BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Matter of Edirgawai: Transport, Inc., Notice of:

Apparent Violation and : Case No. 12-3161-TR-CVF

Intent to Assess : Forfeiture.

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In the Matter of Edirgawai: Transport, Inc., Notice of:

Apparent Violation and : Case No. 12-3162-TR-CVF

Intent to Assess : Forfeiture.

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PROCEEDINGS

before Mr. Jonathan Tauber, Attorney Examiner, at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Room 11-D, Columbus, Ohio, called at 10:15 a.m. on Tuesday, February 5, 2013.

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ARMSTRONG & OKEY, INC.

222 East Town Street, Second Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5201
(614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481
Fax - (614) 224-5724

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      APPEARANCES:
             Mike DeWine, Ohio Attorney General
 2
             By Mr. William L. Wright,
             Section Chief, Public Utilities Section
 3
             Mr. John Jones
 4
             and Mr. Ryan O'Rourke,
             Assistant Attorneys General
             180 East Broad Street, 6th Floor
 5
             Columbus, Ohio 43215
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                  On behalf of the Staff of the PUCO.
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Armstrong & Okey, Inc., Columbus, Ohio (614) 224-9481

Tuesday Morning Session, 1 2 February 5, 2013. 3 4 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: The Public 5 Utilities Commission of Ohio has called for hearing 6 at this time and place Case Nos. 12-3161 and 7 12-3162-TR-CVF, being in the Matter of the Edirgawi 8 Transport, Inc. 9 MR. BABKKIR: Yep. 10 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: And that's E-D-I-R-G-A-W-I, Notice of Apparent Violation and 11 12 Intent to Assess Forfeiture. My name is Jon Tauber. 13 I am the Attorney Examiner assigned by the Commission to preside over this morning's hearing. 14 We will begin with appearances, and we'll 15 16 start with staff. 17 MR. JONES: Yes. Good morning, your 18 Honor. On behalf of the staff of the Transportation 19 Department of the Public Utilities Commission of 20 Ohio, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, Assistant 2.1 Attorneys General John Jones and Ryan O'Rourke, 180 22 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio. 23 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you. 24 And on behalf of Edirgawi Transport.

MR. BABKKIR: Yes, sir. My name is Essam

Babkkir. I'm the owner of the Edirgawi Transport, Incorporated.

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ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Could you spell your name for the record too.

MR. BABKKIR: E-S-S-A-M B-A-B-K-K-I-R.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you. And, Mr. Babkkir, just for the record just to clarify

you are a corporation, and you understand that as a corporation, you have the right to an attorney, but you chose to waive that right, correct?

MR. BABKKIR: Yeah. Actually looked for but I couldn't find an attorney.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you. That's fine. Then you will be given an opportunity later this morning to present your side on the witness stand.

MR. BABKKIR: Okay.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you.

MR. BABKKIR: Thank you, sir.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: So we'll begin this morning with staff. Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Yes. Staff would like to call Officer Kisner to the stand.

(Witness sworn.)

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you.

7 You may be seated. 1 2 3 TROOPER RON KISNER 4 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified as follows: 5 6 DIRECT EXAMINATION By Mr. Jones: 7 Would you please state your name for the 8 Q. record, please. 9 10 Α. Trooper Ron Kisner. Where are you employed? 11 Q. State Highway Patrol on the Ohio Turnpike 12 Α. 13 at the Milan post. 14 What is your job title? Ο. I'm a trooper. 15 Α. 16 And what are your job responsibilities? Q. 17 I assist motoring public, I enforce Α. 18 traffic laws, I conduct motor vehicle inspections on commercial motor vehicles, handle traffic accidents, 19 20 just general road duties. 2.1 How long have you been employed in that Ο. 22 position? I have been a trooper 32 years, and I 23 Α. 24 have been doing the DOT motor carrier inspections for

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- Q. So how many roadside inspections have you done generally?
 - A. Well, my number here says 8,329.

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- Q. Okay. Let's -- what's your background training for being able to be an inspector?
- A. Well, I had to go -- I have been -- I went to the academy for over two months for the standard level I inspections. I went back for the Hazmat inspections, and I went back for cargo tank, went back for other bulk. So it's been about two months of training at the patrol academy.
- Q. Okay. So do you have updated training that occurs as well?
- A. Yes. Every year we go back to the patrol academy for the day, and then occasionally we have roll-call training at Bucyrus District Headquarters for three or four hours once a month.
- Q. And you're trained to enforce the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations; is that correct?
- A. Yes, and the Public Utilities Commission regulations on -- inform us of any updates or changes in the laws.
- Q. Okay. And as a result of your training, have you received certifications for your position?
 - A. Yes. I have to maintain a certification

every year. We have to perform -- perform 32 level I inspections, that's brake inspections, and I have to do a certain number of bus inspections which are 8, Hazmat inspections which are 8 also every year.

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- Q. Okay. And tell me what -- what equipment is issued to you for you to do your job.
- A. They give me a patrol car. They give me a laptop inspection to do the DOT inspections on, laptop computer, I'm sorry. I have a creeper. I have gloves. I have whatever else is related to the commercials.
- Q. And how about your jurisdiction? How wide is that?
- A. Well, I'm assigned to the Ohio Turnpike, but I have been called off turnpike to do other inspections also. It's pretty much just the State of Ohio.
- Q. Okay. And when you conduct an inspection, do you generate any paperwork as a result?
- A. Yes. Our computer generates a printout, I guess, what we call it.
- Q. Okay. And tell us about generally what an inspection would entail.
 - A. Well, initially we stop and detect either

a traffic violation or equipment violation, radio the license plate in, check it through LEADS, and then generally walk up the right side checking for obvious violations, contact the driver, get his paperwork from him, driver's license, medical card, bills, registrations, and then complete and ask questions at the cab and then work my way back to the patrol car.

- Q. Okay. I want to refer your attention there's a document before you up there on the stand marked as Staff Exhibit 1. Could you please identify that document for the record, please.
- Q. Okay. And what's the title of that report?
 - A. As far as the number?
 - Q. What's the title of the report?
 - A. It's a Driver/Vehicle Examination Report.
- Q. Okay. So this report that you are looking at, Staff Exhibit 1, is this a report that was generated by you conducting an inspection?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And where did this inspection occur according to your report?
 - A. The Ohio Turnpike at the 77 milepost

westbound.

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- Q. Let me ask you here, it has a report number listed in the first field there on the first page. From where does that number come?
- A. The computer generates that number for me.
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. It's sequential.
- Q. Okay. And when was the date of the inspection for this report?
 - A. August 15 of 2012.
 - Q. And what level of inspection did you do?
 - A. Level II, walk-around.
 - Q. And what time did the inspection occur?
 - A. That vehicle was detected at 5:45 a.m.
- Q. And why did you conduct an inspection on this vehicle at that time?
- A. We initially -- the dispatch initially got a call on him, on the vehicle, driving with a chain on his axle and his shredded tire was emitting sparks as he drove.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. So we had troopers set up to watch for him and found him at the 77 milepost.
 - Q. All right. So another motorist had

observed something that could be a safety issue with the truck, and they called it in to the post.

A. Yes.

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- Q. And the post then radios back out for you to look for the truck.
 - A. Yes. She radioed to the west car.
- Q. Okay. And when you got to the scene, what did you find?
- A. I found all the defects here that I have listed in the violations section.
- Q. So the truck that was described and identified by the motorist to the post, that truck had been stopped by another trooper?
 - A. Trooper Brian Holden.
- Q. Okay. And is that the person then who called you to come to that location?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. And what county is this?
 - A. That would have been Sandusky County.
 - Q. And the -- who did you identify as the person, the operator of that vehicle at the time?
 - A. The person sitting right there.
- Q. And what's the name that you have here for your report?
 - A. Edirgawi -- excuse me, Essam Babkkir.

- Q. Okay. So the person you see here in the courtroom today, this is the person you saw, observed to be operating the motor vehicle that you stopped, did the inspection on August 15, 2012, this report?
 - A. He was in the driver's seat, yes.
 - Q. Okay.

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MR. JONES: Your Honor, can the record reflect that the witness has identified Mr. Babkkir as the operator, the driver for this vehicle?

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Yes. We will let the record reflect so.

MR. JONES: Thank you.

- Q. Now, after such time then, you made -- did you make contact with the driver first, or did you just go ahead and conduct your inspection?
- A. This -- oh, no. I walked up and talked to him.
- Q. Okay. And what information did you gather from Mr. Babkkir when you were doing the inspection?
- A. Driver's license; medical bills; registrations if he had them, if he didn't, I wrote them down; the serial numbers; and the like.
- Q. And so the driver's license that you obtained, it had his picture and identified him as

- the -- for his identity?
- 2 A. Yes.

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- Q. And then you put all this information in your report?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Staff Exhibit 1.
 - A. Uh-huh.
- Q. Okay. And the vehicle identification information, where did you get that from?
- A. It was either on the registration, or I wrote it down from the truck itself, the tractor.
 - Q. Okay. And from your inspection, what did you find out as far as the origin of the trip and the destination of the trip?
 - A. From the bill of lading.
 - Q. Okay. And what was the cargo?
- 17 A. I believe it was meat.
 - Q. And was this an interstate transport?
- 19 A. Yes, it was.
 - Q. And, now, you have -- for the vehicle identification you have a unit 1 and unit 2. What's the difference here?
- A. Unit No. 1 is the power unit. It's a

 Freightliner. No. 2 is the trailer that hauled. The

 trailer was a Great Dane.

- Q. And you obtained this information from the vehicle that you inspected?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And, now, the next field we're looking at on Staff Exhibit 1, violations there, now, these are the violations you noted as a result of your inspection?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And I want to have you focus then on the one violation you have noticed there for the axle violation. Let's start from the left side of your chart there and work our way right. Can you walk us through that?
 - A. You want the actual positioning part?
- Q. No. I mean, the information you are citing there for your violations for the axle violation.
- A. At the top starting at No. 1 and working our way down?
 - Q. The axle violation.
- A. Okay. The section is 393.207A, and it was unit No. 2. This was the trailer. It was out of service which was yes. And then there was a citation number attached to that, A359607, and the verification was unknown and it was a crash causing

violation and that was no and the description was axle positioning parts defective and missing. Left side trailing arm is broken.

