BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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In the Matter of the :
Application of Dodson :
Creek Solar, LLC, for a :

Certificate of : Case No. 20-1814-EL-BGN

Environmental : Compatibility and Public : Need. :

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

before Mr. Jay S. Agranoff and Mr. David Hicks,
Administrative Law Judges, at the Ohio Power Siting
Board, via Webex, called at 10:05 a.m. on Thursday,
April 21, 2022.

- - -

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	•			
				3
1		INDEX		
2				
3	TTIW	NESS		PAGE
4	Cou			
5		Direct Examination by Ms. Sanyal Examination by ALJ Agranoff		16 20
	R€	27		
6	Fı	28		
7	Eddie Duncan Direct Examination by Ms. Sanyal			
8	Examination by ALJ Agranoff			34 37
9		k Bonifas		4.0
10		irect Examination by Ms. Sanyal kamination by ALJ Agranoff		42 45
11				
12	COMI	PANY EXHIBITS I	DENTIFIED	ADMITTED
13	1	Application Filed on May 27, 2021	11	30
14	1 C	Confidential Portion of	11	30
15	10	the Application Filed on May 27, 2021 (Confidential)	T.T.	30
16	0		1 1	2.1
17	2	First Supplement to the Application Filed June 29, 2021	11	31
18			1.0	0.1
19	3	Proof of Service of the Application Filed on July 29, 2021	12	31
20				
21	4	Compilation of Various Proofs of Publications and Associated Newspaper Publications	12	31
22	_		1.0	2.0
23	5	Responses to Staff Data Request Filed on September 3, 2021	s 12	32
24	5C	Confidential Portions of a	12	32
25		Phase I Archeological Reconnaissance Report (Conf.)		
	l			

				4
1		INDEX (Continued)	
2				
3	COM	PANY EXHIBITS	IDENTIFIED	ADMITTED
4	6	Memorandum of Understanding Between the Ohio State Histori	13 c	32
5		Preservation Office and the Applicant		
7	7	Direct Testimony of Lindsey Hesch Filed on November 19, 2021	13	32
8	8	Direct Testimony of Courtney	13	33
9	0	Direct Testimony of Courtney Pelissero Filed on April 6, 2022	13	33
10				
11	9	Direct Testimony of Eddie Duncan Filed on November 19, 2021	13	41
12		2021		
13	10	Supplemental Testimony of Mr. Duncan Filed April 6, 2022	14	41
1415	11	Direct Testimony of Mark Bonifas Filed November 19, 2021	14	47
16	12	Supplemental Testimony of Mark Bonifas Filed April 6, 2022	14	47
17	13	Direct Testimony of Eric Koch	14	48
18		Filed November 19, 2021		
19	14	Direct Testimony of Andrew Lines Filed November 19, 2021	14	48
20		·		
21	15	Direct Testimony of Gordon Perkins Filed on November 19, 2021	15	48
22				
23	16	Direct Testimony of Robert Hanley, also filed on November 19, 2021	15	48
24				
25	17	Direct Testimony of Brent Finley filed November 19, 2021	15	48

					5
1		INDEX	(Continu	ıed)	
2					
3	STAI	FF EXHIBITS		IDENTIFIED	ADMITTED
4 5	1	Prefiled Testimony Tyler Conklin	of	49	50
6	2	Prefiled Testimony Eric Morrison	of	49	50
7	3	Prefiled Testimony Allison DeLong	of	49	50
8	4	Prefiled Testimony Thomas Crawford	of	49	50
10	5	Prefiled Testimony Andrew Conway	of	49	50
1112	6	Prefiled Testimony James O'Dell	of	49	50
13	7	Prefiled Testimony Matthew Butler	of	49	50
1415	8	Prefiled Testimony Mark Bellamy	of	49	50
16	9	Prefiled Testimony Robert Holderbaum	of	49	50
17 18	10	Prefiled Testimony Jess Stottsberry	of	49	50
19	11	Staff Report Filed October 22, 2021	on	49	50
20					
21	JOINT EXHIBIT IDENTIFIED ADMITT		ADMITTED		
22	1	Joint Stipulation a Recommendation File 2021		15	
24					
25					

Thursday Morning Session,

April 21, 2022.

ALJ HICKS: I think we can go ahead and go on the record.

The Ohio Power Siting Board has set for hearing at this time and place Case No.

20-1814-EL-BGN captioned in the Matter of the Application of Dodson Creek Solar, LLC, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

Once again, good morning to everyone. I am David Hicks and with me is Jay Agranoff and we are the Administrative Law Judges assigned by the Board to hear this case.

At this time we will begin by taking appearances of counsel, and we will start with the Applicant.

MS. SANYAL: Thank you, your Honor. On behalf of Dodson Creek Solar, LLC, Anna Sanyal and Mike Settineri of the law firm Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP, 52 East Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

On behalf of Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.

2.1

MS. MILAM: Good morning, your Honors.

Amy Milam on behalf of Ohio Farm Bureau Federation,

280 North High Street, 6th Floor, Columbus, Ohio

43215.

ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

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On behalf of Board Staff.

MS. BAIR: Thank you, your Honor. Jodi Bair, Thomas Shepherd, Assistant Attorneys General, on behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities

Commission Power Siting Department, 30 East Broad

Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

ALJ HICKS: Thank you.

I will also note that Dodson Township and Hamer Township are Intervenors in the case. Their counsel, Ms. Anneka Collins, is not with us today. But for the record the Bench just wanted to note that Ms. Collins has made it clear to both the Bench and the other parties that her participation would be very limited, if at all, and that she understood and was fine with things proceedings if she was not present or not participating.

