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2		PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
3		
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7	KE:	DE 19-139 EVERSOURCE ENERGY: NHPUC 140CT'19ph1:40
8		2019 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan.
9		(Prehearing conference)
10		
11	PRESENT:	Cmsr. Michael S. Giaimo, Presiding
12		Cmsr. Kathryn M. Bailey
13		Sandy Deno, Clerk
14		
15	APPEARANCES:	T - J
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21		Elizabeth Nixon, Electric Division
22		
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1	PROCEEDING
2	CMSR. GIAIMO: Good afternoon. We
3	are here today in Docket DE 19-139, Eversource
4	Energy's 2019 Least Cost Integrated Resource
5	Plan. I note for the record that we received
6	an affidavit of publication earlier this month
7	from the Company. We also, on August 27,
8	received notice that the Consumer Advocate
9	would be participating in the docket.
10	With respect to interventions, to the
11	best of my knowledge, we have none. And seeing
12	only the familiar faces, I'm assuming that that
13	is, in fact, the case.
14	We do have one motion, a Motion for
15	Confidential Treatment and Protective Order,
16	from Attorney Fossum. Mr. Fossum, after we
17	take appearances, I'll give you, as well as the
18	Staff and OCA, the ability to comment on the
19	motion. But, in general, if I understand the
20	motion correctly, the Company asserts that
21	there's certain information, including one-line
22	diagrams that go to the substation level, as
23	well as transformer ratings and line loading
24	information, which the Company deems is
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1 confidential, because, at their essence, this 2 is confidential energy infrastructure 3 information, and the release of that type of information could violate federal and state 4 5 commission rules and create a threat to the 6 system, to system security as well. 7 The other part of the motion is that the Company asks to seek that certain 8 9 employees' names redacted for employee privacy 10 reasons. 11 Before turning to the parties to get 12 their opinion on that motion, let's take 13 Mr. Fossum. appearances. 14 MR. FOSSUM: And good afternoon, 15 Commissioners. Matthew Fossum, here for Public 16 Service Company of New Hampshire, doing 17 business as Eversource Energy. 18 CMSR. GIAIMO: Thank you. 19 MR. KREIS: Good afternoon, 20 Commissioner Bailey, Commissioner Giaimo. It's 21 great to see Commissioner Giaimo wielding the 22 gavel. 23 I'm Don Kreis, D. Maurice Kreis. Oh. 24 I am the Consumer Advocate. And I'm here on {DE 19-139} [Prehearing conference] {09-25-19}

1 behalf of residential customers of this 2 excellent utility. 3 CMSR. GIAIMO: Thank you, Mr. Kreis. 4 MR. BUCKLEY: Good afternoon, 5 Commissioners Bailey and Giaimo. My name is Brian D. Buckley. And I am the Staff attorney 6 7 in this matter. And to my left is Ms. Elizabeth Nixon and Mr. Kurt Demmer, the 8 9 Staff analysts on this matter as well. 10 CMSR. GIAIMO: Thank you, Mr. 11 Buckley. 12 So, turning our attention back to the 13 confidentiality motion. Mr. Fossum, I'm hoping 14 you can maybe start the discussion, and make 15 sure that my understanding is, in fact, right. 16 And the one question I did have is, why did the 17 Company include names in the filing, if the 18 names are essentially immaterial, as your 19 confidentiality motion suggests? 20 MR. FOSSUM: Certainly. I think, in 21 general, your summation of our motion is 22 accurate. So, I'll take each of the two issues 23 that we raised in the same order that you did, 24 and I'll answer your question along the way. {DE 19-139} [Prehearing conference] {09-25-19}

1 Yes. The first group of information 2 is, by our analysis, CEII, Confidential Energy 3 Infrastructure Information. We took care to go through all of our documents. You've seen they 4 5 have been sort of as minimally redacted as we felt was reasonable. We have not asked for 6 7 blanket protection on any document. And we have kept it to information specific to the 8 9 bulk system. The lower voltage system we have 10 not redacted any information. 11 We believe that we have appropriately 12 identified the information, and that it is 13 appropriate, for the reasons stated in the 14 motion, to protect that information. Relative to the names of personnel, 15 16 that was sort of an unavoidable issue. Many of 17 the documents that we needed to introduce were 18 produced by people. And, so, the Project Authorization forms, where an employee seeks 19 20 authorization to proceed with a capital 21 investment, identifies which employee that is. 22 And, so, to provide those documents, we wanted 23 to protect the information of those lower level 24 employees, and say this is consistent with what

