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     BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO
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    In the Matter of the
    Request of Larry Grabo: Case No.
    for an Administrative : 08-614-TR-CVF
    Hearing.
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                       PROCEEDINGS
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    Before Gregory Price, Attorney Examiner, held at
12
    the offices of the Public Utilities Commission
13
    of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Hearing Room
14
    11-D, Columbus, Ohio, on Wednesday, February 3,
15
    2010, at 10:00 A.M.
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22
                  Armstrong & Okey, Inc.
             222 East Town Street, 2nd Floor
23
                  Columbus, Ohio 43215
             (614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481
24
                   Fax - (614) 224-5724
25
```

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    APPEARANCES:
2
            Mr. John Jones
            Assistant Attorney General
3
            180 East Broad Street
            Columbus, Ohio 43215
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                  On behalf of the Transportation
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                  Staff of the Public Utilities
                  Commission of Ohio.
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Wednesday Morning Session, February 3, 2010.

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attorney examiner price: Good morning. The Public Utilities Commission has set for hearing at this time and this place Case No. 08-614-TR-CVF being in the matter of the request of Larry Grabo for an administrative hearing. My name is Gregory Price, I am the Attorney Examiner assigned to preside at today's hearing.

We will begin by taking the appearances of the parties starting with the Staff.

MR. JONES: Yes, Your Honor. On behalf of the Transportation Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray, Assistant Attorney General John Jones, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: I would like to note for the record that Mr. Grabo is not in attendance at today's hearing. This is the second hearing that we have scheduled in this case, and this is the second time that Mr.

6 1 Grabo has not attended the hearing. 2 Mr. Jones, would you like to put on 3 a witness? MR. JONES: Yes, Your Honor. Your 5 Honor, Staff would call Phillip Haskins to the 6 stand. 7 (WITNESS SWORN) 8 9 PHILLIP HASKINS 10 called as a witness on behalf of the Staff, 11 being first duly sworn, testified as follows: 12 ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: Please be 13 seated and state your name and business address 14 for the record. 15 THE WITNESS: My name is Phillip 16 Haskins, I am employed by the Public Utilities 17 Commission of Ohio, Transportation Department, 18 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. 19 ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: Please 20 proceed, Mr. Jones. 21 MR. JONES: Thank you, Your Honor. 22 23 DIRECT EXAMINATION 24 By Mr. Jones: 25 Q. Mr. Haskins, what are your job

responsibilities and duties?

- A. My duties include enforcing federal safety regulations, federal hazardous materials regulations, motor career and shippers in the State of Ohio.
- Q. What training, certifications do you have to do your job?
- A. I maintain extensive training to complete my tasks required by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. USD requires ongoing training annually; that I maintain specific certifications for various disciplines associated with my job.
  - Q. How long you been doing the job?
  - A. Twenty-three years.
- Q. And what equipment is issued to you to do your job?
- A. The State of Ohio issues a state vehicle that I utilize to conduct inspections at facilities and along the highways in Ohio, as well as other electronic devices such as a notebook computer, printer, scanner, camera. Various other reference materials that I maintain in that vehicle.
  - Q. How broad is your jurisdiction to do

your job?

- A. Throughout the State of Ohio.

  Primarily I work in central and southwestern regions of the State.
- Q. And as a result of doing your job in conducting inspections for compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier safety regulations do you generate any reports?
  - A. I do.
  - Q. In those inspects?
  - A. I do.
- Q. And what information would be contained in your typical report?
- A. The report contains the facts of the findings of my investigation, biographical information of the parties involved such as the company or a driver employed by a motor carrier, and any violations that I may have discovered during the course of that inspection.
- Q. I have what is before you marked as Staff Exhibit 1. Can you please identify that exhibit for the record, please?
- A. Yes. This is a copy of an inspection report that I completed.
  - Q. And this involved the inspection of

one driver named Larry Grabo?

A. Correct.

- Q. Okay. And could you please describe then when, for this report, when this inspection took place?
- A. This exhibit documents that I conducted an inspection on the 16th of August in 2005.
- Q. Okay. And where was the location of this inspection?
- A. This inspection occurred on Interstate 71 at the Clinton County scale facility.
- Q. Now, there is information that is provided at the top of that exhibit providing the report number. Where does that come from?
- A. Report number is generated from my state issued notebook computer. It's sequentially numbered that is generated. Each time I conduct an inspection a specific, unique identifier is generated to name that specific inspection.