And she also sent an e-mail to the Bench and all of the parties on April 19 in which she indicated the Trustees of the Townships would have no cross for any of the witnesses and that they had no

objection to the filed Stipulation.

2.1

And one other note for the record is that Intervenors Robert and Laurie Banks filed a notice of withdrawal from the proceeding yesterday, April 20, 2021, and so they have withdrawn as a party of record in the case. I'm assuming everyone has seen that, and it's seen on the docket now. But just for the record we will note they have officially withdrawn from the proceeding.

Just a few more preliminary remarks here, just point out this adjudicatory hearing is taking place pursuant to the parameters set forth in the entries of March 29, 2022, and April 3, 2022, specifically the hearing is being held through Webex which enables parties to participate by video conference while affording the public access to the hearing via the internet.

Just a few preliminary issues. Again, if anyone has any technical difficulties, as we have all experienced in these various Webex hearings, you have a couple of options. There's the chat function.

Just keep in mind those are recorded and could be seen by everyone but are not a part of the official record. We also have Micah Schmidt is on chairing things here. If you have any issues, the legal line

is (614) 466-6843.

2.1

I'll again note nonparties are going to be able to observe the hearing, but their microphones and cameras will not be on. Any witnesses that are currently as attendees will be promoted if and when they are called to testify. As usual, you are just asked to avoid unnecessary background noise. If you are not speaking or have the need to quickly speak, keep your microphone muted. It will help avoid cross chatter and any background noise that could make things hard to -- for our court reporter.

As usual, counsel should leave their cameras on at all times except during breaks or if you have co-counsel who is taking over and is handling things at that moment.

Witnesses again should only have access to filings in the case or other documents that have been identified as potential exhibits and already exchanged between the parties. And any witnesses should not attempt to communicate through other means with anyone privately during their testimony or seek out information in other documents that have not previously been identified or filed in the case.

Unless someone here says anything otherwise, I am going to assume there is no need for

things like a closed record or anything of that nature. And it's also my understanding that a Joint Stipulation has already been filed in this case between the parties and that the parties have agreed to waive cross-examination for all of the witnesses.

2.1

I know the Bench has a few questions for some witnesses that have been identified, but otherwise, again, we understand that everyone has waived cross-examination. To the extent that any exhibits are admitted today that are not docketed, we would just ask that you send those to the court reporter by tomorrow. The e-mail for that, I am guessing you all have it; but in case you don't, it's kspencer@aando.com.

Anything else from any of the parties before we officially proceed? I will take silence as a no.

Okay. I am going to hand it off to Judge Agranoff, and he will take it away.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

Good morning, everybody. At this point in time would the Applicant seek to have the marking of their identified exhibits.

MS. SANYAL: Sure. I can go ahead either after we call our sponsoring witness, or we can do it

now, whatever works for you, your Honor.

ALJ AGRANOFF: If you want to basically just go through your list and that way they will be marked and then we can deal with any specific exhibits that pertain to any of the witnesses that you are going to be calling.

MS. SANYAL: Okay. Company Exhibit 1 is the Dodson Creek Solar application. Company -
ALJ AGRANOFF: What was the filing date

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MS. SANYAL: May 27, '21.

12 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. It shall be so

13 marked.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

MS. SANYAL: Then Company Exhibit 1C as in confidential is the confidential portion of the application, also filed on May 27, 2021.

ALJ AGRANOFF: That shall be so marked.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

MS. SANYAL: Company Exhibit 2 is the first supplement to the application and that was filed June 29, 2021.

ALJ AGRANOFF: That shall be so marked.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

MS. SANYAL: Company Exhibit 3 is the

proof of service of the application which was filed on the docket on July 29, 2021.

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ALJ AGRANOFF: That shall be so marked.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

MS. SANYAL: And Company Exhibit 4 is a compilation of various proofs of publications and associated newspaper publications. This is a compilation exhibit and it has been provided to the court reporter.

ALJ AGRANOFF: That shall be so marked.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

MS. SANYAL: Company Exhibit 5 is another compilation document. It's responses to Staff Data Requests, and it's been filed on the docket on September 3, 2021.

ALJ AGRANOFF: It shall be so marked.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

MS. SANYAL: Then we have Company
Exhibit 5C as in confidential which is confidential
portions of a phase I archeological reconnaissance
report which was provided as a Data Response.

ALJ AGRANOFF: That shall be so marked.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

MS. SANYAL: Company Exhibit 6 is a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ohio State

Historic Preservation Office and the Applicant. This was not filed on the docket, and it has been provided to the court reporter.

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ALJ AGRANOFF: That shall be so marked.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

MS. SANYAL: Company Exhibit 7 is the direct testimony of Lindsey Hesch which was filed on November 19, 2021.

ALJ AGRANOFF: That shall be so marked.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

ALJ AGRANOFF: That's the testimony that Ms. Pelissero is going to be adopting.

MS. SANYAL: Correct, your Honor. We have Company Exhibit 8 which is the direct testimony of Courtney Pelissero which was filed on April 6, 2022.

ALJ AGRANOFF: That shall be so marked.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

MS. SANYAL: Company Exhibit 9 is the direct testimony of Eddie Duncan which was filed on November 19, 2021.