1 we have done in the past. And, though you may not have seen it, it is consistent with what --2 3 I believe it's consistent with what we're doing over in the rate case with similar information. 4 5 CMSR. GIAIMO: Thank you. Others? 6 Do others have opinion? Mr. Kreis. 7 MR. KREIS: Thank you. You mentioned earlier that we would have the "ability" to 8 9 express an opinion. Of course, we always have 10 the ability to express --11 CMSR. GIAIMO: The willingness then? 12 MR. KREIS: It's really about the 13 opportunity to express an opinion. And I do 14 have the following opinions: 15 I don't think that employees of 16 Eversource have any privacy interest in the 17 fact that they are employees of Eversource. 18 Now, you know, I'm a state employee. So, the 19 fact of my employment is a matter of public 20 record. And I just -- I don't have any 21 recollection of anybody ever claiming in the 22 past that the mere fact that one is employed by 23 an investor-owned utility is private 24 information.

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1 But, if that is something that the 2 Commission feels is a cognizable privacy 3 interest, I promise you I will not be appealing 4 that determination to the New Hampshire Supreme 5 Court. So, I can assign that question to your 6 good judgments. 7 And, then, on the question of other redacted information, I don't think I object to 8 the proposed confidential treatment of that 9 10 information. But I do have a question/concern. 11 And it has to do with the fact that the edition 12 of certain documents that I've received is 13 redacted. And I'm looking, for example, on 14 Bates Page 109, and also on Bates Page --15 there's another Bates Page that I dog-eared, 16 and that I can't -- oh, here we go. Bates 17 Pages 063 and -- 063. So, these are places 18 where maps have been redacted from the edition 19 of these documents that the OCA received. And 20 I don't know whether the same is true of the 21 edition of these documents that the PUC or the 22 Staff has received. But -- and they're line 23 drawings. And, frankly, we don't have need of 24 those drawings, because I don't have the

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1 expertise to review system diagrams anyway with that level of engineering sophistication. 2 3 But I do assert, on behalf of the OCA, the right to receive and review unredacted 4 5 versions of what the Company files with the Commission. And, if the information is subject 6 7 to confidential treatment, that's another consideration altogether. And, of course, we 8 adhere, because we're obliged to adhere, to the 9 10 Commission's determinations about what 11 information is ultimately subject to 12 confidential treatment. 13 CMSR. GIAIMO: Okay. Mr. Buckley. 14 Commissioner Bailey. 15 CMSR. BAILEY: I don't know what your 16 copy looks like, but my copy is also missing 17 that information. And I don't know if -- it 18 might just be a production problem. It looks 19 like there should be some information on 20 Pages -- one-line diagrams on Pages 160, 161. 21 MR. FOSSUM: I will admit, yes. For 22 every copy that was provided, both to the 23 Commission and the OCA, there was, my memory, I 24 don't know, about ten or so pages where that {DE 19-139} [Prehearing conference] {09-25-19}

