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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(Hearing reconvened at 12:40 p.m.)
3	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Let's start again. Maybe
4	if you notice I have been trying to ask as few
5	questions myself because I want to hurry along. But,
6	of course, Commissioner Clark's have all been very
7	relevant and so we want to continue that.
8	If you can, cut your presentations down a
9	little bit. It will be helpful because we're less
10	than a quarter of the way through it, and we're almost
11	halfway through the day.
12	The next presentation is Dynegy. Go right
13	ahead.
14	MR. CRUTHIRDS: Dave Cruthirds, Senior
15	Director and Regulatory Counsel of Dynegy. And it's
16	no "r" in Dynegy. D-Y-N-E-G-Y. Today I'm accompanied
17	by Ben Trammell, Senior Director of Project
18	Development at Dynegy.
19	I'm not sure how familiar you are or the
20	
20	people in the audience are about Dynegy. We're not a
20	people in the audience are about Dynegy. We're not a household name, but those within the industry, people
21	household name, but those within the industry, people
21 22	household name, but those within the industry, people are very familiar with us. NGC Corporation was our
21 22 23	household name, but those within the industry, people are very familiar with us. NGC Corporation was our former company. We changed our name last summer to

North America. We had \$14.5 billion of revenue last 1 Publicly traded. We're a sizeable company as 2 year. an independent power producer. We're one of the 3 leading developers right now. We've got -- 6800 of 4 megawatts on the ground operating right now, and with 5 the number of plants that are being contemplated, 6 we've got three that's announced in SERC, and we are 7 looking at sites in Florida. 8 We welcome the opportunity to be here. We 9 have provided comments. Hope those have been read. 10 We're certainly happy to answer any questions on that. 11 I'd also like to make an appearance today 12 for -- Dynegy is a member of National Energy Marketers 13 Association, NEMA, which represents producers of oil 14 and gas marketers throughout the country. They have 15 authorized us to indicate that NEMA has subscribed to 16 the comments Dynegy has submitted in the proceeding. 17 18 We took a different approach, and I'm sure quite different from some of the comments that we had 19 seen provided early on. And we didn't go through and 20 answer all of the exact questions and get immersed in 21 that. 22 One of the things that we were, I guess, 23 startled by is the approach that the commenters and 24

25 most of the dialog was all looking at -- and you do

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1	have a practical problem; you do have statutes and
2	laws on the books today that you have to deal with.
3	But what we would encourage the people to understand
4	that competition is coming, wholesale competition;
5	while it's quite imperfect and we need some progress
6	both at federal and state level to improve the
7	wholesale market, wholesale competition is here.
8	Retail competition is kind of one way or the other,
9	and we don't know when, exactly what flavor, but it is
10	coming.
11	So we would prefer that the parties and
12	Commission approach the matter from a perspective of
13	competition is coming. How do we get there? What do
14	we like Commissioner Clark's question, what do we
15	do to get there?
16	Rather than we have the existing regulatory
17	paradigm that we're dealing with, and grapple and
18	get you do have to deal with it, but try to get
19	stuff out of the muck and examine the issues and look
20	at them from that perspective.
21	So that's how we provided our comments. We
22	did provide a set of principles that we think have
23	very solid foundation and would be very appropriate
24	for the Commission to consider, and certainly you
25	won't adopt them verbatim the way we provide them, but
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1	we certainly think it would be a good starting point.
2	One of the questions that came up,
3	Commissioner Clark, you were looking at how do we
4	assure reliability and reserves. And the analogy that
5	I was thinking of a lot of us here, competitive
6	power producers, came out of the gas industry, natural
7	gas. There is no federal or state reserve requirement
8	on natural gas reserves. You have a fairly well
9	functioning natural gas market. People depend on
10	natural gas in winter in Boston and winter in New York
11	and winter in Chicago, they depend on natural gas for
12	their lives just in the same way you would depend on
13	air conditioning on the 4th of July in Florida.
14	In a competitive market you have it's
15	Economics 101: Law of Supply and Demand. You're not
16	here you don't obviously have that market here in
17	Florida, but we would certainly like you to view it,
18	understand the laws of the economics and approach the
19	merchant plants and see their role and see how the
20	wholesale market operates within that.
21	COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let me interrupt you
22	for just a minute. Are you suggesting that we not set
23	a margin of reserve even for utilities that have the
24	obligation to serve load and that we simply let the
25	market determine what the appropriate reserve is?

MR. CRUTHIRDS: Eventually, yes. You do 1 have a transition problem where right now you're --2 you call it half pregnant -- you're half regulated, 3 half unregulated; maybe a little different percentage 4 here in Florida. But eventually you will be in a 5 situation where the Commission's role will be 6 considerably reduced in terms of the need 7 determination, you know, for what capacity is need. 8 9 Now, clearly do have --COMMISSIONER CLARK: Is it your position 10 that the market should determine how much capacity 11 12 should be built to serve retail customers in Florida ultimately? 13 MR. CRUTHIRDS: Yes, it is. 14 15 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay. 16 MR. CRUTHIRDS: Looking at the analogy on 17 the gas side, you have price signals that are transmitted to the Chevrons, the Exxons, BP, Amacos, 18 19 the producers, who see the prices, they look at the forward price curves, the gas equivalent as Mr. Green 20 explained, and they decide when to go out and when 21 it's in their economic interest to produce and go out 22 and explore and develop a field. And an offshore 23 production platform is not unlike the size of 24 investment that a major electric generation plant 25

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1	would be. And they're competing with other producers.
2	They don't get together and say, "Well, okay, Shell,
3	you're going to build the next plant, you're going to
4	drill the next platform, and Chevron, you'll do the
5	next one. They are all at risk and they're competing
6	with each other. But from a macro viewpoint, you do
7	end up with a supply and demand curve. As supply is
8	shrinking right now you're seeing in the gas
9	industry people are talking about "Natural gas
10	suppliers, the bubble is over. You may have tighter
11	gas prices in the next three, four years." Well, you
12	can bet the producers are out there looking at that
13	and saying, "We need to step up production," even
14	though prices are low today. And I think you'll
15	eventually have if you do have an open competitive
16	power market, you'll have the exact same dynamic where
17	it may be a Duke will say, "Okay. I'm the one today."
18	Tomorrow it may be Dynegy. Tomorrow you know,
19	Enron may build the next increment. And we will be
20	the ones that will be essentially at risk for that
21	investment.
22	I endorsed the comments that were made today
23	by Constellation and Duke in terms of their
24	explanation of the competitive market.
25	But in terms of from the reliability

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perspective, we do see if allowed to work and if those
 price signals are allowed to get through to producers,
 they will build the appropriate number of power
 plants.

5 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Let me ask a question 6 in that regard.

7 Do you see that there would be risk placed upon ratepayers in the sense that if there is 8 inadequate capacity or there's capacity that is put on 9 the grid only when there's an emergency situation or 10 reserves are tight and prices go up, that there's risk 11 being placed on the ratepayer that they are going to 12 be confronted with prices higher than what we've seen 13 in the past, and the reason, because in the past, is 14 that our incumbent utilities are cost-based regulated 15 and they have to have reserves. And when the capacity 16 17 is needed, they have to generate. And all they get is what it cost them to generate. It's part of the 18 19 regulatory impact. Do you see any potential conflicts or risk movement in that regard? 20

 21
 MR. CRUTHIRDS: I think there are some

 22
 short-term risks.

The laws of supply and demand don't work perfectly. You will see imbalances of supply and demand occur periodically. Look, for example, at the

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price spikes that occurred in the Midwest this past 1 There were some structural problems with the summer. 2 operation of the grid, people didn't have some 3 capacity on line. But the market -- the prices came 4 through and the market has responded. People are --5 including Dynegy, we have a plant, we're looking to 6 put one in Chicago; Reliant has announced a plant in 7 Chicago. There's people tripping all over themselves 8 trying to get capacity down to -- in response to that 9 10 price signal.

And one of the points we made in our 11 comments, in our principles, is that you may have a 12 short-term price spike that may be in total cost to 13 consumers, less cost than building a new 400-megawatt 14 generation peaking capacity. You look at maybe a 15 \$400 million investment to build a new plant and your 16 total cost of the price spike to consumers may be 17 100 million or 50 million. While prices for a few 18 19 days may have gotten very high, the total cost to the system -- that may be the appropriate response. And 20 if you don't -- and the other side is if you don't 21 allow the prices to get transmitted -- as sent by 22 supply and demand and get transmitted to the 23 marketplace -- say if you put a price cap -- well, we 24 25 think that, you know, \$50 is all that people should be

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1	able to receive then you're going to mute the
2	incentive of a Dynegy or a Duke or an Enron to come in
3	and build in that market and provide supplies if they
4	don't see that they're going to be they are going
5	to take all of the risk their prices might be \$5
6	but there's no opportunity for them to receive the
7	reward on the upside.
8	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Any other questions?
9	Thank you very much.
10	MR. CRUTHIRDS: Thank you.
11	MS. PAUGH: Enron.
12	MR. BASFORD: Dick Basford representing
13	Enron. This is Cathy Giddings, our attorney.
14	In order not to be redundant, a lot has
15	already been said and we agree with that.
16	Merchant plants are more efficient than much
17	of the existing capacity in the state. The result of
18	that is you're going to have lower cost to the
19	consumer because merchant plants are going to sell
20	wholesale energy to load-serving utilities. Merchant
21	plants are going to be cleaner than much of the
22	generation in the state. They're going to increase
23	the air quality in the state using merchant plants.
24	This has already been discussed.
25	We do believe that there's no need to cap

1 the amount of merchant plant capacity. The critical 2 thing is no one is going to come to Florida and spend 3 \$200- \$300 million if they have not already determined 4 that they can produce energy and sell it in the state 5 of Florida.

6 If we -- if a merchant plant wanted to sell 7 power in Georgia, it would build the generation in 8 Georgia. It is much easier to build generation in 9 Georgia or Alabama or Mississippi than it is in 10 Florida. So there's no incentive to build generation 11 in Florida and sell power out of the state.

12 So I'm just repeating and recapping what 13 Rick and Mike have already said. We endorse that. We 14 think that merchant plants are important to the state. 15 And we believe that the Commission should proceed with 16 their workshops and make determinations of how best to 17 incorporate merchant plants into the mix of generation 18 in Florida.

19 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Any questions? 20 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let me ask you a 21 question with respect to having -- continuing to have 22 a regulated retail market and a wholesale competitive 23 market.

One way it could work is that you require the utilities who have an obligation to serve as

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retail, carry enough capacity to serve that at peak
 periods plus a margin of reserve, and then allow a
 certain amount of merchant capacity? Do you think
 there should be a cap on that, or do you think the
 market should decide how much extra capacity?

MR. BASFORD: I think the market should 6 decide. As Mike Green said, the market is going to 7 examine what is in Florida and they are not going to 8 make an investment here. We alluded to the example of 9 McDonalds. If you get a proliferation of McDonalds 10 and Burger Kings and Taco Bells, what they do in order 11 to get business is they get promotions and they cut 12 prices and they do things that ultimately is to the 13 benefit of the consumer. The same thing will happen 14 with merchant plants except you're dealing with a much 15 larger investment. They are going to make sure --16 merchant plant developers are going to make sure that 17 before they make the investment, that their ability to 18 sell energy competitively in Florida is better than 19 what the traditional utilities can do with their older 20 21 generation that will be replaced by the new merchant plant generation. 22

And by the way, it wasn't in our comments and I haven't heard it said, but we don't have a problem with traditional utilities in the state

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building merchant plants if they are not in the rate
 base. If Florida Power and Light or TECO or Florida
 Power Corp want to build a merchant plant and compete
 in the wholesale market and not put it in the rate
 base, there's absolutely nothing wrong with that, in
 our opinion.

7 COMMISSIONER CLARK: What about the plants
8 that are in retail rate base, shouldn't they be
9 allowed to compete in the wholesale market?

MR. BASFORD: Well, they do.

10

11 COMMISSIONER CLARK: My question is should 12 they continue to be? Is it fair -- you know, what's 13 been represented to me it wouldn't be fair to have the 14 ratepayers subsidize that plant and then it can be --15 whatever extra they get in the wholesale market is 16 gravy to them and you have to cover all your costs.

MR. BASFORD: That's true. And that's
probably something that should be addressed during the
docket.

The situation, as I understand it now, is that if a utility, investor-owned utility builds generation in Florida, he puts it in the rate base but has excess capacity in that plant, they can sell it in the wholesale market and I don't know how they divvy up those revenues between shareholders and ratepayers.

1 I don't know how that works.

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2	COMMISSIONER CLARK: Mr. Cresse can tell us
3	that. I can't it's on a cost basis and it's on a
4	split the savings between the buyer and the seller,
5	and then I think it's a 20/80% split between the
6	ratepayers and the stockholders. It's been a while.
7	MR. BASFORD: And perhaps that should be
8	addressed, that a portion of a plant could be merchant
9	and the other portion be regulated, and that portion
10	that is merchant falls outside of the regulation.
11	COMMISSIONER CLARK: Well, what would be
12	your reaction to letting plants that are in the rate
13	base be bid into the wholesale market?
14	MR. BASFORD: If they can bid into the
15	wholesale market competitively, I think they should be
16	allowed to do it.
17	COMMISSIONER CLARK: If they can come in at
18	the lowest price, they should be able to do that.
19	MR. BASFORD: Yes, ma'am.
20	COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay.
21	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Any questions?
22	COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let me just ask one
23	other question.
24	If we determine that for environmental
25	reasons we did not want a proliferation of merchant

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ı	plants to meet other state policy objectives we
2	thought the amount of merchant plants should be
3	limited, and I think Staff has suggested there should
4	be a cap how would we determine what should be the
5	criteria for determining who gets to build the
6	merchant plant? Do you have an open season and you
7	compare the plants to each other or is it a
8	first-come-first-serve basis?
9	MR. BASFORD: First, I don't believe there
10	should be a cap. But given there is a cap, I would
11	say that that first-come-first-serve probably would be
12	the way to go. I wouldn't hold out part for somebody
13	down the road to come in and fill.
14	On the other hand, if you decide to put a
15	cap, you may want to then look at the efficiency of
16	one unit versus the other and where that unit is going
17	to be located. All of those things would come in if
18	you're going to narrow the margin of how much merchant
19	plant capacity you may want to start considering
20	those other things as not different than what you
21	consider in a utility's need hearing.
22	COMMISSIONER JACOBS: Can I ask a question
23	similar to that.
24	One of the assumptions for the successful
25	operation of merchant plants is that the principle of
1	1

supply and demand operate in the wholesale market. If 1 you don't have a cap, aren't those principles 2 distorted? It would appear to me that you're going to 3 always have supply driving the curve because you're 4 going to probably have more than enough applicants of 5 capacity than what you presently have demand for. 6 7 MR. BASFORD: I think you want the supply 8 driving the curve. The more liquidity you have, the lower the cost to the ultimate consumer. If you put a 9 limit, you may be reducing the amount of energy 10 available to lower the cost to the load serving 11 entity. 12 13 COMMISSIONER JACOBS: Okay. If you have -if you have those circumstances, it appears to me 14 ultimately then you're going to arrive at a place 15 where the costs are not going to be truly -- I'm 16 sorry, the cost -- the prices are not going to be 17 truly reflected. How do you avoid that? Let me ask 18 19 that question. How to you avoid that? 20 MR. BASFORD: The price may not be truly reflective of the cost. And if Duke's unit has to 21 22 sell energy lower than his cost, he may have to do 23 that. 24 COMMISSIONER JACOBS: Sounds like a good 25 proposition. I don't see you guys building those size

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1 || plants if that scenario exists though.

MR. BASFORD: I don't think so either. When 2 a developer looks at Florida they are thinking of 3 several things. The load growth here in Florida is 4 very rapid. The second is the declining amount of 5 capacity ratio to the load. We know our capacity 6 7 ratio to load is declining. So we need new capacity. We see load growth. There's much of our existing 8 9 capacity that's old; it's inefficient. Obviously, you look -- a merchant is going to look at those things, 10 11 they're going to look at the demographics of the state. The -- all of that is taken into 12 consideration. And, again, these folks are not going 13 to invest \$100-, \$200-, \$300 million if they don't 14 truly believe that their sale potential here is going 15 16 to give them the return on those investments. 17 COMMISSIONER JACOBS: And, I quess, what I'm beginning to understand is the answer to me we is: 18 It's not so much new demand. Your objective is really 19 to replace -- I think you said that already -- you're 20 going to be replacing the existing demand -- I'm 21 sorry. You're going to be serving -- you're going to 22 bring new generation supply to serve existing demand 23 and whatever growth that occurs. 24

MR. BASFORD: Exactly. Exactly. And many

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units that operate in Florida are 40 years old. They 1 have heat rates that are 11,000. These new combined 2 cycle units have heat rates at 7500, and are much more 3 economically friendly, and there's nothing wrong with Δ closing down those old units, or at least letting the 5 energy out of new merchant plants replace the energy 6 7 out of those old plants even if we don't want to There's nothing wrong with that. 8 retire them.

9 **COMMISSIONER JACOBS:** So then building upon 10 the scenario described by Commissioner Clark, as 11 opposed to simply reserving some part of reserve 12 margin for merchant plants, you would argue we should dig in a little bit into our demand to find some part 13 of that existing demand that should be replaced, i.e. 14 15 the aging plants that we should be replacing with merchant capacity as well. Is that a fair statement? 16

17 MR. BASFORD: I think that will be a natural I don't think the Commission will have to do 18 result. 19 anything to make that happen. As number generation comes on line, whether it's merchant or whether it's 20 typical traditional utilities, the difference is so 21 staggering between the cost of energy produced on 22 these new combined cycle and the old fossil units --23 that difference is so staggering that it just makes 24 25 That's what's going to happen. I think that sense.

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business will take care of doing that; that a lot of that old capacity will be retired.

3 **COMMISSIONER CLARK:** Let me ask one other 4 question. Do you think he we need to worry about fuel 5 diversity?