ALJ AGRANOFF: That shall be so marked.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

MS. SANYAL: Company Exhibit 10 is the supplemental testimony of Mr. Duncan and this one was

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filed April 6, 2022.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: That shall be so marked.
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                 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
                 MS. SANYAL: Company Exhibit 11 is the
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     direct testimony of Mark Bonifas filed November 19,
     2021.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: That shall be so marked.
                 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
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                 MS. SANYAL: Company Exhibit 12 is
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    Mr. Bonifas's supplemental testimony which was filed
     April 6, 2022.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: It shall be so marked.
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                 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
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                 MS. SANYAL: Company Exhibit 13 is the
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     direct testimony of Mr. Eric Koch, spelled K-O-C-H.
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     And this was filed November 19, 2021.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: It shall be so marked.
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                 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
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                 MS. SANYAL: Company Exhibit 14 is the
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     direct testimony of Mr. Andrew Lines filed on
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     November 19, 2021.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: So marked.
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                 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
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                 MS. SANYAL: Company Exhibit 15 is the
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     direct testimony of Mr. Gordon Perkins which was
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     filed on November 19, 2021.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: It shall be so marked.
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                 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
                 MS. SANYAL: Company Exhibit 16 is the
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     direct testimony of Mr. Robert Hanley, also filed on
     November 19, 2021.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: So marked.
                 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
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                 MS. SANYAL: Company Exhibit 17 is the
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     direct testimony of Mr. Brent Finley filed
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     November 19, 2021.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: So marked.
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                 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
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                 MS. SANYAL: And finally Joint Exhibit 1
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     is the Joint Stipulation which was filed on April 6,
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     2022.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: So marked.
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                 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. At this point
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     in time why don't we call the first witness for which
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     the Bench had questions and then we can at the end of
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     all the testimonies move for the admission of all the
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     exhibits.
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                 MS. SANYAL: Sure. And would that be
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    Ms. Pelissero, your Honor?
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16 1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please. 2 MS. SANYAL: Sure. The Applicant calls 3 Ms. Courtney Pelissero to the stand. MR. SCHMIDT: Ms. Pelissero, you have 4 5 been promoted. If you can enable your audio and video. 6 7 ALJ AGRANOFF: There you are. Good 8 morning. 9 MS. PELISSERO: Good morning. 10 ALJ AGRANOFF: If you could please raise 11 your right hand. 12 (Witness sworn.) 13 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. 14 Please proceed, Ms. Sanyal. 15 MS. SANYAL: Thank you, your Honor. 16 17 COURTNEY PELISSERO 18 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified as follows: 19 20 DIRECT EXAMINATION 2.1 By Ms. Sanyal: 22 Ms. Pelissero, good morning. Q. 23 A. Good morning. 24 I will just go through and have you Ο. 25 identify some of the exhibits that we marked earlier.

So if we could start with Company Exhibit 1, could you identify for the record what that is.

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- A. Dodson Creek's solar application filed on May 27, 2021.
 - Q. Thank you. What is Company Exhibit 1C?
 - A. That is the confidential portion of the application filed on May 27, 2021.
 - Q. Thank you. What is Company Exhibit 2?
 - A. That's the first supplement to the application filed June 29, 2021.
- Q. And could you identify for the record what is Company Exhibit 3.
- A. That is the proof of service of the application filed on July 29, 2021.
 - Q. And could you please identify for the record Company Exhibit 4.
- A. That was a compilation of various proofs
 of publications that have all been filed.
 - Q. Thank you. And will you please identify for the record Company Exhibit 5.
- A. Our responses to Staff Data Requests
 filed September 3, 2021.
- Q. And will you please identify for the record Company Exhibit 5C.
- 25 A. That is the confidential portion of the

phase I archeological reconnaissance report provided in response to the Data Request and filed on July 15, 2021.

2.1

- Q. Thank you. Will you identify for the record what is Company Exhibit 6.
- A. That is the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office and Dodson Creek Solar.
- Q. And then turning to Company Exhibit 7, will you please identify Company Exhibit 7.
- A. That is the direct testimony of Lindsey Hesch filed on November 19, 2021.
- Q. And, Ms. Pelissero, I understand you are adopting Ms. Hesch's testimony today, correct?
 - A. Yes, that is correct.
 - Q. And then do you have any changes to that particular piece of testimony?
 - A. Yes, I do have a few minor changes.
 - Q. Okay. If you could go over those changes very slowly so the court reporter can take them down.
- A. Okay. On page 5, lines 21 and 22, where originally said "Company Exhibit 2," it should be changed to "Company Exhibit 5."
 - Q. Thank you.
 - A. And then on page 5, line 23, "Company

- Exhibit 3" should be changed to "Company Exhibit 2."
- Q. Okay. And then the next one, please.
- A. On page 6, line 4, "Company Exhibit 4" should be changed to "Company Exhibit 3."
 - Q. Okay. And then the next one, please.
- A. Page 6, line 11, "Company Exhibit 5" should be changed to "Company Exhibit 4."
 - Q. Okay. Any others?
 - A. Yes, one more. Page 6, line 16, "Company Exhibit 5" should be changed to "Company Exhibit 4."
 - Q. And any other changes to that?
- 12 A. No. That is all.
- Q. Okay. And then let's turn to Company
 Exhibit 8, please.
- A. That is my direct testimony filed on April 6, 2022.
- Q. And was Company Exhibit 8 prepared by you or under your direction?
- 19 A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. And do you have any changes to Company Exhibit 8 today?
- 22 A. No, I do not.
- Q. And if I were to ask you the same
 questions that are in your direct testimony, would
 your answers remain the same?

A. Yes, they would.

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- Q. Okay. Let us turn to Joint Exhibit 1.

 Could you please identify for the record what is

 Joint Exhibit 1.
- A. That is the Joint Stipulation filed on April 6, 2022.