1	information was removed. And there is the
2	notation that you see there that it was
3	redacted, that it was removed.
4	CMSR. BAILEY: So, it wasn't supposed
5	to be filed?
6	MR. FOSSUM: Correct. It was not
7	intended to be filed with anyone, my
8	understanding. And the reason for that is that
9	those who are entitled to see Confidential
10	Energy Infrastructure Information have to have
11	a certain clearance. And that we're certain of
12	that information, without those clearances, we
13	are not supposed to be providing it to anyone.
14	That's my understanding.
15	I'm happy to be corrected in that
16	understanding. But that is my present
17	understanding, and that was the decision that
18	we made relative to those documents.
19	If, ultimately, somebody has better
20	information about that, we can resubmit those
21	pages and provide them appropriately. But that
22	was the decision that we made, given the
23	information we had.
24	CMSR. BAILEY: So, then, can you
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1	point me, in the confidential document, to
2	where Critical Energy Information
3	Infrastructure Information is located? Or, has
4	it all been removed? And, if so, what's
5	confidential?
6	MR. FOSSUM: Well, the material that
7	has been some of it has been redacted and
8	some of it has been removed. And the redacted
9	information, the copies that you have, should
10	have been I believe they have the graying of
11	the material that is redacted.
12	That is, there are, as I understand
13	again, certain levels of Confidential Energy
14	Infrastructure Information. There's one level
15	where the text information has been provided in
16	a confidential format. There is another level,
17	involving the maps and one-line diagrams, that
18	information has been removed, based upon our
19	understanding at present.
20	As I said, I'm open to be corrected
21	about that understanding. If I am corrected,
22	we will resubmit appropriately. But that was
23	the decision that we made, based upon our
24	understanding of how that information was to be
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1	handled.
2	CMSR. BAILEY: Okay. Thanks.
3	MR. KREIS: Well, I would just point
4	out that there's only two flavors:
5	Confidential and public. At least that's what
6	RSA 91-A says, and the Commission's rules.
7	MR. FOSSUM: And I guess my quick
8	rejoinder would be, this is not a request under
9	necessarily 91-A and the Commission rules.
10	This is a request under federal law.
11	CMSR. GIAIMO: And we still haven't
12	heard from one. So, we'll give Mr. Buckley an
13	opportunity, if he has anything to opine.
14	MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Commissioner
15	Giaimo.
16	The Staff takes the position that the
17	Commission should not rule on this request for
18	confidential treatment at the hearing today,
19	but, rather, take the matter under advisement
20	today. And this is largely because we still
21	have a number of questions relative to the
22	request for confidential treatment.
23	As far as the employee names, there
24	are some employee names that are redacted, and
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1	some employee names that are not redacted.
2	We'd be interested in trying to understand why
3	that is the case. As far as, in one instance,
4	a project manager is redacted, but another
5	position, I forget, it's project initiator is
6	not redacted. Just questions relative to that
7	type of thing.
8	But, also, with respect to the
9	Critical Energy Infrastructure Information, my
10	understanding is that that is largely a
11	creature of federal law, and would largely
12	apply to the transmission system. And we have
13	some questions about how exactly it would apply
14	to some of the assets which are being sought
15	for confidential treatment here.
16	I know that there are some criteria,
17	loading criteria, and current loading numbers
18	that are redacted in this instance. And I
19	think, I may be incorrect, in other instances,
20	for example, the Unitil 2016 LCIRP, such
21	numbers are open and available to the public.
22	So, we would ask that the Commission
23	not rule on this motion at the hearing today,
24	and take the matter under advisement. And we
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1 would hope to be able to iron out some of those questions, with the Company and the OCA, in the 2 technical session that follows. 3 CMSR. GIAIMO: That sounds like a 4 5 prudent -- a prudent suggestion. So, we'll 6 take you up on that. 7 Mr. Fossum, I actually have some knowledge of CEII clearance from my prior 8 employment. And I am of the belief that we 9 10 could probably have all interested parties cleared within a week or two. Would that make 11 12 sense, to the extent that others want the CEII 13 information? 14 I guess I'll pause and hear what you 15 have to think about that. 16 MR. FOSSUM: I will take your word 17 for how that process would happen. I have no 18 specific knowledge of how that's done or what 19 it takes to get those kinds of clearances. I will say, the only parties here are 20 21 the Staff, the OCA, and the Company. And the 22 only information that they do not have full 23 access to are those ten or so maps. Other than 24 that, everything that they could wish to see {DE 19-139} [Prehearing conference] {09-25-19}

1 they can see in this filing. 2 So, I guess, if the issue is just 3 those maps, I would say, rather than go through 4 the process of trying to get somebody, you 5 know, some appropriate clearance, and then 6 having to manage that clearance, maybe the 7 better course would be, as Mr. Buckley has suggested, let's talk about what we can 8 9 provide. 10 As I said, I'm open to being 11 corrected on what information we can provide, 12 and perhaps we can address all of this without 13 going through that procedure. 14 CMSR. GIAIMO: Okay. That will be 15 And my understanding, again, of CEII, great. 16 is it's your information to protect. And you 17 have to make sure that you have various 18 safequards and would have things appropriately 19 labeled. There's also the alternative of 20 having hard copies to be seen, to be seen as 21 well. And, then, there's, obviously, CEII 22 issues. 23 So, all right. Thank you for taking 24 the time.

