BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

- - -

In the Matter of Charlie :

Wasaya, Notice of Apparent: Case No. 15-1049-TR-CVF

Violation and Intent to :

Assess Forfeiture. :

PROCEEDINGS

before Bryce A. McKenney, Hearing Examiner, at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Room 11-D, Columbus, Ohio, called at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2016.

- - -

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            Columbus, Ohio 43215
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                 On behalf of the Respondent.
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1 Thursday Morning Session, 2 April 14, 2016. 3 THE EXAMINER: Good morning. The Public 4 5 Utilities Commission of Ohio calls for hearing at 6 this time and place Case No. 15-1049-TR-CVF, being In 7 the Matter of Charlie Wasaya, Notice of Apparent Violation and Intent to Assess Forfeiture. 8 9 My name is Bryce McKenney, and I'm the 10 Attorney Examiner assigned by the Commission to hear 11 this case. At this time I'd like to take the 12 appearances of the parties. On behalf of the Staff. 13 MS. MESSENGER: Thank you, your Honor. 14 On behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities 15 Commission of Ohio, Ohio Attorney General Mike 16 DeWine, Natalia Messenger, Assistant Attorney General, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, 17 18 43215. 19 THE EXAMINER: Thank you very much. 20 On behalf Mr. Wasaya. 2.1 MR. BIAS: Zach Bias on behalf of Mr. Wasaya with Alden Law, 1 East Livingston, 22 23 Columbus, Ohio, 43215. 24 THE EXAMINER: Thank you. Briefly before 25 we went on the record, a note was made that the

5 parties have stipulated to some matters; is that 1 2 correct? MS. MESSENGER: Yes, your Honor. 3 Mr. Wasaya has agreed to stipulate to receiving the 4 5 Notice of Preliminary Determination and that the forfeiture amount of \$2,500 was calculated properly. 6 7 THE EXAMINER: Thank you very much. Is 8 that correct? 9 MR. BIAS: Yes, your Honor. 10 THE EXAMINER: Thank you. Is Staff prepared to present its case? 11 12 MS. MESSENGER: Yes, your Honor. 13 THE EXAMINER: Call your first witness. 14 MS. MESSENGER: Staff would call Officer 15 Kurtz. 16 17 MELANIE KURTZ 18 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was 19 examined and testified as follows: 20 DIRECT EXAMINATION By Ms. Messenger: 2.1 22 Good morning. Could you state your name Q. 23 and business address, please.

Melanie Kurtz, 3201 North Main Street,

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Findlay, Ohio.

- Q. Where are you employed?
- A. Ohio State Patrol.
- Q. How long have you been employed with the State Highway Patrol?
 - A. Since 2007.

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- Q. And what is your position there?
- A. Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector.
- Q. How long have you been in this position?
- A. Since February 4th, 2010.
- Q. What are your duties as an Inspector?
- A. Perform roadside inspections on commercial vehicles and drivers.
- Q. What is your educational background?
- A. I graduated high school, but for this
 position, the North American Standard Level 1
 Inspection classes, North American Standard General
- 17 Hazardous Material Inspections and maintain
- 18 certifications in all the in-service trainings.
- 19 THE EXAMINER: Off the record real quick.
- 20 I'm going to close the door.
- 21 (Off the record.)
- THE EXAMINER: Go back on the record.
- 23 Miss Messenger, sorry.
- Q. (By Ms. Messenger) Were you trained to
- 25 enforce the Federal Motor Safety regulations?

7 1 Α. Yes. 2 And what is your jurisdiction? Q. 3 The State of Ohio. Α. And what was your jurisdiction the day --4 Ο. 5 what sort of area were you working the day --I was at the southbound scales on I-75. 6 Α. 7 Ο. Were you on duty when you stopped the vehicle that Mr. Wasaya was driving? 8 9 Α. Yes. 10 Why did you pull over the vehicle? Q. Some lights -- a couple lights were out 11 Α. 12 on the back of it. 13 Q. Do you create a report when you pull a vehicle over and do an inspection? 14 Yes. 15 Α. What kind of information does that report 16 Ο. 17 contain? 18 Α. All the information about the truck, the 19 driver, the carrier and any defects or violations 20 that we found. 2.1 Ο. Did you generate a report during the 22 inspection of Mr. Wasaya's vehicle?

I would like to mark the Driver/Vehicle Examination

MS. MESSENGER: Your Honor, at this time,

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Α.

Yes.

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     Report that Inspector Kurtz performed as Staff
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 2.
     Exhibit 1.
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                 THE EXAMINER: So marked.
                 MS. MESSENGER: May I approach?
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                 THE EXAMINER: You may.
 6
                  (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
 7
                  (By Ms. Messenger) Inspector Kurtz, do
            Ο.
     you have before you what has been marked as Staff
 8
     Exhibit 1?
 9
10
            Α.
                 Yes.
11
                 What is this document?
            Ο.
12
            Α.
                 This is the inspection report that was
13
     printed from my computer through the Aspen program.
14
                 And who prepared this report?
            Ο.
15
                 I did.
            Α.
16
                 Does this report contain information on
            Ο.
17
     matters that you observed directly?
18
            Α.
                 Yes.
19
                 When did you prepare the report?
            Ο.
20
            Α.
                 January 21st, 2015.
2.1
                 And in relation to the time of the
            Ο.
22
     inspection, did you do it at the time of the
23
     inspection?
24
            Α.
                 Yes.
25
            Q.
                 Do the employees of the Highway Patrol
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make and keep this type of record in the ordinary course of business?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And is this report the same or substantially the same as the inspection report that you generated when you inspected the vehicle driven by Mr. Wasaya?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Where do you send this report after the traffic stop?
- 11 A. We send it electronically to the PUCO.
- Q. What is the report number?
- 13 A. OH3258007037.
- 14 Q. And what is the date of the inspection?
- 15 A. January 21st, 2015.
- Q. And what time did the inspection begin
- 17 and end?

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- 18 A. 7:55 a.m.
- 19 O. What time did it end?
- 20 A. 8:45 a.m.
- Q. What was the origin and destination of the vehicle driven by Mr. Wasaya?
- A. Weberville, Michigan to Dayton, Ohio.
- Q. What road was he driving on when you pulled him over?

- A. Interstate 75.
- Q. And where did you pull him over?
- A. At the scales. I'm not sure of the mile post.
- 5 MR. EMNETT: 161.
- 6 THE WITNESS: 161.
- Q. Well, if you look at the inspection record report, about a third of the way down --
 - A. Yes.

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- 10 Q. -- where you have "Origin" and
 11 "Destination," is there a mile post?
- 12 A. Yes, 162.
- Q. Can you look at the section that's labeled "Violations" about halfway down the page.
- 15 A. Yes.
- Q. If you can look at the bottom three
 lines, what was the violation code that -- for the
 violation that Mr. Wasaya was cited for?
- 19 A. 393.207B.
 - Q. Can you read the violation description that corresponds to that?
- A. Adjustable axle locking pins not engaged.
- Q. What does 393.207B require?
- A. That at least all the pins have to be in.
- 25 If even one pin is out, it's a violation.

11 Why did this regulation apply to 1 Q. 2 Mr. Wasaya? 3 Because he had a sliding axle that would Α. slide and it was -- it would be an out of service. 4 5 Q. How did Mr. Wasaya violate this 6 regulation? 7 Α. Three out of the four pins were out. So his pins were disengaged? 8 Q. 9 Α. Correct. 10 Q. If you can take a look at in the 11 "Violations" section the column labeled "OOS." 12 Α. Yes. What does "OOS" mean? 13 Q. 14 Α. Out of service. And what does out of service mean? 15 Q. 16 It means the vehicle cannot be moved Α. 17 until that violation is repaired. 18 Q. Okay. And the violations for 393.207B 19 listed on the inspection report were then out of 20 service? 2.1 Α. Yes. 2.2 And how is that indicated on the report? Q. With a "Y" standing for yes. 23 Α. 24 Can you explain the process for putting a Ο. 25 driver out of service?

