

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

2011 AUG 29 PH 5: 01

In the Matter of the Application of Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company for Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to § 4928.143, Ohio Rev. Code, in the Form of an Electric Security Plan.))))	Case Nos. 11-346-EL-SSO 11-348-EL-SSO	PUCO
In the Matter of the Application of Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company for Approval of Certain Accounting Authority.)))	Case Nos. 11-349-EL-AAM 11-350-EL-AAM	

FIRSTENERGY SOLUTIONS CORP.'S NOTICE OF FILING DEPOSITION TRANSCRIPTS

FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. ("FES"), pursuant to O.A.C. 4901-1-24, hereby provides notice to all parties that it is filing the following deposition transcripts:

- Exhibit A- Thomas S. Lyle
- Exhibit B- Laura J. Thomas (non-confidential portion only, confidential portion filed under seal with FES Motion for Protective Order)
- Exhibit C- Anil K. Makhija
- Exhibit D- Chantale LaCasse
- Exhibit E- Joseph Hamrock
- Exhibit F- Stephen J. Baron
- Exhibit G-Philip J. Nelson
- Exhibit H- David Rousch

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing FirstEnergy Solutions Corp.'s Notice of Filing Deposition Transcripts was served this _______ day of August, 2011, via e-mail upon the parties below.

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Page 3
1 I N D E X 1 THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2011 2 THOMAS S. LYLE PAGE 2 2:33 PM 3 EXAMINATION BY MS. McBRIDE 4 3
4 EXAMINATION BY MR. SATTERWHITE 80 4 THOMAS S. LYLE, 5 EXAMINATION BY MS. McBRIDE 87 5 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows: 6 EXAMINATION
7 BY MS. McBRIDE:
8 EXHIBITS 8 Q. Mr. Lyle, my name is Laura McBride, and I'm 9 (None) 9 one of the attorneys representing FirstEnergy Soluti 10 Corp. in the AEP ESP case.
11
14 Q. Okay. Great. And you are here today as a
15 witness on behalf of the National Resources Defense 16 Council
17 A. Correct.
18
20 Q. Okay. We've attached do you have a copy 21 your testimony in front of you?
22 A. I do.
23 Q. Okay. Great. You attached at the back a contract of your your résumé. Have you ever can you to the investigation of the inv

- 1 side of renewable projects?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Okay. And so it's fair -- is it fair to say
- 4 that your experience in renewable projects are from the
- 5 vantage point of a utility?
- 6 A. More specifically, you know, from -- from the
- 7 vantage point of the regulator. In a prior position
- 8 from -- in a prior -- my -- prior to joining Optimal
- 9 Energy, I was with the Vermont Public Service Board,
- 10 and I did also as a vantage I'm just thinking
- 11 back here. As -- as a consultant for Optimal, we12 worked on behalf of a power authority, Long Island
- 12 Dower Authority with respect to their respectable
- 13 Power Authority, with respect to their renewable
- 14 program, but this was customer-sided renewable15 programs.
- 16 Q. Okay. All right. And you described that --
- 17 that experience with renewable projects as being on the
- 18 regulator side of the --
- 19 A. Yeah. Initially I did, yes. I did say -- I
- 20 was thinking back to my time with the Public Service
- 21 Board but then recalled working, you know, on behalf of
- 22 a, you know, power authority, public power authority.
- 23 So yes, on the utility side.
- 24 Q. Okay. And what work have you done in Ohio?
- 25 A. This is the first time I've worked in Ohio.

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- 1 when the work was completed.
- Q. Okay. And so have you ever worked with a regulated Ohio utility?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. And do you have the understanding that AMP
- 6 Ohio is not a regulated utility in Ohio?
- A. I understand that industry has been
- 8 restructured and is deregulated from --
- 9 Q. Okay. And so other than AMP Ohio, you have 10 not worked with any Ohio-based entities; is that right?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. I'm sorry. You cut off. Okay.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Have you had any discussions with anyone from
- 15 AEP?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. And do you consider yourself familiar with
- 18 Ohio's regulatory system for electric service?
- 19 A. Familiar with it.
- 20 Q. And how -- how are you familiar with it?
- 21 A. Just during this case reading some of the
- 22 statutes that have been forwarded on to me and just,
- 23 you know, general reading of -- of the testimony filed
- 24 by AEP.
- 25 Q. Okay. And so your familiar -- familiarity

Page 6

- 1 Q. And is this -- so this is your first testimony
- 2 before the PUCO?3 A. Correct.

4

- Q. Go ahead. Sorry.
- 5 A. I said correct. I answered.
- 6 Q. Oh, okay. I notice on your résumé some -- a
- 7 reference to AMP Ohio?
- 8 A. Oh. We did some work for -- AMP Ohio is an
- 9 association that was starting up the Efficiency Smart 10 program.
- 11 Q. Okay. And what involvement did you have in
- 12 that work?13 A. It was more the program planning side. You
- 14 know we developed what's called an exemptions many
- 14 know, we developed what's called an operations manual
- 15 that was for the AMP managers, the AMP -- the
- 16 association managers, to -- who are charged with
- 17 overseeing the day-to-day operations of Efficiency
- 18 Smart. They are -- you know, as Efficiency Smart, the
- 19 efficiency program administrative files, program plans,
- 20 we gave them kind of a checklist of -- of -- the AMP
- 21 officials a checklist of what things to look for, look
- 22 at, things of that nature.
- 23 O. Okav. And when was that work done?
- 24 A. It was the beginning part of this year.
- 25 December 2010, January '11 -- January, February 2011

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- 1 with Ohio's regulatory system is based on some statutes
- 2 that you've read as well as AEP's direct testimony?
- 3 A. Correct.
- Q. And which statutes have you read?
- 5 A. You would ask that. I don't have the numbers
- 6 in front of me, but I think I recite to one in my
- 7 testimony. 4928 electric -- you know, having to do
- 8 with electric security plan, and also the RPS.
- 9 Q. And other than your reading of the statute and
- 10 AEP's testimony, have you had any discussions with
- 11 anyone regarding Ohio's regulatory system?
- 12 A. Well, general discussions with -- with NRDC.
- 13 Q. On Page 4 of your testimony, you refer to
- 14 the -- let's see, the current regulatory framework.
- 15 Let's see. That's about Line 19 if you have it in
- 16 front of you.
- 17 A. I do. Yup.
- 18 Q. Actually starting on Line 10.
- 19 A. I'm just reading it now.
- 20 Q. Okay. Let me know when you're ready.
- 21 A. Okay.
- 22 Q. And what is the regulatory framework that
- 23 you're referring to?
- 24 A. The idea -- or the concept that, you know, AEP
- 25 is required to file an electric security plan every

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1 three years.

- O. And so it's your understanding that AEP has to 3 file an ESP every three years?
- A. That's my understanding, yes.
- Q. Okay. You mentioned that you'd reviewed the 6 statutes for RPS. Can you just define RPS for me, or 7 for the court reporter?
- A. Renewable portfolio standard.
- 9 Q. Okay. And so that -- I'm not sure what 10 section of the statute you're referring to, but 4928.64 11 contains renewable energy resource requirements. Is 12 that the statute you're referring to?
- 13 A. Yes. At least -- I don't -- I don't have the 14 numbers -- the statute numbers in front of me, but I 15 believe that's it, yeah.
- 16 Q. Okay. And what is your understanding of the 17 requirements on AEP for renewable energy resources?
- A. Well, generally that there's escalating 19 amounts of -- of renewable resources that need to be 20 acquired, some of which -- there's a solar carve-out, 21 so some of which needs to be solar renewables, and a 22 subset of -- of the renewables need to be in-state,
- 23 located in-state. 24 Q. Okay. And are you aware that the statute

25 requires costs for renewable resources be imposed

1 generation, but again, I'm not a lawyer, so --

- Q. Mr. Lyle, are you familiar with Ohio's market 3 for renewable energy resources?
- A. No. I would say no, I'm not.
- Q. And did you have any involvement in the -- in 6 the policy discussions leading up to Senate Bill 221?
- 7 A. No.
- Q. And are you familiar with Senate Bill 221?
- A. Boy, I do recall reading some information 10 about Senate Bill 221. You have to help me out, 11 though.
- 12 Q. Okay. Hold on one second. Okay. So your --13 you believe you read something about Senate Bill 221,
- 14 but you're not familiar with its terms; is that what 15 you're telling me?
- A. Not familiar with what term? I'm sorry. 16
- 17 Q. What -- what Senate Bill 221 said.
- A. Well, if you reminded me of what the title of 18 19 the bill was, maybe it would jog my memory again.
- Q. Oh, my gosh. Now you're questioning me. I 20 21 have no idea. Anyway, we'll -- I'll get on to that 22 when we get later into the reference.
- 23 But that Senate Bill 221 was the statute that 24 established the terms for electric security plans --

25 A. Okay. 1 through bypassable charges?

A. Can you rephrase the question? The court 3 reporter's shaking her head, too. I don't think she 4 understood.

5 Q. Okay. Are you familiar with the statutory 6 requirement that costs for renewable resources be imposed by bypassable charges?

A. It's my understanding that the statute allows 9 for nonbypassable rates if the company has developed --10 has demonstrated a need and that the energy generated 11 is used to serve Ohio customers.

Q. And it's your understanding that that is a 12 13 provision of the RPS statute?

14 A. Well, whether it's part of the RPS statute or 15 part of the electric security plan statute, I'm not --16 it's -- I'm not -- I'm not sure which -- under which 17 statute that -- that falls under.

O. And that -- that test that you just reiterated 18 19 for nonbypassable charges, is it your understanding 20 that that test applies to costs for renewable resources 21 specifically?

22 MR. FISK: This is Shannon. I would just 23 object to the extent it calls for a legal conclusion. 24 But you can answer.

A. My understanding is that it applies to all

. Page 11

25

1

O. -- does that ring a bell?

A. Right, Okay. 2

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. What's --

Q. Are you familiar that there are -- I think you 6 already testified to this fact, but you're familiar that there are benchmarks established for renewable

energy resources?

9 A. Correct. Although I don't recall what those 10 benchmarks are at this moment, but -- I'd have to pull 11 up the statute.

Q. And is it fair to say that -- that bench- --12 13 statutory benchmarks provide incentives for the 14 development of renewable energy resources?

A. In- -- incentives? 15

Q. Yes.

16

A. For whom? 17

18 Q. For the people on which the benchmarks are 19 imposed.

20 A. I'm just struggling with your characterization 21 as an incentive versus a requirement. To me if it's a 22 statute, it's more of a requirement and a mandate as 23 opposed to an incentive. Incentive I think in terms of 24 financial gains and -- and awards.