1	Let's move to positions of the
2	parties. Mr. Fossum, you ready for that?
3	MR. FOSSUM: Thank you. With respect
4	to the motion oh, wait. I won't take a
5	terribly long time, but a little background I
6	think is appropriate.
7	Eversource filed its last IRP in mid
8	2015. And after some delay in that docket, it
9	was ultimately approved by Order 26,050, on
10	August 25th, 2017. That order approved a
11	settlement agreement. And inside that
12	settlement agreement was a list of various
13	items that Eversource was to provide along with
14	its next IRP, which was due this year.
15	We fast-forward up to 2019, and to
16	begin looking at the IRP filing that we would
17	be required to make, and the various
18	requirements that would be necessary to fulfill
19	that, we also looked at the Staff, having
20	issued its report in the pending Grid
21	Modernization docket. And among many other
22	recommendations in that report, there's a
23	recommendation that companies might seek
24	waivers of IRPs, as they might be appropriate
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1 during the time the Commission worked toward potential revision of the IRP statute and the 2 3 filing of a new Integrated Distribution Plan, 4 or IDP, in New Hampshire. 5 In view of that recommendation, the 6 other work that remains ongoing in the Grid 7 Mod. docket, in April of this year, Eversource sought a waiver contemplated in the Staff's 8 9 report. I would note that the Eversource 10 waiver request was not simply based upon the 11 Grid Mod. activity or the Staff's report, but 12 also on the fact that the Company had an 13 upcoming rate case, where many of the issues, 14 that would otherwise be covered in a 15 traditional IRP docket, could be explored. 16 And, indeed, that has happened in that case. 17 June 14th of this year, the 18 Commission issued Order Number 26,262, granting 19 the statutory waiver requested by Eversource. 20 And, in so doing, though, the Commission left 21 in place the settlement items that were beyond 22 what was required in the statute in place. Ιt 23 did so on the basis that those items would be 24 filed for the purpose of ensuring that

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1	Eversource was adhering to its commitments made
2	in the prior LCIRP. The filing that sits
3	before you represents Eversource's
4	demonstration that it has, in fact, adhered to
5	those commitments.
6	Eversource's filing addresses the
7	eight, I believe it's eight, items specified in
8	the settlement agreement and order, and has
9	requested that the Commission approve this
10	filing, consistent with Order 26,262 and Order
11	26,050, and Eversource's prior commitments.
12	One final note that I'll make this
13	afternoon is that, in the Commission's granting
14	of the waiver sought by Eversource, it declined
15	to waive the five-year filing requirement in
16	the law. What that means is that, for
17	Eversource, the next IRP filing would be due by
18	June 19th, 2020. The reasons justifying the
19	initial waiver request that it ultimately
20	granted by the Commission continue to exist.
21	And given that, an IRP filing would be due only
22	a few months from now, Eversource would need to
23	begin working very soon to compile the
24	necessary information, for something that may
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1	well be mooted out by the Commission's activity
2	relative to the IDP.
3	While we're not requesting anything
4	today, we would ask that the Commission be
5	mindful of that issue as we work through this
6	docket, as well as the Grid Mod. proceeding.
7	Because requiring an unnecessary filing in the
8	middle of next year, which may or may not come
9	after the need for an IDP filing, is not in the
10	best interest of any party.
11	Thank you.
12	CMSR. GIAIMO: Commissioner Bailey.
13	CMSR. BAILEY: Mr. Fossum, doesn't
14	this filing satisfy the five-year requirement?
15	MR. FOSSUM: I could certainly argue
16	that it does. However, I think the Commission
17	was very deliberate in its order on granting
18	the waiver, saying that it declined to waive
19	the five-year requirement. My takeaway from
20	granting a waiver of the "two years from the
21	order" requirement, but leaving in place the
22	"five years from prior filing" requirement,
23	meant that the Commission still believed that
24	that five-year requirement persisted. That was
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1 my reading and interpretation. If I'm mistaken in that, I'm more 2 3 than happy to be corrected. And if this filing satisfies the needs of the statute and the 4 5 Commission, I would be happy to note that. That is not, however, how we have interpreted 6 7 the Commission's order. CMSR. BAILEY: Okay. Thanks. 8 CMSR. GIAIMO: Thank you. Mr. Kreis. 9 10 MR. KREIS: Thank you, Commissioner 11 Giaimo. 12 As I said this morning in the 13 companion Liberty Utilities docket, the Office 14 of the Consumer Advocate is on red alert when 15 it comes to any docket related to least cost 16 integrated resource planning under RSA 378:38. 17 In Order Number 26,262, the Commission granted 18 Eversource's request for a wholesale waiver of 19 most of the LCIRP filing requirements, 20 essentially because the Commission assumed that 21 we will soon be transforming least-cost 22 integrated resource planning to so-called 23 "integrated distribution planning" in the 24 manner now being discussed in the Grid Mod. {DE 19-139} [Prehearing conference] {09-25-19}