7 MS. SANYAL: Okay. And, your Honor, 8 Ms. Pelissero is now available for cross-examination.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. It is my understanding that the parties have indicated that they did not have any cross-examination of Ms. Pelissero; is that still correct?

MS. BAIR: That's correct. Staff has no cross.

MS. MILAM: That's correct. No cross from OFBF.

17 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

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19 EXAMINATION

20 By ALJ Agranoff:

Q. I do have some clarifying questions,
Ms. Pelissero. If you could please indulge me in
taking a look at your direct testimony that was
marked as Company Exhibit 8. Do you have that in
front of you?

- A. Yes, I do.
- Q. And if you could please take a look at page 2 of that testimony. Let me know when you are there.
 - A. I am there.
 - Q. Okay. Specifically question 6.
- A. Okay.

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- Q. And you discuss beginning in line 19 about the fact that you are addressing changes made to Conditions 1, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 32, and 34. I assume that was of the Staff Report; is that correct?
- A. Yes. The -- what I am describing here are changes to the Stipulation -- the changes to the -- edits to the proposed Staff conditions that have been represented in the Joint Stipulation.
- Q. Okay. So basically those conditions that you were referencing that I had just delineated, those were conditions that were set forth in the Staff Report; is that correct?
 - A. Yes. That is my understanding.
- Q. Okay. And it's your understanding that there was not going to be an actual then amended Staff Report as a result of your proposed changes.
 - A. Correct. That is my understanding.

- Q. Thank you. And then if you could please turn to page 6 of your testimony and let me know when you are there.
 - A. I am there.

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- Q. Okay. And if you're not the best witness to answer this particular question, certainly you can indicate as such and then let me know who specifically would be the better of the witnesses to answer the question. But what I am trying to ascertain is you discuss on line 12 the fact that the Applicant has committed to substitute or replace any failed plantings during the first five years after construction in order to ensure that at least 90 percent of the vegetation screening has survived as of the five-year point. Do you see that?
 - A. Yes, I do.
- Q. Okay. And then you also discuss beginning on line 14 where you say the Applicant must meet the vegetative screening which will consist of various landscape modules for the life of the project. Can you reconcile for me or explain to me how the at least 90 percent commitment is able to coexist or how you distinguish between that and the commitment of maintaining the vegetative screening for the life of the project?

A. Yes. It's my understanding that the sentences where describing the 90 percent, that is referencing for the first five years, so after your five, then we are committing to the vegetation survival rate of at least 90 percent. And then for the lifetime of the project after those five years, we are committing to replacing or supplementing vegetation to meet our vegetation screening plan.

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- Q. How are those two distinguishable? I guess I don't understand how one is different than the other.
- A. I was not involved in the creation of the vegetation screening plan. So Gordon Perkins may be the best expert to answer those questions.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. And, Ms. Sanyal, is that particular witness available?

MS. SANYAL: Yes. We do have him on standby. And, your Honor, after your questioning, if we could maybe have a brief recess, we might even have Ms. Pelissero answer that question a little bit more in detail for you. So we could do both.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Whichever you believe is the more effective way of getting to the answers is okay by me. I just would like to have that clarification on the record.

MS. SANYAL: Sure. After -- after your questioning, if I could just have one moment to confer and we can quickly figure that out for you.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

- Q. (By ALJ Agranoff) The next question I have, and again, the same caveat, if you feel you are not the best witness to answer this particular question, then certainly indicate as such. And this has to do with your discussion -- same page of your testimony and same question, which was question and answer 18, but you have a discussion where down at the bottom of that page, line 23, you discuss Condition 30. And I have a question with respect to Condition 30. If you could please take a look at that particular condition contained in Joint Exhibit 1.
 - A. Yes. Just one moment. I will find it.
 - Q. Okay. Thank you.
 - A. Okay. I have located it.
- Q. Okay. Thank you. And if you take a look at one, two, three, four, fourth line down in Condition 30.
 - A. Okay.

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Q. It discusses "Damaged field tile systems shall be promptly repaired or rerouted to at least

original conditions or the modern equivalent." Do you see that?

A. Yes, I do.

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- Q. Okay. And I was interested in knowing whether or not there is any definition or parameters specific to the utilization of the term "promptly."
- A. I am not aware of a time frame that defines promptly that is laid out in this condition.
- Q. Okay. Do you know whether another witness may have better knowledge of that term?
- A. Mark Bonifas is our drain tile expert, so he may be able to provide more information.
- Q. Okay. Thank you. And then if you could take a look at page 7 of your testimony. Let me know when you are there.
- 16 A. I am there.
- Q. And in particular line 8.
- 18 A. Okay.
 - Q. And there is a discussion there about the "Stipulation authorizes an environmental specialist to stop construction activities for up to 48 hours in or near the impacted sensitive area(s)." Do you see that?
- 24 A. Yes, I do.
- Q. And what I am curious about is there any

contemplated plan that would be then utilized to the extent that the problem still exists beyond 48 hours?

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A. Let me take a look at the condition that is being discussed in my testimony. Maybe it is Condition --

MS. SANYAL: Condition 23.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

A. In my review of that condition, I do not see a discussion or contemplation for what would occur if beyond those 48 hours there was still a circumstance that needed to be reviewed. I would anticipate that would be a discussion between Applicant and Staff.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you. Those are my limited clarifying questions. Based on those questions, does counsel have any follow-up that they would like to ask?

MS. SANYAL: May we take a very brief recess, your Honor, so I may confer with my client?

ALJ AGRANOFF: Certainly.

MS. SANYAL: Okay. How about --

ALJ AGRANOFF: We can take 5 minutes, and we can come back at 10:40.

MS. SANYAL: Thank you, your Honor.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

(Recess taken.)