- A. You fully explain the violation so they understand it, make it clear that they all have to be repaired at that location or it has to be towed. We place a bright orange sticker on whichever part of the vehicle is out of service, in this case the trailer, and that's about it.
- Q. Did you explain to Mr. Wasaya this protocol for being put out of service?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Could Mr. Wasaya have repaired the pins himself?
- A. Typically I would make mechanical judgments like that, but I showed him how they were totally misaligned, it was put together incorrectly. The front pin of the one side was in but then the rear pin was way off center. You weren't going to get it in. And I explained there was a board inside that had numbers of service trucks to call. Usually I would make mechanical judgments, but it was obvious you were not going to get these pins in. They had been out for a while.
- Q. Did you observe anyone that came out to repair the vehicle?
- A. No.
- Q. Did Mr. Wasaya remain at the weigh

station until the vehicle was repaired?

A. No.

2.1

- Q. Did you see him leave the station?
- A. I saw him drive past the front of the scales, but I assumed he was just going around back to move where I asked him to move the truck to, but instead he just kept going.
- Q. Let's back up a minute. Where did you ask him to -- Can you explain the way that the weigh station is?
- A. The parking lot's pretty small. We were parked right up at the front. And usually when you place a vehicle out of service, we have them move over to a corner, but to accomplish that in this parking lot, they have to go around the front of the scales and then go to the back to make the maneuver to park in the corner. And that's what I assumed he was doing until he kept going.
- Q. At any point did you remove the out of service sticker from the truck?
 - A. No.
- Q. Did you ever allow him to leave?

 Did he speak to you after being put out of service at all?
- 25 A. No.

14 Is it within your authority if the pins 1 Q. 2 are disengaged to allow him to drive --3 Α. No. Ο. -- out of service? 4 MS. MESSENGER: Can I just have a minute, 5 6 your Honor? THE EXAMINER: You may. Let's go off the 7 8 record. 9 (Off the record.) 10 THE EXAMINER: Let's go back on the 11 record. Miss Messenger. 12 MS. MESSENGER: I have nothing further 13 for Inspector Kurtz at this time, if I could reserve her for rebuttal. 14 15 THE EXAMINER: You may. 16 Mr. Bias. 17 MR. BIAS: Yes. Thank you, your Honor. 18 19 CROSS-EXAMINATION 20 By Mr. Bias: 2.1 Inspector Kurtz, you said you viewed the Q. 22 pins when you were doing the examination of Mr. Wasaya's vehicle? 23 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. And you said two of the pins from your

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     judgment could not be engaged?
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 2
            Α.
                 Right.
 3
                 Without -- could not be engaged by
            Ο.
     Mr. Wasaya?
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 5
            Α.
                 Correct.
                 You said there were three pins that
 6
            Ο.
 7
     weren't engaged?
 8
            Α.
                 Right.
 9
            Ο.
                 What about the third pin?
10
            Α.
                 Well, the one side was just not -- if he
11
     moved it, it probably would have went in, but I
     wasn't -- when I talked to him about that, I wasn't
12
13
     referring to a single violation, I was referring to
14
     the whole, all three.
15
            Ο.
                 You said you saw Mr. Wasaya pull back
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     around to the scale?
17
            Α.
                 No. Oh, around the front?
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            Q.
                 Yes.
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            Α.
                 Yes.
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            Q.
                 And you said that he left while he was
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     out of service?
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            Α.
                 Right.
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                 And to not be out of service, he would
            Q.
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     have had to make the repairs?
25
            Α.
                 Right.
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- Q. And when he pulled back around, did you inspect the vehicles to see if the repairs had been fixed?
 - A. No.

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- Q. But you said that you just knew that they couldn't have been fixed in that amount of time?
 - A. Not in that speed of time, no.
- Q. But you didn't know for sure if they had been fixed?
- 10 A. Correct.
- Q. And then you said that it's not within your authority to allow him to drive while out of service?
- 14 A. Right.
- Q. It's absolutely not in your authority to say he cannot drive?
- A. No. Well, I'm not placing him out of service, just the vehicle. The vehicle can't be driven.
- Q. And why for these violations can the vehicle not be driven?
- A. Because it's an out of service violation by CVSA criteria.
- Q. Right. And does it have anything to do with safety?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And is the safety issue that the trailer might become unhitched and hit a car on the roadway?
 - A. The tandem axles can come out.
- Q. And if the vehicle was being towed while the violations had not been fixed, would that still be a safety issue?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And would it be appropriate for an officer to escort the vehicle while it's being driven while it's out of service?
- A. That would depend on the out of service.

 In this particular circumstance, I wouldn't have, no.
- Q. Okay. So is it within your discretion to escort the driver of the vehicle?
- A. We were already at a safe location. I wouldn't have escorted any vehicle from this location, no.
- Q. But there might be circumstances where that would be appropriate?
- A. There might be other locations where that would be appropriate.
- MR. BIAS: No more questions, your Honor.
- THE EXAMINER: Redirect?
- MS. MESSENGER: Yeah, just a few

Proceedings 18 questions. 1 2 3 REDIRECT EXAMINATION By Ms. Messenger: 4 5 If Mr. Wasaya had fixed one pin, would Q. that have cured the out of service? 6 7 Α. No. How many pins would he have had to repair 8 Ο. in order to no longer be out of service? 9 10 Α. To correct the violation, they all would 11 have had to be repaired. 12 Ο. All three of them? 13 Α. Yes. 14 MS. MESSENGER: Nothing further, your 15 Honor. 16 THE EXAMINER: Thank you. I have no 17 questions. Inspector Kurtz, I will remind you that you remain under oath as you may have rebuttal, so 18 19 please stay close. 20 Ms. Messenger, you may call your next 2.1 witness. 22 MS. MESSENGER: Staff would call Harold

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Emnett.

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| 1 | HAROLD EMNETT | |
| 2 | being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was | |
| 3 | examined and testified as follows: | |
| 4 | DIRECT EXAMINATION | |
| 5 | By Ms. Messenger: | |
| 6 | Q. Can you state your name and business | |
| 7 | address, please. | |
| 8 | A. My name is Harold Emnett. My business | |
| 9 | address is 3201 North Main Street, Findlay, Ohio at | |
| 10 | the Ohio State Highway Patrol Post. | |
| 11 | Q. Where are you employed? | |
| 12 | A. The Ohio State Highway Patrol, Department | |
| 13 | of Public Safety. | |
| 14 | Q. How long have you been employed by the | |
| 15 | State Highway Patrol? | |
| 16 | A. 25-and-a-half years. | |
| 17 | Q. What is your position with the Patrol? | |
| 18 | A. Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector. | |
| 19 | Q. How long have you been in this position? | |
| 20 | A. Since 1996. | |
| 21 | Q. What are your duties as a Motor Carrier | |
| 22 | Enforcement Inspector? | |
| 2 3 | To enforce the federal and state | |

regulations on commercial vehicles and drivers and do

inspections on the roadside or at the scales of the

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vehicles and drivers.

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- Q. What kind of training and certifications do you have?
- A. I've been certified in the North American Level 1, the North American Level 2, North American Level 3, North American Level 4 inspections, North American Level 5 inspections, and the North American Level 7 inspections. Also have been certified in the basic Haz Mat inspections, Haz Mat cargo tank inspections, Haz Mat bulk other inspections and Motor Coach inspections and....
- Q. Okay. Were you trained to enforce the Federal Motor Safety regulations?
- 14 A. Yes.
- Q. And what is your jurisdiction?
- 16 A. State of Ohio.
- Q. And what was your jurisdiction on January 21st of 2015?
- A. I was working at the I-75 southbound scales just north of Findlay.
 - Q. Were you on duty when you pulled over Mr. Wasaya's vehicle?
- 23 A. Yes, I was.
- Q. And why did you pull over -- Why did you pull him over?

A. Inspector Kurtz came in and -- She just come in and she goes, "He's leaving, there's no way he could have got those fixed." I said, "What?" "The out of service violation. The pins were not engaged, not all the pins were engaged."

So I went ahead and followed him down the ramp and pulled him over to do a reinspection to verify the out of service violations were corrected.

- Q. What type of document do you create during a stop?
- A. An Aspen report that's made up by the United States Department of Transportation that we enter all the information in, and we send it to the PUCO which they go ahead and send it to the USDOT. And it has all the information from the inspection, including the carrier, the driver, the truck, the trailer, cargo and the violations.
- Q. Did you generate a report during your inspection of the vehicle driven by Mr. Wasaya?
 - A. Yes, I did.