1 docket, IR 15-296. We are concerned, and we are 2 3 therefore alert to any signs in this docket that the Commission has prejudged certain 4 5 issues that we believe must be adjudicated in the Grid Mod. docket, or somewhere, if the 6 7 statutory and due process rights of ratepayers are to be respected. 8 We also intend to use this docket, 9 10 and the companion Liberty proceeding, to 11 explore the extent to which planning processes 12 used by these utilities can be squared with the 13 approach we have proposed by the testimony we 14 have recently filed in the Grid Mod. docket. 15 At the risk of becoming even more 16 tiresome than I might have become this morning, 17 I will repeat a point I have made in every 18 single LCIRP docket in which I have appeared 19 since I became Consumer Advocate almost four years ago. The Commission has reduced LCIRP 20 proceedings to examinations of the adequacy of 21 22 the capital planning processes used by 23 investor-owned utilities. But RSA 378:39 24 requires the Commission to go farther than

1	that, and to look at "each proposed option", by
2	which the Legislature clearly meant "each major
3	capital investment", for its "potential
4	environmental, economic, and health-related
5	impacts."
6	The overall purpose of least-cost
7	integrated resource planning is to require the
8	Commission to put the utilities to their proof
9	with respect to how they are advancing the
10	state's energy policy, as clearly and plainly
11	articulated in RSA 378:37. That simply is not
12	happening now. And I renew my call for the
13	Commission to follow the Legislature's
14	directives in this docket, and every other
15	LCIRP docket, and in the Grid Mod. docket.
16	Whether you call it "LCIRP" or "IDP", this
17	process cannot remain the rote homework
18	exercise it has been allowed to become, because
19	billions of dollars in ratepayer money is at
20	stake.
21	Let me give you a couple of examples
22	of what I'm talking about. Item number 8 on
23	the Commission's list of material it required
24	Eversource to include in the filing we're
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1	talking about here is, and I quote "details
2	regarding the steps taken through each stage of
3	the planning process flow for each of the
4	highest-cost distribution capital
5	projectswithin the prior two years, and a
6	demonstration of how the LCIRP plan was
7	followed through the planning process."
8	In response, Eversource provided
9	materials related to three projects, the first
10	of which was the Webster/Daniel substation
11	upgrade. Attachment I of the Company's filing
12	is a heavily redacted document entitled
13	"Webster Substation Review", bearing the odd
14	date of "June 24th, 2019". That date makes no
15	sense, because this is a project that went into
16	service in 2018.
17	If you look at Bates Page 058 of the
18	Company's filing, you'll see that under "new
19	large customers", it refers to "the Northern
20	Pass Converter Station" as "expected to add
21	another megawatt of station service load to the
22	3548 line by 2019." That station service load
23	is, obviously, not going to materialize, and
24	yet this Company invested \$20 million based on
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1 the expectation that it would. Then, if you look at Bates 065, you 2 3 will see the cursory treatment that non-wires alternatives received. "Would only delay 4 5 spending", "not a long-term solution" say the 6 distribution planning folks at Eversource, as 7 if that's a bad thing. Which, of course, it is, but only if your objective is to get as 8 9 many toys into rate base as possible. 10 The same troubling attitude is 11 reflected in Attachment E, which appears at 12 Bates Page 045, Eversource's reply to the 13 instruction to supply "the company's evaluation 14 of targeted energy efficiency solutions for 15 potential projects for 4 and 12 kV substations 16 due to loading." If the cursory information 17 presented there is truly the full extent of 18 this Company's consideration of non-wires 19 alternatives to these projects, well, all I can 20 say is that something is terribly wrong. Or, 21 these documents are just rote responses to a 22 homework assignment, and somewhere else the 23 Company's real capital planning process is 24 unfolding.

