BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Matter of : Gary Johansen Notice : Case No. of Apparent Violation : 17-1158-TR-CVF and Intent to Assess : Forfeiture. :

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PROCEEDINGS

Before Kerry Sheets, Attorney Examiner, held at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Hearing Room 11-C, Columbus, Ohio, on Tuesday, July 18, 2017, at 10:00 A.M.

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Armstrong & Okey, Inc. 222 East Town Street, 2nd Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215 (614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481

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1	APPEARANCES:	
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З	Mr. Werner L. Margard, III Assistant Attorney General 30 East Broad Street, 16th Floor	
4	Columbus, Ohio 43215	
5	On behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission	
6	of Ohio.	
7		
8	Mr. Gary Johansen 7814 Snow Road	
9	Parma, Ohio 44129	
10	Appearing Pro se.	
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5 1 Tuesday Morning, 2 July 18, 2017. 3 4 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has set for hearing 5 6 at this time and place Case No. 17-1158-TR-CVF 7 In the Matter of Gary Johansen. 8 My name is Kerry Sheets, I am an 9 Attorney Examiner for the Commission, I have 10 been assigned to hear this case. 11 May I now have the appearances of 12 the parties, please, starting with Staff. 13 MR. MARGARD: Thank you, your Honor. 14 On behalf of the Transportation Staff of the 15 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Mike DeWine, Ohio Attorney General; William Wright, 16 17 Section Chief Public Utilities section, by 18 Assistant Attorney General Werner L. Margard, 30 19 East Broad Street, 16th Floor, Columbus, Ohio. 20 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Now 21 the Respondent. Go ahead and give your name, 2.2 address. 23 MR. JOHANSEN: My name is Gary 24 Johansen, and I live at 7814 Snow Road, Parma, 25 Ohio 44129.

6 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Now, 1 2 do we have any preliminary matters to take care of today? 3 MR. MARGARD: We don't, your Honor. 4 5 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Do you have 6 witnesses to call? MR. MARGARD: I do. Thank you, your 7 Honor. I would like to begin by calling Motor 8 Carrier Enforcer Richard Bell. 9 10 (WITNESS SWORN) 11 12 RICHARD BELL 13 called as a witness, being first duly sworn, testified as follows: 14 15 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Be seated, 16 please. 17 DIRECT EXAMINATION 18 By Mr. Margard: 19 Q. And just for the record state your 20 name, please. 21 Α. My name is Richard Bell, Motor 22 Carrier Enforcement with the Ohio State Patrol. 23 Thank you, sir. And what is your Q. 24 business address if you would, please? 25 Α. Business address?

1	Q. Yes, please.
2	A. It's just moved to a new
3	building. I have it written down. Motor
4	Carrier Enforcement, Cleveland District,
5	Cleveland, Ohio. The actual address I don't
6	have on this.
7	Q. That is satisfactory. Thank you,
8	sir. Can you briefly describe what your duties
9	are in your position as Motor Carrier
10	Enforcement?
11	A. My job is to stop commercial
12	vehicles, tractor trailers, straight trucks.
13	Anything that's over 10,000 or more pounds.
14	Check for federal compliance, make sure that the
15	vehicle is properly operational to be operated
16	on the road.
17	For instance, check them for lights,
18	mechanical part of the vehicle. Brakes,
19	steering, stuff like that that complies with the
20	safe operation of the vehicle.
21	ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Speak up with
22	your testimony, sir.
23	A. And also I check, make sure the
24	driver is in compliance with federal rules and
25	regulations, make sure they are licensed to

