also addressed in their tariff that is
18	being done in another docket.
19	Q So these sections deal with assessments and things
20	like that?
21	A That's correct.
22	Q And this would be covered, then, by an approved
23	tariff?
24	A That's correct.
25	Q So with the modification at the beginning

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1	paragraph of the memorandum changing "Sections 7.1 through
2	7.4" to "7.1 to 7.12" and with the same modification on the
3	last paragraph of the memorandum on page 2, do you adopt
4	this memorandum as corrected as your testimony in this
5	docket?
6	A Yes, I do.
7	Q Do you have a statement toor actually, at this
, 8	moment I'd like to request the admission as DPU Hearing
9	Exhibit 1 of the November 15th memorandum as corrected. The
10	court reporter has been provided the file document, which
11	does not at this point reflect the amendment or the change.
12	THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Blanchard, are you aware
13	of the memorandum that Ms. Schmid is referring to?
14	MR. BLANCHARD: Yes, I am. And there is no
14	
16	objection to it being admitted.
17	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Okay. Thank you. So admitted.
18	
_	MS. SCHMID: Thank you. BY MS. SCHMID:
19 20	
20	Q Mr. Long, do you have a statement that you would
21	like to present concerning the approval of the CPCN
22	application?
23	A Yes. The Division would recommend that the
24	Commission approve this application, that it is in the
25	public interest andthat it's approved and we move forward

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1	with the tariff in the other docket.
2	Q And so the Division's recommendation is
3	conditional uponthe Division's recommendation is that the
4	certificate be issued contingent upon the removal of
5	Section 7?
6	A I'm sorry. That's correct.
7	Q Anything further?
8	A Not at this time.
9	MS. SCHMID: Thank you.
10	Mr. Long is available for questions.
11	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
12	Mr. Blanchard, questions?
13	MR. BLANCHARD: I believe this is more of a
14	housekeeping thing: Once I have the documentation for the
15	amendment of the bylaws as requested by the Division of
16	Public Utilities, do you want thethe amended bylaws to be
17	certified, as theas it was done in the original filing?
18	THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Blanchard, this is an
19	opportunity for you to ask questions of Mr. Long. Is that a
20	question for Mr. Long?
21	MR. BLANCHARD: Yes, that is.
22	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.
23	THE WITNESS: Yes, that'sthat's what we would
24	require.
25	MR. BLANCHARD: Okay. Very good. We will be

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1	doing that, then.
2	THE WITNESS: Okay.
3	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Any further
4	questions, Mr. Blanchard?
5	MR. BLANCHARD: No, not at this point.
6	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Mr. Long, just a
7	couple of clarifying questions for you, please. Are you
8	aware that the Division filed a memorandum on thison
9	November 7th, 2013?
10	THE WITNESS: Yes, I am.
11	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. And the memorandum
12	that you were referring to, the memorandum that was
13	subsequently filed on November 15, 2013, does that resolve
14	all issues and concerns that the Division had at the time of
15	the November 7, 2013, memorandum?
16	THE WITNESS: It does in regard to the CPCN
17	application.
18	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Very good. In
19	particular, it was specifying that the application was
20	incomplete.
21	THE WITNESS: Right.
22	THE REPORTER: Did you say "incomplete"?
23	THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, I did.
24	And for further clarification, is it your
25	understanding that this development in which Bumblebee Water

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1	Systems seeks a CPCN is a residential community?
2	THE WITNESS: That's my understanding.
3	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. And is it also
4	correct that the Division is recommending that the maximum
5	connections be 58, asasassuming that the Commission
6	issues a CPCN, that it be limited to 58 connections?
7	THE WITNESS: That's correct.
8	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Long. I
9	don't have any further questions.
10	THE WITNESS: Okay.
11	THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Blanchard, back to you,
12	please. And again, I remind you you're still under oath.
13	You've heard what Mr. Long has indicated. And I take from
14	your follow-up question from him that Beehive [sic] has no
15	objection to the request from the Division that the bylaws
16	be amended so that all of Section 7 be eliminated?
17	MR. BLANCHARD: That is correct, your Honor.
18	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. And do you have a
19	sense as to when you will be doing that?
20	MR. BLANCHARD: Definitely before the end of the
21	month. I'm anticipating before the 13th.
22	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. And then the other
23	part of the recommendation is that they recommend that the
24	CPCN be limited to 58 connections. Do you also understand
25	and agree with that limitation?

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MR. BLANCHARD: Yes. The 58 connections is
exactly what's been requested. And I see no way for that to
be changed.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. And just one other
final housekeeping matter, which we've addressed, but just
for clarification, you do understand that the tariff issue
will be addressed separately under a separate docket number,
Docket 13-2567-T01?
MR. BLANCHARD: Yes, the tariff requires separate
approval, which we're continuing to work on.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Very good.
Are there any questions before we finish?
MR. BLANCHARD: None from the Applicant.
MS. SCHMID: If I may just ask one more of
Mr. Long.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Absolutely.
EXAMINATION (CONTINUED)
BY MS. SCHMID:
Q Mr. Long, do you believe that issuing the
certificate as requested and as modified with the amendment
to the bylaws to remove Section 7 is in the public interest?
A Yes, I do.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you very much.
And Mr. Blanchard, do you agree with that as well?
MR. BLANCHARD: Yes, I do. Thank you.

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1	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you. Very
2	good. I appreciate everyone's time today. Thank you for
2	
4	your patience. And I realize sometimes weather and other
	things happen. And I really appreciate the cooperation of
5	everyone. Thank you.
6	The Commission will take this under consideration
7	and issue an order onceonce we see the transcript.
8	Thank you, and have a good day.
9	We're off the record.
10	(Proceedings concluded at 10:08 a.m.)
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	50 West Broadway, Suite 900, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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1	CERTIFICATE
2	This is to certify that the foregoing proceedings
3	were taken before me, SCOTT M. KNIGHT, a Registered
4	Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State
5	of Utah, residing at South Jordan, Utah;
6	That the proceedings were reported by me in
7	stenotype and thereafter caused by me to be transcribed into
8	typewriting, and that a full, true, and correct
9	transcription of said proceedings so taken and transcribed
10	is set forth in the foregoing pages, inclusive.
11	I further certify that I am not of kin or
12	otherwise associated with any of the parties to said cause
13	of action, and that I am not interested in the event
14	thereof.
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16	
17	Scott M. Knight, RPR Utah License No. 110171-7801
18	Otali License No. 110171-7001
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