MR. BASFORD: Well, that's a question that 6 doesn't have much to do with merchant plants, but fuel 7 8 diversity certainly is important -- and you can deal 9 with that in several ways. If you're talking about fuel diversity at a plant, whether it's a dual fuel 10 plant, I think the answer to that is yes. That we 11 || should consider that plants should have the ability to 12 13 have a primary and an alternate fuel. If you're talking about as far as within the state, gas versus 14 coal versus oil, while that's important, I don't 15 believe you're going to see anybody building any coal 16 plants in the state. They are just not economically 17 competitive with the other plants. 18

At some point in time, if we project and forecast that there's going to be -- that the reserves in the natural gas are going to decline, it may force us back to coal plants. But I don't see coal plants having much opportunity of being built in Florida now. So there's two pieces to diversity: The overall state and --

1 COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'm talking about the 2 overall state. And you say it doesn't have anything 3 to do about merchant plants. But I think it does to 4 the extent you're indicating that the merchant plants, 5 which presumably at this point will be all gas-fired, 6 if your scenario is true -- it will probably backout 7 some coal-fired plant.

8 MR. BASFORD: It could in the long term. Of 9 course, coal-fired is much more economical than the 10 old oil units. We still have a lot of this around.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: My question is -- one 11 of the reasons we were concerned about diversity was 12 the Arab oil embargo, and more recently we had 13 lightning strike the only pipeline serving the 14 peninsula, or the southern part of the peninsula 15 anyway, and we were in danger of not meeting load 16 because that gas wasn't there. So there are public 17 safety reasons to be concerned about fuel diversity. 18

19 Is it your position that the market would 20 take care of that too? That we shouldn't -- don't 21 need to worry about having coal-fired units, having 22 nuclear units, having gas. We have all gas; if that's 23 what the market says, that's fine?

24 MR. BASFORD: I think that question should 25 always be before the Commission and you should not

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1	ignore it. And we're talking about diversity. Are we
2	talking about method of supplying pipeline or are we
3	talking about the commodity itself? I think the
4	commodity is one issue. The pipeline is another
5	issue.
6	COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay.
7	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Okay. Thank you.
8	MS. PAUGH: Florida Industrial Cogeneration
9	Association.
10	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Are they here?
11	MS. PAUGH: I don't believe so. I was not
12	certain.
13	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Okay. We're making great
14	time.
15	MS. PAUGH: Florida Power Corporation is
16	next.
17	MR. SASSO: Good afternoon. Gary Sasso for
18	Florida Power Corporation, and with me again is Vinney
19	Dolan, also with Florida Power Corporation.
20	We'd like to begin by mentioning, of course,
21	that we're not here to talk about the legal issues
22	associated with the Duke case or the appeal, but
23	obviously the outcome, the ultimate outcome of those
24	issues will have a significant impact on where we go
25	from here, and, in fact, on what we're attempting to
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1 accomplish with this workshop and any successive
2 workshops.

For example, we've already heard that at least certain of the developers are operating on the assumption that we're here to talk about the implementation of that Duke decision, and, of course, that presents a distinct set of issues.

In the Staff workshop, Joe Jenkins mentioned 8 9 that perhaps in the event the Duke decision were reversed, the workshop might serve the purpose of 10 providing a means to gather information to make 11 recommendations to the Legislature. Of course, if 12 that's the purpose, we think the discussion would take 13 on a wholly different character, beginning with the 14 determination whether there's anything wrong with the 15 16 status quo? And we believe that that would have to be demonstrated after a thorough on-going investigation 17 of the existing generation system in Florida, and, 18 19 frankly, we don't think that has occurred. Commissioner Clark has asked the question, 20

in the course of today's workshop, what should the law be? Well, of course, in some sense that may presume -- I don't think she meant to presume -- that the law should be changed. But from our point of view the law should be what the law is, or at least what it

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was before the Duke decision, absent some demonstrated 1 reason to change it, and we don't think one has been 2 3 shown. But having said that, let me turn to some of 4 the issues that we have raised in our submissions for 5 6 today's workshop. As a threshold matter, we have had the 7 concern, which actually predates the Duke ruling, of 8 9 what is the impetus behind the interest of the Commission and its Staff in merchant plants and it's 10 11 been apparent for some time that there's been an interest on the part of -- at least the Commission 12 13 Staff and merchant plants. Now, the developers who have participated in 14 this workshop have indicated that the impetus should 15 be to seize opportunity; that we shouldn't need to identify a problem. We should be talking about seizing an opportunity. But we have two responses to that. First, we have some difficulty in seizing the

16 17 18 19 opportunity. We think there has been a false premise 20 to many of the assertions made about the advantages of 21 22 merchant plants, those fictions being that merchant. 23 plants are going to bring the state cleaner and more efficient plants. Well, that's a false premise 24 because what we're doing is we're taking a snapshot at 25

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time at what new construction will look like in the 1 state of Florida. And the fact is whether merchants 2 build new power plants or the investor-owned utilities 3 build new power plants, they are all going to be 4 state-of-the-art. They are all going to be more 5 efficient. They are all going to be cleaner. And the 6 issue isn't whether merchants are going to contribute 7 a different kind of plant but whether they are going 8 9 to displace utility plants.

We have a bid rule in the state that works 10 quite well in our view in providing a reasonable 11 balance between the interest of independent power 12 producers and entering the state and competing for 13 opportunities within the state. And in the interest 14 we have heard discussed today about reliability; 15 ensuring that capacity that's built in the state is 16 committed and will be available to the retail 17 utilities when they need it. 18

The second thing we would say in response to the argument what we're about here is to seize an opportunity, again, we must return to the fact, as we see it, that the statutes in Florida currently do not provide for the construction of new plants based on economic opportunity.

25

That's fundamentally at odds with FEECA and

the Siting Act, as we see them, which embody the 1 legislative policy of restraint. You build a plant as 2 a last resort after you've shown you've exhausted 3 conservation measures. You don't build a plant Δ because there may be an economic opportunity for the 5 developer to build a plant. So the question in our 6 mind is what need --7 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Let me ask a question 8 in that regard. 9 MR. SASSO: Yes. 10 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Do you interpret the 11 statutes to allow an incumbent utility to come forward 12 13 with a determination of need, not for reliability purposes, but because that utility can reduce its 14 overall cost by building a new state-of-the-art plant 15 16 and having it in its dispatch as opposed to older less efficient plants? 17 18 MR. SASSO: Yes. I hesitate to give a 19 definitive yes to that because there are a whole 20 variety of considerations that a retail utility takes 21 into account in building a new plant. One of them would be efficiencies to be 22 gained with the construction of a new plant. But 23 unlike a merchant plant developer who may be looking 24 the a stand-alone opportunity, the utility is looking 25

at its entire fleet, its overall needs, reliability 1 issues, as well as economic issues. But certainly a 2 retail utility should be able to come forward and seek 3 to build a plant based on opportunities to lower cost. 4 Would you agree that COMMISSIONER DEASON: 5 the retail utility not only has that opportunity but 6 has an obligation --7 MR. SASSO: Yes, sir. 8 **COMMISSIONER DEASON:** -- to look at what its 9 ratepayers are paying and to put the most 10 cost-effective efficient fleet of plants out there? 11 MR. SASSO: In fact, that's our point. We 12 don't think that merchant plants are offering the 13 state something that doesn't already exist in terms of 14 the prospect for new construction. 15 Now, in that connection, trying to identify 16 what the impetus behind this issue is, a couple of 17 factors have emerged in discussions with Staff and in 18 the Staff workshops and so on. And one that is --19 that the Staff or the Commission may have a concern 20 about reserve margins in Florida, and the other is 21 that there may be a concern about how to make an 22 appropriate transition to a deregulated environment. 23 In taking the second one first, if what 24 we're talking about is the best way to transition to a 25

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deregulated environment, we're on record as saying --1 and we believe -- that it is inappropriate to do this 2 in a piecemeal fashion. That one has to take a 3 comprehensive look at the all of the cross impacts and 4 related issue. 5 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: You want us to open up a 6 7 docket to look at those things and make a suggestion to the Legislature? 8 9 MR. SASSO: I don't think we're there yet. Again, you may have been out of the room, but we began 10 by saying -- the first step is to conduct an 11 investigation of the existing generation market. 12 Determine if there's anything broken with it. We 13 think it's been operating guite well. 14 15 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Assume then the rest of the nation is broken and so they are fixing it. 16 17 MR. SASSO: Well, in some instances that's true. And Mr. Dolan can address the issues in other 18 19 states. New England, for example, had very high prices and they had to respond to that. The Florida 20 system has been operating quite well, and as I 21 understand it, the prices have been fairly reasonable. 22 Reliability has been fairly strong. 23 So we just don't think we're there yet. And 24 if we're talking about that type of transition, we 25

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1	have a concern about doing it in a piecemeal manner.	
2	Alternatively, if the Commission perceives	
3	that there's an issue associated with reserve margins	
4	in the state that gives rise to other questions.	
5	First, is there, in fact, a problem? Second, is there	
6	a factual basis to conclude that existing Ten Year	
7	Site Plans and FRCC methodology are inappropriate or	
8	inadequate? Third, if the Commission does have a	
9	concern, what is the most appropriate and direct means	
10	to address it? Isn't one way to deal with it to	
11	review the Ten Year Site Plans that will be filed by	
12	the utilities this year in the normal course and work	
13	through those issues, determine whether the Commission	
14	is satisfied, has concerns; and if there's any	
15	residual questions, then think about addressing those	
16	through some appropriate docket or other means.	
17	The Staff has suggested, and we've heard	
18	discussion today, about a possibility that, "Well,	
19	maybe we'll just leave the utilities alone. Let them	
20	have their 15% reserve margin, however they define it,	
21	however the FRCC deals with it. We won't second-guess	
22	their Ten Year Site Plan submissions and we'll deal	
23	with any concerns we have on reserve margin by adding	
24	a 10% merchant fringe." We've heard that suggestion.	
25	But the problem with that is merchant plant	

developers will not construct new plants to leave them 1 idle. They're not going to build them to hold them in 2 reserve in the event we need them. So what they are 3 contemplating is that they will build them to run to 4 displace current utility generation capacity. And so 5 what is the impact of that on utility construction? 6 Are utilities expected then to go ahead anyway and 7 build a redundant fleet of new gas-fired combined 8 cycle plants even though the merchants are doing it? 9 10 By hypothesis what we're talking about is adding more capacity to serve the same load -- if 11 12 you're talking about adding to reserves or additional 13 capacity for reserve purposes -- and so that means 14 that if we're expected to buy from the merchants, that 15 means that existing plants are not going to be running 16 fully; they're not going to be dispatched. Are we to 17 put in mothballs old units that would otherwise be replaced in the state by more efficient units 18 constructed by utilities? And if so, is that a net 19 20 benefit or a net detriment? If utilities, in fact, are going to be asked to shoulder this additional 21 burden of maintaining reserves, while they are still 22 23 expected to buy from these merchant plants, who is going to pay for that? In effect, isn't that asking 24 || 25 the utilities to increase their reserves at some cost?

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1 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Clarify for me what you 2 mean by expected to buy this merchant plant. Tell me 3 what you mean by that.

MR. SASSO: Who is going to purchase the 4 energy from the merchants that we're talking about 5 having to build plants in the state. They are 6 proposing to you and representing to you that they are 7 going to sell to the utilities. They are telling you 8 that by rule, you shouldn't require utilities to buy 9 from them, but you should second-guess and inspect any 10 utility purchases under a prudency standard to make 11 darn sure they buy from the merchants. 12

13 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Are you worried about the 14 prudency standard? Are you worried that you can't 15 compete with them?

MR. SASSO: We're concerned about what this all means. The existing frame work worked quite well. If a utility needed new capacity, they would build a new plant themselves or they would issue an RFP, or they would accept proposals. They would be able to do a cost-effectiveness valuation; enter into a contract; they knew where they stood.

23 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: But, Mr. Sasso, that's a 24 good example. You came in here -- I don't know if you 25 did -- someone from your company came in here a few

months ago and said, "No, we shouldn't put up 1 something for bid because we can beat it," even before 2 you had taken bids. 3 MR. SASSO: That's true. 4 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: If the existing system 5 worked and I've yet to see the existing system even 6 7 run its full course. MR. SASSO: The existing system does provide 8 for a waiver if the applicant can demonstrate that 9 it's warranted. And the Commission reviewed that, as 10 is its right and prerogative, and denied the waiver. 11 That's part of the existing system. 12 13 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Within that existing system, you're saying where in that existing system 14 are you or your company required to purchase the power 15 16 that is produced, for example, by Duke? MR. SASSO: That remains to be seen. 17 18 Frankly, that remains to be seen. Because what we're 19 being told --20 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: That remains to be seen. The next question will be where in the existing system 21 is there anywhere that ratepayers of Florida are going 22 to be on the hook for Duke's construction? 23 MR. SASSO: One after the other the 24 25 developers have come in here and told us that they

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intend to enter into the contracts with the utilities. 1 When they negotiate those contracts, they are going to 2 be trying to cut the best deal they can for their 3 shareholders and shift the risk to the utilities. 4 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: I hope you will be doing 5 the same for your shareholders. 6 7 MR. SASSO: Absolutely. COMMISSIONER CLARK: Mr. Sasso, how does the 8 shift the risk to the utilities? It strikes me that 9 it shifts it to the customers. 10 MR. SASSO: The customers are the utilities, 11 and ultimately to the ratepayers of the utilities. 12 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah. It shifts it not 13 to the utilities but the ratepayers. 14 15 MR. SASSO: Exactly. COMMISSIONER CLARK: But it would seem to me 16 17 that your obligation is to run the cheapest power at any time, and that doesn't mean if the power plant 18 19 from your plant that's in rate base -- you're not going to get the return on your investment and of your 20 21 investment even when it's not running. MR. SASSO: There are two issues, and that 22 is, what's going to be the cheapest available power. 23 And by hypothesis it's going to be coming from these 24 new plants, whether they are built by merchants or 25

1 they are built by the utilities.

2 COMMISSIONER CLARK: And if it is, shouldn't 3 the utilities be buying from them?

MR. SASSO: And the utilities will be buying 4 from them. And now the question is what does this 5 mean for their reserve margins? Are they still 6 expected to maintain a 15% reserve margin even though 7 they're buying a lot of their energy needs from 8 uncommitted merchant plants? Doesn't that suggest 9 that the utilities are going to be expected to keep 10 idle existing plant and equipment and to maintain 11 that; maintain plants that would otherwise be replaced 12 by new gas-fired efficient utility plants? 13

These are unanswered questions in our mind because to us, the idea of having a 10% merchant fringe to enhance reserve margins in this state is an oxymoron because merchant capacity does not count toward reserve margin, so they cannot enhance reserve margin.

20 **COMMISSIONER CLARK:** Just so I'm clear, 21 you're saying that because these merchant plants might 22 come in -- and if they provide cheaper power, you 23 would buy from them. Whereas, otherwise, you might 24 have taken your plant out of service and put in the 25 cheaper plant yourself?

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MR. SASSO: That's one possibility. 1 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Why aren't you doing it 2 3 now? Pardon me? 4 MR. SASSO: COMMISSIONER CLARK: Why aren't you doing it 5 6 now? MR. SASSO: We are proposing to do it now. 7 The Ten Year Site Plans of the utilities show that 8 8,000 megawatts of capacity of new construction would 9 be added over the ten year planning horizon, which is 10 the same amount we've heard from the developers that 11 they would like to add on the ground in Florida. 12 That's our point. What they are proposing to do is 13 not offer a new opportunity to the state, but to 14 displace one that already exists and that would be 15 provided by the utilities. 16 17 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: They haven't built anything. They are not displacing a thing. This is 18 new generation which you say you're going to bring to 19 the state. We're not displacing your generation. 20 21 We're just simply saying there's new generation in the state, and, obviously, they want a piece of that. 22 23 MR. SASSO: Let's suppose by hypothesis they are right and we're right in that 8,000 megawatts are 24 25 Then the question is are they going to build needed.

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1	eight and we're going to build eight? And what's the
2	cost to the environment? How is that reconcilable?
3	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: In our rule, if you beat
4	them if you beat them every time. If every time
5	you need an another four or five hundred megawatts, or
6	a thousand megawatts, you put it out to bid and they
7	can't compete, I expect you to build it. But I'll
8	tell you what, if they come in here and they say to
9	us, "We're going to give FPC a five-year contract.
10	We're going to sell it at \$22 a megawatt," I don't
11	know. I'd question whether you could beat that. But
12	if you could beat it, and the ratepayers of Florida
13	were protected, why not?
14	MR. SASSO: Aren't they circumventing the
15	bid rule? Currently, a utility first identifies its
16	need and then puts out an RFP to satisfy that need.
17	What we've seen instead is proposals to put
18	plants on the ground without any demonstrated need,
19	hoping to one-up the utilities or get there ahead and
20	essentially position themselves to avoid the bidding
21	process.
22	COMMISSIONER DEASON: I'm sorry. How do
23	they avoid the bidding process? They have to submit a
24	bid and you have the responsibility and the obligation
25	to evaluate it and make a determination is it the
least-cost alternative to meet your demonstrated need. 1 MR. SASSO: Yes, sir. But they avoid the 2 bidding process in this sense. Conventionally, and 3 prior to the Duke decision, the horse was before the 4 cart. First, there would be a demonstrated identified 5 need by the utility. We'd issue an RFP. Then there 6 7 would be proposals. And the winning proposal would build the plant. 8 9 Now what we're talking about is putting a lot of plants on the ground before we know they will 10 be under contract or what those contracts look like. 11 12 **COMMISSIONER DEASON:** How are you, you being 13 Florida Power Corporation, and your stockholders harmed by that if they build a plant, and they come in 14 15 and submit the bid and it's the lowest alternative, well, then that's good because it's the lowest 16 alternative. If they come in and they submit a bid 17 for your need and it's not, and you build the plant 18 yourself, that's good too; that benefits the 19 customers. And Duke and their stockholders are on the 20 21 hook if they cannot dispatch that plant, either with an account or else dispatch it in the wholesale 22 23 market. 24 MR. SASSO: There are a whole variety of 25 issues, Commissioner Deason. In any isolated case you

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can say there's no harm to a utility if they enter 1 into a contract with one plant. And that was, in some 2 3 sense, the fiction of the Duke proceeding. We were ostensibly talking about one plant. But what we've 4 seen since then, and in the comments submitted to the 5 Commission today, is we're talking about a 6 proliferation of plants; not just one plant. 7 COMMISSIONER DEASON: What if there are a 8 9 hundred plants out there and you submit -- open up an 10 RFP and you get a hundred bids and none of them are 11 the least cost; you're the least cost and you build 12 it. MR. SASSO: Again, on one transaction basis 13 there may be no harm. But the question is what impact 14 is this going to have on our reserve margins? I mean, 15 16 there have been a number of proposals floating around 17 and we're not sure we understand them. We're not sure we understand how we're --18 19 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: You're setting up, though, 20 this scenario. You're setting it up for us. You've 21 taken us here. Now we're standing here. And let's take that scenario. 22 23 There's hundred plants on the ground that were built and you didn't contract with them because 24 II 25 you beat them every time. What do I care? I might

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1 care -- an environmentalist might care because we have 2 a hundred plants in the state, although, I doubt that 3 that would ever happen, as I'm sure that you know that 4 that would never happen. So why does that put you at 5 risk?