25 Q. Okay. Fair enough. Let's talk about it this

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- 1 way, then. I mean, if -- if I'm a developer of -- of
- 2 renewable energy resources, does the fact that Ohio has
- 3 a benchmark for renewable energy resources provide some
- 4 incentive for me to sell my product in Ohio?
- A. I'm not quite sure I understand the question.
- 6 As the developer meaning a competitive resell- --
- 7 reseller or competitive provider?
- Q. Sure. A third-party independent entity, yes,
- 9 that develops those kinds of resources.
- 10 A. I suppose there would be an incentive to the
- 11 extent that market prices are higher in Ohio than they
- 12 are in, say, Kentucky or Illinois.
- 13 Q. And is that true, what you're saying, that
- 14 prices in Ohio are higher than Kentucky or Illinois?
- 15 A. It was a hypothetical. I don't know for
- 16 exact --
- 17 Q. Okay. Okay. From your vantage point, what --
- 18 what is the purpose of having a statutory benchmark for
- 19 renewable resources?
- 20 A. Well, I can say from -- if I were to put
- 21 myself in the shoes of the regulators, I would say that
- 22 benchmarks -- RPS benchmarks are a public policy
- 23 decision to diversify the electric fuel mix, to
- 24 mitigate the harmful effects of fossil fuel-generated
- 25 electricity, and that such a policy would eventually

- 1 kick-start the renewable energy industry so that
 - 2 renewable sources of generation would eventually -- the
 - 3 price of renewable -- renewably generated resources
 - 4 would eventually come down.
 - 5 Q. Okay. So one of the purpose -- or one of
 - 6 the -- one of the effects of statutory benchmarks is to
 - 7 kick-start the renewable market; is that fair to say?
 - A. It's one of -- one of several, yes.
 - 9 Q. Okay. And from your perspective, what is --
 - 10 what is the -- what is the effect of having a statutory
 - 11 benchmark that requires in-state solar resources?
 - A. That's a good question. Again, if I were to 12
 - 13 put myself in the shoes of -- of the Ohio regulators, I
 - 14 would think that the -- one of the only reasons -- or
 - 15 one of the reasons would be to increase the number of
 - 16 jobs related to renewable in-state.
 - 17 Q. Okay. Do you have an understanding as to
 - 18 whether -- whether there are any requirements as to who
 - 19 should build the renewable resources?
 - A. I don't believe there are any requirements as 20
 - 21 to who.
 - Q. Okay. So would you agree that AEP is not 22
 - 23 required to build its own renewable resources in order
 - 24 to satisfy the statutory benchmarks?
 - 25 A. Well, wait a minute. I take -- could I back

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- 1 itself is required to build the renewable resources?
 - A. I -- yeah. I believe so. To the extent that
- 3 they're providing power to -- you know, to Ohio
- 4 customers, they do have captive customers.
- 5 Q. Right. No, understood, but I'm trying to make
- 6 a distinction between AEP building it and AEP providing
- those resources. And it's your understanding -- what
- you're telling me is that you have an understanding
- 9 that AEP itself is required to build the renewable
- 10 resource facilities?
- A. Okay. I'd have to reread the statute again. 11
- 12 Q. Okay. So --
- 13 A. Sorry.
- 14 Q. -- as you're sitting here today, you don't
- 15 know whether or not AEP is required to build the
- 16 renewable energy facilities itself?
- 17 A. Yeah. I'm sorry. I didn't -- I didn't -- I
- 18 didn't quite make that distinction between build and
- 19 provide, so I -- I'll have to go back to read the
- 20 statute again to see -- to see whether they're required
- 21 to actually build versus acquire.
- 22 Q. Okay. I believe you testified earlier that
- 23 you are not familiar with the market for renewable
- 24 energy resources in Ohio; is that correct?
 - A. In Ohio, yes.

1 up a little bit? Can you ask your original question 2 again? Can I have that read back to me again?

3 Q. Sure.

7

- 4 MS. McBRIDE: Johanna, can you -- I guess that 5 would be two questions ago, I think.
- THE WITNESS: Yeah. 6
 - (The record was read as follows: "Do you
- 8 have an understanding as to whether there are any 9 requirements as to who should build the renewable
- 10 resources?")
- 11 THE WITNESS: Okay. So -- and then your
- 12 follow-up question was, again?
- 13 BY MS. McBRIDE:
- 14 Q. I think your answer to that question was --
- 15 was that you were not aware of any requirements on who
- 16 should build it.
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. I believe that my -- go ahead.
- 19 A. Yeah, I'm -- I'm -- your follow-up question
- 20 leads me to believe that to the extent that AEP is
- 21 providing service to Ohio customers, then they are
- 22 required to comply with the RPS statute; that is, to
- 23 build both in-state generation and to acquire a certain 24 percent of their megawatt hours from renewable sources.
- 25 Q. So you -- you do believe that AEP is -- AEP

- Q. And so you don't know whether or not it's growing at this point, in these years -- recent years?
- 3 A. I haven't looked at any market statistics
 4 lately about the rate of growth of renewable projects
 5 in Ohio.
- Q. Okay. I want to shift to one component ofyour testimony regarding the least-cost analysis. And
- 8 is it fair to say that it's your opinion that AEP
- 9 should be required to conduct a least-cost analysis
- 10 before seeking cost recovery for the renewable
- 11 expenditures?
- 12 A. Yes. Well, for --
- 13 Q. And -- and it's the same thing that AEP also
- 14 should be required to conduct a least-cost analysis
- 15 before seeking cost recovery for environmental
- 16 expenditures; is that also true?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. In your -- on your résumé you indicated that
- 19 you had worked some with utilities for integrated
- 20 resource plans; is that right?
- 21 A. Yup.

25

- 22 Q. And do the integrated resource plans
- 23 incorporate this type of least-cost analysis?
- 24 A. Yes, they have.
 - Q. I'm sorry. What did you say?

s 1 A. Yes.

5

6

16

23

- 2 Q. Okay. And so resource -- the resource
- 3 planning process involves a least-cost analysis; is
- 4 that correct?

A. Correct.

- MR. FISK: I'd like to object with a
- 7 clarification, I guess. Are you referring to the
- 8 resource plan that Mr. Lyle's worked on or Ohio's
- 9 resource planning process?
- 10 MS. McBRIDE: I guess I'm also asking him 11 generally about his experiences with resource planning 12 process.
- 13 MR. FISK: Okay. So not -- not Ohio's 14 necessarily.
- 15 A. Yeah. If it's --
 - MS. McBRIDE: Well --
- 17 A. Go ahead.
- 18 Q. Well, based on the fact that you have quite a
- 19 bit of experience in the resource planning process, I
- 20 was asking whether those processes that you've been
- 21 involved with involve the least-cost analysis that
- 22 you've testified about.
 - MR. FISK: Okay.
- 24 A. Can you repeat the question? I'm sorry, I
- 25 just -- I thought you were talking to Shannon.

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- Q. Okay. We'll try to start a clean slate. Am I correct that you've been involved in the resource planning process for renewable resources?
- 4 A. Well, it's -- well, there's been more than
- 5 just the renewable resources, but that's been part of
- 6 it, of my -- of my involvement in integrated resource7 planning.
- 8 Q. Okay. And so the -- would the other aspects 9 be the efficiency?
- 10 A. Energy efficiency, correct.
- 11 Q. Yeah. Okay. And do you consider the least-
- 12 cost analysis that you've testified about here to be a
- 13 part of the resource planning process?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. And have you read the testimony of any
- 16 of the other intervenor witnesses in this case?
- 17 A. The only one I've read -- well, except for
- 18 AEP?
- 19 Q. Right.
- 20 A. I've read AEP's and -- but just Jonathan
- 21 Lesser's just recently. That's it.
- 22 Q. Okay. So you have not read the testimony of
- 23 Michael Schnitzer?
- 24 A. Not yet.
- 25 Q. Okay. And can you just tell me generally

- 1 why -- why you believe the least-cost analysis should
- 2 be incorporated into the cost recovery proceedings as
- 3 you've testified?
 - A. Well, first of all, just let me first state
- 5 that, you know, I refer generally to the least-cost
- 6 planning principles in my testimony, and the reason why
- 7 is that, you know, least-cost planning, integrated
- 8 resource planning, whatever you want to call it, is a
- 9 large -- is a large and complicated area, and it's --
- 10 goes well beyond the scope of this proceeding, you
- 11 know, well beyond the scope of my engagement with --
- 12 with NRDC. So while I mentioned, you know, least-cost
- 13 planning, I'm doing it -- you know, I mention it only
- 14 from a very high-level and very generic sense.
- 15 So my concern -- you know, when I first got
- 16 involved in this case and reading the testimony from
- 17 AEP, my concern was that these -- the filing of
- 17 ALT THY CONCERN Was char diese and ming of
- 18 individual rate riders seemed to very narrowly focus on
- 19 certain aspects of AEP's business and the recovery of
- 20 costs, you know, related, for example, environmental
- 21 investment carrying charges. So my concern was that
- 22 the Commission was not getting a holistic view of AEP's
- 23 entire cost structure and revenue requirements. So
- 24 that was my general concern.
 - The secondary concern was that every time AEP

Page 24

Page 21

1 seeks to recover a specific cost for an investment or 2 an expense, that the company be required to do an 3 analysis that compared their -- their cost to -- you 4 know, to invest in controls versus actually shutting 5 down the plant, and from my perspective, the choice --6 or the decision that AEP makes should be that it's the 7 least-cost option.

In other words, if -- if the analysis 9 indicates that closure of a coal facility is least cost 10 compared to continuing to run an old, dirty coal plant 11 with environmental controls in it, then the decision 12 ought to be close the facility, and that's generally 13 how, you know, I was kind of thinking about the least-14 cost principles and how they would be -- or how they 15 should be applied to a specific request for approval of 16 a rate rider.

17 Q. Okay. And -- and so having read -- by the 18 way, have you read the proposed ESP application? I 19 know you mentioned that you read the testimony. Have 20 you read any of the other documents that went in the 21 application? 22

A. Well, the -- help me out. The application was 23 attached to the -- to -- or in front of the testimony 24 of Hamrock?

25 Q. I believe that's correct, yes.

A. It looked to me like a pleading. I don't know 2 if it was an application or a pleading or -- or what 3 have you, but --

Q. Yeah. That was probably it. A. Yeah. I read -- I read most -- most of it. I

6 can't say I read all of it. Again, I was engaged specifically to -- to discuss most, if not all the rate riders. They're listed in my testimony, Page -- Page 9 3.

10 Q. Okay.

5

21

A. So I skipped over other aspects of -- of the 11 12 application.

Q. Okay. So you're familiar, then, that -- that 14 AEP has requested through the EICCR that it recover its 15 costs associated with environmental investments?

16 A. Correct. The carrying -- this is just the 17 carrying costs of the -- of such investments, yes.

Q. Okay. And -- and you're also familiar with 19 AEP has requested cost recovery for the closure of 20 certain generating facilities?

A. That's correct. Facility closure costs, yes.

22 O. Okay. And so is it fair to say that -- that 23 the sort of general least-cost analysis that you've

24 testified about is important because AEP has no -- no

25 incentive to close the facility when it's -- when it

Page 23

1 A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And can you explain to me why -- why

2 3 transparency is, in your opinion, good?

A. Well, as I believe I stated in my testimony, I 5 think by -- separately identifying AEP's costs I think

6 would give both regulators and customers a better sense

7 as to what -- what those costs are related to and

8 therefore, you know, they could understand what's

9 driving those costs and the sources -- and the sources 10 of -- of such costs.

O. Okay. And -- and does having that kind of --11 12 that kind of cost information provide feedback to 13 customers about their energy usage?

A. In theory I would hope so, yes. 14

Q. Okay. And so would you agree with me that 15 16 it's important for customers to know the -- let me back 17 up.

18 Would you agree with me that it's important 19 for customers to -- to know the actual cost of the 20 services they're receiving?

A. Yes. It's important. Whether customers 21 22 actually pay attention to it is a different story,

23 but --

24 Q. Well, that's right. We'd all be in a 25 different place.

1 can also get recovery of environmental costs?

A. Well, that's -- yeah. That's the reason 3 for -- for -- well, that's one of the reasons for 4 pursuing a least-cost alternative -- or a least-cost 5 analysis, I'm sorry.

Q. Right. We're agreeing here that AEP gets its 7 costs back under either scenario. Either it keeps the plant open and does some environmental work on the 9 plant and gets its costs back or it closes the plant 10 and gets its costs back.

A. Yeah. To me it's an either/or decision, and 11 12 that's -- and so -- yes. I think we agree.

Q. Okay. And so the least-cost analysis would be 14 used to determine what the best -- what the best steps 15 would be in terms of a specific generating facility?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Okay. Shifting slightly to the -- the FAC and 18 the alternative energy rider, it's your opinion that 19 AEP's proposed modifications to the FAC and the AER are

20 fair and reasonable; is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And specifically you testified regarding the 23 modification that would separate the REC costs into the 24 AER, and is it your testimony that that is a positive

25 modification because it provides transparency?