- Q. And it's marked here as inspection Level 1, full inspection. What does that mean?
  - A. There are several different types of

- inspections from 1 through 6. In this case I

  conducted a Level 1 inspection on this

  particular vehicle which included a full

  inspection of the vehicle, its undercarriage and

  braking system.
  - Q. And I see there is information here on the driver, Mr. Grabo. Where did you get that information from?
  - A. Generally the driver presents a CDL license verifying his employment status. So I obtain that information from him presenting that license to me.
  - Q. And do you have inspection notes here that provide for more information about the inspection?
    - A. Yes.

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- Q. Could you please read those notes for the record, please?
- A. Yes. The inspection notes that I referred to are notes that were documented by me upon completion of this inspection. So if I may read from my notes here, I described the target inspection as an OBVI-type of inspection, which refers to an obvious violation.

I further state that the vehicle is

in interstate commerce from Newark, Ohio to Covington, Kentucky as a private carrier to conduct a roofing construction-type job.

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The deliver maintained a temporary CDL Class A while not operating a CMV with a licensed CDL which is an out of service violation.

Further stating that the driver failed to maintain a medical examiner's certificate, and was not in possession of any record of duty status, which is also an out of service violation.

The vehicle was transporting 16,000 pound gross vehicle rated weight piece of roofing equipment and operating a 33,000 pound gross vehicle rated weight power unit. It was a dump truck. And it displayed no company markings.

- Q. And then in the violations field, what violations did you note from your inspection of this driver and vehicle?
- A. During the course of the inspection of this vehicle and driver I documented four different violations of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations.

- Q. And what was the obvious violation that you noticed when first stopping the vehicle for inspection?
- A. The obvious violation that I utilized to stop the vehicle was the fact that it displayed no company markings.
- Q. And as a result of that you made the stop and then conducted the inspection of Mr. Grabo?
  - A. That's correct.

- Q. And during that inspection your observation was that Mr. Grabo had a temporary license, and there was no other licensed CDL driver with Mr. Grabo?
- A. That' correct. One of the violations that I documented was the fact that the driver possessed only a learners permit while operating a commercial vehicle. Federal regulations require that a driver in this situation also be attended by a licensed CDL driver for his position to be valid as a driver.
  - Q. And he did not have one?
  - A. He did not at this time.
- Q. Okay. And did you also ask him for a medical certificate?

A. Correct. The driver also must possess a valid medical examiner's certificate to verify physical qualifications as a driver of a commercial vehicle. And in this case Mr. Grabo did not possess a medical certificate.

- Q. Someone who possesses a learners permit, they are also required to have a medical certificate?
- A. If they operate a commercial vehicle subject to the safety regulations, that's correct.
- Q. And the third violation that you noted here from your report, no driver's record of duty status. Can you explain that?
- A. Yes. The violation states that there was no record of duty status. When operating a commercial vehicle that driver is subject to hours of service requirements, maintaining a safe period of on duty time.

A driver that operates in interstate commerce exceeding 100 air miles must maintain a document that ensures and provides his compliance by him maintaining this record of duty status.

Q. Okay. When did you generate this

report, Staff Exhibit 1?

- A. The report was completed on that morning at ten minutes after nine.
- Q. And that was generated from your cruiser?
- A. It was, from a notebook computer and a printer inside my vehicle.
- Q. And the fields here that were filled in from your inspection, you imputed information at the time of the inspection?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. And then after you printed out the driver vehicle examination report what did you do with it?
- A. I presented a copy of this inspection report to the driver. I signed a copy of the -- I signed the driver's copy of the inspection report and presented it to the driver for his signature, and which he received a copy of.
- Q. So the driver, Mr. Grabo, was issued a copy of this report?
  - A. That's correct.
- Q. And is Staff Exhibit 1 a reasonable representation then of the staff report that you

generated on the date of the inspection and served Mr. Grabo?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And is this a record then, this report, is it a record that is kept in the ordinary course of business for you to carry out your duties for your job?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. And did you subsequently then submit this report electronically to any agency?
- A. Yes. At the completion of the day I am required to upload these reports to a Safetynet database for processing within our compliance division, as well as processing throughout the Federal Motor Carrier Management Information Systems to identify the violations that were discovered.