- Q. Okay. And also then for the defective tire, could you give us that information from what you noted for your violation.
- A. Yes. This section was 393.75A, and it was unit No. 2, the trailer. And out of service was yes. And citation number associated with that was A359607. And the verification on it was unknown, and the crash causing was, no, it was not. And the vehicle description was a flat tire, and it was shredded, the left side of the trailer, inside trailer, the last axle.
- Q. And so that's the information you provided from your inspection as to a description of the violation and what -- what parts of the vehicle were defective as to what the regulations require; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Now, as part of your inspection, did you happen to do anything else to document your inspection?
- A. Well, I did take pictures of all the violations that I discovered.

- Q. Okay, okay. There's another packet there in front of you beginning with Staff Exhibit 2A. Do you see that?
 - A. Yes, I do.

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- Q. If you would, let's start with Staff
 Exhibit 2A. Would you identify that for the record.
- A. It's the photo of the front axle on the driver's side of the trailer.
- Q. Okay. And this is an accurate representation of what you saw that day when you did the inspection?
- A. Yes. It was taken at the scene where he was stopped.
 - Q. Okay. And you took this picture?
 - A. I believe I did, yes, I did.
- Q. Okay. And let's go to Staff Exhibit 2B. What's there?
 - A. That would be the serial number of the trailer that he was pulling at the time, VIN identification number.
 - Q. Okay. And Staff Exhibit 2C.
 - A. That would be the power unit, tractor he was driving. That's a picture of the left sidesteps that are missing and the battery cover that is missing protecting the terminals.

O. Staff Exhibit 2D.

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- A. Those would be old CVSA decals that were issued to the trailer that somebody either pulled them off or the weather wore them off.
 - O. Staff Exhibit 2E.
- A. That's a picture of the side of the tractor that he was driving, the power unit, his company name, city, and state and DOT number and the motor carrier number.
 - O. Staff Exhibit 2F.
- A. That should be the front license plate of the tractor, on the power unit.
 - O. Staff Exhibit 2G.
- A. That's the other side of the tractor he was driving, on the power unit, company name, DOT number, and motor carrier and city and state.
- Q. And all the information that's depicted here is information that's reflected in the report; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- O. Staff Exhibit 1?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Plus it identifies the carrier, right?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. US DOT number?

A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. Staff Exhibit 2H.
- A. That's a picture of the trailer and the chains that had use -- had been used to keep the axle relatively straight as he drove down the street.
 - Q. Okay. And Staff Exhibit 2I.
- A. Same picture, just different -- different portion of the axle. That must be the left front axle.
- Q. Now, what's the purpose of these chains that are shown here?
- A. Well, the controlling arm was broken. I believe it looked like they were used to keep the axle from spreading as he drove. It kept the axle relatively straight so he could drive down the road.
 - Q. And why is this a safety issue?
- A. Well, I suppose if you could hit a bump or the chain would break or the axle would move, the chain would probably loosen up, and the axle, I would think, would come off the back of the trailer.
 - Q. All right. And Staff Exhibit 2J.
- A. That looks like a picture of the left side controlling arm that's broken and partial picture of the shredded tire.
 - Q. Describe the tire that's in the picture

there as to the wear on the tire, the condition of the tire.

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- A. I always refer to that as shredded because it's been driven for so long that the highway has shredded it and alls that's left is the side because the basic tread of it is gone.
- Q. So in your opinion that's a road hazard there, that tire condition?
- A. Yes, sir. We really have had trailers burn to the ground because tires get so hot they catch on fire.
- Q. And turning then to Staff Exhibit 2K, what's depicted there?
- A. That's a better picture of that shredded tire on the left rear of the trailer.
- Q. Do you see a tire on the inside -- the inside rim in that picture?
- A. Well, it's the sidewall is all that's left.
 - Q. Oh, okay. So this was metal to pavement then, right?
 - A. Well, the metal to pavement would have been the steel cores in the tire. As it spun down the road, it was throwing sparks.
 - Q. Okay. And Staff Exhibit 2L.

- A. It's a picture of the rear of the trailer, the unit number and Silver Lake Transport stickers on it.
 - O. Staff Exhibit 2M.

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- A. That would be a picture of the license plate that was attached to the rear of the Great Dane trailer.
 - O. Staff Exhibit 2N.
- A. That looks like a little bit of damage to the right side of the trailer. It looks like old damage, nothing that was relatively new.
 - Q. And Staff Exhibit 20.
- A. That would be a picture of the tire that I violated for having no tread on it.
- Q. Okay. So all these pictures that we just went through, these were all pictures that were taken by you at the scene at the time of the inspection; is that correct?
- A. I didn't take every one of them. I took most of them. I think I had Brian Holden help me with those as I was talking with the driver and the wrecker service that he had called to help him or we called to help him, I'm not sure which.
- Q. Okay. So either you or another officer at the scene would have taken these pictures.

- A. Yes. The trooper that had initially stopped him helped me, I believe, take some pictures.
- Q. Okay. And the pictures are from a camera that was issued to you to do your job?
- A. Yes, sir. It's issued to me. It's a Nikon.
- Q. And so these pictures, they accurately represent, reflect the condition of that vehicle at the time of the inspection; is that correct?
 - A. Yes, they do.

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- Q. And these pictures that were taken, in your opinion they support the violation that you are asking the Commission to find here for the axle and the tire?
 - A. Absolutely, yes.
- Q. So based on your inspection and your observation of this vehicle as to the condition of the axle and the condition of the tire that you've taken pictures of here and that you observed at the scene, what's your opinion here as to this being a violation of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations?
- A. He was operating an unsafe vehicle in my opinion.
 - Q. So after such time as when you completed

your inspection, taken the pictures, what did you do next?

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- A. I believe Trooper Holden asked me if it would be okay to write a traffic citation for the violation of the Ohio Revised Code 4531.02 section, and I told him, yes, that would be fine. I then placed the out of service decal on his trailer, and I believe the wrecker the wrecker service was already there with me, and I printed out a copy of the inspection report, handed him his citation, handed him a copy of the DOT driver examination report.
- Q. And the reason why you placed it out of service was because the condition of the vehicle was not safe to drive; is that correct?
 - A. Yes, in its present state, right.
- Q. Right. So you observed then a trucker come to the scene and take the truck away?
- A. Well, Kevin was there; he is from Madison Motors. I don't know what happened after that because I had to go back east at that time.
- Q. Okay. So the information that you gathered from your inspection, you then had that information incorporated into Staff Exhibit 1; is that correct?

- A. Yes.
- Q. You did this in your cruiser, I think?
- 3 A. Yes.

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- Q. Entered the inspection?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. So you filled out that information from your laptop; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And then what did you do? You printed out a copy of that report?
 - A. Yes. I click on the time I'm done, the date, and then I can print out a copy for myself and the driver.
 - Q. Okay. So after you input all this information and you then downloaded the report, you then reviewed the report with the driver, Mr. Babkkir in this case, correct?
 - A. Yeah. I walked up to the truck and gave him his paperwork, yes.
 - Q. Okay. And what signatures were obtained at that time?
 - A. I'm not sure if he signed his or not, but I signed my portion that I gave to him.
- Q. Okay. And the -- of course, the Staff
 Exhibit 1 doesn't have signatures on this. This is

an accurate copy of what you had filled out that day for your inspection?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And so what did you do as far as then notifying the Public Utilities Commission of this inspection?
- A. Well, I downloaded the inspection to the PUCO at the end of the day.
 - Q. At the end of the day.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And so you would -- you transmit then that information electronically via your computer?
- A. Yes, sir. We have air cards, and we have ability to do that. They want us to do it every day, if we can.
 - Q. Okay. Gotcha. And were the pictures sent as well?
- A. Yes. I did those -- I'm not sure what time, but I did them that day.
 - Q. Okay. And Staff Exhibit 1, the Driver/Vehicle Examination Report, is this a record that you have to generate as part of your job duties when you do an inspection?
 - A. Yes, it is.

Okay. And are these records kept with 1 Ο. 2 the patrol after you do this inspection? 3 Yes. I -- they are archived in my Α. computer also. 4 Okay. So Staff Exhibit 1 would be a 5 Ο. 6 business record from the State Highway Patrol post? 7 Yes, it is, yes. Α. Once you made out a report? 8 Q. 9 Α. Yes. 10 Q. And the same with the pictures as well, they are archived as well? 11 12 Α. Yes. 13 Q. They are business records as well? 14 Yes, they are. Α. MR. JONES: Your Honor, I have no further 15 16 questions of this witness. 17 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you. 18 19 EXAMINATION 20

By Attorney Examiner Tauber:

Trooper Kiser, I have a few questions for you, if you could turn to Staff Exhibit 1, please. I'm looking at the violation -- the first violation, it's 393.75C.

A. Yes.

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- Q. And it's the tire depth of less than 2/32 of an inch.
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Did you measure the tire depth?
- A. There was no need to measure the part that was bald.
 - Q. And what would that be, Staff Exhibit 20? Does that depict the tire depth?
 - A. Yes, completely smooth there.
- Q. And so your opinion that didn't need to be measured?
- A. There's nothing there to measure. It was completely bald from -- it's probably 8 inches from where the first visual line of the partial tread is left to the outside of the sidewalls.
- Q. By the first visual line are you referring to the line in the tire probably about --
 - A. The second to the right.
 - Q. The second.
- A. Yeah. It's pretty much nonexistent there. That was probably the best part of the tread.
- Q. And then my next question is under the next two citations under verification it says U which according to the report says unknown. What does that mean?

A. What that means is when I leave the scene, it's unknown whether it was repaired there or towed from the scene. Yeah, I can't remember -- I believe A is repaired at the scene, U is unknown what had happened, whether I can't stay there, or B might be towed to repair facility, and I think there's one more, but I can't remember what that is. So the reason the computer automatically defaults to U unless I would change it.

- Q. Unless you verify it.
- A. Yes, unless I would change that.
- Q. Thank you. And then the next violation mudflap missing right rear of the trailer. I might have missed it when we were going through the pictures, is there a picture of that?
- A. Yes, yes, sir. The only one I have that shows the left side is missing, that would be 2K.
 - Q. 2K?

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- A. Yes.
- Q. And that's the left side of the trailer?
- A. Yes. What probably happened was the tire disintegrated and what it had done was removed the whole mudflap, and then it bent the bracket up there.
- Q. But then the report says right rear of the trailer had a missing mudflap.