- But, of course, the goal is that -- that if
- 2 people understand the actual costs of services, that
- 3 they would -- they would and could then adjust their
- 4 usage as they saw fit?
- 5 A. Right. Are you talking in electric --
- 6 electric field, right -- electric industry, right?
 - Q. Yes.
- 8 A. Okay,

7

- 9 O. Okay. Turning to the Timber Road agreement.
- 10 Are you familiar with what I'm referring to as the
- 11 Timber Road agreement?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And I call them REPAs. Does anybody else call
- 14 them REPAs? The REPAs?
- 15 A. Not -- I know what you're referring to, yes.
- 16 Go ahead.17 Q. Okay. And you've testified that -- that those
- 18 type of agreements are an excellent tool for capturing 19 low-cost energy resources; is that right?
- 20 A. It's a tool, yes.
- $\,$ Q. And -- and you've reviewed the Timber Road
- 22 agreement in AEP's application; is that correct?
- 23 A. For the most part -- yes. Most of it.
- 24 Q. And are you aware that the Timber Road
- 25 agreement was the result of a competitive solicitation

1 by AEP?

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- A. That's my understanding, yes.
- Q. Okay. And -- and do you consider the fact
- 4 that a competitive solicitation was involved to be a 5 good thing or a --
- A. Well, they did put it out for bid. Yes, I
- 7 think it's a good thing.
- 8 Q. Okay,
 - A. I think they're required --
- 10 Q. And why is that?
 - A. And they're also required to.
- 12 Q. It's your understanding that they're required
- 13 to send it out for a competitive bld?
 - A. Right, Correct,
- 15 Q. And -- and what do you base that on?
 - A. I believe it's one of the statutes. I don't
- 17 know if I refer to it in this particular section, but
- 18 that long-term contracts need to be competitively bid
- 19 and that the company establishes a need for the
- 20 resource.
- 21 Q. Okay. Do you know whether Tim- -- the costs
- 22 associated with Timber Road are being applied to
- 23 customers as a bypassable charge?
- 24 A. Yes, I believe it is.
 - Q. So do you believe that the Timber Road is a

Page 27

Page 28

Page 26

- 1 bypassable charge?
- 2 A. Right. I think this one falls under the AER, 3 the alternative energy rider.
- 4 Q. Okay. Would you agree that a competitive 5 process -- competitive solicitation is one way to -- to
- 6 assure that lower cost options are being explored?
 - A. Yes.

- 8 Q. And would you agree with me generally that
- 9 competition in the energy market has positive benefits to customers?
- 1 A. That's a loaded guestion. You're -- are
- 12 you -- are you saying that competitive markets are 13 perfect and always result in customer benefits?
- 14 Q. I'm asking you whether or not you think
- 15 competitive markets result in benefits to customers.
- 16 A. And my answer would be sometimes yes,17 sometimes no.
- 18 Q. Okay. And when do they not result in 19 benefits?
- 20 A. I think these questions are well beyond the
- 21 scope of this proceeding, but, I mean, there's a myriad
- 22 of reasons why competitive markets fail: Lack of
- 23 information, lack of inertia on the part of
- 24 customers -- I mean lack of -- you know, there's
- 25 collusion on the part of suppliers. There's lots of

- 1 different reasons why competitive markets don't always
 2 result in -- in positive customer benefits.
- Q. Okay. Have you seen any -- have you seen any benefits to the market for renewable energy resources as a result of competition?
- A. Can you be a little bit more specific as to
- 7 what you mean by -- by "benefits" or --
 - Q. Well, you -- we talked earlier about the
- 9 benchmarks and that one of the impacts of statutory
- 10 benchmarks might be to kick-start the marketplace for
- 11 renewable energy resources.
 - A. Right.
- 13 Q. And so I'm just asking whether or not you --
- 14 okay. Let's take it up to a higher level. Have you
- 15 seen benchmarks work to that effect?
- 16 A. They -- the -- well, yes, the benchmarks do
- 17 invite developers, renewable developers, to enter the
- 18 market and to build -- and to build renewable energy 19 projects, yes.
 - Q. Okay. And as a result of more developers
- 21 coming into the market, is it fair to say that -- that
- 22 prices generally decrease?
- 23 A. There has been a trend of decreasing prices, 24 yes.
- 25 Q. One of the -- I'm not quite sure how to

- 1 describe it. One of the aspects of -- of securing
- 2 renewable energy resources that you testify about is --
- 3 is making sure that there are assurances of cost
- 4 recovery.
- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. And I believe that you testified that -- that
- the Timber Road agreement provides those kind of
- 8 assurances that are needed; is that correct?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. And the Timber Road is also a long-term
- 11 agreement. I believe it's 20 years. Is that right?
- A. I believe so, yes. Subject to check. 12
- Q. And as a long-term contract, do you believe it 13
- 14 provides the benefits of -- of mitigating price
- 15 fluctuations for renewable resources?
- 16 A. I would characterize it as -- as a long-term
- 17 contract allows the developers of Timber Road to secure
- 18 financing.
- 19 Q. Okay. And you testify on Page 24 that new
- 20 renewable generation resources are unlikely to be built
- 21 in Ohio unless there are assurances that prudently
- 22 incurred costs are recoverable over the life of the
- 23 renewable generation asset. Do you see that testimony
- 24 on Page 24?
- 25 A. What lines?

Q. Let's see. Starting on 14. 1

- A. I'm reading it now. 2
- O. Okay. 3
- A. Okay. And your question?
- Q. Yeah. So my question is, so -- and the Timber 5
- 6 Road project achieved that, correct, the new renewable
- generation resource being built in Ohio?
- 8 A. Right. I'm really kind of -- yeah. Yes.
- 9 I'm --
- 10 Q. I'm sorry. Were you going to say something 11 more?
- A. Well, I was just going to make sure -- well, I 12
- 13 was just going to say that in that sentence on Line 14,
- 14 Page 24, I'm kind of just supporting AEP witness
- 15 Godfrey's statement in his testimony about cost
- 16 recovery.

20

- Q. Okay. 17 A. It's not important. 18
- Q. And you support it because you agree with it? 19
 - A. In this instance, yes.
- Q. Okay. And -- and so correct me if I'm wrong, 21
- 22 but what you're saying is that in order for there to be
- 23 new renewable resources built in Ohio, there has to be
- 24 adequate insurance -- assurances of -- of cost
- 25 recovery, correct?

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Page 32

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- A. Correct. I mean, that's -- that's true in
- Vermont, Maine. I assume it's true in Texas and Ohio. 2
- 3 Q. Sure. Anywhere.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And the Timber Road agreement is an example,
- 6 though, of how that can be achieved?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. Okay. And so would you agree, then, that
- bypassable cost recovery is not an impediment to the
- 10 development of new renewable generation resources?
- A. As it applies to REPAs? 11
- Q. Yes. 12
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And would you feel -- you limited that to
- 15 REPAs. Is there a difference for other types of
- 16 renewable energy resource projects?
- 17 A. There -- there could -- there could be. You
- 18 know, it depends on the circumstances. Every -- every
- 19 renewable project and every contract related to a
- 20 renewable project is -- is slightly different.
- 21 Q. Okay. But as to REPAs, that's -- that is
- 22 true?
- 23 A. Correct. As to this REPA for Timber Road.
- 24 Q. Okay. Can you give me an idea of what would
- 25 be unique about the Timber Road project that would make

- 1 the distinction between bypassable and nonbypassable
- 2 cost recovery to be different from another REPA?
 - I'd have to think about that.
- 4 Q. Okay. Are you able to identify anything here 5 today?
- A. I mean, I'd have to go back to the actual REPA
- 7 that -- the Timber Road REPA and review it a little bit 8 more closely.
 - Q. Okay. Can you identify anything generally,
- 9 10 not specific to the Timber Road REPA, but what in a
- 11 REPA might be -- might make that distinction
- 12 significant?
- 13 A. An opt-out provision.
- Q. And what do you mean by an "opt-out 14 15 provision"?
- A. An opt-out provision on the -- of AEP, you 16
- 17 know, not able to collect -- or not able to pay the
- 18 full cost of the -- of the energy provided.
- 19 Q. So if AEP itself put in a term to the 20 agreement that required -- made it contingent on
- 21 nonbypassable cost recovery, that would be one -- one
- 22 potential factor; is that what you're saying?
 - A. I'm sorry. Repeat that again.
- 24 Q. If AEP itself put in a provision into the REPA
- 25 that said it was contingent on nonbypassable -- the

- 1 approval of nonbypassable cost recovery, that would be 2 one factor?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Okay. Can you think of any others?
- 5 A. Not at the moment right now.
- 6 Q. And are you familiar with the term CRES, a
- 7 CRES provider?
- A. Competitive provider? 8
- 9 Q. Yes. The competitive retail electric service 10 provider.
- A. Correct. Yup. 11
- 12 Q. Okay. And what's your understanding about
- 13 CRES providers' obligations to provide renewable energy
- 14 resources in Ohio?
- 15 A. It's my understanding that they too are
- 16 required to satisfy the benchmarks.
- 17 Q. Okay. And it's your understanding that they
- 18 have to satisfy the same -- the same standard for
- 19 benchmarks -- obviously the numbers will change based
- 20 on load, but is it your understanding that the same
- 21 rules apply to a utility as would a CRES provider?
- A. I believe so. In terms of percentages, you 22
- 23 mean?
- Q. Correct. 24
- 25 A. Correct. Yes.

Q. Okay. I was hoping to turn to the EICCR and

- 2 your testimony on that rider. Would you agree that the
- 3 environmental expenditures associated with this rider
- 4 are generation-related expenses?
 - A. Yes, They're installed in generators.
 - Q. And you provided that the -- that AEP's
- proposed EICCR is in the public interest. What does
- 8 that mean?
- 9 A. Well, to the extent that generation
- 10 facilities, including, you know, scrubbers and
- 11 environmental controls, are deemed to be prudent use
- 12 and useful, then allowing the cost recovery of the
- 13 carrying charges is also in the public interest.
- 14 Q. Okay.
- 15 A. I mean, utilities and other investors need to
- 16 recover not only the capital invested in these
- 17 facilities but the, you know, return on investment, or
- 18 the carrying charges.
- O. So it's your belief that AEP should be
- 20 entitled to recover on and of its investment in the
- 21 environmental expenditures? 22
 - A. Yes.
- 23 O. Because I noted -- which page was that? On
- 24 Page 11, I think, at the -- yeah, on Page 11 in
- 25 Footnote 5, you provide a definition of carrying costs.

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Page 34

- A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Do you see that?
- 3 A. Yes.
- Q. And you identify that carrying costs represent 4
- 5 financial returns on actual investments used and useful
- 6 in the provision of electric services, but you also
- 7 acknowledge that -- that the costs that AEP is
- 8 recovering through the EICCR is more than that, more
- 9 than a return on the investment; is that correct?
- 10 A. No, that's not my understanding. First let's
- 11 back up just a bit. You know, my testimony is really
- 12 just about the concept of the rider. When an actual
- 13 filing is being made -- and I believe I state this
- 14 throughout my testimony. When an actual filing is
- 15 made, the -- you know, the company needs to, you know,
- 16 demonstrate the prudency of those investments, that
- 17 they're used and useful and -- and they, you know,
- 18 reflect actual -- actual costs.
- O. Okay. Yup. I understood that. But you know 19
- 20 that -- that what AEP is seeking approval of here in
- 21 this proceeding is the framework for the rider, right?
- 22 A. It's the framework.
- 23 Q. Yes. And so -- and they have -- I guess I'm
- 24 trying to -- to figure out what your understanding is
- 25 about what is going to be recovered through that rider

- 1 given that we don't know exactly what costs are going
- 2 to be submitted yet through the rider.
- A. Correct.
 - Q. But I'm trying to get at what your
- 5 understanding is as to what the framework allows AEP to
- 7 A. It would -- it would be limited -- for this
- 8 specific rider, the environmental investment carrying
- 9 cost rider, it would be --
- 10 Q. Okay.