1 This cannot persist. One way or 2 another, we are going to have to transform 3 least-cost integrated resource planning in which this investor-owned utility is held 4 5 publicly accountable for the way it spends 6 billions of dollars in ratepayer money. 7 And let me just say in response to what I heard Mr. Fossum say earlier. I agree 8 9 with his interpretation of the Commission's 10 prior determination about LCIRP waiver. The 11 Company is obliged to file a full Least-Cost 12 Integrated Resource Plan by June 19th of 2020. 13 And whether you think of that as a few months 14 from now or almost a year from now, that is, in 15 fact, a correct interpretation of the 16 determination that the Commission has 17 previously made. And Mr. Fossum asked the 18 Commission to be "mindful" of the implications 19 of that requirement. I ask Eversource to be mindful of that, and take reasonable positions 20 21 in the Grid Mod. docket, so that everybody, 22 meaning all the stakeholders, can come to a 23 reasonable set of understandings about how this 24 process should proceed in the future under the {DE 19-139} [Prehearing conference] {09-25-19}

1 flag of integrated distribution planning. That's all I have to say at present. 2 3 CMSR. GIAIMO: Mr. Kreis, thank you. 4 And, at first, it felt like déjà vu all over 5 again, but the last half of your soliloquy was 6 new. So, thank you for providing your 7 feedback. Mr. Buckley. 8 9 MR. KREIS: And thank you for 10 noticing. 11 MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Commissioner 12 Giaimo. Staff is still evaluating the issues 13 14 presented in the instant petition. But I 15 identify today, for the Commission, some of the 16 matters, which it initially intends to explore 17 with the Company through the technical session 18 and procedural schedule that follows today's 19 hearing. 20 This includes substantive issues 21 relating to whether the Company's filing is in 22 compliance with the Commission directives 23 contained in Order Number 26,262; changes that 24 appear to have occurred since the Commission's {DE 19-139} [Prehearing conference] {09-25-19}

approval of the Company's 2015 LCIRP, including 1 changes to the Company's load forecasting 2 3 methodology and planning criteria; how the 4 Company defines whether an upgrade relates to 5 capacity or reliability conditions and needs; 6 the sufficiency of the area planning studies 7 the Company has put forward in its testimony as examples; and, in agreeance with the statements 8 9 of the Consumer Advocate a moment ago, whether 10 the Company actually plans its distribution 11 system in a way that allows for the use of its 12 TD190 policy, and consideration of least-cost 13 alternatives to otherwise planned capital 14 investments.

15 And just as an aside, there has been 16 discussion from both the Company and the Office 17 of the Consumer Advocate as to whether the 18 deadline for the five-year filing might still 19 I would add to that that the stand. 20 Commission, in its recent order waiving and 21 directing the Company to provide a more limited 22 form of LCIRP with this filing, made no 23 reference to a previous commitment it had 24 approved related to grid needs assessments that {DE 19-139} [Prehearing conference] {09-25-19}

1 each of the companies would have to file within their next LCIRP. So, I think it remains an 2 3 open question as to whether such grid needs assessments would have to be filed in the next 4 5 LCIRP to be filed by the Company in the Summer 6 of 2020, as has been mentioned by both the 7 Company and OCA. So, I would just note that for the Commission as well. 8 Those issues having been covered, 9 10 Staff looks forward to addressing these, and 11 other issues, in the technical session and the 12 procedural schedule that will follow. 13 Thank you. 14 CMSR. GIAIMO: Thank you, Attorney 15 Buckley. 16 So, wrapping up, we'll take your 17 position with respect to the Motion for 18 Confidential Treatment under advisement when we 19 get it, and provide guidance in that regard as 20 soon as possible. 21 Unless there is any other business? 22 Pausing for any? None? 23 [No verbal response.] 24 CMSR. GIAIMO: And seeing none, we'll {DE 19-139} [Prehearing conference] {09-25-19}

1	adjourn the prehearing conference and leave you
2	to your technical session. Thank you.
3	(Whereupon the prehearing
4	conference was adjourned at
5	2:09 p.m., and a technical
6	session was held thereafter.)
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