- A. I think they were both missing, but I only cited that one there.
- Q. Thank you. And then the improper battery installation and battery cover, there's also a picture of that, I think, that was --
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. -- Staff Exhibit 2C, correct?
- A. Yes.
- Q. So this is the cab of the vehicle? Is that the door, it looks like, above it?
- A. Yes. It's right underneath the cab driver's side.
 - Q. And normally this would be covered?
- A. Yeah. They are supposed to be covered to prevent something from striking them, preventing a short, fires, that sort of thing.
- Q. And then this would also be the picture depicting the driver's sidesteps. Are there normally driver's sidesteps?
- A. Yeah, so they can enter and exit the vehicle safely.
 - Q. And that would be here as well?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And just a few more questions about the overall stop. If I understand correctly, the vehicle

was already pulled over when you arrived at the scene?

A. Yes.

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- Q. So you didn't see sparks or anything?
- A. No, no.
- Q. Okay. And how long were you with the vehicle? Was it the entire time that's depicted in the report?
 - A. Or --
 - Q. Yeah, in the examination report?
- A. I was probably with it over an hour, maybe an hour. I left there at 8:19 it looks like.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you, sir. I have no further questions. You may be excused.

THE WITNESS: I thought he was going to ask me.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Because he doesn't have an attorney, he's a corporation, he will -- I will allow you to come up, and we will do one report at a time probably to keep things consistent so you may be excused. Thank you.

MR. JONES: Your Honor, next, I would like to call Officer Lambert.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: For the

purposes of just keeping the record clear would Officer Lambert be testifying to the report from September 10, 2012?

MR. JONES: That's correct.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Okay. We will allow Mr. Babkkir to come up and address this report, and then we will go to the next report.

Mr. Babkkir, would you like to testify?
MR. BABKKIR: All right.

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ESSAM E. BABKKIR

being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Could you state your name and address for the record.

THE WITNESS: Essam Babkkir, my address is 7700 Steadman Street, Dearborn, Michigan 48126.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you. You can have a seat. This is essentially your opportunity to explain what happened and then I might have some questions for you and the Attorney General might have some questions for you as well. Go ahead.

THE WITNESS: Well, on 8-15-2012 around 5:15 I was driving on Interstate 80 just 2 miles

before Interstate 280. At the time I realized the trailer's left rear inside tire along with the mudflap was blown so I realized that. First, I hear a thud like something movement on the trailer. Then I looked to my mirror and I realized the tire is shredded and the mudflap — when the tire shred, the mudflap blown so I realized that and I was driving middle lane so I would try to pull to the right lane so I can pull over.

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And at the same time I realized behind me is State Highway Patrol and I -- when I pull over, you know, he came and told -- I realize, you know, what happened, I have a breakdown. And he told me, yeah, you got a flat tire. I told him, yes, I need a service, a repair. So he told me do you know any service people you can call, or do you want me to call.

So I told him let me check. I check my internet in my cell phone. I couldn't get access so I told him you can call, you know; it's no big deal. He called a wrecker, you know, a repair for the tire and at that time we stopped like maybe 45 minutes and then before, you know, that time like 15 minutes repair the tow truck -- I mean the repair came and we proceeded, you know. We get -- I get down, you know,

and he told me, the trooper, what is this chain. I told him I have a problem with the trailer before and I took it to the shop and they weld the axle and he told me put this chain just to make sure, you know, you don't have any problem, you know, so, you know, just as a safety precaution, you know, but he welded the axle with chain out.

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So I told him what was going on, and like after 45 minutes, Trooper Kisner showed up at the scene, you know, so and I told him that officer gave me a citation for unsafe vehicle and I accept that, but when the Officer Kisner write me the report, I told him I have a breakdown, you know, and I pulled over before the officer, you know, pulled me over, but coincidentally, you know, he noticed I have a problem.

So he was there right in the median of the turnpike so I told him you showed up like 45 minutes, gave me this inspection for all the violations that will harm my safety as a carrier and I can't find — you know, like you are shutting me down, you know.

So he told me, you know, I got to do that, you know, so I told him, you know, I was, you know, pulled over to the side of the road, I'm taking

care of the problem, you know, and breakdown happen any time, you know. I mean, you didn't stop me. I wasn't driving and you pulled me over, you know, so you can give me these violations. I was on the left — I mean on the right side of the shoulder taking care of the problem and you saw the wrecker and the service repair was there on the scene, you know, so I — at that time I contest that's a violation and asking you can meet me in Columbus. That's what he said.

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TROOPER KISNER: I never said that.

THE WITNESS: Yes, you did, sir, I swear. So I told him I don't think this is -- you know, violation is right because, you know, I was having an accident, having, you know, breakdown, and I'm taking care of the problem. So, I mean, you saw the wrecker and you saw the repair guy sitting there and I end up not paying like -- yeah, let me. There is a bill.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Would you like to introduce this as an exhibit?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 12 -- I mean \$1,236 for just repair, for towing the trailer and they didn't even fix the tire or anything.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: I'll mark this as Edirgawi Exhibit 1.

35 1 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.) 2 THE WITNESS: Okay. 3 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: This is the repair report. And then I'll make copies too. We'll 4 5 take a break when you're done. I will give a copy to 6 the Attorney General. 7 You may continue. THE WITNESS: Okay. So at that time, you 8 9 know, I told the officer, you know, this trailer, 10 what happened, you know, it's big breakdown for me, you know, and at this time, you know, I decide to 11 12 take the trailer out of service for good, you know. 13 And that's what happened, you know, like a week -- a week later, you know, I bought another trailer, 14 15 Utility, and that's when I paid for it. 16 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: This is the 17 sales parts and service report? 18 THE WITNESS: Yeah. ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: We'll mark 19 that as Exhibit 2. 20 2.1 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.) 22 THE WITNESS: Yep. So that trailer, you 23 know, had a breakdown. I was on the side of the 24 road, you know. The Officer Kisner didn't pull me 25 over. I wasn't driving. I mean, when the axle come

out, you know, it pushed the tire, you know, and the tire blew, you know. When the tire blew, the mudflap also blew. You know, for distance it's just for like maybe half a mile or maybe — less than that when the tire blew, and when the I was doing like 65 or maybe 62, something like that, and when you are driving at that speed, the tire it — when it blew, it shredded very quickly, and this inside part of the tire just come out. And there is no vehicles behind me.

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You know, it's 5 o'clock, I believe it was 4:30, something like that, in the morning so there is no traffic, not busy, you know, so and then I took — they towed the trailer to the shop and I brought that trailer after I rented it before I bought it, you know, just to make sure the trailer is right, and I took the load out of that trailer, put it in this trailer, and that trailer is done that day.

So just to complying with -- comply with the safety regulation of the Federal Motor Carrier so I didn't take any chance, you know, to keep this trailer any more. I mean, I'm not contesting, you know, like the problem, you know. I mean, I am just contesting the violations that he wrote them to me but it was -- at that time it was unsafe, I believe,

so, because what happened. It even shocked me, you know, as a driver and as an owner. I don't have anything to say.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Mr. Jones, do you have any questions?

MR. JONES: Yes, your Honor.

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CROSS-EXAMINATION

11 By Mr. Jones:

- Q. Mr. Babkkir, I have some questions for you.
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Let's see, you -- you see the pictures up there before you.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Would you look at picture Exhibit 2J,

 Staff Exhibit 2J.
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Now, this is a picture of the axle that shows that the -- that the trailing arm is broken from the axle. That does display that in that picture; is that correct?
- A. That's correct, yeah.

- Q. That is correct.
- A. Yeah.

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- Q. Okay. So are you -- are you challenging the actual being defective in this proceeding?
 - A. No, I'm not.
 - Q. You're not.
 - A. I'm not.
- Q. Okay. But you are -- you're challenging the tire that -- that is -- that the shredded tire, are you disputing that?
- A. I'm disputing the write-up of the violation because, you know, Trooper Kisner, you know, didn't pull me over at the beginning, you know.
 - Q. Sure.
- A. I was pulled over by myself to the side of the road. I pulled over because I realize I have a problem. I have a big out.
- Q. Let me refer you to Staff Exhibit 2K. Would you look at 2K for me.
 - A. Yes, sir, I see it.
- Q. This is a -- you will see there from that picture the inside tire is gone basically, right?
 - A. That's right.
- Q. Okay. And even on the other tire that looks pretty worn there in that picture, would you

- agree with that, the other tire that's beside the tire?
 - A. I don't think so. The other tire is not that bad, you know.
 - Q. Let's --

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- A. It's legal, you know.
- Q. Let's look at another tire. Let's look at Staff Exhibit 20.
 - A. Yeah.
- Q. Now, you would agree with me that that tire is in pretty bad shape; would you agree with me on that?
 - A. That this tire --
- Q. This tire in that picture, that's in bad shape, isn't it?
 - A. Well, I still I got tread on it.
- Q. Well, okay. Let's break that down.

 Let's -- let's say from the edge of the outer tire

 going into the first line there, there is about

 niches of no tread, right? It's no tread; would

 you agree with that?
 - A. You mean inside here?
- Q. That's right. You are pointing to the side, the 8 inches going to the outer part of the tire.

- A. And you are pointing to the right side of the picture?
- Q. Right side of the picture of the tire, right?
 - A. I don't see any tread over here.
 - Q. You don't see any tread?
 - A. I don't think there is tread.
 - Q. It's worn down completely?
 - A. No. I mean, there is no tread over here.
 - Q. Right, right.
- A. It's not worn. That's the shape of the tire. The tread I believe in the middle, that's how, you know.

It's not made that way though.

- Okay. Mr. Babkkir, you had -- you were driving for a distance, weren't you? That tire is shredded. You had been driving for a distance?
 - A. No.

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- Q. Because there had been other motorists that had observed there were sparks coming out from that tire.
- A. Not a distance, like maybe for a time, maybe a minute or maybe more for a distance like maybe a mile because I have to, you know -- I can't pull over just like that. I have to slow down, and

every time I drive this tire was -- you know, it keeps shredding, you know, keep throwing this rubber, you know. When I stop, you know, it look like that, you know.

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- Q. Mr. Babkkir, you're not disputing that another motorist had observed sparks coming from your tire and then called into the patrol post, had time to call the patrol post and then have someone dispatched out there and stop you so there was a time that you are driving with this tire being shredded, correct?
- A. That's not -- like I said, maybe a minute or more. I'm not, you know, exactly about the time, but when I realized -- when I realized the tire is shredded or blown, I, you know, proceed to pull over, you know. But I don't recall when this guy -- the other -- you know, people who called, you know, I mean, all this, now coincident, you know, same time, happened at the same time.

When the tire blew, maybe somebody saw the tire before I see him and called, you know, and I realized the tire is blown, you know, and the trooper was there, right there, you know. It was a trooper, you know, like follow away. I should have been out of the turnpike, you know. I mean, I was just like

maybe a mile, 2 miles away from that -- from the turnpike, you know.