2.1

MS. MESSENGER: Your Honor, at this time,
I would like to mark as Staff Exhibit 2 the
Driver/Vehicle Examination Report prepared by
Inspector Emnett.

THE EXAMINER: It will be so marked.

make and keep this type of record in the ordinary course of business?

- A. Yes, they do.
- Q. And is this report the same or substantially the same as the inspection report that you generated when you inspected the vehicle driven by Mr. Wasaya?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Where did you send this report after the stop?
- A. I sent it out electronically to the
 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and the USDOT.
- Q. What is the report number on Staff
 Exhibit 2?
- 15 A. OH3229011733.
- Q. And what is the date of the inspection?
- 17 A. January 1st -- January 21st, 2015.
 - Q. And what time did the inspection start and end?
- 20 A. Started at 9:30 a.m., ended at 10:48 a.m.
- Q. And what was the origin and destination of the vehicle driven by Mr. Wasaya?
- A. Origin was Weberville, Michigan to
 Dayton, Ohio.
- Q. What road was Mr. Wasaya driving when you

pulled him over?

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- A. Southbound on Interstate 75.
- Q. And where did you pull him over?
- A. Just south of the Hancock County weigh station.
 - Q. It was at another weigh station?
- A. No, the same weigh station on the exit ramp going out of the weigh station.
- Q. If you can take a look at the "Violations" section on the report, in the bottom three lines, the third line from the bottom, what is the violation code there that Mr. Wasaya was cited with?
 - A. It would be 393.207B, as in boy.
 - Q. And what does that provide?
- A. It was one of the locking pins on the sliding subframe was not engaged.
 - Q. And the next violation code below that?
- 19 A. 393.207B, as in boy.
 - Q. And can you read the violation description for that one as well?
- A. This would be the right side rear locking pin that holds the subframe in position was not engaged or locked into the hole.
- 25 Q. And how was this violation -- or how was

this regulation violated?

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- A. He did not have the pin engaged into the hole so it would secure the subframe to the box trailer's frame.
- Q. What kind of danger does it pose for the pins to be disengaged?
- A. The side subframe would not be attached to the trailer, and in the course of action of braking or backing up or hitting a large hole, the subframe could come loose with the axles on it and actually come out from underneath the trailer.
 - Q. So it could disconnect from the trailer?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And what kind of hazard does that pose on the highway?
- A. The last one I was to, they -- the frame shot out the back of the trailer, the trailer landed on the ground or the roadway as it was traveling down the road, went over the road, this was in the dark, and rolled over. A semi going the other direction hit the tandems that were still sitting in the roadway and he went off the road and crashed causing injuries to both drivers.
- Q. Did you see the out of service sticker that Inspector Kurtz put on the trailer of the

vehicle?

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- A. Yes, I did, I took photographs of it.
- Q. And was it on the vehicle when you pulled him over?
 - A. It was in the cab of the vehicle and it was tore in half.
 - Q. In your opinion, was it possible for Mr. Wasaya to engage all four of these pins at the scales?
- 10 Α. I don't know what kind of tools he had or 11 if he would have had to call someone in. We don't 12 usually recommend how they repair it, but we just 13 tell them it needs repaired before they leave or 14 towed. And if he had the tools, maybe he could have, 15 but I don't know what he was carrying, but 16 personally, I don't think he had the tools to do that 17 there at the lot.
 - Q. Can you describe your interaction with Mr. Wasaya?
 - A. Yes, I spoke to him, I kind of asked him why he left. And from the understanding I got, that the company told him to take it to a truck stop to get it repaired, and I went ahead and questioned him about the inspection report and the out of service sticker. And that's when I took pictures of the out

of service sticker that was still in the cab of the truck, and I laid it out so I could take a picture of it.

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He did say -- He did say something about the other inspector saying if he got the other pin in, that he could leave. And I remember going back to my Patrol car and calling her on my cell phone and questioning her about that, and she said, "No, that was not discussed."

- Q. So after you completed your inspection, what happened?
- A. Since our policy and CVSA policy says we do not leave them on the roadside on the berm due to safety reasons, we're allowed to escort an out of service vehicle to a safe haven like a truck stop, rest area, scales, so I escorted him down to the truck stop.

MS. MESSENGER: I have nothing further at this time for Inspector Emnett.

THE EXAMINER: What type of vehicle were you in?

A. A 2009 Chevy Tahoe marked with the State Patrol markings and the light bar.

THE EXAMINER: Thank you.

Mr. Bias.

28 MR. BIAS: Yes, thank you, your Honor. 1 2 3 CROSS-EXAMINATION By Mr. Bias: 4 5 Q. Inspector Emnett, what mile marker was the Findlay scales at? 6 7 Α. The 162. Q. And where did you say you pulled 8 9 Mr. Wasaya over? 10 A. On the entrance ramp -- the exit ramp 11 from the scales to southbound 75. 12 O. And which scales was that? A. The Hancock County southbound I-75 13 14 scales. Is that the same scales where he had the 15 Ο. 16 first examination? 17 Α. Yes. 18 And what mile post does it say on Staff Q. Exhibit 2? 19 20 Α. 153. 2.1 153. So these scales are located at mile Ο. 22 post 162, correct? 23 Α. Yes.

examination was 153, correct?

Q. And the mile post that you put for this

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- A. Yes, I must have hit the wrong numbers.
- Q. Let me ask you about the inspection. How in depth did you look at Mr. Wasaya's vehicle?
 - A. I did a walk-around inspection.
 - Q. Walk-around. Did you look at the pins?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. And how many pins were engaged?
- A. Only two.
- Q. Only two. And you only cited him for two pins engaged -- I mean two pins disengaged?
- 11 A. Correct.
- Q. You stated those could not have been engaged manually unless you had specific tools?
 - A. Unless it was repaired correctly.
- Q. You stated that it's dangerous to drive with the two pins not engaged?
- 17 A. Correct.
 - Q. That it could hurt other drivers?
- 19 A. Correct.
 - Q. And if you tow the vehicle, would that danger still exist?
- A. No, because they could have chained the subframe to the frame of the trailer so there was no chance of it popping out.
- Q. And you did escort Mr. Wasaya, correct?

- A. Yes, it's our policy -- because of the mechanics working on it, the number of wrecker drivers that have been hit over the years on the interstate, it's the policy to take them to a safe haven off the roadway so the repairs can be made.
- Q. What kind of facilities would be a safe haven?
- A. Either at a rest area, scales, truck stop, somewhere where we can park a truck legally.
- Q. You said you pulled him over at the exit ramp of the scales; is that correct?
 - A. Correct.

MR. BIAS: Okay. No further questions.

THE EXAMINER: Redirect?

MS. MESSENGER: Yes, your Honor.

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17 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

18 By Ms. Messenger:

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- Q. If you can take a look at Staff Exhibit
- 20 | 2, what's the final violation listed there?
- A. Operating -- for leaving the Findlay

 75 -- 3275 scale location before properly repairing
 the out of service violations.
- Q. How did you determine he violated that section?

- A. He actually left the parking area and was actually entering on 75 -- entering back onto I-75 on the driven portion of the roadway.
- Q. How much time was there between when Mr. Wasaya left the scales and when you pulled him over?
- A. About a couple minutes, just enough to get out in my car and go down the ramp.
- MS. MESSENGER: I would like to reserve him for rebuttal, but I have nothing further for him at this time.
- 12 THE EXAMINER: Thank you. Inspector

 13 Emnett, you can step-down. Please stay close. You

 14 have been reserved for rebuttal.
- Anything further from Staff?
- MS. MESSENGER: Not at this time, your
- 17 Honor.

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- THE EXAMINER: All right. Thank you very much.
- 20 Mr. Bias.
- MR. BIAS: Yes, at this time I'd like to call Mr. Wasaya.
- THE EXAMINER: Yes, please step up to the stand here.
- 25 (Witness placed under oath.)

32 1 THE EXAMINER: Mr. Bias. 2 MR. BIAS: Yes, thank you, your Honor. 3 4 CHARLES WASAYA 5 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified as follows: 6 7 DIRECT EXAMINATION By Mr. Bias: 8 9 Ο. Mr. Wasaya, would you state your name? 10 Α. Charlie Wasaya. 11 Q. Where do you work? 12 Α. For a company out of Detroit, Michigan 13 named Inline Express. How long have you worked there? 14 Ο. 15 Α. Going on two years now. Q. And what is your position with Inline? 16 17 Α. As a driver. 18 Driver. And do you have any special Q. driver's certifications? 19 20 They had put me through a training course 2.1 certification that they have there at the company, 22 yes. 23 And do you have any particular license Q. 24 for your position with the company? 25 A. License as of --

- 1 Q. Do you have a Commercial Driver's 2 License?
 - A. Yes, CDL A.