- A. -- the carrying costs associated with
- 12 investments in environmental controls.
 - Q. Okay. And when you -- when you use the term
- 14 "carrying costs," are you using the definition that you
- 15 included in Footnote 5?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And so it's your understanding that the 17
- 18 EICCR would authorize AEP to return -- to receive a
- 19 return on their environmental expenditures?
- 20 A. Yes. "Expenditures" meaning capital
- 21 investments.
- 22 Q. Correct.
- 23 As opposed to recurring expenses.
- 24 Q. Are you aware that the EICCR also includes O&M
- 25 expenses?

- A. Well, they haven't filed an actual rider, so 2 no, I'm not aware.
- 3 Q. Okay. Do you think they should be allowed to 4 recover O&M through the EICCR?
- 5 A. No, they shouldn't be.
- 6 Q. I'm sorry. What did you say?
- 7 A. No, they shouldn't be allowed.
- Q. And do you think -- do you think they should 8
- 9 be entitled to return -- a return of their
- 10 environmental expenditures through the EICCR?
 - A. Yes, The undepreciated amounts, yes.
- 12 Q. You testified that the EICCR -- the proposed
- 13 EICCR is in the public interest. Have you analyzed
- 14 whether or not the proposed EICCR meets the statutory
- 15 criteria for a nonbypassable charge?
- A. I think I believe -- I believe I stated that 16 17 so long as they demonstrate that there's a need for the
- 18 controls and that the -- such investments are least
- 19 cost compared to the alternative of shutting down the
- 20 plant, yes. You know, I did look at it from the
- 21 perspective of, you know, the regulatory requirements.
- 22 Q. Okay. So backing up. As it applies to the
- 23 EICCR, your understanding is that the statutory
- 24 requirements require the least-cost analysis and a need
- 25 for the investment?

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- 1 through the EICCR?
- 2 A. Are you talking about the actual investments 3 now?
- Q, Yes. 4
- A. Those that have occurred in 2009 and those 5 6 that are estimated to occur?
- 7 Q. Yes.
- A. I -- I have not looked into those, so I --8
- that's not really the scope of -- no, I have not looked 10 into those.
- 11 Q. So applying your two criteria, the least-cost 12 analysis and the need for the investment, isn't it fair 13 to say that AEP has not met your test for the EICCR?
- 14 A. They haven't. No, they haven't. I mean, to
- 15 the extent that -- but the framework itself, so long as
- 16 that when they do file for an actual recovery, that
- 17 they provide -- or they demonstrate a need and that
- 18 they provide a least-cost analysis.
- 19 O. Okay.
- A. So --20
- 21 Q. And when we talk about your criteria for need,
- 22 how do you define that need?
- 23 A. I haven't defined the need. I'm just
- 24 restating, rephrasing the statutory requirement for 25 need.

- A. Correct.
- 2 Q. And so have you -- so you have not analyzed
- whether or not the EICCR provides a reasonable
- allowance for construction work-in-progress costs?
 - A. Can you state that question again?
 - Q. Sure. Are you familiar with the term "CWIP"?
- 7 A. Yup. Yes.
- 8 MS. McBRIDE: For the court reporter, that
- 9 would be CWIP.
- 10 Q. Am I correct that you have not analyzed
- 11 whether the EICCR provides a reasonable allowance for
- 12 CWIP?

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- 13 A. No. I don't think I did look at it from that 14 perspective.
- 15 Q. Okay. And the least-cost -- going back to --
- 16 to your understanding of the statutory requirements,
- the first one was a least cost, and has AEP satisfied
- 18 that least-cost analysis, in your opinion, for the
- 19 EICCR?
- 20 A. They haven't filed anything yet, but my
- 21 understanding is they -- they -- that they don't. 22
 - Q. Okay. And in your opinion, has AEP
- 23 established a need for the proposed -- excuse me.
 - Has AEP established the need for the
- 25 environmental investment that it seeks to recover

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- Q. Okay. And so as you're using it, how -- how 2 are you using it, though? In your mind or in your 3 opinion, what does the need correlate to?
- A. That the generating facilities are needed to 5 serve load now and in the future.
- Q. Okay. So in the case of the EICCR, it would 6 7 be the generating facilities on which the environmental
- investments are going to be made?
- 9 A. Yes. I would also add that to the extent
- 10 that, you know, environmental controls are needed due
- 11 to environmental regulations, both state and federal,
- 12 then -- then AEP would need to, you know, determine
- 13 whether -- whether to serve customers -- whether it
- 14 could better serve customers with new generation or by
- 15 investing in environmental controls. I don't know if I
- 16 made myself clear on that point, but you let me know.
- 17 Q. It sounds like it was sort of a combination of
- 18 the least cost and the need.
- 19 A. Yeah. I think -- it sounded like your line of
- 20 questioning was -- was directed towards whether, you
- 21 know, the environmental controls were needed because
- 22 the generation plant in which the controls are being
- 23 installed is needed to serve future load. I mean, I
- 24 think that -- that's true, but I think it's also true
- 25 that to the extent that -- you know, that AEP is

- 1 operating dirty coal plants and needs to invest in
- 2 controls because of environmental regulations and air
- 3 quality regulations, then that too is -- is needed.
- 4 You know, that too satisfies the need. But again, it
- 5 comes back to whether or not -- you know, what is the
- 6 least-cost option. You know, does -- is it least cost
- 7 to just shut the plant down and not make the investment
- 8 in controls and serve serve customer load through
- 9 some other resource?
- 10 Q. Okay. And do you know whether or not AEP -- 11 let me back up.
- Those those two aspects of need, is it your understanding that the statute encompasses the statute's reference to need encompasses both of those components?
- 16 A. I'm not a lawyer, but I would -- I would --
- 17 and this is just a guess, but I would say yeah, it
- 18 encompasses both. But again, you know, I'm not a
- 19 lawyer, so --
- 20 Q. I understand. But you're -- you are
- 21 testifying as to whether or not the EICCR is in the
- 22 public interest and should be approved --
- 23 A. Subject to conditions, Yup.
- Q. And from the information you've seen, has AEP
- 25 established that the generating plants are needed to

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1 2

- 1 facilities along with the controls have been prudently 2 incurred.
- 3 Q. And so -- and so, again -- and it's your
- 4 understanding that if they show both of those factors,
- 5 then they are allowed to pass through the charges as
- 6 nonbypassable charges; is that right?
- 7 A. Right.
- 8 Q. Okay. At the bottom of Page 14 in your
- 9 testimony, you also state that just like any regulated
- 10 utility, AEP should be afforded the opportunity to
- 11 return -- to earn a return on as well as a return of
- 12 capital investment --
- 13 A. Uh-huh.
- 14 Q. -- that had been providing -- sorry. Go
- 15 ahead.
- 16 A. No. I'm sorry. I'm just agreeing with you.
- 17 Q. Okay. -- that had been providing a service to
- 18 the general body of ratepayers. How do AEP's
- 19 environmental investments provide a service to the
- 20 general body of ratepayers?
- 21 Let me back up and say, Who is the general
- 22 body of ratepayers that you're referring to?
- 23 A. It would be AEP's customers.
- 24 Q. Their generation customers or their
- 25 distribution customers?

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- 1 serve local load? And by "plant," I'm talking about
- 2 the plants associated with environmental investments
- 3 through the EICCR.
- 4 A. I -- I don't think I -- I don't think I state
- 5 either way, whether they have or they have not, but I
- 6 assume -- I assumed that since they were -- they've
- 7 been serving customers, these generation plants have
- 8 been serving customers for some years now, that -- that
- they established the need at some point in time.
- 10 Q. Okay. And if AEP is selling power from some
- 11 or all those generating plants off system, should it be
- 12 entitled to recover costs for the environmental
- 13 investments?
- 14 A. Yes. Again, I mean, so long as it's the
- 15 least-cost option.
- 16 Q. So AEP should be entitled to recover its costs
- 17 for the generating plants even if the power is sold off
- 18 system?
- 19 A. Correct.
- 20 Q. And you testified that the change in the EICCR
- 21 to make it a nonbypassable charge is not inappropriate.
- 22 And why do you say that?
- 23 A. Again, it goes back to my statement before
- 24 where the company has demonstrated a need for the
- 25 investments and, you know, that the generating

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- A. Distribution. I'm sorry.
- Q. Okay. And so, then, how do AEP's
- 3 environmental investments provide a service to all of 4 its distribution customers?
- 5 A. When you say "distribution customer," are you 6 talking about retail -- you know, residential
- 7 customers, just so we're clear? Residential, business
- 8 customers, end users, consumers?
- 9 Q. Let's back up. Do you have an understanding
- 10 that -- in Ohio's system that customers can shop for
- 11 their generating service?
- 12 A. Yes. Yes.
- 13 Q. Okay. All right. And so that AEP serves all
- 14 of its customers in its territory for distribution
- 15 service, but some of those customers may be shopping
- 16 for their generation service?
- 17 A. Correct. Okay.
 - O. Okay?
- 19 A. Yup. Just want --
- 20 Q. Okay. So, then, how do AEP's environmental
- 21 investments provide a service to shopping customers?
- 22 A. These I mean, these investments are going
- 23 to, you know, reduce pollution, and they have
- 24 environmental benefits to all customers. Shopping
- 25 customers and -- and, you know, retail customers.

- Q. And are those environmental investments not 2 the same investments that nonutility generating 3 providers would bear?
- 4 A. It sounds like a hypothetical question.
 - Q. Well, okay. I mean, we have -- let's back up.
- 6 In Ohio we have utilities like AEP that own generating
- 7 facilities, and we -- there are nonutility owners of
- 8 generating facilities. Do you have that understanding?
 - A. Um-hum. Yes.
- 10 Q. Okay. And is it your understanding that the
- 11 environmental regulations apply to both types of owners
- 12 of generating facilities?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Okay. And the -- I'm trying to think of a
- 15 better way -- so there's the utility owners and let's
- 16 call them the competitive owners, can we call the other
- 17 group?
- 18 A. Okay. Yup.
- Q. Okay. So under the EICCR, shopping customers
- 20 would be paying for those environmental investments
- 21 twice, correct?
- 22 A. Yeah. To the degree that the competitive
- 23 providers incurred the same types of cost in Ohio.
- Q. Correct. In that scenario, shopping customers
- 25 would be paying twice. They'd be paying once for their

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- 1 is -- or -- it is bypassable.
- Q. Right. And so would you think it would be 3 appropriate for it to be nonbypassable?
- A. No, I wouldn't agree with that. I mean,
- 5 that's -- that's the -- that's the situation in Ohio,
- 6 as I understand it, so the base -- base generation is 7 bypassable.
- Q. And why is your understanding that it is 9 bypassable? Why is it bypassable?
- 10 A. I -- well, I believe it's as a result of -- of
- 11 the dereg- -- of deregulation in the statutes.
- O. You have the understanding that it's the 13 generation service that was deregulated?
- 14 A. Yes. I believe so.
- 15 Q. Okay. And would you agree that the costs
- 16 associated with the GRR also are generation-related 17 expenses?
- 18 A. Yes. But it's my understanding it's for
- 19 new -- new generation going forward. New generation
- 20 being installed I think as of 2009.
- 21 Q. That that's what the GRR is; is that what
- 22 you're saying?
- A. Subject to check. I'd have to go back. But 23
- 24 it's my understanding the GRR applies to generation
- 25 installed since 2009.