- Q. It's probably fair to say, is it not, that you didn't know how long you were driving on that shredded tire, right?
 - A. No. I know because --
 - Q. How do you know?

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A. I know because I see it. I see the tire, I see when it -- I hear the thud, you know, jerking the trailer because when this tire -- axle broke, you know, I mean, they are welded, but they didn't weld it that good so it gave like a space between the two axles. That space, you know, pushed on the tire, you know, pushed on the tire, you know, pushed on the tire, you know, and blew it away.

So the tire blew and the mudflap blown away also so I look to my side mirror, oh, you know, I realized the tire is coming apart, you know, so maybe I, you know -- I think maybe a minute or more, you know, just to pull over, you know, because I was in the middle lane, and I was being cautious not to hit any motorist, you know. So I maybe took my time to pull over.

- Q. Yeah, Mr. Babkkir, when did you chain up the axle?
 - A. The previous day.

Q. The previous day.

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- A. Yeah. But I was heading home. I am going to Michigan, you know, and he weld -- he welded the axle.
- Q. So you knew you had an unsafe vehicle for a whole day, right?
- A. No, sir. Like I said, you know, the axle, you know, kind of come loose. You know, I mean, it didn't broke all the way but there was like a crack, you know, so when I realized that, I took it to the repair, you know, and he weld it and I asked him just -- I have this chain on my truck, you know. I asked him to put it on, you know, just to make sure, you know, if anything happen, you know, I don't have to lose the axle or cause any accident, you know. That chain is like just safety precaution. And that's what happened.
- Q. You put the chain on because there was a crack in the axle?
- A. Yeah, but I took it to the shop, you know.
- Q. You were stopped by a trooper, weren't you?
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- 25 Q. You --

A. No, I'm sorry.

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- Q. You stopped -- you were stopped by a trooper.
- A. No, I did not. I pull over; the trooper was coincidentally behind me, you know.
 - Q. He was behind you --
- A. Yeah, happen, you know. I mean, something, you know.
- Q. When you went to the berm, he was behind you with his lights on. You were going to the berm with the trooper, right?
- A. Like I said, you know, when I realize my tire is shredded, you know, I believe I took my time just to pull over, you know.
 - Q. Which at the --
- A. The trooper was in the island in the middle. So he just pulled behind me, and I saw that's a trooper behind me, you know.
- Q. So my question is when you pulled to the berm, the trooper was behind you, right behind you.
- A. Yeah, that's right. But, I mean, I was pulling over before I saw him, you know, but he came behind me.
- Q. There was a plaza in that area where you -- where you were stopped, right?

A. There is what?

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- Q. There was a truck plaza that's near -- you had already passed when you were stopped?
- A. The truck -- truck plaza like maybe 3 miles behind me.
 - O. 3 miles?
- A. Almost 4 miles. There is no truck plaza. The nearest thing was the gate of the turnpike, the 280 like 2 miles.
- Q. But you had passed the truck plaza; it was 3 miles behind.
- A. It happened after I passed so, I mean. I mean, when this -- I hear the thud and the tire blow, it was after I pass it, you know. There is no truck plaza at that time, you know, so that's why I pulled over, you know, I find like an emergency parking so I parked. The other trooper was behind me.
- Q. You would agree with me though that the picture depicting the condition of that inside tire in Staff Exhibit 2K that there's there is nothing there in the middle of the tire, right?
 - A. That's correct, yeah.
 - O. There is no tire there.
- A. I mean, yeah, when the tire blew, you know, that's what happened, you know, all the time,

you know, when the tire blow, you know, the speed and, you know, it just shred like that and I saw it and a lot of trucks driving the road, you know. You got to go away from the truck because a lot of time, you know, they shredded this tire. It's flying.

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- A. I mean, there is nothing wrong with the tire itself, you know, but, you know, the tire --
- Q. There's no rubber in the area. If you look at the pictures, there is no rubber showing anywhere on the --
 - A. Like maybe --
 - Q. -- way back --
 - A. Like maybe a mile, maybe more.

MR. JONES: Okay. That's all the

16 questions I have.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you.

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EXAMINATION

By Attorney Examiner Tauber:

- Q. I have a couple questions for you too.
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Just to clarify with the axle chains, you went to a repair shop, and they put the chains on it to support the axle?

- A. Yeah. He welded -- he welded this trailer. He welded the axle, and I told him, you know, to put this chain as a, you know, but just to make sure, you know, the axle doesn't come apart.
- Q. When did that happen? When did you take it to the repair shop?
 - A. I took it to a repair shop in Virginia.
- Q. How far in advance was it from the stop?

 I guess what date? Was it a day before?
 - A. The day before, yeah.
- Q. So the previous day you were stopped for this report.
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. You took it to the shop.
- A. That's correct, yeah.
- Q. And when you took it in, did you notice -- what made you take it in? Did you notice there was a problem with the axle?
- A. Yeah. When I inspected the trailer, I noticed there was a problem.
- Q. You noticed there was an axle defect.

 They suggested and you asked them to put the chain in there so you could get back to Michigan --
 - A. That's correct.
 - Q. -- before you fixed the axle.

- A. Yeah.
- Q. My --

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- A. No, I'm sorry. They welded it, you know. I mean, they welded it. They said, you know, this trailer, you know, you can weld it, you know, but you are not going to work a lot of time with it, you know. I mean, that's when I decided this trailer is going to get out of service but, you know, they said, okay, we are going to weld. It's going to be legal, you know, DOT legal and, you know, it's mounted and everything.
- Q. So at that point you decided you wanted to weld it, but you knew you would sell it.
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Your exhibit is the sale for that.
- A. There is nothing wrong with the tire -- with the chain, you know. It's not illegal to put the chain, you know.
 - Q. Right.
- A. I don't think there is any DOT violation of this chain, just put it on as a precaution.
- Q. I understand. So then clarifying that the actual stop occurred at about 5:45 in the morning, the road you were on you said you were in the middle lane.

A. Yes.

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- Q. That's a three-lane road?
- A. Yeah, when I realize I have a problem.
- Q. And so you are in the middle lane of a three-lane road, and you heard the tire pop.
- A. Yeah. Before I have tire, I hear something, you know, the axle kind of, you know, I feeling so the axle push to the tire, you know, and that will happen and the tire blew because when I --
- Q. The blown tire is the one in Staff Exhibit 2K?
 - A. Yes, sir, yeah.
- Q. And then so when you pulled, it blew.

 Did you start to get over to the right towards the berm?
- A. Yes, yes.
 - Q. Or did you see the police officer first before you went to the right berm?
 - A. Well, that I was paying attention to the, you know, to the right lane, you know, you know, the lane on the right.
 - Q. So you went -- so you went from the center lane to the right lane --
- 24 A. Yes.
 - Q. -- first thing but you didn't pull over

right away, or did you pull over right away?

- A. I went from the center lane, I checked my mirror to make sure there is not any traffic on the left -- on the right lane.
 - Q. Right.

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- A. Maybe I took my time, like maybe 30 seconds, just driving when the tire is kind of shredded all the way.
- Q. So if you had estimated a timeframe, it was 30 seconds or so.
- A. 30 seconds, yeah, just to pull to the side.
 - Q. And then how long?
- A. Another 30 seconds, 45 seconds just to pull over to the shoulder.
- Q. So you're probably looking at maybe 1 to 2 minutes before you pulled over?
- A. Yeah, 1 minute maybe, almost 1-1/2, maybe 2 minutes.
 - Q. And when you were in the right lane, you noticed there is a police vehicle or trooper vehicle?
 - A. Yeah. In the right lane I saw the police vehicle. I believe he was in the divider.
- Q. Okay. So he was in the median at that time.

A. Right.

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ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: All right. I don't think I have any further questions for you.

Thank you. What we'll do at this time --

MR. JONES: Your Honor, if I could, I would like to call Officer Kisner to the -- back to the stand to clarify some things as to what was stated from the stand, Mr. Babkkir's testimony. I have some rebuttal testimony here that would rebut some of the statements made by Mr. Babkkir.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: We'll allow that, and then we'll allow Mr. Babkkir to respond to those as well so maybe switch out.

You are reminded you are under oath.

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TROOPER RON KISNER

being previously duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified further as follows:

FURTHER DIRECT EXAMINATION

By Mr. Jones:

Q. Officer Kisner, you heard the testimony of Mr. Babkkir as to how long he said he had been driving when he pulled over as a result of the tire being shredded. Let me ask you what direction did you come from to -- to find Mr. Babkkir in his truck

on the berm?

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- A. From the east.
- Q. So when you were coming up, they were in front of you -- he was in front of you to the berm?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And how many miles back were you driving up, what was that, Highway 80?
 - A. Yeah, the turnpike.
- Q. Turnpike, yeah. So how far did you have to travel?
- A. I left from 118 to get to the 77 where he was stopped.
- Q. Okay. And let me ask you, did you see any rubber in the road as you were driving that distance?
 - A. No.
- Q. Any rubber?
- 18 A. No, no.
- 19 Q. Either in the road or in the berm, 20 anywhere?
 - A. No. I don't recall that. Through my experience that tire there is anywhere from 20 to 40 miles worth of driving to get shredded like that. That's why that officer was sitting in the crossover because he was waiting for him because we had got

that call that vehicle was unsafe, throwing sparks.

As soon as he saw the officer, he knew he should pull to the berm. Now, I agree with him if I would pull up -- if he was disabled on the side of the road and I would pull up behind him, I wouldn't violate him for that stuff because he was already stopped aware of it, but he was rolling trying to get to Canton, Michigan. He rolled past the plaza --

Q. Where was the plaza?

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- A. The plaza was at the 77. He rolled past that, and then he was stopped at the 75 at the large pull off. He was trying to get to 280 which is at the 70 milepost to get up into Michigan.
- Q. Okay. If you look at your Staff Exhibit 1, the roadside location here is on post 77. Do you see that?
- A. Yeah. That's where he was first observed.
 - Q. That's where he was --
- A. First observed right there at the 77, drove right by the plaza.
- Q. Okay. So the plaza was a few miles back; he had passed it?
 - A. Approximately 3 miles back.
 - Q. Approximately 3 miles back.