MR. SASSO: I'm sorry. I don't agree with 6 that premise, that that will never happen. What we've 7 been told repeatedly by the developers in the written 8 comments submitted here today is that they want that 9 to happen. They want to encourage a proliferation. 10 They want these plants to be as prevalent as the 11 ubiquitous McDonalds. And we're not talking just 12 about a stand-alone facility. We're talking about 13 transmission lines, gas pipelines. And you recall 14 Dr. Nesbitt's testimony in the Duke case about how 15 Louisiana is made of steel. You can't dig down in 16 that state without hitting steel from a gas pipeline. 17 They want the market to decide this. 18

You know, in the Duke proceeding we heard how the Commission will have a meaningful role to play. But now the Commission is being told time and time again in all these written comments just please stand out of the way. You really can't meaningfully be involved in this process. This is a market issue. You can't mix regulation and market decision-making.

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They've told you that repeatedly in these comments. 1 So we have some very fundamental questions 2 about where this is going to end up. If we're going 3 to mix deregulation with regulation and we're going to 4 be expected to maintain reserve margins, which are 5 calculated based on committed capacity, at the same 6 time as all of these new plants are being built by the 7 market, and we're under nonmarket restrictions, what 8 impact is this going to have on us, on our ratepayers? 9 Are we going to be expected to maintain our own 10 plants --11 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Why don't you --12 MR. SASSO: -- just to have them there? 13 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Why don't you tell me what 14 impact you see it having on your ratepayers. Let's 15 16 get to that. MR. SASSO: Well --17 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: I mean, I don't want to 18 cut you off. But what I'm saying is you're alluding 19 that there's a hurt somehow created here to Florida 20 21 ratepayers. MR. SASSO: Yes, sir. We did go through 22 this in sort of a microcosm in the Duke proceeding, 23 24 and Mr. Dolan is anxious to say something, so I certainly want to let him have the opportunity to. 25

MR. DOLAN: Well, one issue, I think, was 1 addressed already: The current system, the 2 incremental sales that utilities make, we talked about 3 earlier, flow back to ratepayers. That's going to go 4 away. And on the broker sales they are shared 80/20. 5 But on as-available sales off-broker, it's 100% of 6 that that comes out of utility generation, goes back 7 to retail ratepayers. 8

I think the other dynamic that's changing 9 here is what is going to be the framework that we're 10 going to decide how the price risk is going to 11 transfer to the customer? If we sit here and say that 12 we are going to build -- when we evaluate building a 13 power plant -- this is not about -- the dynamics of 14 15 the market aren't about long-term planning. If we have to make decisions on an as-available basis, we 16 have to somehow think about how the market is going to 17 make those decisions. Right now all plants don't run 18 at 100% capacity; different plants dispatch at 19 20 different rates.

So to the extent we have a plant today that is economical to dispatch at 10% availability, if it's a peaker, and the market displaces that, at some point the overhead for keeping that plant open is going to become uneconomical -- it may not be uneconomical

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today -- and, therefore, that's the reason that we 1 continue to have those plants available. But if that 2 energy gets displaced by another plant, at some point 3 the plant is going to be uneconomical to keep, and 4 it's going to be stranded and we're going to have to 5 deal with that cost, and that's a current cost in the 6 system. So the plant is either going to get shut down 7 and the cost is going to have to be dealt with, or 8 it's going to stay there and we may, in fact, have 9 duplicate costs for that capacity. 10 And we heard from Constellation, I think --11 we got two definitions floating around about what a 12 13 merchant plant is. When merchants enter into contracts, the 14 risk is transferred to ratepayers. To the extent that 15

16 it's a prudent buying decision, that risk transfers 17 through the utility to our ratepayers. We're talking 18 about moving to a different model. I think we ought 19 to ask ourselves whether we're comfortable with doing 20 that.

CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Isn't that the model, to some degree, we have with you now? The contracts you've entered into with independent power purchasers and the others that require you -- and this Commission, I think, has made several decisions

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1 agreeing with you that you have to -- you know, we
2 have to recognize that because it's part of the system
3 we have in place.

MR. DOLAN: I think we have -- if you're 4 speaking about QF contracts, that's approximately 5 maybe 10% of our supply. We have a system today that 6 has some degree of risk taken away from the consumer. 7 We have regulated, levelized pricing. We have 8 reliability standards. And we're hearing a lot of 9 commentary today about shifting the risk of who 10 enforces those standards to the marketplace. Let the 11 market decide what the appropriate amount of capacity 12 is. Let the market decide about how prices are set. 13 I think, as Mr. Sasso said, before we set 14 out on that course, we ought to ask ourselves is that 15 really what we're setting out to do here? To 16 determine how to set up that type of a marketplace? 17 If we are, I think we ought to stop and question what 18 is it about the existing marketplace that we don't 19 20 like? COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let me ask a question. 21

It really sounds to me like what it boils down to, you may lose the opportunity to build and own the plant. That's really what the concern is. Because given the scenario where a merchant plant is built and it is

dispatched economically and it has the effect of 1 causing one of your peakers to no longer run, 2 presumably if it is more economic, then it should 3 backout that peaker no matter who owns it. If you had 4 built it, it should back it out. The issue is really 5 do you get cost recovery for that peaker? 6 MR. DOLAN: I -- certainly that's one of the 7 issues, Commissioner Clark. The other issue is how do 8 9 we -- do we wait for the market to make that determination for us? How can we sit here today and 10 say that we need to move and replace existing 11 generation when we're operating under a set of rules 12 13 today that don't contemplate merchant plants? **COMMISSIONER CLARK:** I agree with that. 14 But why shouldn't we let the market decide what gets 15 16 backed out? 17 MR. DOLAN: Why shouldn't we? COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes. 18 19 MR. DOLAN: Well, again, that assumes that the model that exists today on how we run this 20 21 business in Florida today needs to be changed. And I think we struggle with -- we're agreeing that we're 22 23 saying we ought to move in that direction. 24 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Well, you know, one of the concerns I have is we've seen utilities cut back 25

significantly on their operating and maintenance and 1 overhead costs as a result of the threat of 2 competition. That indicates to me that the system 3 that was in place, to some extent, encouraged 4 inefficiency. And that by introducing competition 5 into the wholesale market, we may get some more 6 efficiencies. We will require you to be more 7 efficient and those plants that are uneconomic to run 8 will, in fact, be backed out. And if you get 9 appropriate cost recovery for that -- I guess if it is 10 shown that running the new plant and allowing the 11 12 existing plant to be backed out and costs to be recovered is cheaper than running the existing plant, 13 that's what you ought to do. If that scenario arises, 14 that's what we ought to do. We ought to backout the 15 plant, give you the recovery for that and run the new 16 plant, whoever owns the new plant, so long as it is 17 committed in the sense that they have to run to serve 18 the retail load. What's wrong with that? 19 MR. DOLAN: I'm not finding any fault with 20 that. If that's the way to deal with that individual 21 issue, I think that's an appropriate way to deal with 22 it. But if you're going to make the changes that 23

24 we're talking about here, there are a lot of other 25 issues that are going to come with that. I mean,

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we've talked about a number of them here this morning and this afternoon, and I don't need to repeat those. But we're talking about price volatility, price risk transfer, reliability. There are a number of issues. We don't take them lightly. We think the existing model today deals with them very effectively.

7 COMMISSIONER CLARK: From my perspective, 8 there were a number of things that were brought up in 9 the Duke plant that caused me to think we ought to 10 look at this because this could be a better way to 11 deliver electricity to the people of Florida.

It's not to say that what currently we had 12 didn't work well. The question is: Can it work 13 better? At least from my perspective it was presented 14 to me that there are some benefits to be gained. And 15 we need to look at those benefits and then we need to 16 decide what's the downside to doing it, quantify that 17 to the extent we can, or at least go into this knowing 18 what the potential downsides are. 19

20 MR. DOLAN: Commissioner Clark, I think we 21 agree with that. What I guess what we struggle with a 22 little bit -- let's not call this how do we implement 23 merchant plants; let's call it how do we make the 24 generation system in Florida better. Because it's 25 more than just merchant plants. There's environmental

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There's price issues. There's bid rules. 1 issues. There's Ten Year Site Plans -- I mean, you can go down 2 the list. We submitted three pages of issues. There 3 are a number of things that we would be concerned 4 about. To the extent we want to look at those 5 comprehensively, and we find there is a net benefit to 6 7 making changes from today, we support that. We have always supported that, and we will continue to work --8 if that's the Commission's desire, we'll work in that 9 direction. But we are going to continue to oppose 10 piecemeal alteration, and we certainly are on record 11 || 12 as to how we feel about, you know, the previous 13 decision. And we would be opposed to other piecemeal alterations to whether it's generation or any other 14 part of the business. 15 16 MR. SASSO: I'll just add one final comment. We've taken up more than our fair share, I suppose,

We've taken up more than our fair share, I suppose, but there's been another fiction, that merchant developers assume all of the risks of these projects. And when that's being said, we're talking about financial risk. But we're not talking about environmental risk.

The comments repeatedly point out that if a merchant plant fails, they will shut down. It's no big deal. But, of course, it is a big deal. Is this

state to be turned into a graveyard for failed 1 speculative merchant plant projects? 2 FROM THE AUDIENCE: (Unintelligible) 3 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: How could you say that? 4 That almost -- it boggles the mind that we would make 5 an assertion of that sort. 6 You actually think that Wall Street would 7 liter Florida with merchant plants because they think 8 it's a good idea and all of this money would show up? 9 MR. SASSO: The comments submitted by the 10 developers themselves assume the possibility of 11 overbuilding. They say there may be overbuilding; 12 there may be redundancy. And the Commission can look 13 at that after the fact and deal with it. And they 14 contemplate that there may be plant failures. And 15 they say the consequence will be shut down. 16 And all I point out is that there's more at 17 issue here than economic opportunity; that the 18 existing policies of the state contemplate that plants 19 are not being put on the ground with all their related 20 infrastructure unless they are demonstrably needed. 21 And the excesses of building are not just economic 22 issues; they are environmental issues. 23 COMMISSIONER CLARK: See, I agree with him 24 to some extent. There's always a risk that these 25

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plants will fail and will be stranded. And, you know, 1 the way I have resolved that is you require some 2 obligation of reclamation of the site, just like you 3 all are required to decommission sites; as a condition 4 to building the plant you may require that. That can 5 be addressed. But I agree with you that we need to be 6 clear about the potential environmental impacts so 7 that those entities who are required to look at that 8 can make a judgment as to whether they think the 9 economic benefits that we may believe come about are 10 worth the environmental risks. 11

MR. SASSO: And it comes down to whether the policy is going to be "more is better" or "less is better," and currently it's, to some extent, less is better.

16 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: It almost -- it sort of begs the question: Should this state be involved in 17 18 all sorts of regulation? Should this state control 19 all sorts of aspects just in case we may overbuild, we 20 may overinvest? The natural consequence of letting the market decide these things is, yes, every once in 21 22 a while we overbid. Yes, as we found in other parts of this country, sometimes there isn't enough, and 23 clearly the prices bring us to that balance. But that 24 25 balance -- I don't care how good we are as regulators,

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1	we're not going to beat the market. And we sit
2	here I think in theory we sit here to try to
3	simulate some type of market to bring the best
4	advantages we can to the Florida ratepayers. But if
5	you step back from that, with the technology in place
6	today and we're seeing across the country, where we
7	can allow the market to participate, I would assume
8	that Florida Power Corp and its business entity would
9	like the market to participate. It's a better decider
10	of these things, correct?
11	MR. SASSO: Fundamentally, it comes down to
12	whether we want to change the existing system. I
13	mean, if that's what we're talking about.
14	COMMISSIONER CLARK: And I concur, that we
15	ought to the way we ought to well, I guess maybe
16	you won't agree with it I thought what we should do
17	is say here's how it's currently done. Here's one way
18	to do it. Here are the benefits and here are the
19	downsides.
20	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: I think if the
21	investor-owned utilities want us to open up dockets on
22	those issues or any Commissioner wants us to look
23	at those that would be fine.
24	Throughout this process, you know, we
25	want we're here, I think I hope to get a
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1 better understanding of where we are. But if that's
2 the issue, and if, you know -- that's fine. I don't
3 disagree with it.

COMMISSIONER JACOBS: Several states were 4 mentioned today that have engaged already in merchant 5 I'd be interested -- if anyone has this 6 plants. information, I'd be interested in knowing what 7 ramifications are evident on the price transfer issue 8 that you talk about, i.e. is there any trend that's 9 becoming evident as to what impact the availability of 10 the extra capacity has ultimately had on the market 11 clearing price? 12

13 MR. DOLAN: Commissioner Jacobs, I'll certainly give Mr. Green a chance to answer this as 14 15 well, but I think if you look at the statistics on merchant plants, I think we will find that the vast 16 majority of those are just existing plants that have 17 changed hands and are now merchants because they are 18 in a different ownership position. There's been some 19 incremental generation built, but I'm not sure that 20 the market is mature enough, you know, with new 21 merchant construction -- you know, there's been 22 23 discussion, you know, vast expansions up in New England that, you know, have not occurred yet. I'm 24 25 not so sure that's a result of the merchants' lack of

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desire to build more so than it is just siting,
permitting, transmission studies and the like. But
I'm not so sure that we have seen a large incremental
amount of merchant that's actually up and running
today where we're experiencing the dynamic where we
could draw conclusions about price.

I think the markets where we've a lot of 7 merchant -- the California, they have restructured the 8 entire market out there. They have a power exchange, 9 and an ISO and a number of different things, that it 10 would be something that you'd have to look at 11 carefully before you attempt to draw conclusions about 12 the impacts of merchants, new merchants in those 13 particular markets. That's just my opinion. I'm 14 certainly ~-15

COMMISSIONER JACOBS: One of issues that 16 continues to come to mind for me is last summer, while 17 I know that it wasn't just capacity that drove the 18 price spikes, it had a lot to do with transmission and 19 some other things, it would appear to me that if you 20 allow this -- for lack of a better term -- this 21 proliferation of merchant plants, you're going to have 22 a lot of capacity trying to get at wherever new demand 23 shows up. 24

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And you're going to have to have parallel

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1	initiatives to deal with those transmission
2	constraints, or else you run the risk of probably some
3	of those same conditions occurring, i.e. the price
4	spike conditions occurring. It was my understanding
5	it wasn't just the capacity. It was the idea that
6	capacity could reach the demand that had a large part
7	in those spikes. How do you avoid that if you are
8	going to allow this new extra demand on the markets?
9	I may be wrong. If I'm wrong in that analysis, I'd be
10	very open to hearing that correction, but it's my
11	understanding that's how some of those spikes
12	occurred.
13	If that is the case, it would appear to me
14	that by allowing a good bit of new capacity on the
15	marketplace, without addressing some of the
16	transmission constraints, you open up a large risk for
17	those kinds of conditions. Is that a reasonable
18	conclusion?
19	MR. DOLAN: I'm not sure I'm in the best
20	position to comment on that. I'm not that familiar
21	with the specifics of the situation in the Midwest to
22	say.
23	COMMISSIONER CLARK: I had understood it to
24	be the function of what was called a "thin market."
25	There was concern that there was not enough capacity
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1 out there to serve, and it may have been the effect of 2 not being able to get the capacity where it was or not 3 generating it.

But I have some reason to believe that if you have a robust market, it provides some cushion against volatility. And I know the gentlemen from U. S. Generating is here and probably can answer that guestion.

9 MR. HAWKS: The short answer is more is 10 better: More liquidity, more transactions, more 11 buyers and sellers, more products, more day-to-day 12 competition; less volatility.

13 COMMISSIONER JACOBS: So here's an instance 14 where we have a discrete, very intense demand, okay. 15 And you have this host of potential suppliers out 16 there unrestrained -- essentially unrestrained in what 17 they can do, and they're trying to get at that. And 18 there's this bottleneck. You're saying that there 19 will be no impact on price?

20 MR. HAWKS: I wouldn't quite look at it that 21 way. If you have this bottleneck demand, all of those 22 purchasers -- and I'm talking about wholesale 23 purchasers.

24COMMISSIONER JACOBS:No, the purchaser is25probably a few. You have a whole bunch of suppliers

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trying to reach that purchaser, trying to get through
 a bottleneck.

MR. HAWKS: It's a buyer's market there.
That's going to dampen prices more than anything else
if you have a dozen different suppliers chasing a
single purchaser.

That's what I would 7 COMMISSIONER JACOBS: have thought in the case of the spike. Where you have 8 these instances where you have a fairly few number of 9 purchases, lost capacity and power marketers -- I may 10 be wrong -- I don't want to defer too long -- but it's 11 my understanding power marketers came into that 12 market. Once they recognized their capacity had been 13 lost, power marketers showed up big time. There was 14 capacity being served to that market. 15

16 MR. HAWKS: The power marketers were already 17 there. We're talking about the Midwest spikes, last 18 June 25th.

COMMISSIONER JACOBS: Right.