2 ALJ AGRANOFF: Let's go back on the 3 record.

Ms. Sanyal.

MS. SANYAL: Yes, your Honor. I am just waiting -- there we go. Ms. Pelissero is back on video.

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REDIRECT EXAMINATION

By Ms. Sanyal:

2.1

- Q. Ms. Pelissero, just one brief question for you. Do you remember Administrative Law Judge Agranoff just asked you about Condition 16 that's discussed in your testimony? Could you explain a little bit further what is meant by each of the two prongs of that condition?
- A. Yes, I can. So it's a two-pronged approach. The first prong relates to the first five years, and we are committing to at year five at least 90 percent of the vegetative screening will have survived as of the five-year point.

The second prong relates to the lifetime of the project. So for the lifetime of the project, we are committing to keeping the screening plan as proposed. It needs to perform as we proposed and if

there is any issue with the screening or it wasn't performing as we had proposed, then we are committing to replacing or supplementing the vegetation and that's for the lifetime of the project.

- Q. Do you have any -- is that all,
- 6 Ms. Pelissero?

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7 A. Yes, that is all.

MS. SANYAL: Okay. Your Honor, that is all the questions we have.

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any additional questions
11 from counsel?

MS. BAIR: No questions from Staff, your

Honor.

MS. MILAM: No, your Honor.

MS. SANYAL: And, your Honor, if that did not, you know, completely answer your question, we do have Mr. Perkins available.

18

FURTHER EXAMINATION

20 By ALJ Agranoff:

- Q. If Ms. Pelissero could just explain to me then how the second prong is intended to be implemented in year six.
- A. It is my understanding that the second prong relates to the lifetime of the project, so from

day one through the lifetime of the project, we will ensure that the vegetative screening is performing as -- as proposed.

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- Q. And how is that different than the level of performance in years one through five?
- A. The extra performance during the prong described for the first five years is an extra performance commitment that we are making that at least 90 percent of all of the modules will be performing and established.

The second prong ties in a bit more to each of the different modules where we are committing to module one, two, three all performing as proposed and will be replaced as needed.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. I appreciate your clarifications. Thank you.

THE WITNESS: You are welcome. Thank you.

ALJ AGRANOFF: If there is no further questions from counsel, then I believe Ms. Pelissero is free to go.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

MS. SANYAL: And, your Honor, at this time I would move to admit several exhibits. And we can do them one by one or...

Ι

ALJ AGRANOFF: Well, you can just do them 1 2 individually so we can be clear. 3 MS. SANYAL: Okay. Initially I would move to admit Company Exhibit 1 which is the 4 application. 5 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any objection? 6 7 There being none --MS. BAIR: No objection. 8 9 ALJ AGRANOFF: There being no objection, 10 Company Exhibit 1 or Applicant Exhibit 1 shall be 11 admitted as part of the record at this time. 12 MS. SANYAL: I next move for Company 13 Exhibit 1C to be moved into the record. 14 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any objections? 15 MS. BAIR: No objection. 16 ALJ AGRANOFF: There being no objection, 17 Applicant Exhibit 1C shall be admitted at part of the 18 record at this time, and I believe that you have 19 previously denoted, Ms. Sanyal, that that is a 20 confidential? 2.1 MS. SANYAL: Correct, your Honor. 22 ALJ AGRANOFF: And, therefore, Applicant

(EXHIBIT ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)

MS. SANYAL: Thank you, your Honor.

Exhibit 1C shall be kept under seal.

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     next move Company Exhibit 2 to be admitted into the
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     record. This is the first supplement to the
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     application.
                 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any objections?
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                 Hearing none, Applicant Exhibit 2 shall
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     be admitted as part of the record.
 7
                 (EXHIBIT ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)
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                 MS. SANYAL: I next move Company
     Exhibit 3 which is the proof of service of the
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     application into the record.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any objections?
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                 There being none, Company Exhibit 3 shall
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    be admitted as part of the record.
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                 (EXHIBIT ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)
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                 MS. SANYAL: I next move Company
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     Exhibit 4 which is proofs of publications to be
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     admitted into the record.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any objections?
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                 There being none, it shall be admitted.
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                 (EXHIBIT ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)
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                 MS. SANYAL: Next move Company Exhibit 5
     which are responses to Staff Data Requests to be
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     admitted into the record.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any objections?
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                 There being none, it shall be admitted as
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     part of the record.
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                 (EXHIBIT ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)
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                 MS. SANYAL: I move Company Exhibit 5C
     which is the confidential archeological
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     reconnaissance report to be admitted into the record.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Any
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     objections?
                 There being none, Company Exhibit 5C
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     shall be admitted as part of the record under seal.
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                 (EXHIBIT ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)
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                 MS. SANYAL: I next move Company
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     Exhibit 6 which is the Memorandum of Understanding
13
     between the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office
14
     and the Applicant to be admitted into the record.
15
                 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any objections?
                 There being none, Applicant Exhibit 6
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     shall be admitted as part of the record.
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                 (EXHIBIT ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)
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                 MS. SANYAL: I move Company Exhibit 7
20
     which is the direct testimony of Ms. Lindsey Hesch to
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     be admitted into the record.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any objections?
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                 Hearing none, it shall be admitted as
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    part of the record.
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                 (EXHIBIT ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)
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                 MS. SANYAL: And next move Company
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     Exhibit 8 which is the direct testimony of
    Ms. Courtney Pelissero to be admitted into the
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     record.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any objections?
                 Hearing none, it shall be admitted as
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     part of the record.
                 (EXHIBIT ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)
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                 MS. SANYAL: And, lastly, your Honor, I
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    move Joint Exhibit 1 which is the Joint Stipulation
     to be admitted into the record.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any objections?
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                 Hearing none, it shall be admitted as
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    part of the record.
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                 (EXHIBIT ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: And at this time,
17
    Ms. Sanyal, are you prepared to call your next
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     witness?
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                 MS. SANYAL: Yes, your Honor. I would
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     like to call Mr. Eddie Duncan to the stand.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: If Mr. Duncan can be
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    promoted, please.
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                 MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Duncan, you've been
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    promoted. If you can enable your audio and video.
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                 MR. DUNCAN: Can you hear me?
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1 ALJ AGRANOFF: I can see you and --