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- Q. How long have you had that?
- A. Three years, maybe 2012 if I can recall.

 I'm not a hundred percent sure.
- Q. All right. I want to talk about the date of the events in question. How did you first pick up the trailer?
- A. First we do a pre-trip on the truck, and then we go to the trailer from a drop lot that's been preloaded already. Looked at the trailer, turned off the lights, turned off all the four ways, walk around, make sure the tires are fine, make sure they're proper, make sure the air's proper, the air is inflated and no flat tires, brakes, all brake lights work and make sure everything's loaded good inside the trailer where it's not going to cause a hazard for drivers behind us and, you know, state it on the logbook.
 - Q. And when you were doing this inspection, did you look at the lights on the vehicle?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And what was the status of the lights?
- A. They were all functional and working.

- Q. And did you also look at the interlocking pins?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And how were they when you did your pre-trip inspection?
- A. Before I left the lot, they were all functional and working.
 - Q. And then where were you headed when you left the lot?
- 10 A. I was headed on 75 southbound going
 11 towards Kettering, Ohio.
 - Q. And is that near Dayton?
- A. Is that near Dayton? It's just northeast of Dayton, Ohio.
 - Q. Okay. And what were the road conditions that day, like the weather conditions?
- A. It definitely snowed. I couldn't even say, maybe 7 or 8 inches. It was pretty darn cold. It was wet, icy. When I left the yard, it was still dark. It was early morning, so it wasn't the sunniest of days.
 - Q. How were the road conditions from the dropoff where you picked up the trailer to the scales?
- A. I'll put it like this, the salt trucks

were out, so however you want to call it, but there were salt trucks on the road, plow trucks on the road. It had snowed all night and kind of took a little more time to get going.

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- Q. Was there any construction or anything throughout your path?
- A. Definitely as everyone knows, 75 is under construction basically from Toledo, 280 -- Highway 280 all the way past the Findlay scales is under rough construction and also 75 in Michigan is under construction, too.
- Q. Tell me when you got to the scales, what was it like at the scales?
- A. Before I got to the scale -- scales, from my experience, I haven't seen those scales opened in a long time. I don't know why. Scale was open. Signs were open. Traffic was -- Trucks were backed up on the right, so I got up on the shoulder with a blinker on, entered the scales pretty slow. Everyone's going on the scale. That scale isn't that big, so it was kind of backed up on the freeway.

Had the signal on. Got on the platform with all the trucks. It's 3 miles per hour on the scale. Put it into first gear, you know, approached the scale. You come to a complete stop before you

get on the platform for the scale where there is PA speakers, red and green light and the scale house is to the right of you.

Q. How many officers were there; do you think?

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- A. Probably from the cars outside and what I've seen while I was there, maybe five or six officers, I would say.
- Q. And were there a lot of other trucks at the scales?
- A. Definitely. There was a lot. As I was getting inspected, I actually asked Officer Kurtz if I could help a fellow driver slide his axles because he was overweight and he had a hard time because the floor was icy, the trailer kept on slipping. So it was kind of icy inside the scale. It wasn't cleaned to the best that they could do or salt was put down.
- Q. What happened when you pulled up to the scale?
- A. I pulled up to the scale, had it in first gear which is roughly one to five miles per hour is the max you can go. Cruised on the scale. Was placed at the red light. Stopped. I believe Officer Kurtz got on the PA speakers which I believe there's one -- two or three of them on the side of the

trucks. Had my window down which you're supposed to do by law, have your window down when you're approaching the scale house so you can communicate with the officers inside.

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Officer stated to pull around for a safety inspection which at that time she gave me a green light, pulled around the scale, parked. Stayed in the truck and waited until Officer Kurtz approached the truck.

Helped her out with her -- the best I could, helped her out with the inspection, functioning the lights, turning on turn signals, turning on high beams, windshield wipers, sounding the horn, whatever I could help with and stayed in the truck until she finished the inspection.

- Q. About how long do you think the inspection took?
 - A. A good hour, I would say.
 - Q. And did you see what she inspected?
- A. I was in the truck. I seen what she was telling me to function, what to turn on, what to turn off, what to do.
- Q. And did she give you anything as a result of this inspection?
 - A. She -- When the inspection was over, the

officer asked me to step-down to give me a sheet of paper.

MR. BIAS: At this time, I'd like to hand the witness what I've marked -- premarked as Exhibit A.

6 THE EXAMINER: You may approach.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

THE EXAMINER: I'm going to mark this as Respondent's Exhibit 1.

- Q. (By Mr. Bias) Mr. Wasaya, have you seen this document before?
- 12 A. Yes, sir, I have.

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- Q. And can you tell me what this document is?
- A. This is a Driver Examination Report that
 the Officer Kurtz I believe did during her
 inspection.
- Q. And did she give you this report at that time?
- A. At the end, yes, she did. She gave me a report.
- Q. And is this a true and accurate copy of the report she gave you?
- A. Yes, at that time, it was.
- Q. I'd like you to look at the "Violations"

section.

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- A. Uh-huh.
- Q. Can you describe the violations that she listed starting from the top.
- A. Looks like improper required lamp, left tail lamp, left rear ID lamp.
- Q. I want to stop you there. Did you talk to Officer Kurtz about the lamps?
 - A. During the inspection?
- Q. Yes.
- 11 A. No. After the inspection, yes, sir.
- Q. What was the conversation about the lamps?
 - A. The reason I didn't talk to her during the inspection, I was in the truck functioning the lamps so she could see if they worked or not. Can you repeat the question, sir?
 - Q. Yeah, when she gave you this inspection report and was discussing the inspection with you, did you discuss the lamps?
 - A. Yes, they were functional when I did my pre-trip inspection in the yard. Also, there was when I moved the wire, they all came back on, so it was a wiring issue that I couldn't have caught before I left the yard. Also got them fixed at the repair

shop there.

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- Q. Now, I want to point your attention to the other violations, the last three.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Can you describe what those violations are?
 - A. Those are axle lock pins not engaged.
 - Q. What was your conversation with Officer Kurtz about your disengaged pins?
 - A. What happened there is when I left, they were engaged, when I left the yard. Now, I don't know what happened between Detroit, Michigan and the Findlay scale. You know, obviously, it's not a short trip in between them. My understanding was that the pins were off and couldn't be engaged at the scale, the rears weren't lining up as we both seen. My understanding was to get two pins engaged and I can proceed back on the scale.
 - Q. Why was that your understanding?
 - A. That was just the communication that we had between me and the officer. That's what I understood. It was hectic, it was busy. You know, I bet she had a lot of things to do on the scales. There was a lot of trucks in and out of the scale. It was a busy day. It was really cold outside.

So it was kind of, you know, a quick understanding of what was going on. So that's what I understood from the officer. I thought I did the best that I could from the understanding that I got, you know, on my behalf of the job.

- Q. Do you think it's possible that that could have been a misunderstanding?
- A. Yeah, definitely, I mean, it could have been a misunderstanding.
- Q. Now, at the bottom, there's a spot that shows copy received by and it says Charlie Wasaya?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. There's a signature line; did you sign that?
- 15 A. No, sir.

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- Q. But there is a marking next to it that says, I believe, "Go to T.A."
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Do you know who wrote that on there?
- 20 A. I did.
 - Q. Why did you write that on there?
- A. Because there was no way that I could get those functioning. My company called in. There was no way they can do it on the side of the road. They had to get different kind of wreckers out to lift the

trailer and another wrecker to straighten out the rail for them to line it up. I was told to go to TA, and I did what I was told.

THE EXAMINER: What do you mean "TA"?

- A. TA is a truck stop or a repair facility.