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20 MR. HAWKS: What happened there was the 15% 21 reserve margin that the Midwest had generally was all 22 wiped out by virtue of planned outages, forced 23 outages, storms; large transmission lines went out. 24 The Cook nuclear power plants in southwest Michigan 25 were out. And there was no reserve margin right

there. And then you had the extreme --1 **COMMISSIONER JACOBS:** The power marketers 2 came in, they brought capacity with them, did they 3 not? 4 The power marketers were MR. HAWKS: No. 5 searching for a capacity and energy at the same time 6 as the utilities. 7 COMMISSIONER JACOBS: Okay. I thought that 8 was -- outside of that region there were an ample 9 number of potential sellers to that region. 10 MR. HAWKS: There could have been but there 11 were transmission constraints. That was another 12 problem that --13 COMMISSIONER JACOBS: That's exactly my 14 point. Exactly my point. 15 If you have that scenario exist, do we have 16 the potential for those same results? 17 MR. HAWKS: Not if you have a generation --18 a generating station at the end of that transmission 19 line, you can relieve the constraints by virtue of the 20 additional generation as well as the additional 21 22 transmission. 23 COMMISSIONER JACOBS: Okay. THE REPORTER: Can I have your name? 24 MR. HAWKS: Oh, I'm sorry. My name is Jack 25

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Hawks. H-A-W-K-S. Vice president, U.S. Generating 1 Company. Should I go ahead and finish the 2 introduction, who we are? 3 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Are you planning on 4 making a presentation later? 5 MR. HAWKS: Jon Moyle and I were going 6 7 to --MR. MOYLE: We submitted joint comments and 8 I think we're going to be given an opportunity at that 9 time --10 **COMMISSIONER DEASON:** We'll just wait. 11 MR. MOYLE: -- so we'll just hold it until 12 then. 13 Right. COMMISSIONER DEASON: 14 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I have a question for 15 Mr. Sasso, and it's following up -- I came in at the 16 tail end of your comments when you said the Commission 17 should consider more than just, I guess, economic 18 impacts. And you talked about if plants were built 19 and abandoned and the impact that that might have on 20 the environment. 21 And you raised that point, but I don't know 22 if you made a -- therefore we should what? Or is 23 there no process -- process that we have now isn't 24 sufficient to take that into consideration? Is there 25

something more the Commission should be doing here in this process? Is that not handled when you get to the DEP side? Where were you going with that? Because you left it and went into a dialogue, and I didn't hear your wrap-up.

6 MR. SASSO: It's a complex issue. What I 7 was attempting to address is the assertion that 8 merchant developers are assuming all of the risks of 9 these projects.

What we're talking about is a completely different world from the one that currently exists in Florida. And I understand Chairman Garcia had some difficulty with this idea, but Wall Street has let a lot of banks fail in Florida, savings and loan, after deregulation, which in turn failed because of failures of developers --

17 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: I was trying to give 18 you a chance while he was out of the room, darn it. 19 (Laughter)

20 MR. SASSO: I didn't get it all out. But 21 the point is, Wall Street makes a lot of mistakes. 22 And there may be a certain halo over the market from 23 where the Commission sits, but it's a wild and woolly 24 place out there. And from where I sit, I see failures 25 every day. And that's something that needs to be 1 || taken into account.

Whether a plant fails or succeeds, we're talking about additional impact on the environment. But if it fails, yes, there may be a reclamation obligation. But how do you enforce it against a failed corporation which may have been set up just to run a particular plant, which may have no assets or resources?

It's easy to be sanguine about these risks. 9 But we're moving -- we're talking about moving from a 10 regime where we think the Legislature has said these 11 are special kinds of factories with a lot of attendant 12 infrastructure. And we don't want them built unless 13 there's a demonstrable need. They can have an 14 15 environmental impact every time you put one down. We're talking about moving from that regime to a 16 regime where we're talking about a proliferation -- I 17 mean, those are words that are being thrown around --18 and commended by the developers. We're talking about 19 a proliferation, "more is better," of a type of 20 structure and related infrastructure which can have a 21 serious impact on the state. 22 And I simply meant to say -- without 23

24 suggesting that there are no solutions -- I simply 25 meant to say that we can't glide by that issue by

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adopting the mantra that the developers are assuming 1 all of the risks, because they are not. 2 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: So you're just asking 3 us in whatever forum we're using that we be cognizant 4 of the fact that there are other risks, and that the 5 developer and shareholders are not assuming all of 6 those risks. 7 MR. SASSO: Absolutely. I mean, we've 8 talked about the transference of price risk through 9 contracts. I mean, there are a lot of complexities to 10 the economic issues, but there are also environmental 11 12 issues. COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Would you have any 13 solutions -- I mean, particularly now that we've made 14 our primary decision, what could we do to mitigate --15 Commissioner Clark talked about one process she might 16 have in mind perhaps we should consider. Are there 17 other things you would suggest that we consider in 18 order to mitigate or balance the risk, or at least 19 acknowledge the risk? 20 MR. SASSO: Of the Duke decision? 21 **COMMISSIONER JOHNSON:** No, the more global 22 issue. What could we change in the process? What 23 would we need to do? 24 MR. SASSO: I can't possibly answer that, 25

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1 Commissioner Johnson.

2 Our point is that we're way down the road 3 without perhaps having taken the first step of 4 conducting a investigation of the existing generation 5 system and finding any fault or opportunities for 6 improvement.

7 I know that Commissioner Clark has said by 8 virtue of her participation in the one proceeding 9 where we heard a few days of testimony from one 10 developer that she saw some benefits. I'm not sure 11 what they are. I fully respect her opinions and her 12 perceptions in that regard, but we're not sure what 13 she has in mind as the benefits.

But to begin the dialogue is to put on the table what we do see as problems, what we do see as benefits, and then talk about maybe the most direct way of addressing them, and I'm not sure we're there.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. 18 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Mr. Sasso, I guess I 19 wonder why do we have to look at the existing system 20 and decide it's not broke to do something else? It 21 strikes me we could say that we think there's room for 22 improvement and we can improve upon it by doing this, 23 and these are the benefits and these are the 24 25 downsides.

MR. SASSO: Yeah. They may be flip sides of
 the same coins. But I think that it would be helpful
 to be specific.

It's very difficult for any participant to 4 take a position on a moving target. And one could 5 identify any aspect of the current system that may be 6 broken or may need improvement or may be just fine 7 where it is -- these are very complex issues. And to 8 address them in a meaningful way, it helps to be 9 specific and identify what we're trying to improve or 10 fix. 11

12 **COMMISSIONER CLARK:** I would agree with 13 that. And I think I said to the Chairman I think this 14 is the first step, the workshop, to hear sort of the 15 range of issues that are implicated in deciding to 16 move to a merchant plant.

17 It's clear that I would have preferred going 18 through those range of options, identifying the 19 impacts, identifying ways to mitigate the impact and 20 drawing an overall conclusion that yes, this is the 21 way we ought to go. Not just look at an individual 22 plant. And I still think that's what we should be 23 doing, and that's my objective here.

And I think we have gotten some -- a range of issues, and they tend to be somewhat pre-formed at

1 this point. But I think after this workshop that 2 those issues can be sort of further clarified and more 3 formed, provided to a subsequent proceeding which 4 deals with the implications of introducing merchant 5 plants into the electric power delivery structure in 6 Florida.

7 **COMMISSIONER DEASON:** I have a question. 8 Mr. Sasso, you indicated that FPC opposes the 9 piecemeal alterations to the system, I think was 10 something along those lines.

First of all, what have we done that's piecemeal? And how would you propose that we proceed from this point?

MR. SASSO: Well, again, I don't want to belabor the legal issues. Obviously, we disagree with the decision the Commission reached in the Duke case. And we feel that amounts to a departure from existing law. One piece of it, a significant piece, but one piece in isolation, and we don't expect --

20 **COMMISSIONER DEASON:** Let me address that 21 for just a second.

I respect what you're saying. And there is a difference of opinion as to what the current law provides. And, hopefully, we'll get guidance on that and that matter will be settled.

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1	But the Commission interpreted that law a
2	certain way. I know you disagree with that. But with
3	that interpretation of the law, the applicant had a
4	standing to have an application process by this
5	Commission, and we did not have the luxury to say,
6	"Duke, sure you meet three Commissioners said you
7	meet the statutory definition of a utility, but we're
8	not going to process your application because we don't
9	want to do this piecemeal. We want to have some
10	widespreading generic docket and invite everybody in
11	the country to participate. And then we may do
12	something from that point. So come back in two years
13	if you still want to do your project."
14	We, with our and perhaps incorrect
15	interpretation of the law we did not have that
16	luxury. We had the obligation to proceed. And I
17	believe within that statutory framework, there are
18	time frames within which we must act.
19	So I disagree to some extent with the
20	characterization that this Commission is trying to
21	formulate policy on a piecemeal when we interpret the
22	law a certain way and we have no alternative but to
23	process that application with that interpretation of
24	the law.
25	MR. SASSO: I understand that, Commissioner.

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And I certainly wouldn't ask the Commissioner, any
 Commissioner, to agree with our position at this point
 on the issue. But I guess the disagreement is so
 fundamental that that explains the difference in
 opinion or perspective on this point.

6 If I may, Mr. Dolan had a comment to make in 7 response to your question too.

8 MR. DOLAN: Commissioner Deason, I think we 9 certainly agree with the position you were in in terms 10 of having to make that decision, and respect that 11 process that had to take place.

I think when we talk about piecemeal, what 12 troubles me a little bit is we spent the lion's share 13 of the time in that proceeding arguing legal issues 14 and a very limited time arguing policy issues. And I 15 think -- with the exception of Florida Power -- we 16 were the only ones that argued policy issues, and I 17 think there are a lot of other stakeholders in this 18 process that have something to say about that. A lot 19 of them are here today: DEP, LEAF. Certainly they 20 have environmental concerns. The developers have 21 And I think what we said is we'll their position. 22 deal with those issues another day. 23

And if we continue to let them linger and we do this one at a time, at some point it's going to

have an impact on how we run our business as these 1 plants come in, if we have a march of these plants 2 into Florida. And I don't think we can ignore those 3 issues. And I think those warrant discussion. And I 4 think it needs to be a comprehensive look. 5 I think of it in terms of, you know, we have 6 maybe three different points of view in this room. 7 There are a number of folks in this room that would 8 probably argue that the existing system works very 9 well and why should we change it? And that may, in 10 fact, be what our argument might be. 11 We heard discussion during the course of 12 that proceeding that argued for a hybrid-type 13 situation. Leave the existing retail utilities alone 14 and let's introduce a merchant fringe with a cap. 15 And now we're hearing that that's an unacceptable outcome 16 for the developers. And then there are others in this 17 room that would argue let the market decide it all. 18 19 And I think that those are three very different models that bring with them three very 20 different sets of issues. We need to establish what 21 model are we talking about? We keep bouncing back and 22 23 forth between these different models. And I don't think we're gaining any ground. In the meanwhile 24 we're going to come in one plant at a time and you're 25

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1	going to make one decision at a time, and at some
2	point it's going to have impacts that are going to
3	upset someone be it the environmental groups or be
4	it we're going to have price spikes or something
5	else, and we haven't really dealt with the issue.
6	And I would say again, I don't think we
7	should call this a how do we implement a merchant
8	plant docket. I think it's about what do we think is
9	the right way to run the generation business in
10	Florida. I don't think we should presume anything.
11	There's folks today have said we should presume that
12	competition is coming. Should we presume wholesale?
13	Retail? This Commission is on record saying they
14	oppose retail competition. We heard that during the
15	course of the proceeding. I think we should get some
16	clarity about where we're headed here, and then I
17	think we'll have a much more beneficial discussion
18	about the issues.
19	COMMISSIONER DEASON: One follow-up
20	question.
21	I believe you filed a letter in support of
22	TECO's letter asking for postponment until after of
23	the Supreme Court rules; is that correct?
24	MR. DOLAN: Yes, we did.
25	COMMISSIONER DEASON: And I guess I have a
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little bit of difficulty reconciling that with your 1 2 concern about piecemeal policymaking. I guess my concern is this: If we delay everything until the 3 Court rules, we're still subject to someone else 4 5 coming into this Commission and filing for a need determination, which is going to be another one of 6 these piecemeal problems that you've identified. And 7 under the current Commission's interpretation, most 8 likely that individual, if they are an EWG, probably 9 will be determined to be an electric utility and at 10 least have standing to go forward with that 11 application. Now, whether that determination is 12 13 granted or not, I guess, rests upon the facts that they present. But if we delay, aren't we subjecting 14 ourselves to further piecemeal interpretation, or at 15 16 least piecemeal implementation, that's going to, at 17 some point -- under your own terminology -- at some 18 point is going to reach the point to where it is going 19 to have significant impacts; perhaps adverse impacts? MR. DOLAN: Commissioner Deason, if that's a 20 concern that that's an unreasonable delay if that 21 decision is six to 12 months and we want to proceed 22 now, as long as we establish what the basis is upon 23 which we're proceeding. 24 25 What we would object to is that we're

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proceeding to solve issues on how to implement 1 merchant plants. I think what we need is to proceed 2 on a much broader basis than that, and that's our 3 point. 4 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Is that relevant 5 regardless of what the Court rules? 6 7 MR. DOLAN: I think merchants are a relevant part of the discussion, absolutely. But I don't think 8 that's at only part of the discussion. That's my 9 point. 10 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let me just ask a 11 question. 12 You say that a question should be what is 13 the right way to run the generation in Florida? How 14 much of that is our call as opposed to FERC's call? 15 MR. DOLAN: Commissioner Clark, I would say 16 that the lion's share of that is your call today under 17 18 the existing system. COMMISSIONER CLARK: I guess I have some 19 concerns that if we take the position that there will 20 be no merchant plants, and that only entities with an 21 obligation to serve can build plants, that FERC may 22 preempt us. They may say that is at odds with our 23 objective of introducing competition into the 24 wholesale market and they'll preempt us if we take 25

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that hard line. 1 MR. DOLAN: Certainly that's possible. I 2 think we're seeing -- facing the same dynamic with 3 transmission. But I think before we make that step we 4 ought to make sure that the benefits outweigh the 5 6 cost. CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Any questions? All right. 7 There being no questions, we're going to 8 take a 15-minute break and then we'll resume with 9 Florida Power and Light. 10 (Brief recess.) 11 12 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: We're going to get started 13 again. 14 MS. PAUGH: Florida Power & Light Company is 15 next. 16 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Okay. Mr. Childs. 17 MR. CHILDS: Mr. Cresse is going to be 18 making some comments for Florida Power & Light. 19 MR. CRESSE: Thank you, Commissioner. 20 My name is Joe Cresse. I'm here on behalf of Florida 21 Power & Light. I'm going to try to keep my comments 22 fairly brief, and I hope, to the point. 23 I want to make a few observations which I 24 think are relevant to the issue and some conclusions I 25

reached about the advisability of merchant plants. By way of background, I want to maybe remind you why we're here. Why is this an issue? Why was it not an issue 15 years ago?

The reason it's an issue is because of 5 change in technology. You can now build new capacity 6 and sell the output of that new capacity at a rate 7 that could be less than the average embedded cost for 8 some of the existing generating units. If, in fact, 9 10 new capacity had a higher cost than the average cost of embedded units, we wouldn't be holding this meeting 11 today because nobody could come in and compete with 12 the existing utilities. So we're here primarily 13 because of technological change. And the issue, I 14 15 think, in the long run is who is going to be the 16 primary beneficiaries of the technology change. Is it 17 going to be all the consumers in Florida or is it going to be some people who are providing electricity 18 in Florida without an obligation to serve Florida 19 citizens? 20

I want to talk to you a minute about what my definition of a merchant plant is and then I'm going to read from your order. Your order says, "the term merchant plant as used in this order is a power plant with no rate base, no captive retail customers." And

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I would add one other thing. And no obligation to
 provide firm service to a utility or to the citizens
 of the State of Florida. If it, in fact, has a firm
 contract with a utility, I don't view that as being a
 merchant plant.

6 The other fact that I want you to keep in 7 mind constantly, because it's very important, that a 8 utility's lowest cost generation is reserved for its 9 retail and firm wholesale customers. Excess capacity 10 of a utility is made available to other utilities in 11 the short-term are known for economy sales.

Matter of fact, Joe Jenkins, some 15 years ago, received one of the rarest things the Florida Legislature has ever done. They provided a bonus for him for promoting the broker system and it's brought about many of millions of dollars of benefits to the ratepayers in this state.

And they only let Joe have a \$10,000 bonus and I thought the Legislature was pretty cheap in what they did, but notwithstanding that, Joe took the (Laughter.)

Another basic point that I think is very important and I hope I could convince you of this, is that the only economic benefit of a merchant plant is if it sells at a cost lower than the incremental cost

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of an existing utility who would otherwise make the 1 sale. 2 I want to repeat that because I think it's 3 very important and it's at the crux of whether or not 4 merchant plants are beneficial to the people of this 5 state. In repeating I'm saying, the only economic 6 benefit of a merchant plant is if it sells at a cost 7 lower than the incremental cost of an existing utility 8 who would otherwise make the sale. 9 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Can I interrupt you? 10 MR. CRESSE: Certainly. You can always 11 interrupt, Commissioner. 12 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Isn't it also 13 beneficial if it forces those utilities to operate 14 more efficiently such that they can lower their costs? 15 16 MR. CRESSE: Anything that permits or forces or requires a utility to operate more efficiently is 17 beneficial to the general body of customers. 18 COMMISSIONER CLARK: So it doesn't have --19 MR. CRESSE: The benchmark that you use is 20 beneficial. 21 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Well, it strikes me 22 then, the only economic benefit is if it sells. 23 Τ don't think that's true. I think the economic benefit 24 is, if it forces all providers to be more efficient 25

1 || and the least cost generation runs.

2 MR. CRESSE: Could I maybe amend that? 3 Maybe you'd agree with me. Say the only measurable 4 economic benefit. Would that make you happier? I 5 hope it will.