- Q. So it's your opinion then based on your training and experience and observations that day when you conducted this inspection that Mr. Grabo was in violation of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety relations and operating a commercial motor vehicle with a learner's permit without having a licensed CDL driver with him, and that he had no medical certificate and no

driver's record of duty status. Is that your

A. That is correct, yes. That is what I discovered.

MR. JONES: Your Honor, I have no further questions of Mr. Haskins, and I would ask to have Staff Exhibit 1 admitted into the record of evidence.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: Not so fast. I have a question or two.

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## EXAMINATION

By the Attorney Examiner:

- Q. Mr. Haskins, on your inspection report you give the driver's address. Where did you get that address from?
  - A. From his temporary CDL license.
- Q. And also you have a carrier address at the top of the report. Where did you get that carrier address from?
- A. From the registration of the vehicle.
  - Q. And I noticed the two addresses are identical.
- 25 A. Yes.

- Q. Does that lead you to belief that the driver was a sole proprietor operating more or less out of his house?
- A. I can't recall the actual dialogue that I had with the driver, but I do remember the fact that he did maintain other equipment, and he did have employees that were completing that job in Kentucky, or intended to complete that job in Kentucky.
- Q. The only address available to you at the time of the inspection was that 9 Hillandale Drive, the Newark address; is that correct?
  - A. That's correct.
- 14 ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: Thank
- <sup>15</sup> you.

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- MR. JONES: Your Honor, I do have a follow-up question.
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- 19 FURTHER DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 20 By Mr. Jones:
- Q. Mr. Haskins, have you had the
  opportunity recently to run that address on Mr.
  Grabo, the one that is listed in the Staff
  report?
- A. Yes, I did. While being notified

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1
    that this hearing was to take place I did
2
    attempt to verify if the status of that driver
3
    changed, and the address still listed under our
4
   biographical database does list him as a
5
   resident of 9 Hillandale Drive, Newark, Ohio.
6
                When did you do that run?
7
                I believe it was Monday afternoon.
8
    Two days ago.
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- Q. And it came back 9 Hillandale Drive, Newark, Ohio?
  - A. Correct.
  - Q. For Mr. Larry Grabo?
  - A. Yes.

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- ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: That was four questions, Mr. Jones.
- MR. JONES: Sorry, Your Honor.
- 17 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: That will not be
  18 a precedent for future hearings. Thank you, Mr.
  19 Haskins.
- MR. JONES: Now, Your Honor, I will
  move for admission of Staff Exhibit 1.
- 22 ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: Hearing
  23 no objection Staff Exhibit No. 1 will be
  24 admitted
- 25 (EXHIBIT HEREBY ADMITTED INTO

19 1 EVIDENCE) 2 MR. JONES: Thank you. Your Honor, 3 Staff would call Jonathan Frye. (WITNESS SWORN) 5 6 JONATHAN FRYE 7 called as a witness on behalf of the Staff, 8 being first duly sworn, testified as follows: 9 ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: Please 10 be seated and state your name and business 11 address for the record. 12 THE WITNESS: Jonathan Frye, 180 13 East Broad Street, 4th Floor, Columbus, Ohio. 14 ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: Thank 15 you. Mr. Jones. 16 MR. JONES: Thank you, Your Honor. 17 18 DIRECT EXAMINATION 19 By Mr. Jones: 20 Mr. Frye, what are your job duties Q. 21 and responsibilities? 22 Α. To supervise compliance officers, 23 review the assessments that are made against the 24 carrier, driver and shippers. 25 Q. Okay. Did you have an opportunity

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to review Staff Exhibit 1 in preparation for your testimony today in this case?

A. Yes.

- Q. Okay. And do you know how Staff Exhibit 1 was received by your department?
- A. Yes. It was electronically uploaded from the field by an inspector in the field and the computer, based upon the Code sections that were written, the computer assessed a fine based upon the Code sections that were written in the field.
- Q. So there was a computer program that does those calculations?
  - A. That's correct.
- Q. And then did you see the forfeiture amounts that were assessed for this case against Mr. Grabo?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. That were served on him through Staff Exhibit 2?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. Could you please identify Staff
    Exhibit 2?
  - A. Actually Staff Exhibit 2 is a Notice of Preliminary Determination letter. It's a

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letter that has been sent to the Respondent
after a settlement conference has been
conducted, we are unable to reach a resolution,
then we will issue a Notice of Preliminary
Determination advising the Respondent of our
finding and giving them the opportunity to
either pay the fine or to request an
administrative hearing to present their case
further.