A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. And so -- okay. Let's have you look at Staff Exhibit 2K. You are looking at that tire, and it's your testimony based on the condition of what it shows there that that's been driven on for a distance of 20 or greater miles?
 - A. A lot of miles, yes.
- Q. And where do you -- what do you derive that opinion from?
- A. Just from past experience, talking with drivers who don't know their tire shredded or they knew it went flat at a certain point or they were trying to get somewhere and you look at it and you can generalize.
- Q. How many instances of tires shredded have you encountered?
- A. Oh, at least one a day, sometimes none but usually one a day.
- Q. Have you actually seen tires shred as you were following a vehicle?
- A. Yes. Come up behind them, yes, throwing stuff all over the patrol car, yes, tire.
- Q. Does it take a distance for it to get to the condition you see depicted in 2K, Exhibit 2K?
 - A. Oh, yes, quite a while, yeah. I've been

behind guys before with flat tires, followed them far enough just to get them into a pull off or off the grade and come up behind guys with shredded tires.

They are throwing chunks of rubber all over traffic too. Tire problems are a big problem up there for us.

- Q. Okay, okay. And you -- it's your testimony that when you came up on this scene miles back, you didn't see any rubber in the road or berm, anywhere?
 - A. Nothing that caught my attention.
- Q. Okay. And you had learned then from the other officer -- the other officer executed the stop; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Do you happen to know where the other officer was sitting in location to where Mr. Babkkir had passed the other officer in the berm?
- A. Yes. He would have been in the large the crossover in the median barrier probably 2 or 3/10s before the travel plaza so the driver could have exited into the plaza if he knew he had a flat, and he just drove right by it.
- Q. You are very familiar with this stretch of road; is that correct?

- A. I work it every day.
- Q. Every day.
- A. Yes.

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- Q. So you know where the turnovers are, troopers can go from one side of traffic to another lane of traffic the opposite way, correct?
- A. I have to know where they are so I can get across to get on the other side to get the other way.
- Q. The other officer who executed this stop with Mr. Babkkir, this stop at that crossover was back before the turnoff that travel -- that truck plaza?
- A. About 2 or 3/10s before the exit ramp to get into the plaza.
- Q. And is it also your opinion it's improper to have chains around your axle to begin with?
- A. Yes. Anything could that chain could come off, anything. It's summertime. Could be laying in the road, somebody on a motorcycle run it over, get tangled up into the tire, anything.
 - Q. So that was another safety hazard.
 - A. Yes, yes.
- Q. And clearly in your opinion that axle was clearly broken. You looked at it, took the picture

of it, right?

A. Absolutely.

MR. JONES: Your Honor, I have no other

4 questions. Thank you.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you.

Let's go off the record.

(Recess taken.)

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FURTHER EXAMINATION

By Attorney Examiner Tauber:

- Q. Let's go back on the record. You indicated in the Vehicle Examination Report that the milepost was 77 but you also -- I just want to clarify for the record you also said that's the
- service plaza milepost number?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. So I don't understand. He wasn't pulled over at the service plaza though.
- A. That's where he was first observed by the trooper waiting in the crossover.
 - O. Was at 77?
 - A. 77 milepost.
- Q. Do you know where he was actually pulled over at?
- 25 A. 74, 75.

- Q. But you don't know where he was pulled over at for sure?
- A. I would assume it was 75 because that's where I did the DOT inspection.
- Q. Where does it say that was the DOT inspection on here?
 - A. Here, here is where I.
 - Q. But I see 77 right there.
- A. Right, that's where he was first observed.
- 11 Q. But do you know where he was actually observed at?
- A. I would assume 75, a couple of miles down the street.
 - Q. But you don't know for sure?
 - A. Well, that's where he was sitting when I pulled up, yeah.
 - Q. Okay. And then you indicated that you pulled up after he was already pulled over by another trooper, but you did not see him pull over. You did not see him in the center lane.
 - A. No.
 - Q. He was already stopped when you saw him.
- 24 A. Yes.

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Q. Okay. And you noticed that there were

- no -- no tires in the roadway, correct?
- 2 Α. Yes.

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- How long were you on the road for? Q.
- Α. From the 118. 4
 - From mile marker 118? Q.
 - A. About 45.
 - Q. About 45 miles. What time of day was that?
- The sun was coming up. The sun comes up Α. 10 about 6 o'clock in the morning in the summer so, yes, 11 the sun was up.
- 12 Q. The sun was up? Because it says 5:45 13 a.m.
- That's when he was first observed by the 14 Α. 15 trooper.
 - First pulled over. Q.
- 17 Α. Yes.
- 18 Q. What time do you think you arrived?
- 19 I left the post at 6. I probably got Α. 20 there 6:35, 6:40.
- ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Okay. Those 2.1 22 are all the questions I have. Thank you.
- THE WITNESS: Well, I would like -- can I 23 24 make a comment? When I handed him his inspection, I 25 never said "I'll see you in Columbus." I don't talk

60 that way to my drivers, and he made that comment. I 1 2 didn't say that. 3 MR. BABKKIR: I swear to God. 4 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: We are not 5 going to -- we'll note -- we'll note the disagreement for the record. 6 7 MR. BABKKIR: That's not a big issue. THE WITNESS: All right. 8 9 MR. BABKKIR: Can I ask him questions? 10 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: No, but you can come up and testify, if you want to. 11 12 MR. BABKKIR: Okay. All right. 13 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Just to remind 14 you you are under oath. 15 MR. BABKKIR: Yes, sir. 16 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: You can have a 17 seat. 18 ESSAM E. BABKKIR 19 20 being previously duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified further as follows: 2.1 22 FURTHER DIRECT EXAMINATION 23 THE WITNESS: Well, I mean no disrespect 24 to Officer Kiser, I really respect your job, you 25 know.

TROOPER KISNER: Thank you.

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THE WITNESS: That's why I myself before I immigrated to the United States in 2001, I used to be a trooper myself. I was a detective/police officer in Cairo, and I just want to show this for the record, sir.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you. Would you like that as an exhibit?

THE WITNESS: No, no.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: I will just let the record represent you are showing an identification.

know, I do have a lot of respect for police officer.

So I respect your job, you know. And I just, you know, with all due respect about the tire shredded, you say you drive from mile marker 118 and you didn't observe any shredded tire or rubber on the road, right? So if you said that tire was shredded like maybe 30, 20 miles before I pull over, how did you -- how didn't you see any rubber on the road?

TROOPER KISNER: Because it probably -ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Sir, he is
testifying right now, please.

TROOPER KISNER: I thought he was asking

me a question.

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ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: But you can't answer the question. Please let him testify.

THE WITNESS: Okay. This is my point, you know. So if he drove like 45 miles just to get to my location where I was pulled over, how he didn't see any -- any rubber, you know? I mean and the tire, you know, when it blow, you know, I mean, it doesn't -- it doesn't take that much for the outside, you know, layer of the tire to shred, you know. And I see it all the time, you know. When tire blow, you know, you see it all the rubber come apart, you know. And that what remain the fiber of the tire. I don't agree with him that tire was driven for 40 miles or I drove it for -- just because I -- I was there and I saw what happened. I drove for like a mile or 2. That's the first thing.

The second thing I don't know about the hazards of the chain, I mean, like a rule or the code, federal regulation about the chain, you know. If everything is mounted secure, what's the problem? That's my point. If I put the chain and this chain was secure, mounted and secured, probably is not a safety issue so what the point? I mean, where is the violation? I need like a law that state that, you

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know, from the book.
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No. 3, you know, Exhibit No. -- I believe from the steps, you know, the frame -- I don't know -- I didn't bring it back.

5 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Is it C,

Exhibit 2C?

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THE WITNESS: Yeah, the side of the tractor, he said there is no steps of the driver.

They are right there that I step on to get to my truck. So I don't have any problem with getting off or in my tractor, you know.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Could you identify the bar just for the record?

THE WITNESS: The bar -- the bottom.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Right -- is it right here?

THE WITNESS: Yes, this one here. You see that like --

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: So we are looking about an inch off the bottom of the page right here?

THE WITNESS: Yeah. You see like a -- like, you know, how I get up in the truck, you know.

There is a mark, mark on the bottom. These all I.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Mr. Jones, do

64 you have any questions? 1 2 MR. JONES: Yeah, I just have one or two 3 here. 4 5 FURTHER CROSS-EXAMINATION 6 By Mr. Jones: 7 Mr. Babkkir, look at the Staff Exhibit Q. 2H. Do you see Exhibit 2H, Staff Exhibit 2H? 8 9 I'm sorry. I have to ask you excuse me. Α. 10 I might have taken it by mistake. 2H? Q. 2H, photograph? 11 12 Α. It's not here. 13 Yes, I see it here. Do you see the picture? 14 Ο. Yes, sir. 15 Α. 16 Oh, sorry. Do you see that chain binder Q. 17 there that's displayed? It looks like it is about an 18 inch off the pavement? 19 Well, because the picture, how you take 20 the picture, you know, from up. Okay. It's pretty close to the pavement, 2.1 Ο. 22 right? It's got clearance, you know. 23 Α.

Barely, right?

Yes, yeah.

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Α.

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- Q. Barely, right? Yeah. Okay.
- A. Got clearance.

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- Q. That could catch, right? That could catch the pavement, you hit a bump or something that could catch and flip that chain right off there; would you agree with that?
 - A. There is no damage on the bottom.
- Q. I'm saying that there's a good chance if you would hit a bump, that could catch, right? Would you agree with that?
 - A. I don't think so.
- Q. You don't think that could catch if you hit a bump?
 - A. No.
 - Q. No?
 - A. I was above that, you know.
- Q. That's all right. I don't have a question pending yet. Hold on. Now, are you aware, Mr. Babkkir, that the Federal Motor Regulations say you can't operate with a cracked axle? Are you familiar with Section 393 dash -- or point 207A where it says axles, no axle positioning parts shall be cracked, broken, loose, or missing? All axles must be in proper alignment. Were you aware of that?
 - A. I'm aware, yeah, but broken axle

happened, you know.

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- Q. That's why you had the chain on there, right, because you had a cracked axle?
- A. No. The chain -- when I had this crack in the axle, I took it, and they welded it so there is not any crack. I put the chain as a precaution, safety, you know. But when we get to this point here, you know, the axle broke again. I went -- tire blown out.
- Q. The reason why the chain is there is because it is a loose axle.
- A. No, the chain just if it happen, you know. What I expected to happen, you know, the axle broke again, the weld come apart, you know. And, you know, that's what happened, you know. I mean, it blew the tire and I pulled over, you know, to the side of the road.
- Q. It had been broke -- you had been driving with it broken.
 - A. No, I didn't drive with broken axle.
 - Q. Huh?
- A. I didn't drove with a broken axle, I did not. I wasn't driving with a broken axle. I am not going to drive with axle like this, you know what I mean, I can't drive. I cared for my life, you know,

I mean.