6 COMMISSIONER CLARK: No. I think there has 7 been a benefit just to the notion of economic plants 8 because the incumbent utilities have been forced to 9 become more efficient and we've seen the benefit of 10 that recently with Florida Power & Light and Gulf 11 Power and TECO.

12 MR. CRESSE: And probably you've seen the 13 benefit of that, but I don't know that I would 14 contribute all that to the potential competition in 15 the generation of electricity.

16 COMMISSIONER CLARK: That's fair. But some
17 of it, anyway.

18 MR. CRESSE: My next proposition is, if 19 utilities -- if existing utilities have adequate 20 reserve margins, by definition merchant plants are not 21 needed for reliability. And they're not needed for 22 economy, unless they sell at less than the displaced 23 seller's incremental cost.

Now, I want to give you some charts. If I can get those charts passed out. They kind of

demonstrate to you, I think, what I'm talking about 1 and there's two illustrations and I hope those charts 2 3 are -- yes, they are. I'm sure you're familiar with the first 4 chart which has "broker" on the third line of it. 5 6 This is what happens. 7 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Does everyone sort of have 8 this in the audience? 9 MR. CRESSE: I think we're in the process of passing some out. 10 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Why don't you have your 11 assistant put it on the overhead so that people can 12 13 watch what you're doing. It might make it a little bit easier. 14 MR. CRESSE: All right. I could put up a 15 larger chart, but probably if it's up there it would 16 be better. Whatever you want to do. 17 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: I think there everybody 18 would be able to see it. (Pause in proceedings.) 19 MR. CRESSE: Mr. Chairman, we've handed out 20 70 copies. If there are more than 70 people here, 21 somebody is going to have to do without. 22 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Go ahead, Joe. 23 MR. CRESSE: At the top of that page if you 24 notice on the left-hand side of the page, we start 25

with the investor-owned utility making the sale and the purchase under the broker system. If Utility A's marginal production cost is \$20, and B's marginal cost of production is \$30, that sale is made at \$25 because they just split the difference. Utility A's gain is \$5 and B's gain is \$5.

7 Under an incentive policy adopted years
8 back, 20% of that benefit to the selling utility flows
9 to the shareholders, 80% goes to the customers. The
10 benefit of all Florida customers is \$9 from that
11 particular transaction.

On the merchant plant, if it displaces that broker sale, comes in and they offer it at \$24, which the purchasing utility would want -- they would want it at \$24 because it's less than \$25.

Utility B, the purchasing utility, would save \$6. The gain above that cost would go to the merchant stockholders. Net benefit to all Florida customers is \$6 under that scenario and Florida customers lose the benefit of three bucks.

That's the reason I said that unless a merchant plant sells its product at a cost lower than the incremental cost of the existing utility, there will be no benefit to shareholders in Florida, to customers in Florida and, in fact, would be a

1 detriment.

The second page talks about --2 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Mr. Cresse, before you 3 leave that page, let me ask a fundamental question. 4 If there is a robust wholesale market -- and I'm 5 understanding this is the way it worked under 6 7 regulation and this system has worked extremely well, and I'm not trying to be critical of it. But if there 8 is a robust wholesale market and there is another 9 10 participant out there whose marginal cost is something less than \$25, why isn't it such that the market will 11 work so that Utility A is competing against the 12 merchant plant, and if the merchant plant's marginal 13 cost is \$24 and Utility A's is \$20, why then wouldn't 14 15 they just cut a deal to sell it at \$23? 16 MR. CRESSE: If the merchant plant's cost is 17 \$24? 18 COMMISSIONER DEASON: And Utility A's is \$23, wouldn't the market work where Utility A would be 19 20 the one that would sell at \$23? 21 MR. CRESSE: Yes. It would decrease the 22 price that the purchasing utility would have to pay. There's no question about that. I'm not arguing that 23 24 point. 25 COMMISSIONER DEASON: And isn't that then

beneficial? 1 MR. CRESSE: There is no benefit to -- there 2 is benefit to the purchasing utility. But there's not 3 as much benefit for the selling utility. There's no 4 benefit at all to the general body of customers of 5 Florida as a whole. It would remain the same. 6 7 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Yes, but the ratepayers of the utility who is efficient and has the 8 marginal production cost of \$20 and sells it at \$23, 9 they benefit a little bit more than under the current 10 broker system, is that correct? 11 MR. CRESSE: No. If they sold at \$20 -- the 12 cost at \$20 and they sold at \$23? 13 COMMISSIONER DEASON: No, they would not 14 benefit as much. 15 16 MR. CRESSE: They'd lose \$2. 17 COMMISSIONER DEASON: But the utility then that benefits would be the one that was purchasing? 18 MR. CRESSE: The purchasing utility would 19 benefit. Yes, sir. 20 21 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Okay. All right. 22 COMMISSIONER CLARK: And wouldn't the 23 benefit be exactly the same? Utility A would sell it at \$23. Utility B would buy it at \$23. They get a 24 benefit of \$7. 25

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I think -- let me go back MR. CRESSE: No. 1 to the hypothesis again. You said if the merchant 2 plant would sell at \$24. Okay. Well, the merchant 3 plant would not make the sale, and assume that the 4 utility sold at \$23, then the utility that sold would 5 make \$3 and the utility who purchased would make \$7. 6 Benefit would be a little bit different because of the 7 80% factor. Do you follow that? 8 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes. But how much 9 would it be? 10 MR. CRESSE: Well, 80% of 3 is 2.4. 11 So the benefit to the consumer in that scenario would be --12 13 COMMISSIONER CLARK: 9.4. MR. CRESSE: Yes. 14 15 COMMISSIONER DEASON: So in that situation, having the merchant plant even there and not making 16 the sale, but just existing, would result in a greater 17 18 net benefit. 19 MR. CRESSE: Pardon? 20 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Under that scenario 21 then, just having the merchant plant existing and 22 being there, able to sell at \$24 but not being able to make the sale at \$24, and Utility A making the sale at 23 24 \$23, there's a greater net benefit than under the 25 current system, under those assumptions. Maybe my

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1 || calculation is wrong.

2 MR. CRESSE: If Utility A, the selling 3 utility, tried to charge more than 24 cents, they 4 wouldn't make a sale.

COMMISSIONER DEASON: We've assumed that 5 they can sell it at \$23 and that's what the market 6 comes down to and the sale takes place at \$23; because 7 merchant plant is there, his marginal cost is \$24. 8 And for Utility A to make this sale he's got to come 9 down in his price from \$25 to \$23 and he does that and 10 11 he makes the sale at \$23. The net benefit is \$9.40 12 under that scenario.

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MR. CRESSE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER DEASON: Okay.

MR. CRESSE: The second chart shows what happens if you have a capacity proposition. And simply put, it's the same thing over again. The sale is made at \$29. The benefit entirely flows to the consumer because of the capacity clause, recovery clause, as well as the fuel recovery clause.

I won't take anymore time except as to say that the -- either case, the only benefit to all of Florida's consumers would be if the utility -- if the merchant plant sold capacity at less than incremental cost of the utility selling it.

There's been discussion about old, 1 inefficient plants. Let me remind you --2 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Mr. Cresse, these 3 examples suggest to me that the merchant plant has --4 in all of these scenarios, has a beneficial effect. 5 MR. CRESSE: Well, I sure wish I could see 6 it. Could you explain that to me, Commissioner? 7 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Well, in the first 8 scenario, the existence of the merchant plant was 9 beneficial to the tune of 40 cents. 10 MR. CRESSE: That's under your assumption as 11 to what the price would be. 12 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Well, if Utility A's 13 marginal production cost is \$20 and the merchant wants 14 to charge \$24, I presume if the market is working, it 15 is Utility A that will make the sale, say, at \$23. 16 MR. CRESSE: Yes. 17 COMMISSIONER CLARK: So in this scenario, 18 it's beneficial to the customers to have the merchant 19 plant to the tune of 40 cents. 20 MR. CRESSE: Yes, and that's just a split. 21 That's the way the broker works because the split is 22 different on -- the benefit to the purchasing utility 23 is still seven bucks difference between \$23 and \$7. 24 The total benefit is \$10. The difference is that 80% 25

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factor that makes it \$9.4. 1 Let me go to one where the broker is not 2 involved. 3 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Let's go to the next 4 one, Mr. Cresse. 5 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Do you agree me that 6 in all scenarios it's beneficial to the customer? 7 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Let's go to the second 8 one, because I think so. 9 Mr. Cresse, under the second one, you're 10 assuming that the merchant would sell at \$28 because 11 the sale is made at \$29 and the assumption you've made 12 for --13 MR. CRESSE: Correct. 14 **COMMISSIONER DEASON:** -- Utility A and 15 Utility B. I guess my question is, if the market is 16 working, instead of foregoing that sale and foregoing 17 all that benefit, why doesn't Utility A, if their 18 marginal production cost is \$20, simply undercut the 19 20 merchant and sell at \$27? MR. CRESSE: They could do that. 21 COMMISSIONER DEASON: And then the net 22 benefit is not \$10, it's \$12. No, I guess it would 23 still be \$10. But there is not a loss benefit. The 24 benefit is there because the market has worked and 25

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Utility A has bid down to where they maximize their 1 gain, but they're still the utility that is making the 2 sale because they have the lowest marginal production 3 4 cost. MR. CRESSE: If that's what happens, then 5 6 that is correct. COMMISSIONER DEASON: Okay. 7 MR. CRESSE: There was discussion earlier 8 that the existing utilities are operating a lot of 9 inefficient plants and these new plants would bring 10 great savings to the consumers in Florida. I've kind 11 of summarized that discussion. 12 But the fact of the matter is, if new plants 13 total cost is less than the variable cost of the 14 existing facilities, the utility should replace the 15 existing facilities with a new plant. And the measure 16 is not what the total cost is of the existing 17 facilities, but what the incremental cost is of the 18 existing facilities to produce that electricity. That 19 is what you have to measure against the cost of a new 20 plant, not the total embedded cost. 21 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Would you say that 22 again? 23 MR. CRESSE: Yes. There's been discussion, 24 25 and I've considered some of it criticism, that

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1	existing utilities are continuing to operate some old
2	inefficient plants. And my proposition is fairly
3	simple. And that is, unless the existing plants
4	variable cost exceeds the cost of new plant including
5	fuel and O&M expenses and so forth, then the utility
6	should not replace the existing plant because it
7	provides electricity cheaper to its customers than it
8	would if it replaced that plant because you've got
9	that fixed cost that has to be recovered. It's
10	brought great benefits over the years, and any
11	criticism of that nature, I think, is unfounded.
12	COMMISSIONER CLARK: Well, but I think the
13	point that was of concern to the utilities was if the
14	merchant plant continues to be the least cost unit to
15	run and the incumbent utility finds that their plant
16	is not running because it is not beneficial, then it
17	seems to me the next step to undertake is, is it going
18	to be cheaper to the ratepayers to pay for that power
19	and back out the existing unit and, in effect, recover
20	the undepreciated plant? And if that is cheaper than
21	running the plant, that's what they ought to do.
22	MR. CRESSE: If they have an alternative
23	that this cheaper than the existing situation, they
24	should adopt the alternative.
25	COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes. And, in fact, we

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1 have done that.

MR. CRESSE: I don't think anybody would 2 question that. We have mothballed plants, where 3 there's been plants that retired that were no longer 4 efficient, that the incremental cost was greater than 5 the new capacity would be, and we've taken advantage 6 of that. We've tried to certify some orimulsion 7 because it was cost-effective. You certified the need 8 for it. 9

10 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Well, I guess my 11 question is then, that should be done whether or not 12 the utility builds it or whether or not a merchant 13 plant steps in and, in effect, becomes the firm 14 capacity for that utility.

MR. CRESSE: Utility should build it or have 15 it under firm contract. And then you know what is 16 cost-effective. You don't know what is cost effective 17 if there is a plant there that is just playing the 18 market. And if it denies a utility some sales that 19 would otherwise in total be beneficial to the 20 consumers of Florida, then that is detrimental if it 21 denies a revenue that would otherwise be beneficial. 22 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: I'm sorry, Joe. 23 I don't

understand. It would be better for Florida to have an
inefficient plant run, than to have a least cost

1 provider run?

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MR. CRESSE: No.

3 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: I'm sorry. I lost that
4 last step.

MR. CRESSE: Well, I just repeated what I 5 said from the beginning. If a merchant plant makes a 6 sale that's in excess of the incremental cost of the 7 utility, it charges an excess of the incremental cost 8 of the utility, makes the same sale, that is not 9 beneficial to the citizens of the State of Florida. 10 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Under what scenario 11 would that happen? 12 MR. CRESSE: Well, it could happen in sales 13 to a nongenerating utility. It could happen --14 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Why would it happen? 15 MR. CRESSE: Well, they can sell firm 16 capacity to a nongenerating utility and leave excess 17 capacity with the generating utility. And if I was a 18 19 nongenerating utility in Florida, I'd be telling you to certify as many plants as you can because that 20 gives me all the options. And the more options I 21 have, the better off I am. 22

But the purchasing utility is not the only one impacted by these transactions. The displaced utility has a cost that it then has to be recovered

1 from the existing captive customers, using their
2 language.
3 COMMISSIONER DEASON: But it's already in
4 the rate base. There's no change in that. It
5 continues in rate base. The customers still have an
6 obligation to pay for that investment.

7 MR. CRESSE: Because you lost a wholesale 8 sale, it increases the cost to existing customers if 9 you have adequate capacity to meet that wholesale 10 sale.

Next point I want to make is merchant plants should not be permitted in the state unless they can demonstrate benefits to the entire state. The theory that just because they propose no obligation for rate base treatment does not necessarily prove they're in the best interest of Florida electric consumers.

Now, I would remind you that Florida has a 17 process -- a competitive process for acquiring any 18 needed new generation and that process has served the 19 state very well. We haven't made the mistakes that 20 many states have throughout the country, both in 21 having unlimited ability to build power plants --22 we've had a cap on the capacity that you could build 23 II in the state since 1973, 26 years. Some states 24 followed Florida's lead late in life and started 25

having the kind of hearings you have to determine 1 whether or not additional capacity is necessary. But 2 many states didn't have that up until the late 70's, 3 long after Florida established that principle. Δ So we were out alone when we did that and 5 many states have come to copy it. So it doesn't hurt 6 to be standing alone and not following all the horses 7 running in the race. 8 I want to close by saying that if merchant 9 plants displaced the short-term economic sales that 10 FP&L made in 1998, it would cost FP&L ratepayers 11 approximately \$70 million. 12 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: How much? 13 MR. CRESSE: \$70 million. 14 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Say that again. 15 16 MR. CRESSE: If merchant plants displaced 17 short-term economic sales that FP&L made in 1998, it would cost FP&L ratepayers approximately \$70 million. 18 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Um --19 20 MR. CRESSE: Now, \$50 million of that would 21 say you can't build a plant in Florida and compete and sell in Georgia. \$50 million of those sales is out of 22 23 state. 24 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Out of state? 25 MR. CRESSE: Yes.

Another statistic that you need to keep in 1 2 mind --COMMISSIONER CLARK: Were they broker sales? 3 MR. CRESSE: No. The out-of-state sales, 4 I'm sure, were not broker sales, but Mr. Sam Waters is 5 here and he can verify that. 6 MR. WATERS: Commissioner, good afternoon. 7 My name is Sam Waters from Florida Power & Light. The 8 majority of the sales --9 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Lift the mike. 10 MR. WATERS: Oh, I'm sorry. I will lean 11 down a little farther. The majority of the sales by 12 far were nonbroker sales. They were what are called 13 opportunity sales or other short-term arrangements. 14 COMMISSIONER CLARK: How short-term were 15 16 they? MR. WATERS: Generally daily. Some hourly. 17 But usually daily. Not much longer than that. 18 19 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay. COMMISSIONER JACOBS: Any idea what the 20 numbers are on that? 21 COMMISSIONER CLARK: He said \$70 million. 22 **COMMISSIONER JACOBS:** Percentage-wise? 23 MR. WATERS: I'm sorry. I didn't catch the 24 whole question. 25

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1	COMMISSIONER JACOBS: What percentage of
2	your sales occur under those contracts?
3	MR. WATERS: What we're talking about, I
4	guess, to be clear, is the gains on sales rather than
5	just the sales. That's the figure that we're using
6	because that is what would actually be lost. Of the
7	figures that were given, \$70 million, probably more
8	than that 90% of that would be nonbroker sales. It
9	would be more the opportunity sales and short-term
10	sales and the minority would be broker-type
11	transactions.
12	COMMISSIONER DEASON: That's under the
13	assumption that merchant plants would displace 100% of
14	those sales, is that correct?
15	MR. WATERS: That's 100% of the gain.
16	That's correct.
17	COMMISSIONER DEASON: In reality though, you
18	would have to compete against those merchant plants
19	and you might make some of those sales and you might
20	not make others, and those that you make may have to
21	be a little bit of a lesser price, but you still may
22	make some?
23	MR. WATERS: That's true.
24	COMMISSIONER DEASON: Okay. And then also,
25	offsetting against that would be those times when you

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find yourselves in a capacity shortfall situation, and 1 you have the capacity from the merchant plant 2 available and you are able to -- since it was there in 3 the market, you could buy it at a lower price than 4 what the otherwise going rate would be and you would 5 need to make an assumption about that and net it 6 against your \$70 million to find out if you're a net 7 winner or loser? 8

9 MR. WATERS: Well, I guess that's true,
10 Commissioner. We're kind of mixing apples and oranges
11 now because we've taken an actual number and now we're
12 trying to say that under a hypothetical it might
13 change. That's true.

If I'm going to do a hypothetical, I would suggest to you that the merchant plant be in the business of maximizing profit rather than providing aid to the nearest person in need.