 THE EXAMINER: Thank you.
- Q. (By Mr. Bias) Was an out of service sticker placed on your vehicle?
 - A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. Did you take it off?
- A. Yes, sir. From my understanding, again, from Officer Kurtz, if I could get the two out, I could take the out of service sticker off. And if I repaired it correctly, to sign the sheet that it's been repaired correctly which I refused to do because it's not repaired correctly.
- Q. And when you said she said to get two pins in, you mean two pins total or two more pins?
- A. Two pins total. So I kind of fought with the trailer for a bit from my understanding. Got the right side in with a hammer and some tools, screwdriver, and rocked the trailer back and forth.

 Again, it was real icy out there, so when I was rocking it, it was just kind of sliding, so I had to use wheel chalks to kind of do my best.

Q. Was it possible for you to get the remaining two pins engaged at that location?

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- A. No. Ask the officer, you can ask anyone, that's kind of a tough one.
- Q. So when you put one more pin engaged, did you think you corrected the problem?
- A. To my understanding, yes, where I can get it to a repair shop. I didn't correct the problem where, you know, it's A-okay to be driven forever, but where I can get it to a repair shop and repair it fully there.
- Q. And so how did you proceed after you had made the fixes that you could?
- A. I waited in line to get back on the scale. The only way off the Findlay scale is back on to the platform in front of the officers in front of the scale. Had my window down. Waited in line to squeeze into trucks because it was an extremely busy day down there.

A truck driver let me in. I looped back around and, you know, doing the 3 miles per hour that's the posted speed limit at the scale. Got onto the platform. Was looking into the scale house, was looking at the light. Had my window down. Proceeded slowly.

Q. Why did you proceed?

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A. Because I had a green light. I had nothing to tell me that I had to turn back into the scale. No one came on the PA. No one came outside. No one gave me a red light, so that's what we're taught in training when we're trained to drive a commercial truck, is that's what we're -- you know, that's what they teach us.

obviously. If you get someone on the PA, you obviously stop and communicate with them, you know, or if you get someone that pulls in front of the truck, you stop and communicate with them. Besides that, you're good to go to leave the scale.

- Q. So after you left the scale, were you pulled over again?
- A. Yes. After I left the scale, I was pulled over again, correct.
 - Q. Who pulled you over?
 - A. Officer... I can't recall his name.
 - Q. Officer Emnett?
 - A. Emnett, yes, sir.
- Q. The gentleman in the room right here?
- 24 A. Yes, sir, it was Officer Emnett there.
- Q. And did he turn on his lights to pull you

over?

- which I was driving. I didn't actually see him until I looked in the left mirror to check my surroundings which I usually do. Drove next to me in the left lane. And then he kind of got in the middle of both lanes, you know, because obviously we can't see them if they're directly behind us, so he got in the middle and then turned on his lights. I proceeded until I found a safe area to stop.
- Q. And did he come up to the vehicle or inspect it first?
- A. He -- right when he came out of the vehicle from what I seen in my rear view mirrors is he went straight to the pins and inspected the vehicle and then approached me.
- Q. Did you have a conversation with Officer Kurtz?
 - A. Yes, sir, I did.
- Q. And what did Mr. Kurtz tell you about the pins or the reason he pulled you over?
- MS. MESSENGER: I'm sorry, just to clarify, was he talking about Mr. Emnett?
- MR. BIAS: I'm sorry, Mr. Emnett, that was my mistake.

THE EXAMINER: Restate the question.

- Q. (By Mr. Bias) Yes, when Mr. Emnett,
 Officer Emnett pulled you over and after he had done
 his inspection and approached, what was your
 conversation about? Did he tell you why he pulled
 you over?
- A. Yes, he told me why he pulled me over, asked me why I left the scale. I stated why and what my understanding was.
 - Q. And what was that?
- A. That first I had to get another pin engaged to leave the scale to get the rest repaired because there was no way to get them repaired at the facility I was. And also I spoke with the company, and they called and had a repair shop, and they asked them and they said there was -- I had to get to a repair shop some way.
- Q. All right. Just to clarify real quick, did you have the out of service sticker inside the cab?
- 21 A. Yes.

- Q. Was it ripped in half?
- A. It was torn when I took it off the trailer, yes.
- 25 O. What was Officer Emnett's reaction to the

reason why you left?

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- A. He was just asking me, you know, why did you leave the scale, what's the reason, you know, and I explained to him what the reason was. He said to sit tight, went back to his cruiser, you know, did what he had to do.
- Q. Now, did Officer Emnett present you with any Driver/Vehicle Examination Report?
- A. Yes, I believe he presented me with a report.
- MR. BIAS: At this time, I'd like to give
 the witness what has been marked as Exhibit B.
- THE EXAMINER: You may approach. I'm going to remark it as Respondent's Exhibit 2.
- 15 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
- Q. (By Mr. Bias) Mr. Wasaya, what is this exhibit?
- A. This exhibit here is another

 Driver/Vehicle Examination Report.
 - Q. Have you seen this before?
- 21 A. Yes, I have.
- Q. Is your signature on this document?
- A. Yes, it is, and this was asked to be signed by the officer before it was given to me.
- Q. All right. Is this a true and accurate

copy of the Driver/Vehicle Examination Report you got on January 21st, 2015?

> Α. Yes, sir.

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Kurtz?

- And can you tell me about the violations Ο. on this exhibit?
 - Violations, left rear tail ID lamp. Α.
- Are these substantially the same Ο. violations that were given in the prior Driver/Vehicle Examination Report given by Officer
- 11 No. There was one missing if you look at Α. 12 them and that's the one it says that I had another 13 pin engaged.
- 14 Q. So there's only two violations for 15 disengaged pins on this?
- 16 Α. Correct.
- 17 Q. And how many were on the other
- 18 Driver/Vehicle Examination Report?
- 19 Α. Three.
- 20 Ο. Do you know why there would not be three 2.1 on this one?
- 2.2 Α. Because I engaged one.
- 23 Ο. And there's an added violation on this, isn't there?
- 25 A. Yes, there is.

- Q. And I believe it's the bottom one. Can you read what that one says?
- A. "Operating an out of service vehicle.

 This driver was stopped for leaving the Findlay scale

 3275 scale location before properly repairing the out
 of service violations."
- Q. And did Officer Emnett explain these violations to you?
 - A. Yes, he did, actually.
- Q. And did you ever discuss again after he had gone back to his cruiser about your miscommunication of only getting one pin engaged before you left?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. What did he say?
- A. He said he would escort me from the place

 I was stopped to the repair facility I was going to.
- 18 Q. So he was going to take you to a repair 19 facility?
- 20 A. Yes.

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- Q. And why was he going to take you there?
- A. Because I needed repairs obviously. It was a misunderstanding on what had to be done.
- Q. So did you drive the vehicle from that stopped location?

1 A. Yes.

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- Q. And when you drove the vehicle again, had the out of service violations that had been now marked on this new exhibit been resolved?
- A. No.
- Q. And why did you not resolve them at that time?
- A. Because I was asked to be escorted to a different facility.
- Q. Could you have resolved them at that time with what you had in your vehicle?
- 12 A. No.
- Q. And did you discuss safety at all with driving?
- 15 A. No.
- Q. So where did you go for the repair facility?
- A. We drove to I believe mile marker 131 or 132, Beaverdam, I believe, Ohio.
- Q. So about how far away was that from where you were pulled over?
- 22 A. About 30, 35 miles.
- Q. And who chose that location?
- 24 A. Officer Emnett, I believe.
- Q. And Officer Emnett was nice enough to

escort you there?

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- A. Yes, he was. Yes, he was.
- Q. Instead of leaving you on the roadside?
- A. Yes, he was.
- Q. And what happened when you and Officer
 Emnett got to did you say Beaverdam repair something?
- A. Yes, when we got there, you know, the Officer told me where it was at before I left. When I got there, I pulled off to the directions I got. Pulled over to the side, the Officer went inside and spoke with the mechanics or front desk and came outside and said that they will repair it here, so I --
 - Q. Did you have it repaired there?
- A. Yes, I called the company, told them what was going on and had the truck repaired there. The company agreed to that.
- Q. And about how long do you think it took to make the repairs?
 - A. Probably five to six hours I would say.
- Q. Five to six hours. Did you talk to the mechanics before?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Did you discuss what was wrong with the vehicle?

- A. Yes, we spoke with the mechanics, discussed what was wrong with the vehicle. They called me a couple times during the time they were repairing the vehicle to show me what was going on and everything.
 - Q. And what was going on?