Proceedings

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1	operate that particular vehicle, and operate it
2	within the jurisdiction of the State of Ohio on
3	intrastate or whatever the case may be, that
4	they are licensed to drive that vehicle and
5	deliver the load that they are carrying.
6	Q. Thank you. How long have you been
7	performing this job?
8	A. Approximately nine years.
9	Q. And do you have any special training
10	to enable you to do this work?
11	A. Yes. I went down to the academy and
12	completed North American Part A, Part B, school
13	bus and hazardous material, tanker, doubles and
14	triples. And that is compliance so they can
15	perform their job.
16	Q. Thank you. Were you on duty on the
17	21st of February of this year?
18	A. Yes, sir.
19	Q. And do you remember what your job
20	assignment was, or what your specific
21	responsibilities were that day?
22	A. Right. I was regular motor carrier
23	enforcement on 77. I worked in Summit County,
24	so I was working the area of 77 and we see
25	trucks come down the highway and we pull them

over to a designated area so I can do a safety 1 2 compliance inspection. 3 In the course of your duties that Ο. day did you have an opportunity to inspect a 4 5 truck that was being driven by the Respondent, 6 Mr. Johansen? 7 Α. Yes, sir. 8 Ο. And as a result of that inspection 9 did you generate a report? Yes, I did, sir. 10 Α. 11 MR. MARGARD: May I approach, your 12 Honor? 13 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: You may. 14 (EXHIBIT HEREBY MARKED FOR 15 IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES) 16 MR. MARGARD: Your Honor, I have 17 marked for purposes of identification as Staff 18 Exhibit No. 1 the Driver/Vehicle Inspection 19 Report dated February 21st, 2017. 20 Ο. Now, Officer Bell, do you have a 21 copy of that report in front of you? 2.2 Yes, I do, sir. Α. 23 Q. And is this a copy of the report 24 that you generated as a result of your 25 inspection?

1	A. Yes.
2	Q. And have you had an opportunity to
3	review this report prior to your testimony
4	today?
5	A. Yes.
6	Q. And does it accurately reflect your
7	observations on that date?
8	A. Correct.
9	Q. And what was our purpose in stopping
10	Mr. Johansen on that date?
11	A. For a safety compliance inspection.
12	I sit in the vehicle facing the U-turn and can
13	observe trucks coming up the highway and I can
14	visually see if their lights work and if I see
15	anything that is an obvious violation I can pull
16	them over and inspect the vehicle and inform
17	the driver that I found something, viewed
18	something that is wrong with the truck.
19	Q. Was there something obvious about
20	this truck on this date, or was this just a
21	random check?
22	A. This was obvious violations. My
23	notes indicate that the driver when he drove
24	by I noticed he didn't have his seat belt on.
25	Q. I see.

		11
1	A. So that was probable cause.	
2	Q. Okay.	
3	A. So I stopped him.	
4	Q. Now, did you have an opportunity to	
5	inspect Mr. Johansen's paperwork and inspect his	
6	load?	
7	A. Yes.	
8	Q. And as a result of that inspection	
9	you noted a couple of different violations?	
10	A. Correct.	
11	Q. The first violation that you have	
12	noted here is failing to wear a seat belt; is	
13	that correct?	
14	A. That's correct, sir.	
15	Q. And can you tell me how you observed	
16	if he was wearing a seat belt?	
17	A. Where I sit in the U-turn, we sit	
18	where you can see trucks coming down the	
19	highway. We have binoculars which I didn't use	
20	at this particular time. I didn't use any.	
21	I observed a driver come down	
22	the highway and I was looking right at the	
23	driver. I could see where he didn't have a seat	
24	belt across. You have a good 500 feet that you	
25	can notice all the drivers. In that split	

12 second you try to look for not just only 1 2 the driver but any other obvious violations you That is the one that stood out. 3 see. Okay. Did you happen to notice if 4 Ο. 5 he was wearing a dark or light colored shirt? Does that make a difference in your 6 7 observations? Sometimes it does, but not 8 Α. 9 necessarily. If you are questioning, me 10 personally, if I question whether or not I see a 11 violation I wouldn't pull him over because I 12 don't want to pull you over then you question my 13 ability to do my job. 14 So it was very obvious to you when Ο. 15 looking into the cab that Mr. Johansen was not 16 wearing a seat belt? 17 Α. That's correct. 18 And by seat belt we are Ο. 19 talking about shoulder harness? 20 Α. Right. 21 Ο. Now, you noted a second observation, 22 a second violation, that he was operating his 23 motor vehicle without proper endorsements. 24 Α. That's correct. 25 Q. Can you explain that violation for