If we were the only ones that had a capacity 18 shortage, sure, we'd have to buy from them at whatever 19 price they chose to offer. If there were a shortage 20 in Florida and a shortage in, say, Chicago, similar to 21 the types of things that were going on last summer, 22 then the highest bidder will prevail. I don't think 23 you can presume that we would be the buyer. It would 24 be the highest bidder. 25

COMMISSIONER DEASON: But you would agree 1 that to the extent that there is another participant 2 in the market, that everything else being equal, that 3 that would have a downward effect on what the then 4 going rate would be when you find yourself in a 5 situation of having to purchase? 6 MR. WATERS: I think that's right, if 7 there's enough of a market. 8 MR. CRESSE: Commissioner, my concluding 9 statement is to kind of put this into perspective. If 10 a merchant plant of 484 megawatts sold its entire 11 capacity right at the incremental change, one-tenth of 12 one cent below the incremental cost of the existing 13 capacity, it would save Florida's consumers about 14 \$4 million. 15 16 If the market is going to be as competitive 17 as they say and they sold at one-tenth of one cent above the next unit, it would save Florida's customers 18 19 \$4 million. That's not a lot of money. 20 I'd be happy to answer any questions. 21 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: That's not a lot of money? 22 It's money we don't have to invest. It's money that 23 our ratepayers aren't on the hook for. It's --24 MR. CRESSE: That's true. But what I'm trying to get you to understand, Commissioner, is that 25

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1 you have to look at this, and to know what is going to 2 be in the best interest of consumers, you have to have 3 some idea as to what price you're going to have to pay 4 for merchant capacity.

Merchant plants aren't going to come down 5 here and sell their capacity at the incremental cost 6 slightly below what a utility can generate it for. 7 The math don't work at those prices. It just don't 8 work. And they're hoping to anticipate getting more 9 than that. I would bet you if you asked them what 10 their business plan looks like, they would say that 11 the average price is going to be more than the 12 incremental cost of generating electricity in Florida. 13 And if they say they're going to sell at the 14 incremental cost -- below the incremental cost of 15 generating electricity, they ought to sign some 16 contracts to that effect. 17

18 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: You all may get an
19 opportunity to do that.

20 **COMMISSIONER JACOBS:** This is something that 21 has been of interest to me. One of the witnesses this 22 morning mentioned the idea that -- I think it was one 23 of the first speakers. That assets -- generating 24 assets are being sold at multiples of the book value, 25 or at least above the book value, which implies to me

1 that what you're just saying is that they will be able 2 to sell at above their, I guess, it was variable cost, 3 for that facility somehow, otherwise it would have no 4 value. Nobody would buy it, would they?

5 MR. CRESSE: I don't think anybody would buy 6 anything unless they thought they could make some 7 money at it, Commissioner.

8 **COMMISSIONER JACOBS:** And then what I'm 9 hearing is that -- the premise of a robust wholesale 10 market with merchant plants is that ultimately that 11 whole community of assets will have no use or purpose. 12 There is a disconnect there somewhere. Why in the 13 world are people paying above the value if they're 14 ultimately going to be gone?

MR. CRESSE: I can't answer that question. 15 Somebody else would have to answer that. I have no 16 idea why -- I've read some of the prices that have 17 been paid for existing plants, substantially in excess 18 of what, to a layman like myself, would appear 19 20 reasonable. But they got the price. There may be some people in the business making bad business 21 decisions or they know more about it. 22

23 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Be careful, Mr. Cresse.
24 Remember who your client is.

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MR. CRESSE: I understand. I said it may

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1 be. But I can assure you that everybody that's in 2 this business or trying to get into this business is 3 doing so because they think they can make more money 4 that way than any other business opportunity they 5 have.

COMMISSIONER JACOBS: Which is why, you 6 know, I know there is going to have to be some 7 equillibrium on the other side. I mean, I can't 8 believe that merchant plants are going to come over 9 here and just drive down market prices to some level 10 and there not be some demand that's going to -- some 11 equillibrium on the demand side. I think we 12 understand that they're expected to replace these 13 plants that are being purchased at above market price. 14 Somewhere the formula is not clicking for me. 15 I know 16 I'm behind the curve. Were you going to -- Susan, were you -- sorry, Commissioner Clark. 17

18 COMMISSIONER CLARK: No. I mean, I think you make a good point and I was going to ask that 19 With respect to merchant plants I would question. 20 21 like to know -- get some information. How much is 22 newly built plant and how much is plant that's been 23 divested? I just -- I'm not clear on that and I'm not sure that that distinction has been made. 24

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I want to follow-up on some questions and

you -- the indication is that there may be some 1 wholesale sales that might have been made by a retail 2 selling company that, by making those wholesale sales, 3 you contribute to keeping prices down for the retail 4 ratepayers. And I guess my question is, how much 5 of -- is all of Florida Power & Light's plant in the 6 retail rate base or is there a plant in the wholesale? 7 Is it --8 MR. CRESSE: Can I ask Mr. Waters to answer 9 that question? I think there is some in wholesale as 10 well as in retail. 11 **COMMISSIONER CLARK:** Okay. 12 MR. WATERS: I'm sorry, Commissioner. My 13 beeper went off right as you were asking that 14 question. 15 16 COMMISSIONER CLARK: What is -- are all your plants in the retail rate base currently? 17 18 MR. WATERS: For surveillance purposes, yes, just to make that distinction. I don't think we've 19 || gone through a full rate case since several plants 20 21 have been added. So yes, I believe that's true. 22 COMMISSIONER CLARK: So that --23 MR. WATERS: Now, there's a jurisdiction 24 || split --25 COMMISSIONER CLARK: The retail ratepayers

are carrying the whole load? 1 MR. WATERS: Well, they're carrying a 2 jurisdiction portion, say 98% for the sake of 3 argument. 4 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay. There is some 5 portion of your plant that is allocated to wholesale? 6 MR. WATERS: Yes. 7 COMMISSIONER CLARK: And whether you lose 8 sales in that arena does not impact the retail 9 ratepayers? 10 MR. WATERS: There are two types of 11 wholesale transactions. The way the jurisdictional 12 13 split is done is more on firm or long-term commitments, native load-type transactions. 14 Requirements sales is the specific type of 15 transactions we're making the wholesale. 16 17 COMMISSIONER CLARK: But if the plant is in -- that portion is allocated to the wholesale sale, 18 whether or not you make a sale out of that plant does 19 not affect the retail rate base, does it? 20 21 MR. WATERS: Hourly sales, it does, because 22 the hourly sales are not part of the 23 jurisdictionalization of cost. 24 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay. MR. WATERS: If we make additional sales 25

beyond what we had anticipated when we did the jurisdictional split -- and that's done on long-term commitments. If we make hourly sales, short-term sales, the benefits of those are credited back to the customers, the retail customers, because they were not -- those sales were not broken out when we did the cost allocation.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay.

9 MR. WATERS: If I could, while I'm here. On the broker, I think there was a misunderstanding. 10 There was some question about what happens if the 11 broker price moves down to \$23 from \$25 and so on. 12 Τ 13 think, to be clear, the broker transaction that we had on the first page is a subset really of the second 14 The broker transaction and the rules of a 15 page. 16 broker transaction are more defined.

17 If you have an incremental cost of \$20 and \$30 and they're quoted to the broker, the computer is 18 19 going to match those up at \$25. There's not going to 20 be bidding and counter bidding. So it's -- I think 21 it's kind of a misconception that all of a sudden the 22 benefits will go -- to the customers go from \$9 to 23 \$9.40. That's not what's going to happen to the broker. 24

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The fact is, there's \$10 of total benefits.

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1	The broker happens to split some of those out to
2	shareholders. But ignoring that for the moment,
3	there's always \$10 of benefits in those transactions.
4	And if a merchant plant sells for anything more than
5	\$20, you've reduced the benefits back to customers. I
6	mean, that's the basic math that we were trying to
7	show.
8	COMMISSIONER DEASON: If Utility A's
9	marginal cost is \$20, why doesn't Utility A bid
10	against to where, if they are the low cost provider,
11	they are the one making the sale?
12	MR. WATERS: I think they would. They would
13	bid down the price to a point. They want a
14	contribution back to fixed cost, as we all do. They'd
15	bid the price down to about, probably \$21. That's
16	the one dollar is kind of the break point in
17	today's market.
18	So, you still have \$10 of total benefits.
19	Nine dollars now goes to the buyer instead of the
20	50/50 split we had before, but it's still \$10 total to
21	customers because we're all returning both the gains
22	and the savings to our customers through the clauses.
23	If the merchant comes in and bids down to
24	\$20.50, you know, you can keep going this extension.
25	There's a logical limit to this. But unless even

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if the merchant bids at \$20, I guess you could say
 under the ultimate scenario, there is no gain in
 benefits to customers. You've just broken even if the
 merchant sells for \$20.

5 A utility, I'm assuming there that their 6 incremental cost is less than \$20 in this example 7 because they are going to maximize their profit. So 8 they won't go down below what they know the 9 competition will go below.

They go down to \$20. Customers still have ten benefits -- \$10 in benefits. And fine, we've broke even. If they bid \$20.50 we only lost 50 cents, but we still -- the customer still lost 50 cents. I mean, I think that's what we were trying to get at.

And the transaction is that both gains and savings now go to Florida's customers. In a merchant scenario, savings go to customers. Gains go to the shareholders of the merchant plant. So the profits that come out of that transaction for a merchant plant are being taken out of the equation and not returned to Florida ratepayers.

22 COMMISSIONER CLARK: That didn't make sense 23 to me. I think you're going to have to rework your 24 chart. I guess what it suggests to me what the 25 problem is, the broker system requires you to bid in

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1 cost as opposed to price.

MR. WATERS: That's basically correct.
That's the way it's done today is on incremental cost.
COMMISSIONER CLARK: So it strikes me that
one thing you might want to do is change the broker
system.

7 MR. WATERS: Well, what's happening,
8 Commissioner, when I mentioned the \$70 million in
9 gains and that most of that is nonbroker sales, well,
10 that is precisely the reason. Everybody is looking to
11 do side deals; whether it's for several -- the broker
12 is also hourly.

13 If I can sell for four hours -- in the 14 example we said \$25 was the strike price in the 15 broker. If I can sell for four hours for \$24, I might 16 do that because then I've got four hours worth of 17 sales. The buyer sees a little extra benefit. I see 18 a benefit of a longer sale. I may do that, and that's 19 what is going on in the real market.

20 **COMMISSIONER CLARK:** As I understand it, the 21 broker system is no longer working. That sales are 22 being made off the broker system more and more. And 23 in fact, we had Tampa Electric come in and want us to 24 continue to allocate part of a plant to the retail 25 rate base and let them make long-term sales out of it

and give them some incentive to make those because it 1 wasn't -- they were concerned that they couldn't 2 maximize the benefit out of the broker system. 3 MR. WATERS: And that's possible. Each 4 situation may be different. Everybody is trying to 5 maximize the benefits, I think, on both sides. 6 7 We're primarily a buyer, frankly, in the overall market, especially off peak, the cheaper 8 economy energy, and we would try and maximize our 9 benefits there, too. 10 I don't think that changes though. If you 11 we threw the broker example out all together and just 12 looked at the other example. The split price falls 13 anywhere between \$20 and \$30. It doesn't matter where 14 it is. There's \$10 dollars of benefits. If somebody 15 is making a profit that's not being returned to 16 customers, that's coming out of the \$10. I think 17 that's the only point. 18 COMMISSIONER DEASON: You lost me on that 19 one. If there is \$10 of potential benefit and 20 regardless of who makes the sale, if there is still 21 \$10 of benefit, it's still \$10 of benefit. 22 23 MR. WATERS: Except when the merchant makes the same sale. Let's say it's at \$20. Okay. 24 \$10 we 25 broke even. There's still \$10 of benefit. If they

1 make the sale at \$21, the dollar they made, the gain,
2 is not being returned to customers. It's going to
3 their shareholders.

4 **COMMISSIONER DEASON:** And you're saying you 5 would be indifferent -- if your marginal cost of 6 production is \$20 and the merchant bids it down to 7 \$21, at that point, you'd be indifferent whether you 8 made the sale or not?

9 MR. WATERS: No. I don't think so.
 10 COMMISSIONER DEASON: You're looking for at
 11 least a dollar to --

12 MR. WATERS: Well, we would look for at least a dollar to try and have some contribution back 13 to our customers. But that's the difference. We're 14 looking for a contribution to customers. They're 15 looking for a contribution to shareholders. That 16 dollar, if we sell at \$21, there are \$10 of benefits 17 to Florida. Not just to us, but to Florida. If a 18 merchant sells at \$21, there are \$9 of benefit to 19 Florida customers. 20

21 COMMISSIONER DEASON: But I don't -- why 22 would you let -- if you're cost is \$20, I know you 23 would prefer to have a contribution to fixed cost, but 24 if you're cost is \$20, why would you forego that sale 25 and let somebody else sell at \$21?

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1	MR. WATERS: Well, there is an ultimate
2	limit. Let's say it's less than a dollar. You're
3	asking, would I go down to \$20. There are costs that
4	are not quantified. You know, the additional wear and
5	tear on a unit. There are all sorts of arguments I'm
6	sure you've heard over the years of making additional
7	sales. There is a point below you just don't want to
8	go that. You get too close to your pure incremental
9	fuel cost. There's some unquantified costs and so on.
10	COMMISSIONER DEASON: Well, then you're
11	saying you're real true marginal cost is not \$20.
12	It's something in excess of that?
13	MR. WATERS: Probably.
14	COMMISSIONER DEASON: Okay.
15	MR. WATERS: I think that's true for any
16	generating unit. You know your fuel cost. You can
17	quantify variable O&M to a point. There are other
18	costs you would like to be able to cover. You're just
19	not sure exactly what they are.
20	COMMISSIONER DEASON: And the merchant plant
21	would have to consider those things as well? They
22	could say, "Well, we'll forego it because we don't
23	want the wear and tear on our plant."
24	MR. WATERS: Right. The difference is it
25	would be very unlikely they would sell it at

incremental cost plus the unknown margin, whatever 1 that is, if they can get higher. I mean, they will 2 push it as high as they can. 3 COMMISSIONER DEASON: And you would do the 4 same too, if you were the low cost producer. If you 5 were at \$20 and a merchant was at \$24, you'd want to 6 sell at \$23.98 or whatever to get the -- to maximize 7 your profit. I mean, that's the way the market works. 8 MR. WATERS: Maximize the return to the 9 customers. We don't get any profit on the deal, 10 unless -- a straight broker deal. You know, I've kind 11 of thrown that one out because there is a split there 12 that's been done. 13 COMMISSIONER DEASON: You maximize your 14 margin? 15 16 MR. WATERS: Right. COMMISSIONER DEASON: And however that 17 18 margin is utilized, that's a regulatory question. 19 MR. WATERS: Yes. 20 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Any other guestions? 21 MS. PAUGH: Mr. Chairman, Staff has a 22 question of Mr. Waters. 23 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Glad he came up for us. 24 Go right ahead then. 25 M8. PAUGH: Staff is wondering if Mr. Waters

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knows what the percentage of total revenues is 1 reflected by the broker revenues? 2 MR. WATERS: Total revenues? 3 MS. PAUGH: Yes, sir. 4 MR. WATERS: No, not off the top of my head. 5 The figure that we're working with is the gain. 6 MS. PAUGH: I'm sorry? 7 MR. WATERS: The figure we're working with 8 is just the gain on sales, not the -- just the total 9 revenue from the sales. 10 MS. PAUGH: Okay. Thank you. 11 MR. MOYLE: Are you entertaining questions 12 from others besides the Commissioners? 13 || CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Sure. But we're running 14 out of time, so I ask that you be brief. 15 MR. MOYLE: Just a couple of quick questions 16 with respect to the obligation to serve. I think in 17 the comments that that was pointing to is a 18 distinguishing factor. That's a statutory obligation 19 20 to serve, is that correct? MR. CRESSE: Is that question to me? 21 MR. MOYLE: Whoever. 22 MR. CRESSE: Yes. I think the obligation to 23 24 serve is both statutory and regulatory. 25 MR. MOYLE: And if that obligation is not

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1 met, are there any monetary penalties that result from
2 failing --

MR. CRESSE: Yes. The Commission has the authority under the regulatory law to take quality of service into consideration in establishing rates. And if you take it -- if they're not providing adequate service, they could penalize them in the status of the rates. It's monetary.

9 MR. MOYLE: Let me ask you this question. I've been told then, a lot of the long-term contracts 10 and even some of the short-term contracts, which are 11 not statutory obligations but contractual obligations, 12 that they are liquidated damages provisions if you 13 fail to provide, consistent with your contractual 14 obligations. Are you aware if Florida Power & Light 15 contracts for those sales have liquidated damages? 16 MR. CRESSE: No, I'm not aware. 17 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: All right. Any other 18 questions? All right. 19 MS. PAUGH: The joint response. 20 MR. McGLOTHLIN: Okay. My name is Joe 21 McGlothlin. Duke Energy New Smyrna Beach, 22 Constellation Power Development, Reliant Energy and 23 U.S. Generating Company determined that their 24 positions were aligned with respect to the most 25

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fundamental questions that were being presented.
 That's why they jointly prepared the document that is
 included in your package.

It represents a basic position paper and my
plan was to highlight the document. I'm going to
shorten my comments in view of the time that's been
spent already because I think it's very important that
Mr. Meyer of Reliant and Mr. Hawks of U.S. Gen, have
an opportunity to address some of the specific items
that have come up today.

But very briefly, in the Duke New Smyrna case the Commissioners recognized that merchant capacity can play a valuable role. In the many issues that the Staff work so hard to categorize, it appeared to us that some of the questions seemed to ask, how can the Commission limit or control or cap the amount of a merchant capacity.

As you hear the presentations today, we urge you to consider which arguments serve ratepayers' interests, consumers' interests. Because if you do that, we think that you'll recognize that the more appropriate question is, what market structure can we facilitate that will maximize the benefits that merchants can provide to ratepayers.

25

One of the questions posed is the definition
of a merchant. And while that's a basic question, I'm
 glad it's there because we think the answer drives
 everything that is pertinent to your policy direction.