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A. What happened is, some way, somehow the frame got bent underneath the trailer. They said it could have been from braking hard, from uneven roads, from potholes, that it would bend the frame a little bit on the trailer.

The lights, they showed me the wire that was actually cut, and it was grounding when it bounced with the trailer metal, and they showed me all that good stuff, and they replaced it, fixed it and signed the sheet that the Officer told me to make sure they sign there.

MR. BIAS: At this time, I'd like to present Mr. Wasaya with what we have marked as Exhibit C but what you will probably mark as Respondent's Exhibit 3.

THE EXAMINER: So marked as Respondent's Exhibit 3.

MR. BIAS: May I approach?

THE EXAMINER: You may.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

- Q. (By Mr. Bias) Mr. Wasaya, can you identify the exhibit you've just been handed?
 - A. It's another Driver Examination Report.
 - Q. Do you know who gave you this exhibit?
- A. I believe Officer Emnett.
- Q. And did Officer Emnett sign this
- 8 document?

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- A. Yes, he did.
- 10 Q. And did you sign this document?
- 11 A. Yes, I did.
- Q. Is this a true and accurate copy of the document that Officer Emnett gave you?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Is there another signature on this document?
- A. Yes, this is the repair facility's signature stating that they repaired the vehicle to DOT standards.
- Q. What's the facility and the date next to that signature in the middle?
- 22 A. Beaverdam Fleet 1-21 of 2015.
- Q. Is that the same day you were pulled over for -- that you received the other Driver/Vehicle
 Examination Report?

54 1 Α. Yes. 2 So you got it fixed the same day? Q. 3 Yes, sir. Α. At Beaverdam Fleet? 4 Ο. 5 Α. Yes. And the mechanic signed off on the 6 Q. 7 repairs? 8 Yes. Α. 9 All right. And how did you pay for the Ο. 10 repairs? 11 The company actually paid for the repairs Α. 12 over the phone. And did you receive anything from the 13 Q. 14 Beaverdam Fleet service in regards to what repairs 15 had been done? 16 Yes, obviously a receipt. Α. 17 All right. Q. 18 MR. BIAS: At this time, I'd like to offer --19 20 THE EXAMINER: Let's mark it Respondent's 2.1 Exhibit 4. 22 MR. BIAS: I thought I was working ahead of the game by pre-marking everything. 23 24 THE EXAMINER: Just trying to keep it

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consistent.

55 MR. BIAS: Yes, I understand. 1 2 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.) 3 Q. (By Mr. Bias) Mr. Wasaya, have you seen this invoice before? 4 5 Yes, this is the invoice that was given 6 to me by the mechanics. 7 And do the notes and the description Ο. reflect your understanding and your discussions with 8 the mechanic? 9 10 Α. Yes. 11 Ο. Is this a true and accurate copy of the 12 invoice that you received from Beaverdam Fleet? Α. 13 Yes. 14 Can you read to me the labor that was Ο. 15 done on your vehicle, on your trailer? Tandem pins. Also that the winch tandems 16 Α. 17 forward tandems were not stuck. 18 Can you just read the description Q. 19 starting from the beginning? 20 Α. Do you want me to basically read it out 2.1 loud? Yeah. I'll tell you when to stop. 2.2 Q. 23 "Tandem pins won't go in. Found that Α. 24 slider rail had been replaced and was the wrong one.

Had to cut pin hole so pin would go in. Per customer

not responsible for rail. Per owner of the trailer winch tandems forward tandems were not stuck. Trying to get holes lined up and slider rail but the slider rail does not line up with the tandem pins. Was more than just trying to slide the tandems that were stuck. Driver kept wanting me to try and pull tandems forward even after" -- I can't read that word there because it's not clear -- "to explain it's not possible. 2, lamps" --

- Q. Okay, that's it. So did the mechanic have to drill?
 - A. He actually had to weld.
- Q. Weld. And what tools did he need? Did you see what tools he used to do that?
- A. He pulled out quite a few. He pulled out a couple big tanks, welding tools, welding materials. They brought a wrecker out that actually lifted the trailer off the ground and then another wrecker that actually pulled the tandems to straighten them and align them. They had to cut the metal from my understanding, too, also.
- Q. All right. And did the officer stay with you during the repairs?
- A. No.

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Q. And you also got the lights fixed?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And what did you do after you left that facility?
 - A. I -- the company directed me to come back.
 - Q. To come back?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. When you got back to the company, did you do any further repairs or did you have any further --
 - A. The company automatically put that trailer out of service for examination. They I believe had it repaired again fully to make sure everything was functioning right.
- Q. Did you or the company get an invoice for the repairs that were further done?
- A. Yes, I believe the company was -- they deal with D&M.
- MR. BIAS: At this time, I'd like to
 present Respondent's Exhibit 5. May I approach?

 THE EXAMINER: You may.
- 21 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
- Q. Mr. Wasaya, have you seen this document before?
- 24 A. Yes, this is the receipt.
- Q. Is this a true and accurate copy of the

- 1 receipt you received from D&M?
 2 A. Yes, sir.
 3 O. And what is the first
 - Q. And what is the first Quantity and Description/Stock Number listed?
- 5 A. "2, replace slider rail."
- Q. So did you have the slider rails replaced on the trailer?
 - A. Yep.

- 9 Q. Why did you have the slider rails replaced?
- A. Because they were not functioning properly.
- Q. All right. Mr. Wasaya, before this date, had you ever been placed out of service?
- 15 A. No, sir, first time.
- Q. While having your CDL, have you ever received any other citations?
- 18 A. Before this date?
- 19 Q. Yeah, or warnings, citations or warnings.
- A. I received two over in Michigan. They
 pulled me over and gave me a warning for it.
- Q. By "two over," do you mean --
- A. Two miles per hour over the speed limit.
- 24 I was doing a 62 in a 60, yes.
- Q. But you never had any out of service

before?

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- A. No, sir, that was the first out of service. I've never experienced this before.
- Q. You've never gone through an out of service protocol with an Officer?
 - A. No, never.
- Q. And what would it mean for you if you were to lose your license?
- A. It would mean a lot. I would lose my job obviously. You know, I've got a baby on the way, so it would be tough.
- Q. And all this would be from what you believe now to be a misunderstanding?
- 14 A. Correct.
- MR. BIAS: No further questions, your
- 16 Honor.
- 17 THE EXAMINER: Thank you.
- 18 Cross.
- MS. MESSENGER: Thank you.
- 20
- 21 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 22 By Ms. Messenger:
- Q. Mr. Wasaya, what's your understanding of what out of service means?
- 25 A. Out of service is you're out of service

where you can't operate a vehicle.

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- Q. Do you understand how an out of service violation can be corrected so you're no longer out of service?
 - A. Well, now I do, yes.
- Q. So what's your understanding of that generally?
- A. That you've got to get it repaired to the way I guess the law or the Officer requires it to be.
- Q. When you were talking about the repairs that were made to the vehicle, these repairs happened after Inspector Emnett had pulled you over; is that correct?
 - A. Yes, that's correct.
 - Q. And escorted you over to the TA?
- 16 A. Yes, that's correct.
 - Q. Is it safe to say that you did not have the tools with you to make these repairs to engage the pins that were disengaged?
 - A. Yeah, there was no way. I mean, you have to have welding machines, and there's no way to fit that in the truck.
- Q. You mentioned that the pins weren't lining up after Inspector Kurtz inspected your vehicle?

- A. Yes, the rear pins weren't.
- Q. They weren't lining up and that it took about five to six hours for the repair to happen?
 - A. Yes.

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Q. If you can look at Respondent's Exhibit

7 THE EXAMINER: The receipt?

MS. MESSENGER: Yes, the receipt.

- Q. (By Ms. Messenger) It says that the slider rail had been replaced and was the wrong one. Can you explain what that means, the wrong one?
 - A. You're asking me?
 - Q. Yes, your understanding.
- A. I guess the wrong slider rail that's on the trailer.
- Q. So it wasn't the right rail -- slider rail that corresponded to that kind of trailer?
 - A. Correct, in a way, yes.
 - Q. And then towards the bottom of that, of that, I guess it would be at the end of that second description, it says, "Driver kept wanting me to try and pull tandems forward even after I tried to explain it's not possible." It wasn't possible to pull them forward to line up the holes?
- 25 A. There's a law in the State of Ohio and

the State of Michigan and a few other states, there's a 41-foot bridge law that you must have from your middle of your tandems to the front of your king pin must only be 41 feet, no longer, no shorter. That's so the bridges obviously don't take a beating and that goes with your weight.