- 1 competitive supplier's environmental investments and
- 2 once for AEP's; is that right?
- 3 A. It's a hypothetical, yes.
 - Q. Okay. And -- but that is -- that is not
- 5 inappropriate, in your mind; is that correct?
- A. No, it's not to the extent that -- you know,
- 7 that investments need to be made into, you know, dirty
- coal plants to clean them up.
- Q. Okay. If the competitive -- if the
- 10 competitive owner owned the dirty coal plant, can they
- 11 pass on the cost to people other than their generation
- 12 customers?

13

- A. They can try.
- 14 Q. Do you see how that sets up an unequal system.
- 15 if AEP can pass along its environmental investments to
- 16 people other than their generation customers but 17 competitive providers cannot?
- 18 A. I see where you're going with it, yup.
- 19 Q. And -- but that is not inappropriate to you?
 - A. No. Again, because these plants have been in
- 20
- 21 service and have been deemed prudent, you know, some 22 time ago.
- 23 Q. And do you think that AEP's base generation
- 24 rate should be nonbypassable?
 - A. The company has -- the company's proposal
- Page 47
- Q. And -- and so, then, what is your
- 2 understanding of what the costs are that are going to
- 3 be included in the GRR?
 - A. Costs related to energy and capacity.
 - Q. I'm sorry. Say that again.
- A. The costs -- costs related to the production 6
- 7 of energy and capacity.
- Q. Okay. Is it your understanding that it's
- 9 limited any -- any further from just energy and 10 capacity in general?
- A. No. I think that's just it. So -- so it 11
- 12 encompasses O&M and fuel costs.
- Q. Okay. And so if -- if AEP built a new gas-13
- 14 fired plant, could they recover the cost to the GRR as
- 15 you understand it?
- 16 A. The distinction I made here is, remember, what
- 17 I proposed is that it would be approved but subject to
- 18 modification and that the modification -- one of the
- 19 modifications being to carve out so-called
- 20 traditional -- traditional generating facilities: Gas,
- 21 coal, oil, things of that nature.
- 22 Q. Okay. So you think that language should be
- 23 removed from the scope of the GRR?
- A. I -- yes. I stated -- I stated so in my 24
- 25 testimony.

- Q. Okay. And so is it fair to say, then, that 2 you do not believe that the GRR should be approved 3 as -- as proposed by AEP?
 - A. Strictly speak- -- yes. As proposed.
- 5 Q. And have you analyzed whether the GRR meets 6 the criteria for nonbypassable generation charge?
- A. I looked at it from the standpoint of whether 8 the company demonstrated the need and whether the 9 facilities were competitively bid. I limited my
- 10 analysis to that. Although --
- 11 Q. Okay. And I'm sorry. It was the need and the 12 competitive bid?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Okay. And what was your conclusion about the 15 need?
- 16 A. I knew you were going to ask this question.
- 17 The -- now you're talking about Turning Point, correct?
- 18 Q. Sure. Okay.
- 19 A. Or are you talking about GRRs in general?
- 20 Q. Well, I'd like to talk about both, whichever
- 21 one you want to talk about first.
- 22 A. Okay. Well, the frame -- if we're just
- 23 talking about the GRR, you know, really we're just
- 24 talking about a framework, so -- so again, when AEP
- 25 files a rate rider seeking recovery for new generation,

- 25 conclusion ---

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- A. Well, with respect to the framework, I mean, 2 there was no real need analysis per se because, you
- 3 know, it's just a framework. There's no specific
- 4 project that we're talking about.
- Q. Okay. Okay. And so you think the GRR could 6 be approved as a framework without a need analysis?
- A. No. That's not what I'm saying. That's
- 8 not -- what I'm -- what I'm saying is that a needs
- 9 analysis within the GRR framework is a necessary
- 10 component. It's -- it's required by the statute.
- Q. But that it should be done on an individual 11 12 cost application basis?
- 13 A. That's right. When -- when the company makes
- 14 a filing for a specific project --
- 15 Q. Um-hum.
- 16 A. -- then that -- that filing, that rate rider
- 17 filing, should be accompanied with a need analysis.
- 18 Q. I understand. But in this case, in order to
- 19 approve the framework of the GRR, there is no need
- 20 analysis to be done because that would be done at the
- 21 individual filing level?
- 22 A. Right, Okay, Yes.
- 23 Q. Okay. Okay. And then as it relates to
- 24 Turning Point, what -- what was your analysis as to the
- 25 need for Turning Point established by AEP?

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- 1 it would have to -- it would have -- it would have to
- 2 dem- -- it would have to demonstrate the need at that
- 3 particular time. So that's the framework. And, of
- 4 course, that it's the least-cost option and that it
- 5 was -- it was competitively bid.

Does that answer your question satisfactorily

- 7 with respect to the framework? Q. Yes. I guess I'm a little caught up between your distinction between -- what is it that you think
- 10 AEP is requesting approval of in this -- in this case?
 - A. They're seeking -- they're seeking two
- 12 requests, as I understand it. One -- one -- one being,
- 13 you know, the GRRs as a general framework going
- 14 forward, and then they're also seeking recovery for a
- 15 portion, I guess it's Phase 1, of the Turning Point
- 16 Solar project.

17

21

- Q. Okay.
- A. And the recovery of Phase 1 is going to -- or 18 19 the costs of Turning Point are going to be recovered
- 20 through this proposed GRR.
 - Q. Okay.
- 22 A. Okay?
- 23 Q. And so then moving on to the need analysis 24 that you did for the framework, what was your

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- A. Okay. So -- well, with Turning Point, it is
- 2 my understanding that Turning Point -- well, there's
- 3 two aspects of the need analysis. There's -- they
- 4 filed -- I believe it's called a long-term forecast
- 5 plan in which they outlined or -- or -- yeah, outlined
- 6 their load going out -- I believe it's 15 years. And
- then they described how they were going to, you know, 7 8 serve that load.
- 9 I haven't had -- you know, I haven't really
- 10 spent much time reviewing that long-term analysis. I
- 11 understand it's been filed, it was filed some time ago,
- 12 and it is under -- currently under consideration by the
- 13 Commission --
 - Q. Okay. Have you --
- A. -- so --15

14

16

- Q. -- read the long-term forecast plan?
- A. Again, no. I have not -- I have not spent 17
- 18 time reading or reviewing it.
- 19 O. Okay.
- A. So at the time I was writing my testimony, I 20
- 21 assumed that AEP had made a showing or had indicated
- 22 that their -- what their load was going to be and how
- 23 they were going to serve that load.
- 24 Q. Okay.
 - So that's step one.

- Q. I'm sorry. What did you say? 1
- A. That was step one. 2
- 3 Q. Okay. Step two?
- 4 A. Step two is the fact that they have an RPS
- 5 requirement with a solar carve-out that needs to be
- 6 in-state, and so the company put forward Turning --
- 7 Turning Point as a proposed project to satisfy that
- 8 statutory requirement.
- Q. Okay. And for this RPS requirement, is it 10 your understanding that they made that showing in this 11 ESP case?
- 12 A. I think God- -- AEP witness Godfrey does make
- 13 that claim that -- that Turning Point -- the Turning
- 14 Point project is -- you know, helps them to achieve
- 15 that RPS requirement.
- 16 Q. Okay. Other than Godfrey's testimony, have 17 you done any analysis as to whether or not the Turning
- 18 Point project is needed for AEP's RPS requirement?
- A. No. 19
- 20 Q. Okay. Going back to the -- the -- sorry. Is
- 21 there any other steps after step two, or did we finish?
- 22 A. No. That's -- nope. Just two steps.
- 23 Q. Okay. Going back to the first step with the
- 24 long-term forecast plan, just to clarify, is it -- is
- 25 it correct that you didn't do any independent analysis

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- 1 of whether AEP has a need under its long-term forecast
- 2 plan for the Turning Point project?
- A. No, I haven't done any thorough analysis of 4 the forecast plan.
- Q. Okay. What -- what analysis did you do that 6 was not thorough?
- 7 A. No. I didn't. I just -- at the time I wrote
- 8 the testimony, I -- I assumed that the Turning Point
- project was -- was needed as part of their portfolio 10 resources, energy resources, to serve load.
- Q. Okay. And I'm just clarifying that when you 11 12 say you assumed that they'd established a need, that
- 13 you didn't do any independent analysis --
- 14 A. That's --
- 15 Q. -- correct?
 - A. Correct.

16

- Q. Okay. Okay. You -- one of the -- I think you 17
- 18 testified to three proposed modifications to the GRR;
- 19 is that correct? Let's see. The REC tracking system,
- 20 the -- the issue with the three-year term of the ESP,
- 21 and I think the modification of the -- the traditional
- 22 language that we talked about.
- 23 A. Yes. Yes.
- 24 Q. Okay. Turning to the REC tracking issue, you 25 state there's a risk that shopping customers will be

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- 1 charged twice for the equivalent REC under the GRR; is 2 that correct?
- A. Yeah. Which page are you on again and line? 3
- Q. Let's see. It's roughly Page 18.
- A. Right. 5
- 6 Q. Do you see that on Line 8?
- 7 A. Yup. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And so -- and you -- you recommend that
- 9 it be modified such that RECs could be attributed to
- 10 CRES providers as appropriate based on the load; is
- 11 that correct?
- A. Yeah. That AEP develop a system, an 12
- 13 accounting system, that tracks and allows the transfer 14 of RECs.
- 15 Q. Okay. And that would be done to avoid the --
- 16 the impact on shopping customers paying twice for RECs?
- 17 That -- that would be the intent, ves.
- 18 Q. Okay. And would you agree with me that if
- 19 shopping customers did pay twice for RECs, it would be
- 20 anticompetitive?
- A. Yes. 21
- 22 Q. Okay. And the tracking system that you talk
- 23 about, you -- you recommend a collaborative and a
- 24 separate accounting system. Would it be easier to just
- 25 make the GRR bypassable?

- A. Easier for whom? FirstEnergy? 1
- Q. Easier for the Commission and for AEP? 2
- 3 A. No. I don't think so.
- Q. Why not?
- A. Because then I think it would be hard -- it
- 6 would be more difficult to -- it would be more
- difficult to secure financing for -- for new -- for new
- renewable energy sources, new generation sources that
- 9 follow -- that would be recovered under the GRR.
- 10 And so back again to this issue that the
- 11 nonbypassable cost recovery as opposed to bypassable
- 12 cost recovery is needed to secure financing for
- 13 renewable projects; is that your testimony?
 - A. Yeah, that's been my testimony, yes.
- Q. Okay. Although we did discuss the fact that 15
- 16 the Timber Road project resulted in a new renewable
- 17 generating facility in Ohio and it was bypassable; is
- 18 that right?
- 19 That's what the company requested, yes.
 - Q. You also testified that the three-year term of
- 21 the ESP hinders the development of AEP-owned renewable
- 22 projects; is that right? I'm about Page 16.
 - A. Yes, I did testify to that.
- 24 Q. Okay. And you testify there that it's your
- 25 understanding that AEP faces a number of challenges

14

- because the proposed ESP is valid for three years. Andwhat -- what's your understanding and where does it
- 3 come from?
- 4 A. This this is an area that I may need to 5 modify just a little bit. You know, it's my -- when I
- 6 was writing the testimony, it was my understanding
- 7 that, you know, the three-year plan is just that, it's
- 8 a three-year plan, and every three years AEP files, you
- 9 know, a new electric security plan and -- and so that
- 10 rates may be subject to change, and to the extent that
- 11 rates are subject to change, well, that then undermines
- 12 the company's ability to finance renewable projects.
- Q. Okay. Did you -- did you say something about you had to modify something there?
- 15 A. You know -- you know, upon further discussions
- 16 with NRDC, it's my understanding that once the rates --
- 17 you know, for example, for a Turning Point project,
- 18 once those rates had been established, that they --
- 19 they remain -- they remain in effect. In other words,
- 20 riders are just basically, you know, added on to each
- 21 other and that they remain into effect until the end of
- 22 the project.
- 23 Q. Okay. And so -- so what does that mean for
- 24 your conclusion on Line 15 to --
- 25 A. It's -- it's less -- less of an importance, I

d 1 think.