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- Q. Yeah. Exhibit 2J, that displays the axle is broken. You agree that that shows the axle is broken, right?
 - A. Yeah. This one here?
 - O. Yeah.
- A. Yep. This is -- this axle was welded when I start driving out of Virginia. This axle was welded to the part -- you can't see it from here but the other side, you know, kind of come like circle and that welded to it, you know.
 - Q. Right.
- A. So I welded it. When I drove the trailer, you know, it was welded. And I just put the axle -- I put the chain just like, you know.
- Q. You put the chain on the day before, right?
- A. The same day when they welded, I put the chain, the same moment.
 - Q. Right. But it --
- A. Safety precaution, you know, just to make sure, you know.
- Q. But at some point in your trip it was broke. It was broke -- it broke. As you were sitting there, it was broke.

- Α. Broke like I said. It broke; I took it to the shop, repair. I mean, you know, all the time, you know, you have a breakdown. You repair it, you know.
 - Q. Okay.
- I took it to the shop. They weld it. I put a chain, you know, just to make sure, you know, doesn't come apart if it broke again. What happened it broke again. I stopped.
 - Q. Right.
- The trailer out of service for good. 11 Α. 12 MR. JONES: I have no further questions, 13 your Honor.
 - ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you. I don't believe I have any more questions. Thank you.

MR. BABKKIR: Thank you, sir.

- 17 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: At this
- point --18

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- 19 MR. BABKKIR: Do you need these?
- 20 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: You can leave 2.1 it, whatever is easier.
- 22 At this point we'll transition into Case No. 12-3162. Mr. Jones, I will allow you to proceed.
- 24 MR. JONES: Thank you, your Honor. Staff
- 25 would call Officer Lambert to the stand.

69 (Witness sworn.) 1 2 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you. 3 4 OFFICER MARK LAMBERT 5 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified as follows: 6 7 DIRECT EXAMINATION By Mr. Jones: 8 9 Could you please state your name for the 10 record. Mark Lambert. 11 Α. 12 Q. Where are you employed? State of Ohio Public Safety, Ohio State 13 Α. Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Enforcement Unit. 14 Okay. And what's your job title and 15 Q. 16 responsibilities? 17 Α. Motor carrier enforcement, to inspect commercial motor vehicles, buses. 18 Okay. And what is your job training? 19 Q. 20 Completed North American Standard Level Α. 2.1 I, North American Standard Cargo Tank, North American 22 Standard Motor Coaches, North American Standard Hazardous Material Courses. 23 24 And do you have continuing training? Ο.

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Α.

Yes.

- Q. How many years have you been on the job?
- 2 A. 30 years.

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- Q. 30 years?
 - A. (Witness nods head.)
 - Q. And you've been trained to enforce the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations; is that correct?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. And how many inspections have you done over your career generally?
 - A. I don't know, 30,000.
- Q. Okay. And what's the scope of your jurisdiction?
 - A. Anything that falls under the PUCO rules or the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Rules.
 - Q. Do you have statewide jurisdiction?
- 17 A. Yes.
 - Q. And what equipment is issued to you?
- A. Patrol car, computer, creepers, wheel chalks, tape measures, tire gauges.
 - Q. And I forgot to ask you, what certifications do you have? Do you have a certification for your job?
 - A. Yes, we do.
 - Q. What's that?

- A. I just have to have 32 level Is a year, I have to have 8 cargo tanks, 8 hazardous materials, 8 buses.
 - Q. Do you have all those?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. And do you have to generate a report as a result of doing an inspection, a roadside inspection?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And I want to direct your attention there to Staff Exhibit 3 that's before you. I think it's there. And would you identify that report, please.
- A. That's Exhibit 1. That's the inspection report I did on September 10, 2012.
- Q. Okay. And how did this inspection come about?
- A. I was sitting in the crossover facing westbound on State Route 2, and the vehicle drove by me with the paper plate on the trailer. I got in behind it. The plate was expired. I made a traffic stop and pulled him in the rest area of State Route 2 and did an inspection.
- Q. Okay. So you conducted a stop of
 Mr. Babkkir's vehicle on September 10, 2012, as a

result of a -- what, an obvious violation, the tag expiration?

A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. And what did you do once you stopped this vehicle?
- A. I asked for, you know, registration, driver's license, medical certificate, bill of ladling if he was loaded, and then did a level I inspection.
- Q. Level I inspection, that's a full inspection?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And there is a report number on your report on Staff Exhibit 3. Where did that number come from?
 - A. That's the Aspen inspection number.
 - Q. Your computer generates that number?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And so the information you have there, you have the identification of the carrier information, the driver information; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And could you identify who you stopped for this inspection as far as the driver information?
 - A. The carrier was Edirgawi Transport. The

driver was Mr. Babkkir.

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- Q. Okay. And how did you verify the identification of the driver? What sources of information did you get from him?
- A. His driver's license, his medical certificate, logbook, his license.
- Q. So you verified the identification of Mr. Babkkir, that was the one before you for the inspection driving that vehicle?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Is he here in the courtroom today?
 - A. Yes, he is.
- Q. And would you please describe him as -- point him out.
 - A. He's right there.

MR. JONES: Your Honor, could the record reflect that the Officer Lambert has identified Mr. Babkkir in this proceeding?

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Yes, the record reflects such.

MR. JONES: Thank you.

- Q. And, Officer Lambert, what did you -- information did you obtain as far as the origin and destination of the trip for this transport?
 - A. From the shipping paper originated in

Solon and was going to Byron Center, Michigan.

- Q. Okay. Cargo?
- A. Refrigerated foods.
- Q. Okay. This was an interstate trip?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. And I see you have vehicle identification information units 1 and 2. What are units 1 and 2?
 - A. Truck, tractor, semi trailer.
- Q. All that information in that block then is information that you got from those two units?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And then you have brake adjustment information there?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. Did you plug in information you obtained from your reading of the brakes?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And as to the left and right axle, there is an area column 5 that's darkened in. Why is it depicted that way?
 - A. When the brakes are out of adjustment, it will show up shaded like that.
- Q. So for column 5 for the right axle, you have a reading there of what?

- A. 2 and 1/8 inches.
- Q. And what does that mean?
- A. The maximum stroke is 2 inch so he's -- 5 right is 1/8 inch out of adjustment.
 - Q. Okay. And so you measured that?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And how about the left axle?
- A. Left is C-30, 2 inch allowed, he had a 2 and 1/4 inch movement.
- Q. And that was how far out of alignment there?
 - A. A quarter inch out.
 - Q. A quarter inch. Now, then the violation area of your report you have some violations noted there. So you have a violation noted for the -- for the clamp or roto type brake out-of-adjustment; is that right?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. And you have another violation noted for the tires that they were -- there were defects with the tires; is that correct?
 - A. Yes. He had a bulge in the sidewall.
- Q. Okay. And so you note the violation of the code section in the left-hand column; is that correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And then when you follow it across, you then describe how that's a violation; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Would you read the descriptions for the violations of the -- of the tire and the brakes.
- A. Okay. 393.47E, unit 2, out of service no, verify no. He wasn't out of service. It wasn't a crash. Clamp or roto brake type 5 right 1/8 out.

Under that is 393.53B, unit 2, it's not out of service, CMV manufactured after 10-19-94 has an automatic airbrake adjustment system that fails to compensate for wear.

And the next one, 393.47E, unit 2, out of service no, clamp or roto type brake out-of-adjustment 5 left 1/4 out.

393.11, defective lighting devices, license lamp amber not white as required. License plate lights are required to be white.

And 393.3AlT tires (general) 4 left out bulge in sidewall.

Q. Okay. Can you describe the tire defect, the tire that you say there is a bulge in the sidewall? And this was in more than one tire?

A. No, just one.

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- Q. One tire, and what tire?
- A. 4 left out.
- Q. 4 left out. So that tire had a bulge in the sidewall, okay.
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. What's the danger there?
- A. Well, it separates, you know, obviously there is belt problems. It's going to explode on him, but you're allowed if it's repaired 3/8s inch in height. Usually if it's under 3/8s of an inch and it's not separated, I'll just write it as violation set out of service.
- Q. But you observed that it was separated out 3/8ths of an inch?
- A. No, it wasn't separated. It was just a bulge in the sidewall which I showed to him.
- Q. Okay, okay. And so in your opinion that was close to being a tire that could -- that could blow then, right?
- A. Yes. If it -- if it would have -- that bulge would have split, it would have been out of service. He had to fix it right on the spot.
- Q. I see. Okay, okay. All right. Let's see, what else? Then your report, Staff Exhibit No.

3 here, this is a report then that you had prepared at the scene after you conducted your inspection?

A. Correct.

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- Q. And you had to input all this information there at the scene as to what you obtained from the driver and the truck in your inspection?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And you served a copy of this on Mr. Babkkir at the time?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And the one you served on him, it was signed by you and him?
 - A. No. He wouldn't sign the report.
- Q. He wouldn't sign the report. And this one, Staff Exhibit 3, this is not -- is not a signed copy. This is a copy of what you served him that day?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. It's an accurate representation of what all the information you gathered from your inspection?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And is this a record kept in the ordinary course of business in that you have to generate these reports as part of your duties, and you have to keep

these reports; is that correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. And so that -- was the tire corrected at the scene?
 - A. No.
- Q. No. And then after you had served

 Mr. Babkkir with a copy of the inspection report, did

 you send a copy of the report anywhere else?
- A. Yes. I uploaded it to Saver and SafetyNet.
- Q. So you sent an electronic copy to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Did you do that the same day?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. So it's your opinion then that the violations that you had noted in and recorded in your inspection report on September 10, 2012, it's your opinion that from what you observed these are violations of the Federal Motor Carrier Regulations as it concerns the brakes, the tires, and the other things you have noted here; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- MR. JONES: I have no further questions, your Honor.

1 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you.
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EXAMINATION

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By Attorney Examiner Tauber:

- Q. I just have a few questions for you.

 Just to flush out the record a little bit more, could you just describe in a little bit more detail the inspection process when he was stopped.
- A. Well, how I do it I get his driver's license, his registration, his bills. I'll run his driver's license first to make sure he is not wanted.
 - Q. What caused the stop first?
 - A. Expired trailer tag.
- Q. So you noticed the expired plate, and then you pulled him over?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. And then go on.
- 18 A. I got his bills, ran them, his license.
- There is no warrants. His license was valid, and I conducted a level I inspection.
- Q. And then I get -- turning to the
 violations, the first clamp or roto type, you said it
 was 1/8 out?
- A. Correct.
- Q. What does that mean?