I told him that it was lining up past that marker. I kept telling him we have to pull them forward. And that's when he had to get out the welding tools and everything else to get them -- to get forward enough for that bridge law, you see. And that's also a violation if you get caught with that bridge law, that's for turns, weight and, you know, driving expectations basically.

- Q. So all of these tools were needed. This was a five to six-hour repair, these holes were not lining up?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. But you're stating when you did your pre-trip inspection, these were engaged?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Even though this receipt is saying that the wrong slider rail was there on the truck?
- A. Yes, even though it was the wrong slider rail, I guess when they repaired it, when it was

done, that it was set at that certain length to comply with DOT standards on the 41-foot bridge law.

They were in. I believe I did my inspection, it was still dark out, early morning. It was snowing like I stated in the beginning. They were all functional to what I seen.

- Q. Can you take a look at Respondent Exhibit
 1?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Inspector Kurtz, did she explain the out of service violation to you?
- A. She explained that I was placed out of service on those pins. And really, it was like I said, I don't blame her, it was cold outside, it was a busy day at the scales, it was kind of a fast thing where we really didn't communicate enough to get an understanding on exactly what she means and exactly how she wants it done.
- Q. Respondent Exhibit 1 is what she handed to you, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And those bottom three lines cite violation code 393.207B, adjustable axle locking pins not engaged, correct?
- 25 A. Yes.

- Q. And over in the out of service, the "OOS" column, there's a "Y" next to each one of those --
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. -- pins; is that correct?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Stating that you are out of service for each one of those pins, correct?
 - A. Well --
 - Q. Is that your understanding?
- A. To my understanding now, yes. "OOS" -"Y" means yes. I don't know what the "U" means for.
- Q. But in the "OOS" column, there's a "Y" next to each violation?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. You received this report, correct?
- 16 A. Yes, I received the report, correct.
- Q. Right after the inspection?
 - A. It was handed to me before she walked back into the -- the Officer walked back into the scale house.
 - Q. Can you take a look at -- I don't know if you can read this, if not, we can look at one of the Staff exhibits -- right under the section -- so it's sort of where the small type starts, it's right under the section that says "State Information," there's a

65 section that has an asterisk and it says, "Pursuant 1 2 to authority...", do you see that? 3 That's on Exhibit 1 or A? Α. Ο. Yeah. 4 5 Α. I do not see that. 6 MS. MESSENGER: Your Honor, may I 7 approach to point it out? 8 THE EXAMINER: You may. It's 9 Respondent's Exhibit 1? 10 MS. MESSENGER: It's Respondent's Exhibit 11 1, yes. 12 (By Ms. Messenger) Where it says, Q. "Pursuant to...", can you read that? Is that legible 13 14 to you? 15 Α. "To authority..." 16 Q. Can you start with "Pursuant to..." 17 "Pursuant to authority" -- that word is Α. 18 not legible -- "Title 49 Code of Federal 19 Regulations," I believe that's "Section 396.8" or 9. 20 MS. MESSENGER: I'm sorry, your Honor, it 2.1 may be easier to read off of a Staff Exhibit that has 22 the same language. 23 Can you take a look at Staff Exhibit 1? Q. 24 MS. MESSENGER: Your Honor, may I

25

approach once more?

THE EXAMINER: You may.

Q. Right here (indicating).

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MR. BIAS: Your Honor, I'll stipulate to the language being the same in both of the exhibits, the exhibit he had and then this other exhibit.

THE EXAMINER: Thank you.

- A. "Pursuant to authority contained in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 396.9, I hereby declare vehicles with defects followed by a "Y" in the out of service column in the violations discovered section of this report out of service, no person shall remove the out of service sticker applied to these vehicles or operate such vehicles until the out of service defect has been repaired and the vehicle has been restored to a safe operating condition."
- Q. Thank you. And you did receive this report from Inspector Kurtz, correct?
- A. Yes, I received the report. I didn't -- I wasn't told to read anything on it or told to sign the report.
- Q. You did see her put the out of service sticker on your vehicle, correct?
 - A. After I came down from the vehicle.
 - Q. And you, in fact, took the sticker off

before you left?

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- A. Yes, from my understanding, I was told to take the sticker off and if the repairs were completely finished. The DOT standard is to sign the paper which I refused to sign because it wasn't.
- Q. Because to your understanding, it wasn't repaired fully?
- A. It wasn't repaired fully to where you could go down the road. It had to go to the repair shop.
 - Q. And you understood that?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you ask any of the inspectors to escort you to the nearest place where you could have your truck repaired?
- A. I asked Officer Kurtz if after I was done doing what I had to do she would like me to come in and add -- take a peak at what was done. She said no, if you believe it's repaired, you can take the out of service sticker off, sign the sheet and pull back on to the platform in front of the scale and I'll give you a green light to proceed if I see it's repaired. So that's what I thought. Again, I'm not saying anything. That's my understanding between me and the Officer.

- Q. But you just stated that you did not sign the report because you did not believe the repairs were in place to correct your out of service violation.
- A. So to keep going down the road, they were not repaired correctly. To get to a repair shop, yes.
- MS. MESSENGER: I have nothing further, your Honor.
- MR. BIAS: Just two on redirect.
- 11 THE EXAMINER: What's that?
- MR. BIAS: Just two quick questions on
- 13 redirect.

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15 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

- 16 By Mr. Bias:
- Q. Did you state that the trailer was bent, the frame was bent?
- 19 A. Yes, the frame was definitely bent.
 - Q. Could the frame have made it -- from what you saw and your experience on that day, could the frame have made it -- made the pins misalign?
- A. Yes, definitely it could have -- would be enough that it could have disengaged the pins.
- MR. BIAS: No further questions, your

Honor.

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THE EXAMINER: Mr. Wasaya, I just have one matter I want to clear up. It's your testimony that you had a misunderstanding that if you corrected one of the pins --

A. Yes, sir.

THE EXAMINER: -- you could continue to

Is it also your testimony that Inspector Kurtz specifically told you that you could continue if you corrected one of the pins?

A. My understanding from her, yes.

THE EXAMINER: Is it your testimony that she told you that you could carry on if you corrected it?

A. Yes.

THE EXAMINER: Nothing further. You can step-down.

19 Mr. Bias?

MR. BIAS: No further witnesses, your

21 Honor.

22 THE EXAMINER: Miss Messenger, you have 23 two witnesses reserved for rebuttal. Do you intend 24 to call those witnesses?

MS. MESSENGER: I do, your Honor.

70 THE EXAMINER: Which witness will you be 1 2 calling? 3 MS. MESSENGER: I would like to call Inspector Kurtz back to the stand. 4 5 MR. BIAS: Would it be appropriate for me 6 to offer my exhibits into evidence at this time? 7 THE EXAMINER: You may do that now or you may do that at the end of the hearing. 8 9 MR. BIAS: I'll wait. 10 THE EXAMINER: Inspector Kurtz, I'm going 11 to remind you you do remain under oath. 12 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 13 14 MELANIE KURTZ 15 having previously been sworn, as prescribed by law, 16 was examined and testified as follows: 17 DIRECT REBUTTAL EXAMINATION 18 By Ms. Messenger: 19 Inspector Kurtz, did you ever tell Ο. 20 Mr. Wasaya that he could leave after two pins were 2.1 engaged on his vehicle?

No, I did not. Α.

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- What would it have taken, just once again Q. for the record, to cure the out of service violation?
- 25 Α. The rail was obviously the wrong rail.

Usually in this situation, I would have had the driver go up in the truck, I would have helped him move the trailer back and forth and assisted him in getting the pins in.

You could tell this was not going to happen with this -- There had been previous repairs. You could see the welds. You could see the cuts. It was going to require a torch and a welder to repair this situation. It wasn't going to happen with me assisting the driver. It was going to require a lot more tools than he would have had available, and I did express that to him that you're going to have to call someone. That's really about it.

- Q. You cited him for three pins being disengaged?
 - A. Correct.