13

- 2 Q. Okay. So --
- A. I mean, really where I was coming at from --
- 4 from the perspective of including this, my -- my frame
- 5 of reference was that for -- you know, for the utility,
- 6 for any -- for any energy resource -- any competitive
- 7 resource supplier, to have to, you know, continuously
- 8 file three-year plans, it -- it just seemed to me that
- 9 it was the company was constantly in planning,
- 10 constantly changing -- you know, changing its strategy.
- 11 It just -- it just didn't -- it just didn't seem to me
- 12 to be a long-term resource plan.
 - O. Okav.
- 14 A. I have to -- just one more thing. I have
- 15 to I just want to apologize. There's all this
- 16 construction that's going outside our door all of a
- 17 sudden, and it's hard to -- hard to keep my train of
- 18 thought going here. Just so you know.
- 19 Q. Okay. Understanding that -- that sort of
- 20 modification to your testimony, the challenges that 21 you're referencing that AEP faces in obtaining low-
- 22 cost, long-term financing, do you have any reason to
- 23 believe that those challenges are any different than
- 24 the challenges faced by CRES providers?
- 25 A. No reason to believe. I think, yeah, CRES

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- 1 providers do -- do have the same -- same types of
- 2 challenges, and they may have some -- some advantages,3 too.
- 4 Q. And what might those advantages be?
- 5 A. You know, they may not -- they may not have
- 6 old -- older plants that have been -- you know, that
- 7 were -- that have been built, you know, several years
- 8 ago, several decades ago. In other words, their
- 9 stranded costs may not be as high as AEP's.
- 10 Q. Okay. When you talked here in Lines 15 to 17,
- 11 were you talking about challenges in financing new
- 12 renewable projects, or renewable projects generally?
- 13 A. I'm on Page 16?
- 14 Q. Yes. Page 16, Lines 15 to 19.
- 15 A. New. I was referring to new projects.
- 16 Q. Okay. New projects. And -- and I'm sorry.
- 17 You were saying that the CRES providers may have
- 18 advantages because they don't have these stranded costs
- 19 associated with older generating facilities? Is that
- 20 what you were saying?
- 21 A. Yeah. That they may have such advantages.
- 22 Q. Are there any other advantages you -- you see
- 23 for CRES providers?
- 24 A. Not at the moment, no.
- 25 Q. And might there be any disadvantages for CRES

- 1 providers in obtaining low-cost, long-term financing?
- 2 A. Sure.
- 3 Q. And what might those be?
- 4 A. Maybe -- could be several disadvantages. You
- 5 know, lack of a customer base; lack of established, you
- 6 know, track record.
- 7 Q. Okay. On -- turning, then, to the next page
- B at the top, you testified that it appears that AEP's
- 9 only alternatives are to purchase power under long-term
- 10 agreements with third-party -- third-party project
- 11 owners or to propose a nonbypassable but potentially
- 12 anticompetitive rider. Do you see that testimony?
 - A. Yes.

- 14 Q. Okay. And -- and that sort of dovetails on
- 15 the question I asked before, but are you saying that
- 16 these are the only alternatives for AEP to own a new
- 17 renewable resource project? What are these the only
- 18 alternatives for?
- 19 A. The alternatives are to purchase renewable
- 20 power through -- through bilateral agreements, the
- 21 REPA, or to invest directly into a renewable project,
- 22 such as, you know, Turning Point.
- 23 Q. Okay. And -- and -- and you do not see a
- 24 bypassable rider as a third alternative?
 - A. Well, I mean, that -- the REPA is a

Q. Okay. So from a business strategy, that might

Q. And just to clarify, when you say "yes," do

Q. Okay. Later on in that -- on that Page 17 you

Q. Okay. The -- the rules that you're referring

8 you mean yes, it's not important for the benchmark

12 talk about amending the ESP rules. Is this a portion 13 of your testimony that you might modify based on what

17 to on Line 14, are those -- what were those rules, I

A. I was just kind of generally -- generally

23 concept that there's really nothing -- there appears to

24 be nothing long term about the way Ohio, you know,

25 plans -- plans to, you know -- you know, establishes

20 pointing to, you know, the fact that there's a -- you 21 know, a three-year -- three-year plan and that, you

22 know, again, I was going back to the idea of the

3 be important, but in terms of the benchmark --4 achieving the benchmark, that it's not necessarily

1 buy under agreements and invest.

A. Yes. I believe so, yes.

5 important; is that correct?

14 you've subsequently learned?

compliance?

A. Yes.

A. Yes.

18 guess is my question.

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6

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16

- 1 bypassable, so it's incorporated in that.
- Q. But it's incorporated under the first 3 alternative?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And isn't there an additional option 6 for AEP to purchase RECs only?
- A. I believe that is true, yes, they do have an 8 option. I'm sorry. Yup. They do have the ability to
- 9 purchase RECs. Although I'm not sure whether the 10 purchase of RECs will get them to -- to the point where
- 11 they need to be to satisfy their requirements, their 12 RPS requirements.
- 13 Q. But you don't know whether or not RECs only --14 that AEP could purchase only RECs to satisfy its
- 15 benchmarks?
- 16 A. I -- yeah, no. I haven't looked into that.
- 17 I'm just -- I'm just agreeing with you that that is an
- 18 option, that AEP could purchase RECs to satisfy their
- 19 renewable -- at least portions of their renewable --
- 20 the RPS requirement.
- 21 Q. And in your opinion, is it important for AEP
- 22 to own a renewable generating facility itself?
- 23 A. Not per se. I mean, it's an option. It's --
- 24 it's -- you know, it's divers- -- look at it as a
- 25 diversified portfolio, that, you know, they're going to

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- 1 sourced through a competitive bid process or not?
- A. No. I mean, it's somewhat of a -- you know,
- 3 this is an investment that they're making, so, you
- 4 know, they're making a direct investment in Turning 5 Point.
- Q. Okay. How does that relate to the question of 6 whether or not it was sourced through a competitive 8 bid?
- 9 A. I suppose it doesn't really relate to it, 10 actually, so --
- 11 Q. Okay. I'm just trying to make sure I
- 12 understood. 13 A. Well, I think it relates to it. I think
- 14 they're just somewhat different -- different --
- 15 different -- different instruments, really.
 - Q. Okay. Explain that a little further.
- 17 A. Let me see here. Let me try to make a finer
- 18 point of this. I mean, the -- you know, the REPA is a 19 bilateral contract, and so they put that out to RFP
- 20 because they want to acquire renewable energy --
- 21 energy. So they put that out to bid, and there was a
- 22 process they followed as outlined by witness Godfrey,
- 23 and so that to me, you know, had all the appearances of 24 being a competitive bid.
 - Turning Point is a slightly different

1 its energy plans.

- O. Okay. And you now have the understanding that
- 3 it's not -- that the ESPs are not limited to a
- 4 three-year term; is that right?
- A. I think they are -- they are -- I think the
- 6 plans themselves are limited to three years, but the
- 7 riders -- the riders can extend beyond the three years.
- 8 That was the issue I was referring to before.
- Q. Okay. All right. Okay. Now shifting to
- 10 the -- we talked about it briefly already, but shifting
- 11 to Turning Point -- the Turning Point project.
- 12 A. Um-hum.
- 13 Q. The first criteria that you discussed is
- 14 the -- is the need for the project to be sourced
- 15 through a competitive bid process. Would you
- 16 acknowledge that the Turning Point project was not
- 17 sourced through a competitive bid process?
- 18 A. Well, I wasn't -- I wasn't there, so I
- 19 don't -- I don't know -- I don't -- I don't have any 20 inside knowledge as to how -- how AEP, you know,
- 21 entered into this joint venture, you know, who they 22 talked to, the number of potential co-investors they --
- 23 they talked to, so I don't know all the specifics as to
- 24 how -- how AEP entered into this joint venture.
- 25 Q. Okay. So you don't know whether it was

16 (Pages 61 to 64)

25

- 1 investment vehicle where the company has decided to 2 make a direct investment for a -- I can't remember the
- 3 exact percent, but for -- for a significant percent of
- 4 the total -- the total cost of the plant.
- Q. Okay. And --
- A. So to some -- to some extent that was not --
- 7 you know, that's not, strictly speaking, a
- 8 competitively bid project. Now, I don't know the
- 9 process they went through to enter into a partnership
- 10 with -- with the counterparties involved in Turning
- 11 Point. I don't know -- you know, I don't -- I wasn't
- 12 there, so I don't know their -- the process they went
- 13 through.
- 14 Q. Okay. And is it fair to say that you haven't
- 15 seen any evidence in AEP's testimony that a competitive 16 bid process was used for the Turning Point project?
- 17 A. Well, I just want to be careful here, because
- 18 strictly speaking, it may not have been a bid -- a
- 19 competitive bid or a process where they -- they put out
- 20 an RFP. Okay. But the end result of this -- you know,
- 21 of the project, meaning that the levelized cost of the 22 project is, what, \$257 a megawatt hour, appears to have
- 23 gotten AEP at the same end point, meaning the price
- 24 reflects what -- you know, what a competitive bid
- 25 project would have -- would have resulted in.

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- Q. I'm sorry. Did you say you have not? 1
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. I'm sorry. That was a double negative. I 4 just want to make sure.
- 5 A. Sorry, I --
- Q. Let me ask it this way to be clear. Have you
- 7 analyzed whether AEP is dedicating the energy or
- 8 capacity of the Turning Point project to Ohio
- 9 consumers?
- 10 A. No. I have not.
- 11 Q. Okay. And have you analyzed whether AEP is
- 12 dedicating the cost of the rate associated with the
- 13 Turning Point project to Ohio consumers?
- 14 A. The rates -- the rates would be -- as proposed
- 15 by the company, the rates would be non- --
- 16 nonbypassable, so these rates --
- 17 Q. Correct.
- 18 A. -- these rates would be picked up by -- by
- 19 Ohio consumers.
- 20 Q. And have you analyzed whether or not that rate
- 21 is cost based?
- 22 A. I haven't -- I haven't done an in-depth
- 23 analysis. I do know that the -- that the supplemental
- 24 testimony of -- I think it was Godfrey or -- or Nelson,
- 25 I can't remember now, stated that the rate could equal

Q. Okay. 1

2

3

- A. Did I make myself clear?
- O. Yes. That's -- that's clear, and I'm just
- 4 trying to be similarly clear that you have not seen any
- 5 evidence that a competitive bid process was used. It's
- 6 your testimony that the result appears competitive, but
- you have not seen any evidence that the competitive
- 8 process was used; is that correct?
 - A. Correct.
- 10 O. Okay. And the second criteria would be the
- 11 need, and we've talked about this a fair bit. Do you
- 12 know whether AEP has projected that it will have an
- 13 excess of generating capacity over the next ten years?
- A. Again, I haven't -- I -- I didn't look at 14
- 15 their long-term forecast, no.
 - Q. Okay. So you don't know whether or not --
- 17

16

18

- Q. -- they'll have an excess of capacity?
- A. My -- my testimony is limited to the rate 19
- 20 rider -- riders as a framework, regulatory framework.
- 21 Q. Okay. And have you analyzed whether -- or 22 have you reached a conclusion as to whether AEP is
- 23 dedicating the energy or capacity of the Turning Point
- 24 project to Ohio consumers?
- 25 A. I haven't made that conclusion.