1 us, please? 2 Α. Yes. Under 391.11 (b)(5) is a 3 violation, the driver operating a CMV without proper endorsement or in violation of 4 5 restriction. I put down the "Driver has an 6 7 intrastate restriction, but the items he is hauling are from out of state." 8 9 So he was actually hauling items 10 from another state, so he was actually hauling 11 in continuation or international or interstate 12 move, with restriction of intrastate only. 13 Ο. Just so I am clear, his commercial driver's license, CDL, had a restriction on it? 14 15 Α. Correct. That restricted him to operating 16 Ο. 17 only intrastate. 18 Α. Intrastate. 19 Only operating within the State of Ο. 20 Ohio. 21 That's correct. Α. 22 And it's your testimony today that Q. that also means hauling only goods from within 23 24 Ohio to points within Ohio; is that correct? 25 Α. That's correct. And deliver in

		14
1	Ohio.	
2	Q. That's your understanding of the	
3	regulation and how the regulation operates;	
4	correct?	
5	A. Yes.	
6	Q. And do you know what he was hauling?	
7	A. It was produce because I have a	
8	picture. He was hauling produce.	
9	MR. MARGARD: We do have some	
10	pictures, your Honor. May I approach?	
11	ATTORNEY EXAMINER: You may	
12	MR. MARGARD: Thank you.	
13	(EXHIBIT HEREBY MARKED FOR	
14	IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES)	
15	MR. MARGARD: Your Honor, I have a	
16	multipage document that I have handed to the	
17	witness that I have marked for purposes of	
18	identification Staff Exhibit 1A.	
19	Q. Officer Bell, are these some of the	
20	photographs that you took on that date?	
21	A. That's correct.	
22	Q. And can you just kind of leaf	
23	through those and tell us what these are	
24	pictures of, please?	
25	A. Okay. The top picture is a	

		15
1	registration of the vehicle that he was driving.	
2	Then the next picture is a Dole	
3	banana case with the address, mailing address,	
4	Westlake Village, California which is where the	
5	product came from.	
6	And these are various pictures of	
7	items that was found in the back of the truck	
8	with their mailing address of point of origin,	
9	where they were originated from; Shelby,	
10	Michigan, Nashville, North Carolina.	
11	The rest of the pictures are of the	
12	items that were in the back of his trailer, sir.	
13	Q. One here is Guatemala, South	
14	America. That would be international?	
15	A. Yes.	
16	Q. So the produce that he was hauling	
17	had come from, at least some of it, had come	
18	from outside of the State of Ohio?	
19	A. That's correct.	
20	Q. So its movement within the State of	
21	Ohio required either intrastate endorsement or a	
22	specific interstate endorsement. Is that your	
23	testimony?	
24	A. Right. And you wouldn't have the	
25	restriction of intrastate, have interstate,	

between where you are hauling the products from 1 2 another state into the State of Ohio, continuation of the interstate move. That 3 would be you had the continuation of an 4 5 international move. Okay. Did you have a discussion 6 Ο. 7 with Mr. Johansen about the violation? 8 Α. Yes. Just like I stop everyone, I 9 explain to them what restriction, what 10 violations that they had, and how easy it is to 11 do away with that restriction. 12 Go to the BMV and tell them you 13 don't want the restriction of intrastate because 14 it's not necessary where you drive, it's where 15 the commodity is coming from and where the product is going. 16 17 Did he have an explanation for you, Q. 18 that you recall? Not that I recall. I would say most 19 Α. 20 drivers wasn't aware of that. Most drivers 21 don't understand that. 2.2 But you don't have a specific 0. 23 recollection today what his explanation was? 24 Α. No. 25 Q. Very good. Did you also discuss