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- Q. How many of those pins would he have had to reengage in order to no longer be out of service?
 - A. Once you're inspected, all of them.
 - Q. All three pins?
- A. Right. If he had presented to me with just one pin not engaged, then it would have just been a violation, but once you have an inspection, all violations have to be repaired until there's no violation.

- Q. Okay. Let's back up a little bit. If one pin is disengaged, is that an out of service violation?
 - A. No, it would just be a violation.
 - Q. If more than one pin is disengaged --
 - A. If it's four pins, yes.
- Q. And then once the vehicle is placed out of service, all three rather than just two would have to be engaged?
 - A. All four would have to be engaged, yes.
 - Q. All four pins on the trailer?
- 12 A. Correct.

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- Q. When a vehicle is put out of service, are mechanics typically called to wherever the vehicle is or the scales?
- 16 A. Yes, we have a board inside.
 - Q. You have a what inside?
- A. A bulletin board inside with various repair companies. I had told him about that.
- There's a board inside with phone numbers, you can choose who you want to call.
- Q. Mr. Wasaya mentioned a green light at the scales. Can you explain?
- A. The light is always green. We don't do our reinspections by them driving across the scales

in front of us. We very rarely do reinspections.

Usually it's just the driver, the form is signed by someone verifying it's repaired and the driver could leave. The time period and the extent of the repairs he needed, I knew when he was driving by me they weren't done.

He was already pretty much past the green light before by the time I realized it was him. I think I went in the back for a moment and I came back to the front and saw him. You know, we're not sitting there specifically waiting for our trucks that we have parked out back to drive by. We do take breaks and stuff that we're not sitting there staring at the trucks driving by.

- Q. At any time while Mr. Wasaya was at the the scales, did you see a mechanic or someone come to repair the vehicle?
 - A. No.
 - O. You didn't observe that at all?
- 20 A. No.

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- Q. You testified that it's not really -- you don't typically do reinspections?
- A. Right.
- O. Correct?
- 25 A. Right.

Q. So is it part of your job to ensure that he properly repaired the vehicle when he's out of service before he takes off again?

A. In that specific location, yes, especially when I knew it couldn't have been repaired in the time span. We've had drivers come and say, "Hey, will you just come and look at this and make sure it's good before I leave?" Gladly. We would always do that.

But as for typing an inspection and entering it as a reinspection, no, I've not done that. I'll gladly go -- and I showed him the pins. We did walk around the truck and I showed him the pins and what I meant about how they weren't lining up, the rail was wrong.

- Q. Is a driver obligated to come in and show you that the repairs were fixed before he takes off?
 - A. No.

MS. MESSENGER: We have nothing further, your Honor.

21 THE EXAMINER: Cross?

MR. BIAS: Just a few, your Honor.

_ _ -

- 12 was leaving?
- Yes. 13 Q.
- Yes. Okay, yeah, I saw him, yeah. 14 Α.
- Did you red light him? 15 Q.
- 16 Α. No.
- 17 Q. Did you speak to him over the speaker?
- 18 No. Α.
- 19 And did you see how far he got when Ο.
- 20 Officer Emnett pulled him over?
- 2.1 Α. No.
- 22 MR. BIAS: No further questions.
- 23 THE EXAMINER: Thank you. Miss Kurtz,
- 24 you may step-down.
- 25 You have one more witness reserved for

76 1 rebuttal. Do you intend to call him? 2 MS. MESSENGER: Just for one question. I'll call Inspector Emnett back to the stand. 3 THE EXAMINER: I'm remind you you remain 4 5 under oath. THE WITNESS: Yes. 6 7 8 HAROLD EMNETT 9 having previously been sworn, as prescribed by law, 10 was examined and testified as follows: 11 DIRECT REBUTTAL EXAMINATION 12 By Ms. Messenger: 13 Q. After you completed your inspection, you escorted Mr. Wasaya, correct, to a TA? 14 15 Α. Correct. Q. How far away was that? 16 17 That's at 135-mile post, and we were at Α. 18 the -- it's right at the 161/162-mile post where I 19 stopped him. And I don't know if I took him on down to the rest -- the 153 to finish the inspection, I 20 2.1 can't remember that, but I remember stopping him just 2.2 as he left the scales. Q. So about 25 miles? 23 24 A. Yeah.

Was there a closer location to take him

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- A. No, we couldn't have backed him up the ramp because that's illegal, so I just followed him and made sure everything was okay, and I followed him to where I placed him out of service again.
- Q. So you followed him to the closest location you could?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Where he could safely repair his vehicle?
 - A. And legally park.
 - MS. MESSENGER: Nothing further.
- THE EXAMINER: Cross of this witness?
- MR. BIAS: Yes, your Honor.

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CROSS REBUTTAL EXAMINATION

16 By Mr. Bias:

- Q. You stated that you pulled Mr. Wasaya over as he was leaving the scale on the exit ramp?
- A. I couldn't remember if it was exactly on the ramp or it was on down but into the interstate part, but it was somewhere in there because I had to get in my vehicle and it might have been down the road, but I remember it was after he left the scales.

And if he said I pulled up beside him,

the exit ramp's only one lane, so it might have been

farther down the road because I couldn't have got up beside him on an exit ramp to see which truck it was to make sure I was pulling over the right truck.

- Q. Did you turn on your lights before you pulled up beside him?
- A. No, I wanted to make sure I had the right truck before I pulled someone over.
- Q. And you placed him out of service,
 State's Exhibit No. 2? Actually, it's not on that
 one.
- MR. BIAS: Can I show him Respondent's
 Exhibit 2?
- THE EXAMINER: Yes, you may approach. I
 want to try to keep this to the scope of what was on
 direct rebuttal.
- MR. BIAS: I will, your Honor.
- Q. (By Mr. Bias) Have you seen that report?
- 18 A. Yes.

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- Q. Can you read what it says for the out of service?
- A. Axle?
- 22 Q. "Operating an out of service vehicle.
- 23 This driver was..."
- A. "Stopped for leaving the Findlay scale location before properly repairing the out of service

violations."

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- Q. Is the entrance ramp part of the Findlay scale location?
- A. Entrance ramp is part of the traveled roadway. The actual scale part is the building, the platform and the parking lot behind.
- Q. And you stated that you potentially pulled him over on the exit ramp?
- 9 A. It was hard -- it must have been a

 10 year-and-a-half ago. If I pulled up beside him, it

 11 was probably past the ramp because it's only one

 12 lane. Exit and entrance ramps are only one lane, and

 13 I wouldn't have been able to get up beside him to

 14 look.

MR. BIAS: No further questions.

16 THE EXAMINER: Thank you.

17 Inspector Emnett, you may step-down.

I have two inspection reports marked into evidence by Staff. Do you intend to move those into evidence?

MS. MESSENGER: I do, your Honor.

THE EXAMINER: Any objection to the

23 admission of those exhibits?

MR. BIAS: None here, your Honor.

THE EXAMINER: They have been so

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 1
     admitted.
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                 (EXHIBITS ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)
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                 THE EXAMINER: I have five exhibits that
     have been marked. Do you intend to move those into
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     evidence?
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                 MR. BIAS: I do, your Honor.
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                 THE EXAMINER: Any objection to the
     admission of Respondent's Exhibits 1 through 5?
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                 MS. MESSENGER: None, your Honor.
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                 THE EXAMINER: Each will be so admitted.
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                 (EXHIBITS ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)
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                 THE EXAMINER: Anything further on behalf
13
     of Staff?
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                 MS. MESSENGER: Nothing, your Honor.
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                 THE EXAMINER: Anything further on behalf
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     of Mr. Wasaya?
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                 MR. BIAS: As a housekeeping matter, do
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     we get closing arguments?
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                 THE EXAMINER: We do not do closing
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     arguments. Let's go off the record.
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                 (Off the record.)
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                 THE EXAMINER: Let's go back on the
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     record. We do not typically do closing arguments.
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     Seeing nothing from the parties, we are adjourned.
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     Thank you everyone. Let's go off the record.
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                  (Off the record.)
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                  (The hearing was concluded at 11:32 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Thursday, April 14, 2016 and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.

Cynthia L. Cunningham

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 15-1049-TR-CVF

Summary: Transcript In the matter of Charlie Wasaya, Notice of Apparent Violation and Intent to Assess Forfeiture, hearing held on April 14, 2016. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Cunningham, Cindy