Specifically, the essence of the definition 4 is that the merchant takes on all the risk, all the 5 investment, business, operating risk. And ultimately 6 the risk the merchant takes is the risk that the 7 merchant will be able to provide the wholesale market 8 what it wants on an economically viable basis. What 9 does a market want? It wants low costs. It wants 10 11 high reliability. That's why if the merchant succeeds, then ratepayers benefit. 12

As to the question, what market is necessary to facilitate the integration of merchants in this more competitive market, the market would have these characteristics.

17 It would have open access -- genuine open 18 access overseen by an independent transmission 19 administrator. It would have ease of market entry. There would be numerous providers and numerous 20 21 products and price transparency, all of which would lead toward the more competitive wholesale market. 22 23 And as the questions from the Commissioners have indicated -- have demonstrated that more competitive 24 25 market will put downward pressure on wholesale prices

1 || to the benefit of ratepayers.

To my right is Mr. John Meyer, who's an executive vice president with Reliant. He wants to add his own comments.

5 MR. MEYER: Today I'd like to address three 6 specific things where Reliant both may differ a little 7 from exact comments in the filing, as well I think we 8 have a unique experience of having operated in a 9 wholesale market for over 15 years in Texas.

Specifically I want to address a lot of the issues we've raised on a wholesale market, as well as a specific stand on reserve margin; and then lastly just answer, I think, Commissioner Clark's question of what is required for a vibrant wholesale market.

First of all, can the coexistence of utilities and EWGs or QFs exist in a wholesale market, and I'd have to answer, certainly, yes.

18 In the early 80's and mid 80's, in Reliant's service territory about 5,000 megawatts of 19 cogeneration was built. Much of this cogeneration was 20 PURPA put cogeneration which basically means they met 21 22 the minimum efficiency requirements and had 23 considerable power to sell into the marketplace. 24 That merchant activity, while at the time we 25 had many battles over it, turned out to be very

important to the consumers in Texas. In fact, about 1 8,000 megawatts of QF power actually got developed in 2 Texas. 3 Today that represents the reserve margin 4 going into last summer and this summer in Texas. Τn 5 other words, our reserve margin requirement is also 6 about 15% and almost all of that can be expressed that 7 the QFs that were built provide that. 8 Now, actually they provide power really more 9 on a higher capacity factor basis and much of the 10 utility generators have that reserve, but the amount 11 is a reserve margin. 12 13 And somebody mentioned earlier that Texas even has more merchant activity going on because of 14 this. As Texas goes down the reserve margin -- and 15 16 it's getting tighter every summer. In fact, in the 17 year 2000 many new plants will start coming on somewhere around 3,000 megawatts, and even though 18 we've seen 20,000 announced, we don't believe more 19 20 than six or seven will end up getting built. Because 21 simply, it's self-limiting. And I'm going to address 22 that just a little more in the reserve margin 23 requirements.

So, I feel that the merchant plants in Texas are very important to deal with the utilities -- and

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with the utilities in making reserve margin. Very few plants were built in Texas after this. Reliant built a couple of cogen plants. Also a local industry that did the similar purpose and provided the same efficiencies that ended up going into rate base, but not too many plants were built in rate base with this.

7 As far as the utilities, can the utility continue to sell it's rate base plants in the 8 wholesale market when merchants start coming in? The 9 answer is definitely yes. I mean, basically you want 10 the wholesale market to be as many buyers and sellers 11 12 as you can. You want liquidity. In fact, we imported the broker system from Florida some 16 years ago. 13 And that really had a big bearing at the time and it's 14 kind of gone down the same line now as we do it 15 outside the broker typically that sells. 16

17 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Mr. Meyer, let me ask 18 you a question. Should the incumbent utility be 19 permitted to bid in its plant -- any of its plants at 20 whatever price it wants to, if it is a plant in rate 21 base?

22 MR. MEYER: That's a hard question. I think 23 our rule in Texas, and I think probably from a rate 24 base perspective as a consumer, I would want them to 25 bid in such they don't lose money. Because it's my

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money, it's really my plants they're bidding in, and I 1 expect to get either all the benefit or the majority 2 of the benefit when they're bidding those in. 3 But I think they should be allowed to bid 4 They obviously -- they don't have to recover any 5 in. fixed costs usually those plants. Except in some 6 states, and Texas isn't one of them, they do include 7 sales as part of the rate base and actually reduce the 8 rate base and then they're under the gun to make these 9 sales. 10 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Well, they impute the 11 12 income from them. 13 MR. MEYER: Right. 14 Going on, I guess, I want to address a 15 couple of Florida Power & Light's comments. 16 First of all, they said that if a merchant plant makes sales in Florida nobody benefits, even if 17 they're economic, that the ratepayer loses. 18 I'm assuming if two utilities get 19 together -- in fact, the broker system insures this --20 21 that they both get about half the difference in their cost if they are good negotiators, if they're 22 23 equal-type negotiators. If the merchant plant happens to make the sale of exactly the same cost, half of 24 the -- the guy purchasing still gets the benefit, his 25

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consumers. The guy selling, he doesn't get that 1 benefit anymore because someone else has it. 2 Now, the question is, is that fair? The 3 reason that it's fair is because the ratepayers have 4 borne the cost of that plant which the seller's going 5 out of, and a merchant plant, he's bearing none. So 6 in the future, it's very fair. 7 He also stated that 60% of the sales went to 8 Georgia. Reliant isn't in a position to build plants 9 in Georgia, but I know many others are. Those sales 10 may evaporate anyway, and I think, have nothing to do 11

As far as a broker, one thing we did change in the broker system when we got it is, we let QFs or IPPs bid into the system also to sell power, which is a little different, because we thought they would be important to include their economic sales in the wholesale market.

with the Florida merchant plant question.

12

Let me move on now. As far as, I think there was a comment made about the -- that when a utility buys from a merchant plant they transfer the responsibility to the ratepayer. Well, that's true once they buy. However, usually those purchases are of a short duration. Whenever a utility builds a plant the ratepayers are on the hook forever in the

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rate base for that plant or until it's sold to
 somebody else, which until recently that never really
 has occurred.

They -- a utility can buy two or three or 4 four or five years from a merchant plant, and yes, 5 during that time the ratepayers are paying it, but we 6 assume that that deal was made as a least cost 7 alternative. In fact, I think in all states it's 8 required the Commission bless those contracts usually 9 10 So they have determined, either by the facts anyway. 11 of the evidence presented or even a docket, that that's the least cost alternative. 12

It also gives a utility flexibility two or three years from now. If more plants come on and it gets cheaper, they can buy those instead. They don't have to go back to the same one.

17 Reliability needs. I think one of the
18 questions that came up -- and this one. What is a PC
19 or the PSC role in this reliability? I think you're
20 very involved in the reliability needs. Merchant
21 plants subscribe to the rules of the road. NERC is
22 very specific on this. Most regional council rules
23 are very specific.

Every interconnection agreement I've signed in about 10 or 12 different states require a merchant

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1	plant to meet the needs of the utility or the grid in
2	emergency situations. I know when we had our major
3	freeze in '89 and I was in the control center, our
4	Commission put out a request of all generators and
5	industrials, whether they're utility or not utility
6	certainly but all the others to also output
7	everything possible and industrials cut back load as
8	much as possible, and they did. Of all the many
9	arguments we had with QFs over pricing, when it came
10	down to we had to have it for liability, they all
11	jumped in and did everything they could to deliver.
12	Obligation to serve. I think U.S. Gen said
13	a few comments about that. The utility I think
14	the in a wholesale environment, wholesale market
15	we're talking about, the utility will have the
16	obligation to serve, because he has a monopoly to
17	serve the retail customer in that case. So he should
18	bear that obligation to serve.
19	When a QF or merchant plant is contracted
20	they take on an obligation to serve during the time of
21	that contract.
22	Now, I'd like to address a little bit about
23	reserve margin, because I think this question came up
24	and I want to make sure Reliant's view is quite clear
25	here.

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. . .

I think the PSC has the obligation, as long 1 as you have a wholesale market, to require 2 load-serving entities to have a certain reserve 3 margin. They can set that minimum standard, I think, 4 5 anywhere they want. If you had a regional transmission 6 organization, you might even consider deferring to 7 them or you may want to still set it yourself or you 8 may want to set a cap, or I mean a minimum, and let 9 them vary it as needs arise. 10 As far as setting a cap that deals with 11 reserve margin, Reliant's general position is we don't 12 think caps are necessary. You can look at all the 13 examples. Like if you set a 20% reserve margin and 14 let's say you set a reasonable cap with maybe 40%, I 15 16 can't think of an example where you'll see 40% overbuild by merchant plant activity. At some point 17 the economics and the financing will not bear it out. 18 19 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Let me ask you this. 20 MR. MEYER: Okay. 21 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Should merchant plant 22 capacity be included in reserve margin if it is not under contract for a retail utility? 23 24 MR. MEYER: You mean to meet the load-serving entity's minimum obligations? 25

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1COMMISSIONER DEASON: Right. Assume that2the merchant plant is in the state, is generating, but3it's just generating without any type of a long-term4contract. Should that capacity be figured in the5reserve margin calculation?

MR. MEYER: The why I've laid it out where 6 you would require minimum from LSEs, I do not think, 7 if that LSE hadn't contracted for it, it should be 8 counted for that obligation. When you look at the 9 overall regional reliability situation, you look at 10 all generation in that, that goes and sells into the 11 grid. But I mean, those are two different scenarios. 12 One is meeting a statutory obligation or rules 13 obligation, and the other is addressing what you 14 believe the adequacy is like from a NERC or NAERO 15 perspective in a given region. 16

17 COMMISSIONER DEASON: So for calculating an
18 individual utility's reserve margin it should not be
19 included, but looking at an entire generating area for
20 reliability purposes, it can be considered?
21 MR. MEYER: Yes. Definitely.

22 COMMISSIONER JACOBS: What if -- you have
23 the decision as to whether or not you provide that
24 capacity, correct? It's solely at your discretion?
25 MR. MEYER: If I don't have any contracts as

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1	a merchant plant or an EWG, I have the decision when I
2	run. That is correct. However, I have obligated
3	myself that in an emergency, and then which is usually
4	defined as a threat imminent threat to shedding a
5	firm load, that I will come up and run as long as my
6	costs are protected. In other words, I don't
7	necessarily make money, but I'm not going to lose.
8	I'm not going to run for free. I want to have my
9	costs covered, but I will come up and run.
10	I've made those obligations in all other
11	places and I certainly would make the same obligation
12	here.
13	COMMISSIONER JACOBS: Let's say in a
14	non-emergency situation, if you use as your discretion
15	not to operate, the theory is that somebody else will
16	fill that slot?
17	MR. MEYER: Somebody else will fill that
18	slot.
19	COMMISSIONER JACOBS: Why?
20	MR. MEYER: Why would I make the decision
21	not to operate? I would make the decision not to
22	operate because the price would be too low. And that
23	is, that I can't generate the power my marginal
24	cost to generate would be more than the cost of the
25	energy I'd sell. In other words, my marginal cost may

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energenet in

be \$16 and the market is \$15. I will not run unless 1 I'm required to under a contract or under the 2 obligation I made with the reliability council. 3 COMMISSIONER JACOBS: And what we're saying 4 is that there will be somebody there who can generate 5 at \$15 and make a profit? 6 MR. MEYER: Sure. Well, either they will 7 make a profit or they're required to by rate base 8 because they're profit has already been paid for. 9 There are times in a Florida market that the -- I'm 10 sure the price is \$15, which is probably the price 11 generally of coal resources on a marginal basis. 12 COMMISSIONER JACOBS: Okay. Thank you. 13 14 MR. MEYER: I guess the only other thing I had to add, there was a large consideration. We 15 talked about reserve margin and whether both a 16 utilities unregulated sub could bid on that. And I 17 think I would agree with Enron in general on that, 18 that they should be allowed to bid if they want to. 19 20 But two things have to happen when that occurs, 21 because we've been in that situation ourselves. 22 One is, if the unregulated sub of utilities 23 is bidding, it should be in a situation where it does not assign any of the risk associated with that 24 25 generation back to the ratepayer. And also -- and to

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do that you have to have a stiff set of codes of
 conduct and affiliated rulemaking. And those aren't
 necessarily easy tests to pass.

I think that the load-serving entities 4 should be required to seek proposals to serve their 5 load and I think they could bid on them also. 6 However, I think that they should have to identify who 7 they chose and generally at what price, including 8 themselves. And I'd go a step further and say, if 9 they can't build it for that price, then it shouldn't 10 be at the ratepayer's risk because they made that 11 choice. 12 That's really a true test then to see that 13 they really evaluated it fully, that they didn't just 14

I guess the last question I'd like to address, or one of the thoughts is, what changes would be needed to make a vibrant wholesale market in Florida?

put in a price and say everybody else lost.

15

I think Reliant's been involved in many of these things going on now. First of all, I believe there should be an independent planning and scheduling agent that controls or administers a transmission resources, such that a liquid wholesale market would be encouraged.

	11
1	Also, I think there should be encouragement
2	of merchant plants and the load-serving entities to
3	meet. In fact, I think it's an obligation that they
4	have to meet their demands and reserve margins in the
5	least expensive way to the consumers.
6	I think the elimination of pancake
7	transmission rates should take place. And by that,
8	that will definitely encourage a vibrant wholesale
9	market. And I think this independent entity or agency
10	or whoever is assigned that, needs to determine
11	incentives that would encourage siting a new
12	generation in the proper locations which would be most
13	beneficial to the consumer.
14	And I think that's the comments that I have
15	to say, if there is no further questions.
16	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Yes, sir. There is no
17	questions. Next.
18	MR. MOYLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Jon
19	Moyle on behalf of U.S. Generating. I want to just
20	take a minute or two and make some general comments
21	and then have Jack Hawks of the company respond to a
22	couple of points that had been raised earlier today.
23	We've been getting into a lot of detail on
24	this issue and I'd like to just kind of take a step
25	back and look at it from a bit of a broader

perspective. Maybe a 10,000-foot view, if you will. 1 It's been suggested earlier I think that 2 part of the reason that we're here, the impetus for 3 being here, was changes in technology. I would 4 respectfully disagree with that and say that the 5 reason that merchant plants are being discussed and 6 considered in Florida is because, quite frankly, 7 Florida needs the power. 8

9 There was discussion about last summer and 10 some price spikes out in the Midwest. I would ask 11 that we not forget that also last summer we had some 12 critical situations in Florida where a lot of big 13 businesses were -- who were on interruptible rates 14 were being denied power, causing them economic 15 damages, sending their workers home and what not.

16 And that that happened, I think, with IMC They were here in an earlier proceeding and Agrico. 17 testified dozens of times I think in the month of June 18 or July. I may not have the dates correctly. And I'm 19 20 not sure that it can be disputed that Florida has a 21 need for the power. Just in the past spring when certain plants were down for maintenance we saw that 22 there were some times where interruptible customers 23 had to be called on because there was a need there. 24 Given that, I disagree, I think, with the 25

1 statement that has been made that less is better with 2 respect to this. I would argue that more is better. 3 And that if businesses can have the availability of 4 power from merchant plants, that that's a good thing 5 for the state, not a bad thing.

6 We have a bunch of people who want to come 7 to Florida and invest hundreds of million of dollars 8 into this state to provide power to Florida with no 9 cost to the ratepayers. I didn't say risk. I said 10 cost. They're going to go ahead and invest money into 11 the state to provide that power and it's not going to 12 be at cost to the ratepayers.

I'm not going to belabor all the points I think that have been made about the benefits of merchant plants with respect to providing additional energy and reliability.

More competition in the wholesale market. I think in an earlier comment Florida Power & Light indicated they were primarily a buyer in the wholesale market.

If that's the case and merchants want to come in and participate in that wholesale market, I think that would be a positive thing, particularly given the downward pressure on rates.

25

We've had discussion about the benefits to

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1 the environment as a result of this new, cleaner
2 technology.

So, in my view, it kind of distills down to a fundamental question of, on the one hand, markets and competition; on the other hand, continuing with a monopolistic frame work. And I think, given the course of history, that markets and competition win out in the end. So just a few general comments.

Jack Hawks from U.S. Generating is here to
respond specifically to some points that were made and
I will turn it over to him.

MR. HAWKS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just as a point of reference, U.S. Generating today has about 5,000 megawatts of merchant power in operation. We've got about 1,100 megawatts of merchant generation in construction and we've got about 8,000 megawatts of merchant generation in development.

I talked a little while ago about -- trying 18 to respond to Commissioner Clark's question, about 19 what is needed to make a competitive wholesale market. 20 Joe McGlothlin elaborated on that. All of those 21 things -- I'm trying also to speak to Commissioner 22 Johnson's question about the global model here. 23 All of those things we talked about in 24 25 market structure would constitute a competitive

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wholesale market. So we don't need to revisit that
issue.

3	Regarding competing against rate based
4	utility generation, I have a little bit stronger view
5	on that. I have no desire to compete against rate
6	based utility generation in the wholesale market
7	unless there are market power mitigation measures
8	taken such as what was done in California, whereby,
9	they created a power exchange that required the
10	utilities to bid their rate based generation and their
11	QF power into the power exchange and accept the price
12	that the market clearing price that resulted from
13	the daily activity in the power exchange.
14	As far as a situation down here, if you
15	moved the rate based generation into the market, and
16	the utilities or their affiliates then went to FERC,
17	applied for market based rate authority, went through
18	the necessary market power mitigation activities to
19	receive market based rate authority, then, of course,
20	we would be more than willing to compete in the
21	wholesale market.
22	In regards to this issue on risk; yes, it's
23	true that the utilities can build the same types of

25 Yes, they would be required to adhere to the same

24 gas combined cycle generating facilities that we can.