- A. Maximum travel allowed on the clamp 30 is 2 inches so the right one, 5 right, travel 2 and 1/8, that was an 1/8 of an inch out; 5 left travel 2 and 1/4 inch and that was a 1/4 inch out.
 - Q. Where does it say 2 and 1/2 inch?
 - A. The highlighted.
- Q. The highlighted part up there, the adjustment?
 - A. Yeah.

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- Q. So anything more than an 1/8 is not permissible?
- A. No. Anything -- well, depends on the chamber size but on that particular axle anything over 2 inches is out of adjustment.
- Q. Okay. And then turning to the next violation, 393.53, the automatic air brakes, could you provide me with a little bit more detail on that, please?
- A. That basically just comes up. It's automatic slack adjustors. It was pretty much just comes up on the violation.
- Q. And you noticed that with your inspection?
- A. No. Once you hit that it's out of adjustment. It's auto slack. It will almost come up

automatically.

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- Q. What do you mean it came up automatically?
 - A. He's required to have automatic slacks. When you hit brake out-of-adjustment, a box will pop up.
 - Q. So you can tell instantaneously when you check them, they will pop out?
 - A. Yeah.
 - Q. Okay. And then I guess turning to the next one, clamp or roto type brake out-of-adjustment, is that similar?
 - A. Yeah. That's just each brake will pop up like that.
 - Q. And then the next one, the defective lighting device, the license lamp was amber and not white as required.
 - A. Right.
 - Q. How did you observe that?
 - A. Driver told me.
- Q. And so did you actually see the lamp was amber?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And then finally the bulge in the sidewall, you said that your -- it was not corrected

at the scene, and it did not need to be corrected at the scene?

- A. No. There was no out of service violations.
- Q. And so he was able to drive with the bulge in the sidewall?
 - A. Correct.

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ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Okay. All right. I have no further questions for you. Thank you. You may be excused.

Mr. Babkkir, come on up.

MR. BABKKIR: Yes, sir.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: You are just reminded you are under oath.

MR. BABKKIR: Right.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Have a seat.

- - -

ESSAM E. BABKKIR

being previously duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified further as follows:

FURTHER DIRECT EXAMINATION

THE WITNESS: On September 10, I was driving on the highway to -- just to remind you guys before the last incident was a trailer, you know. I took it out of service for good, and I bought the

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     other trailer, Exhibit 1. Before I drove the
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     trailer, I took that trailer, the new trailer, to the
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     shop. It's called Royal -- Royal Truck and Trailer
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     Repair in Dearborn, Michigan. I took the trailer to
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     the shop. That was on August 22. So it's like maybe
     16 days before -- 17 days before the inspection.
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     took it to the shop, and I paid $650, Exhibit 3.
                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you.
8
     We'll mark this as Exhibit 3. This is the Royal
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10
     Truck and Trailer Sales and Service.
                  (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
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                  THE WITNESS: The shop did a full DOT
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     inspection. The shop at Dearborn, Michigan, they
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     inspected the trailer, everything, tires, brakes,
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     lights, everything. And they gave me a DOT
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     inspection report.
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                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: We'll mark the
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     inspection report as Exhibit 4.
                  (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
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                  THE WITNESS: Yep, dated August 22.
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                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: You can
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     continue.
                  THE WITNESS: So to comply with that
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     safety regulation, the Federal Safety Regulation,
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     like I said, you know, that trailer took it out of
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service. I bought the new trailer.
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ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: So this reflects the new trailer.

THE WITNESS: Yeah. This is new trailer. It's a different license, different everything, different number. And that trailer was -- the broken trailer, the axle broke, whatever, is 2000. This one is 2005.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: 2004?

THE WITNESS: 2005, yeah.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: I think it

says 2004.

2.1

THE WITNESS: Yeah. They put wrong year.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Go ahead.

THE WITNESS: 2005 Utility, different kind of trailer, you know, the make and model are different. So I bought the trailer. It's very good. Nothing wrong with it. But to comply more with the safety, you know, I have to have an inspection for the trailer. I took it to the shop like I said in Dearborn, and they did full DOT inspection. And I paid \$650 just to comply with the safety rule. I drove it like a week. I went northeast, I believe

Officer -- sorry, I cannot recall the name but anyway

New York, and then when I came back, I encounter

the officer. Like I said, you know, that trailer was a new trailer, you know, so when I bought it from the dealer in Dearborn, you know, they put a temporary plate, temporary tag, and everybody know that and when you buy a trailer, you know, the trailer not the like -- you know, you pay like every year for the truck to have -- renew the plate, but the trailer is not expired.

2.1

I told the officer this is my own trailer, you know. It's on my own company name. I own the company. I own the trailer, you know, and I bought the trailer just a couple -- a couple weeks or less than a couple weeks ago.

I can't wait, you know, for the State of Michigan to complete the plate and send it to me, two weeks to wait at home. I have to make some money so I have to go and they put this temporary plate so I can roll with the trailer.

I was heading home. I was maybe 50 or 70 miles away from home when he pulled me over. This is a temporary. It's a dealer tag. But this trailer doesn't have any expiring plates. Right now, my wife called me. She said she got the license. They send it in the mail. So, I mean, that's, you know, how it goes. There is no harm. This trailer belongs to me,

not expired. This is temporary plate, you know.

Anyway he proceeded to inspect the tractor and the trailer. I told him, you know, I have full DOT inspection on the trailer. I took it to the shop before I drive it, you know. I don't have any problem with the trailer and no problem with the brakes, no problem with the slack adjustor, nothing wrong, no problems with the tire. They pass DOT inspection. I took it to the people who are mechanic, who, you know, deal with the trailer inspection so that's all I want to.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you. And then I'll make copies of these two. Allow Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Thank you.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Do you have any questions?

MR. JONES: Yes, I do. Oh, that's Exhibit 3 and this is Exhibit 4, okay.

- - -

FURTHER CROSS-EXAMINATION

By Mr. Jones:

2.1

- Q. On Exhibit 4 here there is nothing on here as to the brake adjustment; is that correct?
 - A. Yeah, nothing wrong.

Q. No brake measurement taken.

2.1

- A. No. When you take it to the --
- Q. I am just saying on this report there is no -- nothing as to a brake measurement being conducted.
- A. No. There is a check on the brake, you know, nothing wrong with the brake. The brake includes the brake drum, the brake shoes, the brake adjustment, everything, full DOT inspection. I paid \$650 for that.
- Q. My question there is no measurements taken in the block of information where it says brake system. That's where all the information is.
- A. They do the measuring, but they didn't put it in the report.
- Q. There is nothing here in the report as to a brake measurement.
 - A. Well, when they do the DOT inspection --
- Q. My question is there is no brake measurement in this block of information for the brake system, correct, on this Exhibit 4? There's nothing there, right? Would you agree with that?
 - A. But there is brake.
- Q. I understand there is a brake information but there is no brake measurement taken.

- A. But, like I said, when you say brake, you know, you check the brake. That means including the brake adjustment.
 - O. There was no brake measurement though.
 - A. Yeah. It's included, brake measurement.
 - Q. All right.

2.1

- A. I don't know how to explain this but that's how they do it. This is DOT form, you know. I mean, this form, you know, it's DOT form.
- Q. Let's see, this is -- this is taken on August 22.
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. You were stopped on September 10.
 - A. Yeah.
- Q. And this is for a -- for a trailer you say?
 - A. Yes, trailer 79223.
 - Q. Sir, on the Exhibit 4 there the lighting devices, they checked your lighting devices okay too but there was an amber light that you had instead of a white light; isn't that correct? They didn't catch this on this report either.
- A. They said the light -- I mean, it looked yellow or amber, but when it bright, it was white. I don't know.

Q. Okay.

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- A. That's what they said.
- Q. All right. I see here that the fleet unit number here that was inspected on August 22 in your Exhibit No. 4 here, it's fleet unit No. 79232, and the unit that was inspected for the trailer in the inspection of September 10, 2012, Staff Exhibit 3, is unit 79223. Those numbers don't match.
 - A. 79223, yeah.
- Q. They don't match between your exhibit and our exhibit.
 - A. Honest mistake here in this report.
- Q. I'm just saying they don't match. You agree with that, right? What I just said, the unit number in your exhibit and unit number in our exhibit don't match.
 - A. Yeah.
 - Q. Yes or no. Yes?
- 19 A. Yes, yes, correct, but honest mistake.
- MR. JONES: Yeah. No other questions,
- 21 your Honor.

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23 FURTHER EXAMINATION

- 24 By Attorney Examiner Tauber:
- 25 Q. I have a few questions for you,

Mr. Babkkir.

2.1

- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. First of all, the license application you said you had a temporary plate on the trailer, correct?
 - A. Yes, from the dealer.
- Q. From the dealer. So then I want to clarify do you dispute it was expired? There is no expiration date? I am not clear with that.
- A. Well, like I said, you know, the license, the dealer gave me a temporary license, you know, until I get my permanent license. And the license I get, you know, from the Secretary of State is not expired.
- Q. Right, but you didn't have a license from the Secretary of State.
- A. Yeah, because, like I said, I bought the trailer just two weeks so instead of sitting at home, you know, two weeks just to wait for the plate to come in the mail, you know --
- Q. So the license -- they essentially crossed paths. You were on the road, and you said you had the actual plate at home.
- A. Yeah, came the day before. Like

 September 8, you know, my wife called me. She said

the license came in the mail, you know, so I told her two days I will be there so I was heading home, you know.

Q. Okay.

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- A. Going to Michigan, you know.
- Q. So then the second violation, the clamp or roto type, you dispute that with the inspection report, correct?
- A. Yeah, because I don't see any problem with it.
- Q. But do you think these adjustments here are correct then, these right here?
 - A. Where?
- Q. It's right in the middle. It says brake adjustment.
- A. CMV manufactured after 10-19-94 had automatic brake -- airbrake adjustment system.
 - Q. Yeah.
 - A. This one?
 - Q. Yeah.
- A. Yeah, because, like I said, I took the trailer to the shop, you know, and they did do an inspection, you know, and I paid them \$650 just to do that.
 - Q. And then the same with the clamp and roto

type out-of-adjustment too, the next one down?