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- 1 25 cents per month for a residential customer using a
- 2 thousand kilowatt hours a month.
- Q. Okay. And -- and did you analyze whether or
- 4 not that was the rate associated with the cost of the
- 5 Turning Point project?
- A. Well, I assume it was or otherwise Godfrey
- 7 would not have included it in his -- in his testimony,
- 8 but I did not do a -- you know, an in-depth analysis
- 9 of -- of -- of those costs, no.
- O. Okay. And have you reached any opinion as to 11 whether or not the Turning Point project is the
- 12 least-cost option for AEP?
- 13 A. I haven't had an opportunity to do that kind
- 14 of analysis. 15 Q. Do you believe that AEP should be required to
- 16 establish that the Turning Point project satisfies the
- 17 least-cost analysis that you've testified about?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And --19

18

- 20 A. But -- but remember, though, least-cost
- 21 analysis, you know, with respect to renewables also --
- 22 there are also public policy decisions to consider.
 - Q. And what do you mean by that?
- 24 A. The -- you know, the public policy to -- to
- 25 foster renewable energy generation, to support/motivate

1

1 renewable energy developers.

- Q. And -- and so are you saying that those are 2 3 components to the least-cost analysis?
 - A. Certainly.
- Q. Okay. I wanted to clarify whether you were 6 testifying that the least-cost analysis should not
- apply because of those other public policy
- 8 considerations.
- A. No. I mean, it's part of it. Least-cost
- 10 analysis is always part -- part of any analysis, but
- 11 there are, you know, always additional, you know,
- 12 considerations. You know, the considerations of
- 13 whether -- you know, whether or not, you know,
- 14 renewable power should be promoted.
- 15 Q. Okay.
- 16 A. Remember, you know, the whole idea about
- 17 renewable power is to mitigate, you know, the harmful
- 18 effects of -- of greenhouse gas emissions, carbon,
- 19 dirty coal plants.
- 20 Q. Yes. Yes.
- 21 A. Those -- those are also costs. The costs of
- 22 environmental damages need to be considered.
- 23 Q. And has -- in your opinion, has AEP
- 24 established that this least -- that the Turning Point
- 25 project meets this least-cost analysis?

Q. Okay. Turning to the -- the FCCR, the dosure 2

A. Not -- not -- no, they have not at this point.

- 3 cost rider. What's -- what's your understanding of the 4 costs that are included in this rider?
- 5 A. Hold on. I'm just turning to it now. 6 Your question again?
- Q. I asked for what your understanding is of the 7 8 costs that are included in this rider.
- A. You're talking strictly about just the 10 framework, right?
- Q. Right. Yes. If approved, what this rider
- 12 would allow AEP to recover. 13 A. The cost -- the cost of closing the plant, you
- 14 know, the undepreciated plant balances and other costs
- 15 associated with actually closing the cost -- I'm sorry, 16 closing the facility.
- Q. Okay. And would you agree that these costs 17 18 are generation-related costs?
- A. Yes. They're associated with generators. 19
 - Q. And would you agree that -- that
- 21 decommissioning costs are included in depreciation for
- 23 A. The closing -- I'm sorry. The closing costs 24 are included in the depreciation rate?
- 25 Q. Yes.

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Page 72

Page 70

- A. Yes, they are. A portion of it. 1
- Q. Okay. What -- what portion are you referring 2 3 to?
- 4 A. That portion that's already been depreciated.
- Q. Oh, I see. Yes. Okay. I see what you're 5 6 saying.
- 7 A. So what I'm saying is that if you have a 30-
- 8 year plant and we're sitting at year 25, the
- 9 depreciation rate has captured the costs up to year 25.
- 10 Now there's still 30 -- or, I'm sorry, five years of
- 11 undepreciated plant that needs -- that should be 12 recovered.
- 13 Q. Okay. And -- and it's your testimony that --14 that the FCCR should be approved; is that correct?
- A. The framework. 15
- 16 Q. Okay. And -- trying to think how to phrase
- 17 this. And if AEP has already recovered these costs, do
- 18 you think they should be entitled to recover them 19 again?
- 20 A. Which costs are you referring to?
- 21 Q. The facility closure costs that would be
- 22 recovered through this rider.
- 23 A. If you're asking should -- should AEP be
- 24 allowed to double-recover, I would say no, they should
- 25 not be allowed to double-recover.

- Q. Okay. And if AEP previously waived its rights 2 to recover these costs, would it be appropriate for
- 3 them to recover them through the rider?
- A. I'm not aware they waived their rights to 5 recover, but -- it appears to be a hypothetical
- 6 question to me.
- 7 Q. And can you answer it?
- 8 A. Excuse me?
- 9 O. And can you answer that hypothetical question?
- 10 If AEP had waived its right to recover these costs, do
- 11 you think it would be appropriate for them to recover
- 12 the costs through the rider?
- A. Let me couch it in these terms. I think
- 14 it's -- you know, it's in the public interest that AEP
- 15 has an ability to recover its undepreciated plant
- 16 balances and other associated closure costs if -- if
- 17 closing the facility is the least-cost option. If --
- 18 and if closing the facility reduces -- or mitigates
- 19 environmental damages.
- 20 Q. So are you saying that even if they've waived
- 21 their right to recover these costs, they should be
- 22 allowed to recover them?
- 23 A. Again, you know, if they've waived their right
- 24 to do -- to recover these costs, it seems to me there
- 25 is no -- from a public policy point of view, there's --

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1 there doesn't appear to be an incentive or a reason for 2 AEP to choose the least-cost option.

- Q. I'm struggling with how you link that to its 4 waiver of the right to recover the costs.
- A. I'm not -- was there a question there? I'm 6 not sure there was. If there was, it went over my 7 head. Sorry.
- Q. Do you have the -- you have the understanding, 9 correct, that generating facilities in Ohio have been 10 competitive since 2001?
- 11 A. That's what I've been told, yeah.
- Q. Okay. And even though generating facilities 12 13 are in a competitive market, you think AEP should be 14 entitled to recover its cost because it's the least-15 cost option?
- 16 A. I think -- yeah, if it's a least-cost option, 17 I think that's a good public policy -- that's a good 18 public policy to support. The company should have the 19 incentives and, you know -- the incentive should be 20 aligned so that all -- all provider- -- all electric 21 providers, generators, are able to shut down, close 22 facilities that are old, that are not -- that require 23 additional investments to operate reliably, in addition

24 to investments -- investments needed for -- for

25 environmental controls or to close facilities.

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1 those costs before? 2

MR. FISK: I think I'm going to object. It's 3 been asked and answered a number of times now.

MS. McBRIDE: I'm just clarifying because I 5 asked the question about whether or not it would be appropriate if it had waived those rights, and the 7 answer didn't get quite that far.

8 MR. SATTERWHITE: I'll object, too, then, because I think we're beating a dead horse here. 10 MR. FISK: Yeah.

- 11 Q. Do you need the question read again?
- 12 A. Yes. I believe it's appropriate if they 13 waived --
- 14 Q. Okay. Would it also be appropriate for 15 competitive owners of generating facilities to recover 16 their costs for closure of old, dirty coal plants?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And should they -- should competitive and --19 should all competitive owners of old, dirty coal plants 20 have the same right to recover costs associated with 21 closing those plants?
- A. I didn't hear the question part of that, I'm 22 23 sorry. Could you say --
- 24 O. Should all -- yes. I'll restate it. Should 25 all owners of -- all competitive owners of -- excuse

Page 74 Q. And it's a good -- therefore, it's a good

2 public policy to allow AEP to recover those costs even 3 though it previously represented that it would not seek 4 recovery of those costs?

MR. SATTERWHITE: I'll object to form. I 5 6 don't think any of that's been shown, unless you're still talking hypothetically.

- Q. Can you answer the question, or do you need it 9 read back?
- A. Could you read it -- well, hypothetically? 10
 - Q. Yes.
- 12 A. Well, I wasn't even going to -- I wasn't aware 13 that they had waived their right, you know, some years 14 ago. I don't even know when -- when they did, so --
- 15 Q. Okay. And so I'm asking that if they had, 16 should they be -- do you think it's appropriate for 17 them to recover those costs through the FCCR?
- 18 A. Hypothetically, yeah. I believe so. Because 19 again, I'm -- I'm thinking -- thinking of this from the 20 perspective that generators should be able to have an 21 ability to recover costs associated with closing old, 22 dirty coal plants that are creating environmental
- 23 damages,
- Q. Okay. And so you wouldn't be -- you wouldn't 24 25 be bothered if AEP had waived its right to recover

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1 me. Strike that.

Should all owners of generating plants be 2 3 entitled to the same right to recover costs associated with old, dirty coal plants?

- 5 A. Yes. They should have the opportunity to 6 collect those -- those costs.
- 7 O. On Page 21 you -- you testify that the denial 8 I believe of the FCCR would jeopardize the intent of 9 the regulatory compact that investor-owned utilities 10 operate under. Do you see that on Lines 5 and 6? 11
 - A. I see it.
- 12 Q. And what is the regulatory compact that you're 13 referring to?
- 14 A. When I was writing this, I was thinking --15 thinking in terms of -- of the, you know, traditional 16 vertically integrated, you know, regulatory, you know, 17 framework and regulatory -- regulated industry. In 18 other words, the regulatory compact meaning that 19 utilities provide service under tariff.
- 20 Q. Okay. And is it now your understanding that 21 that's not how utility -- utilities owning generation 22 operate here in Ohio?
- 23 A. Yeah, I do understand that the utilities are 24 operating under a deregulated environment. But again, 25 most -- most, if not all, of the -- these facilities

- 1 owned by AEP date back several years. You know, they2 predate -- predate restructuring.
- Q. Okay. Turning briefly back to Page 4, you
- 4 testify that your recommendations will support AEP's
- 5 effort to develop an ESP that stabilizes customer rates6 over the long term. Do you see that?
- 7 A. Which line are you on again? I'm sorry.
- 8 Q. Lines 1 through 2 on Page 4.
- 9 A. Yup.
- 10 Q. Okay. And did you reach an opinion as to 11 whether the proposed ESP will stabilize customer rates 12 over the long term?
- 13 A. No, I did not do a thorough analysis, but I 14 was talking generally.
- 15 Q. Okay. Did you do any analysis of -- of the 16 rates under the proposed ESP over time?
- 17 A. My testimony is limited to the rate riders 18 identified on Page 3.
- 19 Q. Okay. Did you -- did you do any analysis of 20 what the rates will be underneath those riders during
- 21 this term of the proposed ESP?
- 22 A. Well, for several I couldn't because there are
- 23 no specific costs that are being -- being proposed
- 24 right now. This is just a framework.
- 25 Q. Okay. So some of them you couldn't because

- 77 Page 78
 - 1 there weren't any specific costs proposed?
 - A. Correct.

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- 3 Q. Did you do any analysis on the other riders?
 - A. No. You mean other -- the other riders that
- 5 are not listed here, you mean, on Page 3?
- Q. No. The other -- no. The other riders that
- 7 are listed on -- on your table on Page 3. You said
- 8 some of them didn't have any cost data associated, so I
- 9 was just asking whether or not you performed a cost 10 analysis of the other riders.
- 11 A. All right. I believe the only other one would
- 12 be the Phase 1 of Turning Point, and so no, I did not
- 13 look in depth into that particular rate for Phase 1.
- 14 Q. Okay. Then just quickly, not too long before
- 15 the deposition started, we got a document produced by 16 NRDC's counsel, which is a June -- looks to be a June
- 16 NRDC'S counsel, which is a June -- looks to be a June
- 17 3rd memorandum to you from Patty Richards at LaCapra
- 18 Associates?
- 19 A. Yup. Yup.
 - Q. Are you familiar with this memorandum?
- 21 A. I -- yes. I -- yes, I am familiar with it.
- 22 Even though I -- I sent it on to Shannon this
- 23 afternoon, I -- I didn't read it very -- I didn't read
- 24 it. I read it several -- several weeks ago now, but go
- 25 ahead.