- Q. Okay. And Staff Exhibit 2 contains a forfeiture assessed in the amount of \$400.50. Do you see that?
  - A. Yes.

- Q. And that is for three separate violations that is noted in Staff Exhibit 2. Do you see that too?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. And what are those three violations that that \$400.50 pertains to?
- A. It pertains to the violations that were written out in the field. The 395.8A, no driver's record of duty status. The 383.23C, operating on a learner's permit without a CDL holder. And 391.41A, no medical certificate on driver's possession.

- Q. And did you then check to see if the assessment made in this case was appropriate consistent with the guidelines your department follows?
  - A. Yes.

- Q. And would you please take a look at Staff Exhibit 3 and identify that document for the record, please?
- A. It is the civil forfeiture fine schedule.
- Q. Okay. And the effective date of that schedule?
  - A. January 2nd, 2005.
- Q. And would this be the schedule that would be applicable at the time the inspection occurred in this case on August 16th, 2005?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. And could you please then walk us through this exhibit as it breaks down the forfeitures for the three different offenses that were noted in Staff Exhibit 2?
- A. Yes. The fine schedule is broken up into four separate groups. Group 1, 2, 3 and 4. Based upon the fine schedule that no record of duty status, it indicates that it would fall

under Group 1.

It says that Group 1, there would be a \$100 forfeiture assessed for that particular group.

Code Section 391.41A, no medical certificate on driver's possession, which would be a Group 4 violation. It indicates that a Group 4 violation for medical card certificate is a \$50 fine.

The last violation, 383.23C dealing with operating on a learner's permit without a CDL holder, that particular violation isn't listed on this particular fine schedule.

There are certain violations that aren't on this particular fine schedule, but are listed in our computer system, but isn't on this particular fine schedule.

- Q. And do you know what that amount would be that is on your computer system that would be assessed for the operating with a learner's permit?
- A. Operating on a learner's permit would be a \$200 fine.

24 ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: That
25 amount is consistent with or less than the fine

for other CDL violations; is it not?

THE WITNESS: That's correct. It's

3 less than.

- Q. Mr. Frye, the Staff Exhibit 3, the fine schedule that we see there, this was made to be consistent with the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance; is that correct?
- A. That's correct. I would note that the fine amount by the calculation comes to \$350. The Notice of Preliminary Determination has a fine of \$450.
- Q. So, Mr. Frye, based on that breakdown you just made, what is the correct amount?
  - A. The correct amount would be \$350.
- Q. And the computer program that you are referring to for the assessment of \$200 for the learner's permit violation, that program is consistent with the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance?
- A. That's correct. The way we group our particular violations and structure of our assessment charge is consistent with the fine structure of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Alliance.

- Q. And if I could refer you back then to Staff Exhibit 2 for a second, the Notice of Preliminary Determination. Is there a reference made to Staff Exhibit 1 on Staff Exhibit 2?
- A. I am sorry. Could you repeat the question?
- Q. Is there information that is listed in Staff Exhibit 2 that references Staff Exhibit 1?

ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: You can lead a little more than that, Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Thank you.

- Q. The case number, is the case number the same between Staff Exhibit 2 and Staff Exhibit 1 for referencing alignment?
  - A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. As well as the driver information, his address, name, Larry Grabo; correct?
  - A. That's correct. It's consistent.
- Q. And I see then from Staff Exhibit 2 that this was mailed, the Notice of Preliminary Determination, was mailed to Mr. Grabo on May 5th, 2008; is that correct?
  - A. That's correct, yes.

Q. And so, Mr. Frye, based on your

position, your experience and your review of

this case in determining the amount that you

feel was consistent with the Commercial Vehicle

Safety Alliance, and are you making that

recommendation then to the Public Utilities

Commission to adopt those fine amounts for this

case?

A. Yes. That's correct.

MR. JONES: Your Honor, I have no further questions.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: Let's go off the record.

(DISCUSSION OFF THE RECORD)

ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: Back on the record.

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## EXAMINATION

By Attorney Examiner Price:

Q. Mr. Frye, I notice there is a substantial period of time between the date of the inspection on August 16, 2005 and the service of the Notice of Preliminary

Determination on May 5th, 2008. Can you explain the substantial time lag between those two

dates?

- A. Yes. The initial inspection occurred back in August of 2005. The initial letter, the fine letter, was issued within a 30-day period of time.
- Q. That would be the notice of Apparent Violation and Notice of Intent to Assess
  Forfeiture?