A. Yep.

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- Q. That's just --
- A. I am disputing all this, yeah.
- Q. And what about the license lamp amber?
- A. Well, like I said, you know, I went back to them and I said you don't need to be white. Said this light here, you know, when it lights, you know, it become white, you know. I don't know.
- Q. Was it amber too? Was it like a whitish amber?
 - A. Yeah. I dispute it was amber, yeah.
- Q. Then the tire bulge, did you notice a bulge in the tire?
 - A. No, I did not.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. I did not.
- 18 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: All right. I
 19 have no further questions. Thank you. You may be
 20 excused.
- MR. BABKKIR: Okay. Thank you, sir.
- 22 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Let's go off 23 the record real quick.
- 24 (Discussion off the record.)
- 25 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Let's go back

on the record.

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2 Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Yes, your Honor. I would like to call Tom Forbes to the stand.

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TOM FORBES

being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

By Mr. Jones:

- Q. Would you please state your name for the record, please.
 - A. Tom Forbes, F-O-R-B-E-S.
 - Q. And where are you employed?
- A. Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180

 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.
 - Q. And what is your job title and responsibilities?
 - A. Compliance officer, I review inspections and compliance reviews for forfeitures. I enter fine amounts into the computer, conduct settlement conferences with Respondents, answer technical questions, conduct inspections to keep my certifications current. I attend in-service training and teach at in-service training.

- Q. And how long have you been in that position?
 - A. Eight years.
- Q. And did you have a chance to review Staff Exhibits 1 and 3 in this case, the inspection reports involved in this case?
 - A. Yes.

2.1

- Q. Okay. And did you also check for these cases for those inspection reports, the letters of Notice of Preliminary Determination that were sent out for each one of these inspections to -- to Respondent here, Mr. Babkkir?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. And I want you to look at Staff Exhibit 4. Would you identify that for the record, please.
- A. I don't believe Staff Exhibit 4 is up here. Yes, sir. Staff Exhibit 4 is a Notice of Preliminary Determination that was sent to Mr. Babkkir subsequent to his telephone conference on Inspection No. OH1191008329C.
- Q. And that coincides with the Staff Exhibit 1 for the report number?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Okay. And what are the code violations

that are noted for that notice?

2.1

- A. The two violations that are noted are 393.207A, axle positioning parts, and 393.75A, flat tire.
- Q. And what is the amount of the forfeiture that the staff assessed for those violations?
 - A. The proposed forfeiture was zero.
 - Q. And can you explain why or?
- A. Yes. In situations where a traffic citation is issued in the local courts, the PUCO does not then send another forfeiture to the Respondent.
 - Q. Okay. And that was done in this case?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. As far as the citation into the other court system?
- A. Yes. According to the inspection report under citation number, each violation listed including the two on our sheet had a citation number listed and that causes our system to erase the fine.
- Q. Okay, okay. So for Staff Exhibit 4 then it's staff's recommendation to the Commission not to assess any forfeiture as a result of the fact this has been cited into the court for a similar citation.
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Okay. Would you also identify Staff

Exhibit 5 that's before you.

2.1

- A. Yes, sir. Staff Exhibit 5 is made out to the same Respondent from Case No. OH3296013037C, and it was sent after a telephone conference. It's a Notice of Preliminary Determination.
 - Q. And the C that's in that case number, what's that stand for?
 - A. Carrier.
 - Q. Carrier. Is that the same for Staff Exhibit 4?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Okay. So these are carrier violations; is that correct?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Okay. And what are the code violations for Staff Exhibit 5?
 - A. The two violations listed are 393.47E which was a brake out-of-adjustment and 396.3A1T which is tires, a bulge in the sidewall.
 - Q. Okay. So although that Staff Exhibit 1 and Staff Exhibit 3 contained additional citations in the staff -- in those staff reports, the letters that went out here to the Respondent, Mr. Babkkir, the staff had focused on certain violations that are indicated in Staff Exhibits 4 and 5; is that correct?

- A. Yes. If those violations would have been out of service, then Staff Exhibit 5, they would have potentially received a forfeiture, and on the brake adjustment staff only issues a violation one time for the exact same code cite. We only issue a forfeiture one time so even though there were two brakes out-of-adjustment it only shows up once because it's the exact same code cite on the exact same unit.
- Q. Okay. And that's the reason why you have a zero for Exhibit 5?
- A. Yes. Neither one of these violations were out of service and that resulted in a zero forfeiture.
- Q. Okay. And that's the staff's recommendation to the Commission in this case for both -- both inspections?
 - A. Yes, sir.

2.1

- Q. Okay. And are these Exhibits 4 and 5, these are records kept in the ordinary course of business with the Commission?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- MR. JONES: Okay. I have no further questions, your Honor.
- 24 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you.

EXAMINATION

By Attorney Examiner:

- Q. Mr. Forbes, just clarify real quickly, with Staff Exhibit 4 there were only two of the six violations there and I think we started to discuss but it but why were there only two of the six violations in the Notice of Preliminary

 Determination?
- A. Had those been had a citation not been issued in this case, those are the two violations that the Commission would have went after a forfeiture in because those two violations were out of service. And based on our assessment matrix of what group these violations is in, only out of service violations of that type receive forfeitures.
- Q. And so the other violations like the mudflap missing, that wouldn't be --
- A. That would just be defects and they would not receive a forfeiture.
- 20 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: All right.
- 21 Thank you. You may be excused.
- Mr. Babkkir, would you like to testify on the forfeiture?
- MR. BABKKIR: Yes.
- 25 | - -

ESSAM E. BABKKIR

being previously duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified further as follows:

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DIRECT EXAMINATION

THE WITNESS: Well, in Exhibit No. 4, the two violations, like I said, I'm contesting them, you know. And the zero, you know, it's not about monetary issue. All I can say about the safety rating on my Federal Motor Carrier Safety Score TSA and that's -- you know, harm you a lot, you know. I mean, broker, you know, when you have -- want to book a load, you know, you go to the website and call the broker for the load, you know, and then he will -- I check his credit. He check my safety, you know. he check my safety, see, oh, man, got a lot of problem, you know, so my income, you know, or my work, you know, is going to be a lot. This is the point. So I'm coming here not because of the monetary issue, you know. I'm coming for the violation to be on my record and harm me, you know, in my safety. So that's what I want to clarify.

You know, so when I call here, I talked to an officer here at Public Utility and I told him I am contesting these violations and I want it to be deleted from my safety record.

1 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: So just to 2 clarify you're contesting the violations, but you're 3 not contesting the zero dollar forfeiture? 4 THE WITNESS: No. It's zero. I 5 appreciate he didn't give me any monetary. I 6 appreciate that, you know. But, I mean, I'm not 7 contesting the money issue. I'm contesting the violation itself, you know, because it's -- I am 8 9 disputing it because they are not right, you know, 10 and they're not -- shouldn't be in the first place. ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: 11 Thank you. 12 Mr. Jones, do you have any questions? 13 MR. JONES: No, your Honor. 14 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you. 15 You may be excused. Let's go off the record. 16 (Discussion off the record.) 17 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: So we'll go 18 back on the record. Mr. Jones. 19 20 MR. JONES: Yes, your Honor. Staff would 2.1 like to move for the admission of Staff Exhibits 1, 22 2A 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 2I, 2J, 2K, 2L, 2M, 23 2N, 2O, and Staff Exhibit 3, Staff Exhibit 4, and 24 Staff Exhibit 5. 25 ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: All right.

Staff Exhibits 1 and then 2 -- Exhibits 2A through 20, Staff Exhibits 3, 4, and 5 shall be admitted into the record.

(EXHIBITS ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Mr. Babkkir, would you like to move for admission of your Exhibits 1, 2, 3and?

MR. BABKKIR: Yep.

2.1

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Are there any objections to the Exhibits 1, 2, 3, and 4?

MR. BABKKIR: No.

MR. JONES: Your Honor, I would just say that these exhibits I think I -- have you got some? Is it four exhibits?

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Correct.

MR. JONES: Your Honor, I just have to object to all four of them that they are not relevant to the date of inspection. They are all different dates. They are either weeks before the inspection or, let's see here, I don't believe they are on the dates that the inspections occurred here maybe with the exception of one here, Exhibit -- I don't know what exhibit that is. That is from the Madison Motor something.

But, still, these are not -- these are

not relevant to the timeframe of the inspection.

They are things that occurred post-inspection. They are things that occurred preinspection. But nothing relevant to the time of the inspection that the condition that the inspector's found these vehicles in when they were doing the inspection so I would say that, you know, they offer no weight to the Bench for deciding the violation of the regulations that the staff is seeking the Commission to find violations on.

2.1

And these are mostly -- well, he has nothing but repair bills which, you know, like I said, they are either weeks before or following the inspection. They are not relevant to the inspection itself.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Mr. Babkkir, would you like to respond?

MR. BABKKIR: Well, a couple weeks before the inspection and the DOT requirement you have to have inspection, annual inspection, so for the whole 12 months and what coincidence, you know, I bought the trailer just a couple weeks, you know, had the inspection, and I took it to the inspection just two weeks prior, you know.

So, I mean, these defective, you know,

out of the violation noted would not happen in just two weeks, no way. That's why the DOT requirement is just one year. You have to have an inspection for the whole 12 months. You have to have only one yearly inspection, the one I have in Exhibit 1. So, I mean, it's relevant. It is very relevant to the —to the inspection.

2.1

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you.

MR. BABKKIR: I can't inspect the trailer every day. I take it to the trailer shop and do full inspection, pay money, and then drive it. You can't do that.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Thank you. At this time the Bench is going to overrule the objections, and we are going to admit Exhibits 1, 2, 3, and 4 into the record. It will be helpful in clarifying the record, and the Commission will provide the appropriate weight for these exhibits so they shall be admitted.

(EXHIBITS ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Anything else to come us before this afternoon?

MR. JONES: No, your Honor.

MR. BABKKIR: No.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER TAUBER: Seeing none we

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      are adjourned. Thank you.
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                  (Thereupon, the hearing was concluded at
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      12:49 p.m.)
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                            CERTIFICATE
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                  I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
      a true and correct transcript of the proceedings
 7
      taken by me in this matter on Tuesday, February 5,
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      2013, and carefully compared with my original
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                            Karen Sue Gibson, Registered
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                            Merit Reporter.
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Case No(s). 12-3161-TR-CVF, 12-3162-TR-CVF

Summary: Transcript in the matter of Edirgawai Transport, Inc. hearing held on 02/05/13 electronically filed by Mrs. Jennifer Duffer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Gibson, Karen Sue Mrs.