2 MR. DUNCAN: Can you hear me?

3 ALJ AGRANOFF: And I can hear you. Check

4 both boxes. If you could please raise your right

5 hand.

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6 (Witness sworn.)

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

Please proceed, Ms. Sanyal.

MS. SANYAL: Thank you, your Honor.

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11 EDDIE DUNCAN

12 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was

13 examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

15 | By Ms. Sanyal:

- Q. Good morning, Mr. Duncan.
- A. Good morning.
- 18 Q. Good to see you. Will you please spell
- 19 your name for the record and also provide your
- 20 business address for the record.
- 21 A. Yes. First name is Eddie, E-D-D-I-E;
- 22 last name is Duncan, D-U-N-C-A-N. And my business
- 23 | address is RSG, 55 Railroad Row, White River
- 24 Junction, Vermont 05001.
- 25 Q. Thank you, Mr. Duncan. And do you have

- what has been previously marked as Company Exhibit 9 in front of you?
- A. I do.

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- Q. Okay. And could you please identify for the record what Exhibit 9 is.
- A. This is my direct testimony submitted in 2021.
 - Q. Okay. And do you have any changes to Exhibit 9?
- 10 A. I do not.
- Q. Okay. And if I asked you -- and I forgot to ask you one question. Was Exhibit 9 prepared by you or under your direction?
- 14 A. It was prepared by me, yes.
- Q. Okay. And if I were to ask you the same questions that are in your direct testimony today, would your answers remain the same?
 - A. Yes, they would.
- Q. Okay. And let's turn to Company
 Exhibit 10. Do you have a copy of that in front of
 you?
- 22 A. I do.
- Q. Okay. And will you please identify for the record what is Company Exhibit 10.
- 25 A. This is a supplemental testimony I

- 1 submitted in -- I believe it was submitted April of 2 2022.
- Q. Okay. And any changes to Company
 Exhibit 10?
 - A. No changes.

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- Q. Okay. And was this prepared by you or under your direction?
 - A. Yes, it was prepared by me.
 - Q. Okay. And again, if I were to ask you the questions that are in Company Exhibit 10, would your answers remain the same?
- 12 A. Yes, they would.
- MS. SANYAL: Thank you, Mr. Duncan.
- Your Honor, Mr. Duncan is available for cross-examination.
- ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And as we indicated previously, I believe counsel for the other parties have already indicated that they do not have any cross-examination of this particular Company
- 20 witness. I assume that is still the case.
- MS. BAIR: That is correct, your Honor.
- 22 Staff has no cross-examination.
- MS. MILAM: Correct, your Honor. No cross from Farm Bureau.
- 25 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

EXAMINATION

By ALJ Agranoff:

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- Q. Mr. Duncan, I do have just a few clarifying questions for you specific to your supplemental direct testimony that has been marked as Applicant Exhibit 10. Do you have that in front of you?
 - A. I do.
- Q. Thank you. And if you could turn to page 2 of that particular testimony.
 - A. I'm there.
- Q. And there's reference on line 22 and 23 to a NEMA, N-E-M-A, TR1 standard. I don't believe that earlier in your testimony that particular reference is defined. And if you could please explain to me what that is.
- A. Yeah. The NEMA TR1 standard is the standard for emissions for transform -- sound emissions from transformers. And so manufacturers need to meet sound emissions that are met in NEMA -- the NEMA TR1 standard. Oftentimes the emissions are less but that's the -- that's the standard that we go to as the absolute maximum for a manufactured transformer.
- 25 | Q. What does NEMA stand for?

A. You know, I have to admit I'm so used to using NEMA I forget off the top of my head, but I would be happy to get that to you.

- Q. Okay. You don't know though right now as to what that stands for?
- A. I don't recall off the top of my head, yeah.
 - Q. Okay. You said it's a national standard?
- A. It is, yeah. It's a national standard that's used by manufacturers for -- it's kind of the maximum allowable noise -- sets the maximum allowable noise emissions for transformers of a given size. So there's a whole table that, you know, if your transformer is this size, sound emissions should be no louder than X.

MS. SANYAL: Your Honor, if I may, you know, we could take a brief recess, and the witness could refresh his memory to make sure you have that acronym spelled out for you.

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Do you want to take 21 2 minutes?

MS. SANYAL: Sure.

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Let's go off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Let's go back on the record.

Ms. Sanyal, I believe you have an update.

MS. SANYAL: I do. I believe Mr. Duncan is prepared to let you know what the acronym is.

Mr. Duncan, go ahead.

THE WITNESS: Yeah. It is the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. I apologize about that, your Honor. I could have guessed, but I wanted to make sure I had it right so.

- Q. (By ALJ Agranoff) Thank you for that clarification. And then if you could please turn to page 3 of your testimony -- your supplemental testimony.
 - A. I'm there.