17 the seat belt violation? 1 2 Α. That's correct. 3 And do you recall whether he offered Ο. you any explanation for not wearing a seat belt? 4 5 Α. No. Not necessarily, not right offhand. 6 7 So you do not recall? Ο. 8 Α. Right. 9 Ο. Very good. Were there any other 10 observations that you made in the course of that 11 inspection that you think are relevant to this 12 case today? 13 Α. Just, no, just my normal inspection. I didn't find nothing else wrong. I told him 14 the violation we had, everything else was good. 15 16 MR. MARGARD: Your Honor, I have no 17 further questions of this witness. 18 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Very good. Do 19 you have any questions, Mr. Johansen, of this 20 witness? 21 MR. JOHANSEN: No, I do not. 22 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: No? You are 23 excused. 24 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir. 25 MR. MARGARD: Your Honor, I would

		18
1	like to call Mr. Rod Mosher.	
2	ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Very good.	
3	(WITNESS SWORN)	
4		
5	ROD MOSHER	
6	called as a witness, being first duly sworn,	
7	testified as follows:	
8	ATTORNEY EXAMINER: You may be	
9	seated.	
10	DIRECT EXAMINATION	
11	By Mr. Margard:	
12	Q. Good morning, sir. Please state	
13	your name and business address.	
14	A. My name is Rod Mosher. I work at	
15	the Public Utilities Commission at 180 East	
16	Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio.	
17	Q. And by who are you employed, Mr.	
18	Mosher?	
19	A. The Public Utilities Commission,	
20	specifically the Transportation Department	
21	within the Commission.	
22	Q. And what are you duties and	
23	responsibilities?	
24	A. I am the chief of the compliance.	
25	So my duties are to kind of oversee the	

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assessment of fines and preparation for these 1 2 type of hearings. 3 Ο. And did you have an opportunity to review the Commission's file in this case prior 4 5 to this hearing today? 6 Α. Yes, I did. 7 Let me ask you if you had an Q. 8 opportunity to review the proposed forfeitures in this case? 9 10 Yes, sir, I did. Α. Could you, before we get to those, 11 Ο. explain to us how a forfeiture amount is 12 13 determined, how it's assessed? 14 Α. Well, it's generally based on the 15 CVSA guideline, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, guidelines. They are not exactly the 16 17 same, but they are based upon that. 18 Generally the higher the fine the more severe the Alliance thinks that the 19 20 violation was. 21 And there is some kind of a schedule Ο. 2.2 or matrix of some sort? 23 There is, yes, there is a matrix Α. 24 that's divided into groups. These two 25 particular violations here are considered Group

20 4 violations, which are generally driver 1 2 initiated violations I would say. And is this schedule used by the 3 0. Commission staff in determining assessment, 4 5 forfeiture assessments, in all of these kind of 6 cases? 7 In all cases, yes, sir. Α. And it's consistently applied? 8 Q. 9 It's actually in non-hazardous Α. 10 materials cases it's applied by computer so 11 there is no real human intervention. 12 So it's an algorithm of sorts? Q. 13 Α. Yes. 14 And the dollar amounts associated Ο. with this schedule are consistent with those 15 16 recommended by the Commercial Vehicle Safety 17 Alliance? 18 A. Yes, sir, they are. 19 Okay. Now, the specific violations Ο. 20 in this case, and there are two, and the one is the seat belt violation and the other one is the 21 2.2 endorsement violation. 23 Have you reviewed those to determine 24 whether the assessments proposed in this case 25 were accurately determined?

21 1 Α. I did review them, and in each case 2 it is a correct amount listed, yes. 3 MR. MARGARD: Very good. Your 4 Honor, may I approach? 5 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: You may. 6 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR PURPOSES OF 7 IDENTIFICATION) 8 MR. MARGARD: Your Honor, I have handed the witness two documents marked as Staff 9 Exhibits No. 2 and 3. 10 11 Mr. Mosher, have you had an Ο. 12 opportunity to review those documents? 13 Α. I have, yes. And were those documents contained 14 Ο. 15 in the Commission's file in this matter that you 16 reviewed prior to testifying today? 17 Α. They were. 18 Ο. And what are those documents? The one that is marked as Exhibit 19 Α. 20 No. 2 would be the initial letter sent to the 21 Respondent. We generally call it an NIF letter. 22 It's a notice of apparent violation and intent to assess forfeiture. 23 24 It shows the two violations and 25 the amount assessed for each of those. There is