- A. That's correct. The carrier at that time, or the driver at that particular time, did not make a request for a conference or pay the particular fine. As a result of not making a request for a conference and/or not paying the fine, the driver went into what is called show cause status.

As a result of going into a show cause status the agency issued what is called a show cause entry.

- Q. Show cause why the driver should not be placed in default.
  - A. That's correct.
  - Q. Do you know the date of that entry?
- A. I would have to look at my records in order to --
  - Q. That is okay. That is not

important.

- A. The carrier or the driver, the Respondent, contacted our agency and indicated that he had not received a copy of the Notice of Intent to Assess Forfeiture. As a result of the driver contacting our agency, which was back in 2007, we allowed the Respondent driver to come out of the show cause status.
- Q. Following a request for a conference?
- A. That's correct. The conference was held, or a conference was scheduled with the Respondent. The Respondent failed to show on two separate occasions for a follow-up conference.

So that is why you have the -- on the Notice of Preliminary Determination you will see a date of May 5th, 2008, and an inspection date of August 16th, 2005, because the driver went into a show cause status, we allowed the driver to come out of that show cause status, and to make a request for a conference beyond the requisite time period.

Q. And just to be clear, if he had not responded to the show cause order he would have

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been placed in default several years ago?
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- A. That's correct.
- Q. And all communications from the Staff and from the Commission have all been sent to that 9 Hillandale Drive address in Newark, Ohio; is that correct?
  - A. That's correct.
- Q. Everything was sent to that address; is that correct?
- A. That's correct. And that is the
  address that is contained on the driver
  examination report, the very same address that
  was given to the inspector at the time of the
  inspection as the correct address for the
  driver.
- ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: Thank

  you. You are excused. Mr. Jones.
- MR. JONES: Yes, Your Honor. We
  would move for admission of Staff Exhibits 2 and
  3.
- 21 ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: The
  22 exhibits will be admitted.
- 23 (EXHIBITS HEREBY ADMITTED INTO
- 24 EVIDENCE)

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25 ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: Did you

have a motion?

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MR. JONES: Yes, Your Honor. We would move for default judgment here. The fact that the Respondent has been served, or attempted service has been made at the address provided by the Respondent on the date of the inspection that took place, and that he had, Mr. Grabo, referring to Mr. Grabo here, had responded to the show cause order at that same address a couple years later, which then brought this out of the default classification.

So, he did respond in 2007, and in 2008, Your Honor, he did attend a settlement conference with Staff. So, again, that address was good in 2008.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: I think that is not correct. I think in 2008 Mr. Frye testified that he did not attend two scheduled conferences. I believe that is in the record.

MR. JONES: I stand corrected.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: That is

22 okay.

MR. JONES: And, Your Honor, we also heard testimony here from Officer Haskins that he had run the address check on Mr. Grabo and

that address continues to be -- appears to be a good address for Mr. Grabo.

And so it is also incumbent upon Mr. Grabo to keep the Commission updated on any address changes knowing that this case is still pending with the Commission. So, it is his obligation to keep the Commission updated to any address changes.

So, I feel that the Staff has done everything they could to provide notice to Mr. Grabo of this hearing today, and Mr. Grabo is not here today, and we would move for default judgment pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code 4901:2-7-14. Thank you, Your Honor.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER PRICE: Thank
you. I think we need to clarity this issue on
the record. The notice scheduling today's
hearing was sent by certified mail and returned
as undeliverable, no forwarding address. The
notice for the hearing that was originally
scheduled in this case for November 3rd, 2009,
the return mail receipt was received.

So, we do not have any other addresses to even attempt service on the driver, Mr. Grabo, at this point.

32 1 The Commission will rule on your 2 motion in due course. Thank you. We are 3 adjourned. MR. JONES: Thank you, Your Honor. 5 6 (At 10:40 A.M. the hearing was 7 concluded) 8 9 CERTIFICATE 10 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the 11 proceedings taken by me in this matter on February 3, 2010 and carefully compared with my 12 original stenographic notes. 13 14 Michael O. Spencer, 15 Registered Professional Reporter. 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on** 

2/19/2010 10:52:14 AM

in

Case No(s). 08-0614-TR-CVF

Summary: Transcript Transcript of Larry Grabo hearing held on 02/03/10. electronically filed by Mrs. Jennifer Duffer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Spencer, Michael O. Mr.