2.1

- Q. Okay. And in particular line 3 where you begin the sentence "If the sound power level of the installed inverter," do you see that?
- A. Yeah, yep. Line 4 -- oh, I see, at the end of line 3. Got it.
- Q. Right. And I just would like to understand how if the sound power level of the installed inverter is 2 dBA or more above the sound power level used in the updated construction model, how do you then assure that there will be still

compliance with the applicable sound level limit?

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- A. That's a great question, your Honor. The projected sound levels for this project are the maximum at a non-participating residence is 36 decibels, and the applicable daytime limit is 41 decibels which equates to a 5 decibel difference. And so if we have an inverter that is different -- a difference of 2 decibels, say 2 decibels higher, and the projected sound levels would be 2 decibels higher and so that worst case location receptor would be 38 instead of 36 which is still below that daytime threshold of 41 decibels.
 - Q. But what happens if it's more than 2?
- A. If it's more than 2, the results at the receptors will generally go up 1 -- 1 for 1, so it's -- if the inverter sound power was 3 decibels higher, then the sound levels at the receptors would be 3 decibels higher. If the sound power was 4 decibels higher, then the sound levels at the receptors would be 4 decibels higher.
- Q. What happens as a result of that increase it goes beyond the maximum that you said is permitted which I believe you said was 41?
- A. Yeah. 41 is the daytime threshold based on the existing ambient sound levels in the area. So

if it were to -- if the selected inverter were 5 decibels above or more than 5 decibels above the modeled sound power level, then mitigation would need to be implemented in order to ensure that sound levels do not go above that 41 decibels.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

Based on my clarifying questions, does counsel have anything further?

MS. SANYAL: No, your Honor.

MS. BAIR: No, your Honor.

MS. MILAM: No, your Honor.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Duncan.

THE WITNESS: You're welcome. Thank you,

your Honor.

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ALJ AGRANOFF: Ms. Sanyal.

MS. SANYAL: Yes, your Honor. I would move for the admission of Company Exhibits 9 and 10 which is the direct and supplemental testimony of Mr. Duncan.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Any objections?

There being none, Company Exhibits 9 and 10 shall be admitted as part of the record at this time.

(EXHIBITS ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)

ALJ AGRANOFF: And, Ms. Sanyal, if you

42 1 are prepared to call your next witness. 2 MS. SANYAL: Yes, your Honor. I would 3 like to call to the stand Mr. Mark Bonifas. ALJ AGRANOFF: If Mr. Bonifas could 4 5 please be promoted. 6 MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Bonifas, you have been 7 promoted. If you can enable your audio and video. MR. BONIFAS: Can you hear me? 8 9 ALJ AGRANOFF: Yes. There you are. Good 10 morning, Mr. Bonifas. 11 MR. BONIFAS: Good morning. 12 ALJ AGRANOFF: If you could please raise 13 your right hand. 14 (Witness sworn.) 15 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. 16 Please proceed, Ms. Sanyal. 17 MS. SANYAL: Thank you, your Honor. 18 19 MARK BONIFAS 20 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was 2.1 examined and testified as follows: 22 DIRECT EXAMINATION 23 By Ms. Sanyal: 24 Q. Good morning, Mr. Bonifas. 25 A. Good morning.

- Q. Do you have -- actually before we do that, could you please spell your name out and provide your business address for the record.
- A. Mark Bonifas. I am with Verdantas, formerly Hull & Associates. Our address is 6397 Emerald Parkway, Suite 200, Dublin, Ohio 43016, and my last name is B-O-N-I-F-A-S.
- Q. Thank you, Mr. Bonifas. And do you have in front of you what has been previously marked as Company Exhibit 11?
- 11 A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. And could you describe for the record what is Company Exhibit 11.
- A. That is my direct testimony. It was filed on the docket in -- November 19, 2021.
- Q. Thank you. And was your direct testimony prepared by you or under your direction?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And do you have any changes to Company Exhibit 11?
- 21 A. No.
- Q. Okay. And if I were to ask you the questions that are in this exhibit again today, would your answers remain the same?
- 25 A. Yes, they would.

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- Q. Okay. Let's turn to Company Exhibit 12.

 And could you please identify for the record what is

 Company Exhibit 12.
- A. That is my supplemental testimony filed on the docket on April 6 of 2022.
- Q. Okay. And was Company Exhibit 12 prepared by you or under your direction?
 - A. Yes, it was.
 - Q. Okay. Do you have any changes --
- 10 A. I do.
- Q. -- to Company Exhibit 12? Okay. If you could go over them very slowly for the court
- 13 reporter.

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- 14 A. Okay. On line 11.
- Q. What page are you in?
- 16 A. Page 1.
- 17 Q. Okay.
- A. Line 11, the No. "31" should be changed to "32."
- Q. Okay. Any other changes, Mr. Bonifas?
- 21 A. No.
- Q. Okay. And if I were to ask you the
 questions that are in Company Exhibit 12, subject to
 the minor change you made, would your answers remain
 the same?

A. Yes, they would.

MS. SANYAL: Okay. Your Honor,

Mr. Bonifas is now available for cross-examination.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And as we previously stated, I do not believe that counsel for any of the parties has any intent of cross-examining based on prior representations that have been made to the Bench. I would assume that's still the case.

MS. BAIR: Yes, that's the case. Staff has no cross, your Honor.

MS. MILAM: Correct, your Honor.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

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14 EXAMINATION

By ALJ Agranoff:

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- Q. And I do have two clarifying questions for you, Mr. Bonifas, specifically with respect to your supplemental testimony that has been marked as Applicant Exhibit 12. Do you have that document in front of you?
- A. I do.
- Q. Okay. If you could please turn to page 2 of that testimony.
- 24 A. Okay.
- Q. And I had asked this question previously

of Ms. Pelissero, and I will ask you the same question, and that's with respect to lines 19 and 20, there's reference to "promptly repair." Do you see that?