		22
1	also there is attachments that go with that	
2	letter, directions on how to pay or if you would	
3	like to basically contest it, what your options	
4	are and the steps doing that.	
5	Q. And Staff Exhibit 3?	
6	A. Exhibit 3 would be a letter that	
7	would go out to somebody who has had a	
8	conference with one of the compliance officers.	
9	Failing to reach a settlement the compliance	
10	officer would draft this letter. It's called a	
11	Notice of Preliminary Determination. NPD is	
12	what we commonly call it.	
13	And it basically says this is what	
14	you have been charged with and this is what we	
15	intend to seek from you as far as forfeiture.	
16	Q. And these are notices that are	
17	required by the Commission's rules; correct?	
18	A. Yes, sir.	
19	Q. And based on your review of the	
20	Commission's file did the Respondent receive all	
21	of the notices that they were entitled to by	
22	law?	
23	A. Well, they were mailed to his	
24	address. And actually received them, we met the	
25	criteria for mailing them to their last known	

1 address.

1	auuress.
2	Q. Very good. And the documents that
3	we have reviewed today, Staff Exhibit 1, the
4	examination report, 1-A, the photographs, were
5	taken by Officer Bell, and the notices that you
6	just described, these were all contained as
7	regular parts of the Commission's records with
8	respect to this particular case; is that
9	correct?
10	A. That is correct.
11	Q. In your opinion are the forfeitures
12	proposed in this case not only accurately
13	determined, but a reasonable amount?
14	A. Very reasonable. And, yes,
15	accurate.
16	MR. MARGARD: Thank you. Your
17	Honor, I have no further questions for this
18	witness.
19	ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Do you have any
20	questions?
21	MR. JOHANSEN: No, sir.
22	ATTORNEY EXAMINER: You are excused.
23	Mr. Margard, do you have any further witnesses?
24	MR. MARGARD: I do not, your Honor.
25	Thank you.

24 1 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Very good. We 2 will go to the Respondent's side of the case. Do you wish to present testimony? 3 MR. JOHANSEN: I do. 4 5 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please come up 6 and be seated. 7 (WITNESS SWORN) 8 9 GARY JOHANSEN 10 called as a witness, being first duly sworn, 11 testified as follows: 12 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: I want to ask 13 you to speak up with your testimony so everybody 14 can hear you. 15 MR. JOHANSEN: Yes, sir. ATTORNEY EXAMINER: And be succinct 16 17 and concise and get right to the point. 18 MR. JOHANSEN: Okay. When 19 the officer pulled me over for no seat belt, 20 yes, I did not have my seat belt on. I am, you 21 know, I am guilty of that. I did not have my 22 seat belt on. I just jumped on the highway and 23 I didn't put it on. 24 Okay. But as far as what my license 25 is, that is nothing more than a mistake between

1	the BMV and me. I checked the wrong box. I
2	didn't know I was doing anything wrong. I
3	checked the wrong box.
4	I used to drive out of state, I used
5	to have to do deliveries in Pittsburgh. And I
6	got a couple random pull-overs there and never
7	had an issue, truck inspection guys never had an
8	issue, never got a ticket.
9	I got hundreds of thousands of miles
10	under my belt and got a perfect driving record.
11	And I would do nothing to jeopardize my license.
12	This is nothing more than a mistake
13	between the BMV and me. When you asked
14	the people at the BMV, you know, I got to change
15	this on my license, do you drive out of state,
16	no. You check this box.
17	They don't even know. The day he
18	gave me the ticket I went immediately to the BMV
19	and had to Google where the closest BMV was, and
20	I went right there and changed the status of my
21	license immediately. On the spot I did it.
22	And even at that point the guy at
23	the BMV says if you don't drive out of state you
24	don't check that box. I thought so too, but
25	apparently I do.