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- Q. I mean, I haven't had the chance to review it.
 Can you just tell me what the -- what it -- what the
- 3 context is for it? Did you --
- 4 A. I -- I turned to LaCapra Associates we
- 5 partner with them from time to time to help me out
- 6 with the -- with a review of the Turning Point and --
- 7 and the Timber Road projects, to review -- review the
- 8 Timber Road REPA and then to -- to help me review
- 9 the -- the portions of Godfrey's testimony in the
- 10 appendix. I'm searching for the name of the document.
- 11 It's not necessarily agreement, but I guess a
- 12 memorandum of understanding between AEP and their --
- 13 their joint venture partners in Turning Point.
- 14 Q. Okay. And then did you then incorporate
- 15 LaCapra's conclusions into your testimony?
- 16 A. Some. Not all. I mean, a lot of -- a lot of
- 17 what I was -- mostly turned to LaCapra more for
- 18 confirmation of -- of some of my, you know,
- 19 understanding of -- of REPAs and solar projects and
- 20 also simply because I needed the extra bandwidth to --
- 21 to get the work done. "Bandwidth" meaning I needed --
- 22 I needed some man-hours to help me to do some of the
- 23 analysis.
- 24 Q. And it looks like -- I printed it quickly, so
- 25 I just have a black-and-white copy in front of me, but

- 1 it looks like some of the text is highlighted. Is that 2 correct?
- 3 A. Yeah. That's -- I did that on-line. It's a
- 4 PDF file. I did that on-line as I was reading and
- 5 reviewing the memorandum just to -- you know, just to
- 6 highlight points.
 - MS. McBRIDE: Okay. Okay. Thank you very
- 8 much, Mr. Lyle. I don't think I have anything else for
- 9 you. I'm not sure if anybody else on the phone has any
- 10 questions.

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EXAMINATION

- 12 BY MR. SATTERWHITE:
- 13 Q. This is Matt Satterwhite. I have a couple.
- 14 A. Sure.
- 15 Q. I won't be long, I promise.
 - Can you turn to Page 2 of your testimony. I
- 17 was curious. On Line 2 it says you presided over
- 18 litigated proceedings with the Vermont Public Service
- 19 Board. Do you see that?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Was that like an attorney examiner role, or
- 22 what were your duties there?
- 23 A. I was a hearing officer for the Public Service
- 24 Board.
 - Q. Okay. So was it establishing an evidentiary

1 record?

- 2 A. Correct. In Vermont you don't have to be an 3 attorney to be a hearing officer.
- 4 Q. That's -- that's what surprised me there.
- 5 A. Yeah.
- O. So -- and then was the result of that to make 6
- 7 a recommendation based on an evidentiary record to the
- Vermont Public Service Board?
- 9 A. Correct. Part -- part of it was -- yeah. You 10 would -- you would write a proposed order for 11 consideration by the full board.
- 12 Q. Okay. That's interesting. Okay.
- 13 I want to clear up a couple things. I think I
- 14 was confused about them earlier from your testimony. 15 So are you saying it's okay -- and this is -- do you
- 16 remember the discussion you had with counsel earlier
- 17 talking about competitive bidding in the Turning Point
- 18 and then just hypothetically in general competitive
- 19 bidding stuff?
- A. Yes. 20
- 21 Q. Would you say it's okay to take advantage of
- 22 company resources when you're doing a project as long
- 23 as it doesn't erase -- let me -- strike that.
- Would you say it's okay to take advantage of
- 25 company resources in a project and that doesn't

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22

- 1 plenty of benefits from renewable energy projects. 2 There are also considerations related to statutory
- 3 requirements.
- Q. Yeah. I'm just saying in the abstract,
- 5 though, the benefits or value of the project or
- 6 government requirements impact a least-cost analysis --
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. -- correct? 8
- 9 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Would you also say that competitive
- 11 suppliers -- there were a lot of questions that you
- 12 had. Just make sure you remember this, about
- 13 whether -- you were taken through a series of
- 14 discussions about costs of utility and then asked
- 15 questions if competitive suppliers might have those
- 16 same costs. Do you remember those questions?
- A. Yes. Generally I remember the conversation. 17
- Q. Isn't it correct that competitive suppliers 18
- 19 have the ability to recover their costs in the rates
- 20 that they choose to charge customers?
- A. They have the opportunity to recover costs, 21 22 yes.
- Q. Because they -- they get to choose the rates 23
- 24 that they charge to their customers, correct?
- 25 Correct.

- 1 necessarily erase the competitive -- competitively bid 2 eligibility of a project?
- A. Yeah, I -- yeah. The company should make --
- you know, take advantage of its internal resources to
- 5 the benefit of its customers.
- Q. And especially when that outcome is consistent 7 with a competitively bid price, I believe is what you said?
- 9 A. Yes. Exactly.
- 10 Q. Okay. Do you remember the discussions you had
- 11 on least-cost analysis and what goes into least-cost
- 12 and how you define it, those general discussions?
- 13 A. We had a general discussion about least-cost
- 14 for the last two hours, but go ahead.
- O. I understand. Would you say a least-cost 16 analysis has more considerations than just a final 17 price?
- 18 A. Yeah. I said as much early on. That is, it's
- 19 not strictly a -- a dollar -- a dollar analysis, that
- 20 there are other public policy considerations that need
- 21 to be included in the analysis.
 - O. In fact, the benefits or value of the project
- 23 or government requirements would impact a least-cost
- A. Correct. Benefits for -- you know, there are 25
 - Page 84

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- Q. Something else that kind of interested me, you 2 keep referring to "dirty coal" whenever you say a coal 3 plant, Is every coal plant a dirty coal plant?
- A. That's a good question. I understand your --
- 5 where you're coming from. Let's just put it this way: 6 Generating electricity from coal isn't the best -- the
- best alternative. 7
- Q. Yeah, I'm just trying to get an answer. You
- 9 know, later on -- I didn't object. I was trying to
- 10 give lots of leeway as we moved through here, but, you
- 11 know, later on it could become an issue when we're at 12 the hearing, so --
- 13 A. Right.
- Q. -- I guess the question I'd like an answer to 14
- 15 is, Is every coal plant considered a dirty coal plant?
- 16 A. Well, I mean, as you know, coal produces a lot
- 17 more carbon than -- than alternative generation, so --Q. That's fine. I understood you were having fun 18
- 19 with it. I just wanted to make sure it was clarified.
 - A. Yup.
- Q. Give me a second. I think that's about all I 21 22 have.
- 23 I'm sorry. One more area. You had a
- 24 discussion about different options a company can use to
- 25 comply with requirements, and you laid out some

- 1 options, and it was discussed that another option was
- 2 the purchase of RECs. Do you remember that?
- A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Is -- does that fall into the least-cost
- 5 analysis as far as you're concerned as well, if the REC
- 6 market is too high, that it's more beneficial or a
- 7 least cost to build something?
- 8 A. Yes. I think it's part of the analysis, yes.
- 9 I think it would fall under the least cost. If the REC
- 10 market is expensive, I think it is an -- I think the
- 11 company is obligated to seek out lower cost options but
- 12 at the same time satisfy the RPS requirements.
- 13 Q. Right. And strategically isn't there an
- 14 advantage to building it and having control to fit the
- 15 requirements versus a market that could fluctuate?
- 16 A. Yeah. I think I testified that it's a good
- 17 idea to diversify your portfolio.
- 18 Q. Right. But I'm talking about the different
- 19 options of a company choosing to comply with a
- 20 standard. You can build and have a known quantity, but
- 21 isn't it true that a REC market could fluctuate beyond

1 you know, goes back to the environmental investment

THE WITNESS: Page 12, Line 6. I believe

5 early on at some point during the last couple hours you

6 had asked me some questions about whether or not --

7 whether or not the EICCR should be approved if -- if

8 power is being sold off system, and as you can see, I

9 may have misspoken during -- during my testimony.

10 Under -- under the heat of cross-examination, I may

11 have been a little bit confused about what my -- my

14 I'm -- I spell out in my testimony, that the AEP should

15 instead demonstrate to the PUCO that power from

16 generating plant is needed to serve local load and is

So as you can see, one of the criteria that

22 the control of the company?

2 carrying costs rider, Laura.

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23 A. It can -- it can fluctuate, yes.

MS. McBRIDE: Yes.

- 24 Q. Beyond the control of the company?
- 25 A. Right. The REC market is -- is -- is, you

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- $1 \quad \hbox{know, subject to market fluctuations, yes, so it's not} \\$
- 2 something the company can control.
- 3 Q. But a company that builds might have -- will
- 4 have more certainty; would you agree with that?
- A. They do have certainty, yup.
 - MR. SATTERWHITE: All right. That's all I
- 7 have. Thank you.
 - MR. FISK: Anybody else have questions?
- 9 MR. MARGARD: No. Thank you.
- 10 MR. FISK: I'd like --
- 11 MR. SATTERWHITE: I would say do you have
- 12 questions for us, Mr. Lyle, but I'm not going to say
- 13 that.

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- 14 MR. FISK: This is Shannon Fiske. If we could
- 15 go off the record for a minute, I needed to consult
- 16 with Tom for one second on something and then determine
- 17 if we need to go back on the record for something. Is
- 18 that agreeable to everybody else?
- 19 (There was a discussion off the record.)
 - MR. FISK: So, Mr. Lyle, I believe you had
- 21 one -- one portion of your testimony today that you
- 22 needed to clarify your answer on?
- 23 THE WITNESS: Yes.
 - MR, FISK: Is that correct?
- 25 THE WITNESS: Yup. So this issue goes back --

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1 that these are much older plants and that any new

- 2 investments in plants -- making a distinction here, new
- 3 investments in plant, especially that has to do with
- 4 environmental controls, should be used and useful for
- 5 the benefit of -- of local -- locally served customers.
 - Q. And so if -- if the -- if the power is being
- 7 sold off system, then AEP should not be entitled to
- 8 recover the costs of those investments through the
- 9 EICCR; is that correct?
- 10 A. Well, we're just talking about the EICCR here.
- 11 Just the carrying charges. I'm strictly limited to the
- 12 carrying charges.
 - Q. Okay. So --
- 14 A. So they shouldn't. So they shouldn't recover
- 15 those carrying charges.
- 16 Q. Okay. Okay.
- 17 MR. FISK: That's all I -- that's all we had.
- 18 If anybody else has any other questions.
- 19 MS. McBRIDE: No others.
 - MR. SATTERWHITE: No. No more.
- 21 MR. FISK: Okay.
- 22 MS. McBRIDE: Thank you, Mr. Lyle. We
- 23 appreciate your time.
 - (The deposition concluded at 5:15 PM.)
- 25 (Signature waived.)

EXAMINATION

17 not being sold off system.

19 BY MS. McBRIDE:

12 statements were.

- 20 Q. Okay. And so if I asked you, then, whether it
- 21 would be appropriate for AEP to recover under the EICCR
- 22 if load from the generating plant was being sold off
- 23 system, what would your answer be?
- 24 A. The -- well, again, I mean, it's just -- you
- 25 know, like I was saying here, these are -- I'm assuming

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Page 89 CERTIFICATE I, Johanna Massé, Court Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbered 4 through 88, inclusive, are a true and accurate transcription of my stenographic notes of the Deposition of Thomas 5. Lyle, who was first duly sworn by me, taken before me on Thursday, August 11, 2011, commencing at 2:33 PM, for use in the matter of the Application of Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company, Case Nos. 11-0346-EL-SSO and 11-0348-EL-SSO, as to which a transcript was duly ordered. I further certify that I am neither attorney nor counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action in which this transcript was produced, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed in this case, nor am I financially interested in this action. THE FOREGOING CERTIFICATION OF THIS TRANSCRIPT DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY REPRODUCTION F. THE SAME BY ANY MEANS UNLESS UNDER THE DIRECT CONTRACTAND/OR DIRECTION AND/OR DIRECTION OF THE CERTIFYING REPORTER. phava masse JOHANNA MASSÉ, RMR, CRR Comm. expires: 2/10/15