A. I do.

2.1

- Q. And I was interested in knowing whether or not there is any parameters intended with respect to the word "promptly."
- A. It's -- it's difficult to put an actual time frame on something like that, so the word "promptly" is used to mean as soon as reasonably possible because there is a lot of different factors that go into something like this. It depends on the type of damage. It depends on the weather conditions during that time frame and the soil conditions in that location. So again, hard to put an actual, you know, number of days on that but it would be as soon as reasonably possible given the circumstances.
- Q. Okay. Thank you. And then with respect to a scenario there is a dispute as to whether or not a particular field tile drainage system warrants a repair or a replacement, do you know whether or not there is any intended process that would be utilized to resolve that particular dispute?
 - A. I believe that there is a complaint

resolution plan that has been part of the application for the project, and I believe that would be utilized, you know, for that type of situation.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

Based on my two questions, does counsel for any of the parties have any additional questions? MS. BAIR: Staff has no questions. you.

MS. MILAM: No, your Honor. Thank you.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Ms. Sanyal, anything

11 further?

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12 MS. SANYAL: I have no further questions.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you,

14 Mr. Bonifas.

15 THE WITNESS: Thank you, your Honor.

16 ALJ AGRANOFF: Ms. Sanyal.

17 MS. SANYAL: Your Honor, at this time I would like to move for the admission of Company

Exhibits 11 and 12 which is the direct and 19

supplemental testimonies of Mr. Bonifas.

2.1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any objections?

22 Hearing none, Applicant Exhibits 11 and

12 shall be admitted as part of the record at this 23

24 time.

25 (EXHIBITS ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.) MS. SANYAL: And, your Honor, at this time if you did not have any questions for any of the other Applicant's witnesses, we would stipulate for the admission of the testimony of those witnesses pursuant to the discussion we've had previously.

2.1

ALJ AGRANOFF: Any objections from other counsel?

Hearing none, I believe that would be Applicant's Exhibit -- Applicant Exhibits 13 through 17; is that correct?

MS. SANYAL: Correct, your Honor. And it would cover the testimony of Mr. Eric Koch, Andrew Lines, Gordon Perkins, Robert Hanley, and Brent Finley. And I would formally like to move for the admission of those records.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Hearing no objection,
Applicant's Exhibits 13 through 17 shall be admitted
as part of the record at this time.

(EXHIBITS ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)

MS. SANYAL: Thank you, your Honor.

ALJ AGRANOFF: You're welcome.

MS. SANYAL: And that would conclude the Applicant's presentation of witnesses and exhibits.

ALJ AGRANOFF: And I believe that leaves us with Ms. Bair.

MS. BAIR: Thank you, your Honor. Before moving my exhibits into evidence, did you want me to call Mr. Bellamy to the stand? I believe you indicated you may have some questions or you may not.

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ALJ AGRANOFF: I think I'm fine at the moment. Thank you though.

MS. BAIR: Okay. Staff -- and as we discussed, the parties have stipulated that we can move these -- the testimony into the record without cross-examination, but I will identify Staff testimony that I would like to move into the record that was filed on April 15, 2022; Staff Exhibit 1, Mr. Conklin's testimony; Staff Exhibit 2, Eric Morrison's testimony; Staff Exhibit 3, Allison DeLong's testimony; Staff Exhibit 4, Thomas Crawford's testimony; Staff Exhibit 5, Andrew Conway's testimony; Staff Exhibit 6, James O'Dell's testimony; Staff Exhibit 7, Matthew Butler's testimony; Staff Exhibit 8, Mark Bellamy's testimony; Staff Exhibit 9, Robert Holderman's testimony; Staff Exhibit 10, Jess Stottsberry's testimony; and then I would also like to move into evidence the Staff Report as Staff Exhibit 11 that was filed on October 22, 2021.

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     have, your Honor.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And just as a
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     clarification, Mr. -- Staff Witness is it Holder -- I
     think we said Holderman.
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                 MS. BAIR: No, Holderbaum,
 6
     H-O-I-D-E-R-B-A-U-M
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.
                 MS. BAIR: That's Staff Exhibit 9.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Any -- well, we
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     shall mark each of those exhibits accordingly.
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                 (EXHIBITS MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
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                 MS. BAIR: Thank you.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: And would you care to move
     for the admission if you have not already?
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                 MS. BAIR: Yes, your Honor. I would like
     to move for the admission of Staff Exhibits 1 through
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     11.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: Any objections?
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                 Hearing none, the aforementioned exhibits
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     shall be admitted as part of the record at this time.
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                 (EXHIBITS ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)
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                 MS. BAIR: Thank you, your Honor.
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                 ALJ AGRANOFF: You're welcome.
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                 Is there any other matters that we need
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     to address at this point in time?
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                 Hearing none, I believe we are adjourned.
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                  (Thereupon, at 11:13 a.m., the hearing
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 3
     was adjourned.)
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                           CERTIFICATE
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                 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
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     a true and correct transcript of the proceedings
     taken by me in this matter on Thursday, April 21,
 8
 9
     2022, and carefully compared with my original
10
     stenographic notes.
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12
                           Karen Sue Gibson, Registered
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                           Merit Reporter.
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     (KSG-7271)
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in

Case No(s). 20-1814-EL-BGN

Summary: Transcript In the Matter of the Application of Dodson Creek Solar, LLC, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Gibson, Karen Sue Mrs.