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26 1 Somehow I checked the wrong box. And that is all this is. I would never 2 intentionally do anything to jeopardize my 3 license or cause all this to happen. 4 5 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Does that 6 conclude your or testimony? 7 MR. JOHANSEN: Yes, sir. Oh, sir, one more thing. I haul produce. Of course, we 8 don't grow produce in Ohio. So, it's all 9 10 received in our warehouse and then for weeks 11 before it's put on our trucks. 12 So, to me I am hauling it from 13 Cleveland. I never heard of this. I am done. 14 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: You are done. Okay. Mr. Margard. 15 16 MR. MARGARD: Thank you. 17 CROSS-EXAMINATION 18 By Mr. Margard: 19 Just a couple of questions to be Ο. 20 clear. You in fact were not wearing your seat 21 belt; is that correct? 2.2 Α. I was not, right. 23 Q. And you in fact had a license that 24 had intrastate endorsement on it; correct? 25 Α. Yes.

		27
1	Q. And you were hauling produce that	
2	was produced out of the State of Ohio; correct?	
3	A. Yes.	
4	MR. MARGARD: That's all I needed to	
5	establish in terms of the elements, your Honor.	
6	Thank you.	
7	ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Anything else to	
8	add?	
9	MR. JOHANSEN: No, sir.	
10	ATTORNEY EXAMINER: You are excused.	
11	MR. JOHANSEN: Thank you, your	
12	Honor.	
13	ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Do you have	
14	anything more today?	
15	MR. MARGARD: Just a couple of	
16	notes, your Honor. I would like to have	
17	the bench take notice of an interpretation from	
18	the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration	
19	as to the difference between interstate and	
20	intrastate commerce.	
21	Specifically I have a publication	
22	from their website that indicates that	
23	interstate transportation would consist of	
24	transportation between two places in a state as	
25	part of trade, traffic or transportation	

originating or terminating outside the state of 1 2 Ohio or the United States. So I would like the Bench to take 3 notice of that interpretation. 4 5 In addition, I would like to bring to the Bench's attention without need of 6 7 briefing this case, that the Commission recently had an opportunity to review a case almost 8 9 identical in nature. It is In the Matter of 10 Tommy Shad, in Case No. 15-1521-TR-CVF. 11 And the Opinion and Order that issued by the 12 Commission on June 8th, 2016. 13 I have a copy of the Opinion and 14 Order that I am willing to provide to your Honor 15 and to the Respondent, but the Commission made 16 it very clear that the regulation in this case 17 restricts drivers to intrastate shipments that 18 originate in Ohio and are to be delivered in 19 Ohio. 20 A similar sort of situation where 21 Mr. Shad was unaware of that particular restriction, that particular interpretation, but 22 the Commission found that because he was hauling 23 24 in this case items from China that he was in 25 violation of the regulation.

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29 1 So the Commission has spoken to this 2 matter in the past and there is precedent for the Staff's position in this case. And that is 3 4 all I have. Thank you. 5 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. May 6 I see those items? 7 MR. MARGARD: You may. ATTORNEY EXAMINER: This is from 8 9 the United States Department of Transportation wedsite? 10 11 MR. MARGARD: Yes, your Honor. 12 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Okay. And 13 the second is a past Commission case. I have no 14 trouble taking administrative notice of either 15 of those. So, I will do that at this time. And I will admit all exhibits into 16 17 evidence at this time. 18 (EXHIBITS HEREBY ADMITTED INTO 19 EVIDENCE) 20 MR. MARGARD: Thank you, your Honor. 21 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Is there 22 anything more to add? 23 MR. MARGARD: No, sir. 24 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you all 25 for coming. The case will be submitted on the

		30
1	record.	
2	(At 10:25 A.M. the hearing was	
3	concluded)	
4		
5		
6		
7	CERTIFICATE	
8	I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on July	
9	18, 2017, and carefully compared with my	
10	original stenographic notes.	
11		
12	Michael O. Spencer, Registered Professional	
13	Reporter.	
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Case No(s). 17-1158-TR-CVF

Summary: Transcript In the Matter of Gary Johansen Notice of Apparent Violation and Intent to Assess Forfeiture, hearing held on July 18, 2017. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Spencer, Michael O. Mr.