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1 permit levels and, yes, --

2	COMMISSIONER CLARK: Before you go to that,
3	I'm still trying to puzzle through the notion of them
4	needing to bid into the market. They would have to
5	bid all their rate based generation into the market
6	and their customers would have to take whatever the
7	bid price is. Is that right?
8	MR. HAWKS: Yeah. This is at the wholesale
9	level though. It's not their utility customers are
10	still paying their regulated rates for transmission
11	and distribution. We're just talking about the supply
12	component of the bundled rate right now. Not all of
13	it. Just the supply part.
14	COMMISSIONER CLARK: How much of the
15	supply how much of the bundled rate is
16	MR. HAWKS: Depends on the utility. Ranges,
17	I don't know, 30% to 40% up to 60% to 70%, depending
18	on the utility, depending on how much the age and the
19	depreciation schedules of the stock of generation
20	COMMISSIONER CLARK: Sounds a little bit
21	like virtual divestiture to me.
22	MR. HAWKS: For what?
23	COMMISSIONER CLARK: If
24	MR. HAWKS: Oh, for what they're doing in
25	California?

J	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1	COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.
2	MR. HAWKS: They did divest, as you know,
3	their fossil generation, their oil and gas generation.
4	I don't know if I would characterize it as virtual
5	divestiture, but yes, since they went ahead in the
6	California market, when they did their retail
7	restructuring legislation, they also did wholesale
8	legislation in the same bill. And, so yes, they do
9	bid into it.
10	COMMISSIONER CLARK: Well, but I understand
11	your comments to be that if they want to your
12	position would be, is if they want to be in the
13	wholesale market, they have to bid all their
14	generation into the wholesale market.
15	MR. HAWKS: No. Only if I'm going to be
16	required to compete against it. But if I'm not, you
17	know, what is going to happen here and other regions
18	of the country during the transition period here is
19	that you're going to have a time period whereby,
20	regulated rate based generation will continue to
21	exist. And as a matter of fact, Texas is about to
22	pass a bill that is going to create an unregulated
23	generation affiliate for each of the investor-owned
24	utilities. And that unregulated affiliate then will
25	be competing against us in the wholesale market. The

difference is that the Texas bill also is going to 1 have a number of these market power mitigation 2 measures we're talking about, the code of conduct that 3 Jon just mentioned. 4 There's a lot of safeguards that will occur, 5 such that, we can compete in the wholesale market in 6 7 Texas. COMMISSIONER CLARK: Well, but as I 8 9 understand, your position is that it would be your view that they shouldn't be allowed to compete in that 10 11 wholesale market, unless --MR. HAWKS: It depends on how deep -- you're 12 13 right. Depends on how deep that wholesale market --14 that competitive wholesale market is. 15 Again, here in Florida right now it's a very thin wholesale market. And it will grow depending on 16 17 the growth and demand, depending on the decisions made by the utilities to look to other supply options other 18 than their own generation, and we'll just have to wait 19 20 and see how it evolves down here in Florida as to 21 where we end up on how we're competing. 22 I'm just saying that as a starting point, it's very difficult for us to recover our capital 23 24 investment, our fuel costs, our operating and our 25 variable costs from the market price when the

utilities are only recovering their fuel and variable
 operating cost. Their fixed costs are being covered
 in the rate base.

4 **COMMISSIONER CLARK:** It represents a barrier 5 to your entry.

6 MR. HAWKS: Right. It's a barrier to entry, 7 that's correct.

As far as I'm concerned, I was talking about 8 9 who can build all this new generation. One of the chief benefits that we offer consumers is this risk 10 element. We are assuming all of the development risk, 11 all of the permitting risk, all of the fuel risk, all 12 of the interest rate risk, all of the construction 13 risk, all of the operating risk, and all of the 14 general business risk. 15

The only risk that's going to be 16 transferred -- that could be transferred to the 17 ratepayer is the difference between the price that we 18 might have under a two-year contract with a utility 19 and what that utility would have to pay if we weren't 20 there, if we didn't perform under our contract. 21 And that small price risk is what could be transferred. 22 23

But in any contract that we would sign there would be liquidated damages in the contract such that the -- at least the delta between what the utility

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would have to -- or I shouldn't say utility -- the wholesale customer would have to go out and find from the next supplier if that's the high price, would certainly be covered in the liquidated damages for not performing under that contract.

So, I did take issue with this -- the point 6 made earlier about all of the risks associated with 7 the development of merchant generation being 8 transferred to the ratepayer, because if we go 9 10 bankrupt and our plants close down -- it hasn't 11 happened yet, but you could play out the scenario, that the original developer, the original owner is 12 going to take the write-off on the capital investment 13 14 and that plant will likely be sold to another party 15 and the new owner won't have to recover all of that 16 capital investment -- the original capital investment, the market price, and that plant could continue to 17 then compete and possibly succeed in the marketplace. 18

Commissioner Jacobs, you asked about market value and about the value and how is it that these acquirers of generation are paying so much more over the value. And the difference is, the book value of the plants under the standard utility accounting practices versus the perceived market value that we as acquirers have ascertained in our own internal market

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1 || assessments.

In our case, the book value of the roughly 4,000 megawatts of a physical plant we bought in New England was about \$1.1 billion. And our bid price, our winning bid was \$1.59 billion. So it's about a 45% premium to book.

We, of course, have looked at the New 7 England market, just as FPL has as a matter fact 8 because they did the same thing with the Central Maine 9 Power assets. They took the same view that we did. 10 They bought a very valuable chunk of hydropower up in 11 Maine. And we got a mix of coal, natural gas and 12 hydropower in our acquisition and we determined that 13 we created -- we created forward price curves for as 14 far as we could. And right now you can only do that 15 for a relatively short period of time, couple three 16 years. 17

But we believed that the market value and the market prices that will occur in New England will sustain our investment in the New England -- in our case, the New England Electric System's generating plants. That's the difference between this. We're talking about two types of value. One is book value and one is market value.

25

COMMISSIONER JACOBS: And in that instance,

you're going to have two different functioning -- two
 ways the market will function. The price will be
 driven there by that. It won't be driven by all of
 this new capacity coming in.

MR. HAWKS: Actually, New England, 5 historically oil has set the marginal price for 6 electricity in New England. Hydro is at the bottom. 7 And you're right, when I say we have 5,000 megawatts 8 of merchant generation in operation, that operation 9 has been occurring for 13 days now. It just started 10 11 on May 1st. And so every day now we're bidding, and everybody is bidding their assets in and there is 12 13 different products that you bid for.

I talked about products earlier. Capacity 14 is one product. Energy is another product. You have 15 several different types of ancillary products. You 16 can structure a product with a wholesale customer such 17 that they take the power for five days a week, eight 18 19 hours a day. That's another product. You can do another one 16 hours a day. There's lots of products 20 21 that are being created in the wholesale market. A11 22 of that is occurring mostly in New England and Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, 23 Washington D.C., that PJM market, and to a lesser 24 extent, the New York power pool. But all of that 25

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1 gives us enough confidence that we can plunk down \$200
2 million, \$300 million or \$400 million and recover that
3 investment over time.

4 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Let me interrupt for
5 just a second before you go on to a different point.
6 You indicated that you opposed the concept
7 of allowing an incumbent utility to bid in the
8 wholesale market based upon just it's variable cost of

9 production. Is that correct?

10 MR. HAWKS: Yes. We have to recover 11 everything from our bid price into the wholesale 12 market.

13 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Well, the incumbent utility has an obligation to serve and we make them 14 meet that demand, that requirement, with their least 15 16 cost generation. So if they have anything to bid it's 17 going to be those plants that are lower down in the dispatch curve. And quite frankly, the investment in 18 19 those plants is a sunk cost, it's already in the rate 20 base, the ratepayers have an obligation to pay for that. 21

So it seems to me the ratepayers would be better off if the utility recovers all variable cost and has any contribution whatsoever towards it fixed cost. So why would we want to tie the hand of the

utility behind it's back and not let it compete on 1 that basis? 2 MR. HAWKS: I'm not sure that the customer, 3 the ratepayer, is getting that great of a benefit if 4 once you add that contribution to the fixed side of 5 their investment. 6 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Isn't any contribution 7 better than none? 8 MR. HAWKS: Actually, I wasn't sure when the 9 gentleman from FPL came forward. I wondered that too, 10 how much the contribution to fix they were getting out 11 of their current wholesale sales. 12 I'm just -- our problem is that I'm talking 13 about a completely open wholesale market. And I'm 14 talking about the end state as opposed to where we are 15 now or the transition stage. 16 17 Certainly, during the transition we're going to have to make accommodations to get to the end 18 state. I'm just talking about at the end of the day, 19 and the end of the day could be 10 years from now or 20 21 12 years from now or 7 years from now, depending -we're almost at the end of the day in New England 22 because most of the utilities up in New England are 23 divested. 24 25 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Let me tell you this.

I don't know what the result of all of this is going 1 to be, but I can tell you this. Most likely, at least 2 coming from one Commissioner, the bottom line test is 3 going to be what's in the best interest of the end 4 consuming customer. It's not what's best for the new 5 It's not what's best for the incumbents. entrant. 6 That's what the test is going to be. 7 And what I just heard you say, I don't 8 think -- and I have an open mind about it, and if you 9 can convince me otherwise, that's fine. But what I 10 heard you say is not in the best interest of the 11 12 customer. MR. HAWKS: Well, if I have a fleet of 13 merchant generation here and if the whole state is --14 15 all the generation in the state is converted to 16 merchant generation, and we're competing against each 17 other on a daily basis, and we have -- we're going to push that wholesale price down every day such that we 18 can be dispatched and --19 COMMISSIONER DEASON: But you're not going 20 21 to push it down any more than you have to and you're 22 going to maximize your profit on that, and if you're 23 forced to, though, you're going to be in a situation

24 where you're going to make the sale as long as it 25 covers all of your variable cost and you get any

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1 contribution towards your fixed cost because once 2 you're here in the state and you got that concrete in 3 the ground, that's a sunk cost, just like it's a sunk 4 cost for the incumbent utility.

5 MR. HAWKS: And I believe that price will be 6 the lowest possible price to the consumers.

7 MR. MOYLE: I think the point, Commissioner Deason, is long range in terms of if and when you get 8 to the point, if you're competing whereas you have a 9 fixed cost on interest with respect to the assets you 10 have in the ground and the other person does not, 11 well, that is an advantage that the other person has 12 13 that you don't have. Now, how you got there through the rate base and what not -- but that is, I think, 14 the comment in terms of the long-term view of the 15 world and what's happening in some other states like 16 the New England market. 17 18 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: All right. The next

19 || presenter is?

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21

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MS. PAUGH: Mr. Kordecki.

CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Mr. Kordeckí.

22 MR. KORDECKI: Good afternoon. I will try 23 to be brief. I understand no one is really interested 24 in my comments, just who I'm working for.

Actually I am now an independent consultant.

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I have been hired by another consulting firm who has 1 clients who are looking at building -- possibly 2 building some merchant plants or doing some business 3 in Florida and I actually do not know exactly what 4 their relationships are and I cannot divulge any of 5 their names. 6 COMMISSIONER DEASON: I thought you were 7 here for the Conservation Goals docket. 8 MR. KORDECKI: Is that hearing still going 9 on? 10 COMMISSIONER DEASON: It has never ended. 11 COMMISSIONER CLARK: But, Mr. Kordecki, who 12 13 is the consulting firm you're working for? MR. KORDECKI: Please, I prefer not to 14 answer that either. 15 16 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Well, you know, that presents some difficulty in sort of understanding any 17 18 bias you may have with respect to this proceeding. 19 MR. KORDECKI: Well, my bias, at this point, is towards the merchant plant so I think, take it at 20 face value. 21 22 I think the most important thing the Commission can do in the near term is to derive a 23 definition of merchant plants. I've heard a different 24 II 25 set of comments. I guess the leanest version would be

1 those plants that require a need hearing who do not 2 have a utility obligation. The broadest definition 3 would be, I think, those plants that are not in the 4 rate base of a load-serving utility who has an 5 obligation to serve. I think in the long-run you're 6 going to want to deal with the latter, not the former.

There are a number of plants right now that 7 do not need hearings and who I personally would 8 consider to be merchant plants; cogenerators. There 9 is some IPPs that may be fully subscribed. These are 10 basically generation operations who are not in 11 anyone's rate base. That is not to say that the 12 Commission, as least as far as investor-owned 13 utilities, doesn't have some jurisdiction over what 14 15 happens.

You have a fuel clause. You have a capacity clause in the fuel clause. You get to examine those. If guess, is it annually now or semi-annually? So to that extent, those purchases are examined -- are available to you.

They also, if they're long-term, are in the reserve margins, or may be in the reserve margins. But I do not believe merchant plants bring a requirement of a reserve margin. Like I said, that are a number of units that escaped your need hearings;

1	combustion turbines. I think the first speaker this
2	morning talked about 900 megawatts and CTs, that you
3	will not have, basically, any oversight over.
4	There are possible steam units under 75
5	megawatts. I mentioned cogenerators. I guess it
6	could be as narrow as their sales out of units, which
7	are not covered by contract or by, as available power,
8	or it could be as large as a QF itself. And there are
9	existing generating units that have changed ownership
10	and changed relationships.
11	For instance, Seminole. I believe, Seminole
12	1, I believe is owned by GE Capital, not by Seminole.
13	In my estimation that's a merchant plant.
14	Hopefully having dealt with the Commission
15	for over 30 years and taking on a new career, maybe I
16	can bring on a little bit of at least my knowledge of
17	how the Commission functions and the state functions
18	to this topic.
19	As far as reserve margins, they should
20	reserve only to load-serving utilities. They have the
21	obligation to serve and they should also meet the
22	obligation of the reserves. I don't believe any
23	merchant plant or anyone selling power should be
24	required to support those reserves or count as
25	reserves. In other words, I don't think there is any

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such thing as a supplemental reserve. That's not to
 say that they can't be helpful in terms of
 reliability. To the extent that they are firm sales
 to load-serving utilities and counted as resources,
 then they're reserves or counted at least in the
 reserve calculations.

I do believe there is one area in 7 reliability which I think is paramount in the 8 Commission's mind that is ripe for some discussion and 9 that's on the emergency conditions, and I think 10 there's different feelings about what the merchant 11 plants would like. But I believe that is an area that 12 13 when there is a state emergency, that there are potential for requirements for merchant plants to sell 14 that power that's not under firm sale conditions to 15 sell into the market. 16

Now, I understand that there's significant worry about price gouging, particularly under those conditions. One, frequency, obviously, means something. But there's no requirement that merchant plants not have bilateral agreements or couldn't have bilateral agreements with other load-serving utilities for emergency sales.

In fact, load-serving utilities could be supporting merchant plant sales themselves in terms of

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backup power contracts. So there's no prerequisite that if there's a merchant plant there can't be any type of contractual -- bilateral contractual arrangements between load-serving utilities and merchant plants.

I'm not sure the Commission has jurisdiction
over those, but I believe they're there, and I believe
under a statewide emergency situation, I think the
Commission and the Governor may have a much greater
latitude in terms of how those plants are used or may
be used.

Like I mentioned earlier, I don't believe the introduction of merchant plants changes any of the obligations of the load-serving utilities. That's in reference to reserve margins. That's in reference to conservation goals. I believe they're just another element that may go into an avoided calculation term of conservation goals.

As far as the problems associated with environmental -- with the environment, I suspect that all merchant plants will, in fact, be meeting whatever appropriate laws there are. To the extent that merchant plants run, and let's say, IOU or other load-serving units in the state don't run, the difference in terms of their output in terms of

1 || pollution is going to be the pollution effect.

To the extent that the merchant plants are more benign environmentally, then I suspect you'll see less energy -- less negative environmental effect and converse if they aren't.

I think the Commission has made some
findings relative to environmental equipment and those
findings specifically were that it's devoted to
energy -- environmental equipment has been devoted to
energy. That's how it's dealt with rate base-wise,
and to the extent that it's collected on energy. So I
think primarily it's driven by energy.

So because you have more merchant plants 13 does not mean there is going to be more load in the 14 15 state. The state load will stay the same, all things 16 being equal, or relatively the same depending on the 17 economic effects of the pricing. And to that extent it's just going to be the difference between what now 18 runs and what is being sold versus what is not 19 running. I don't see where there's a great windfall 20 of significant pollution in terms of detriment to the 21 22 environment.

Earlier there was some questions about market power issues and I believe that market power issues are primarily a FERC jurisdictional issue. To

the extent that an incumbent utility is in the 1 merchant function and wants market base rates, which I 2 think is the market power issue, they are required to 3 file their -- either a mitigation if they do have 4 market power or prove that they do not have market 5 power in order to charge market power rates. 6 I think there may be some misunderstanding. 7 There are utilities in the State of Florida who can 8 charge market power rates. I believe every municipal 9 G and T co-op can charge market based rates. And I 10

11 believe TECO has filed for them. I don't know if
12 they've gotten a ruling yet.

Only Power and Light Incorp. cannot charge market base rates in the State of Florida. To my knowledge can only charge it outside the State of Florida. And I believe they stipulated to that in their filing with FERC. So to that extent I don't think there is a market power issue in terms at this juncture.

I believe that in the space of time, I will conclude my remarks.

22 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: What do you mean by 23 TECO can charge market power rates?

24 MR. KORDECKI: I think they filed to charge 25 market base rates for wholesale transactions. I don't

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1 know if it's been ruled on or not.

- 1				
2	COMMISSIONER CLARK: Mr. Kordecki, if I			
3	understand you correctly, then what was passed out to			
4	us by Florida Power & Light, they could not they			
5	would have to they would have to use the broker			
6	system and bid it in at \$20 and the sale would be made			
7	at \$25 and there would not be the opportunity for the			
8	utilities to negotiate on a price less than \$25, is			
9	that correct?			
10	MR. KORDECKI: No. I believe that's not			
11	correct. I mean, if they're selling in the quoting			
12	into the broker, I believe that's correct. But I			
13	think the preponderance for sales now in the State of			
14	Florida that are nonfirm are not broker sales. I			
15	believe they're opportunity sales or "J" sales,			
16	basically other nonfirm sales.			
17	COMMISSIONER CLARK: And what is the what			
18	can they charge for those opportunity sales?			
19	MR. KORDECKI: I think outside the State of			
20	Florida they can charge whatever they want.			
21	COMMISSIONER CLARK: All right. Inside the			
22	State of Florida.			
23	MR. KORDECKI: Inside the State of Florida,			
24	I believe they have a tariff. You'd have to ask them.			
25	I think they have a tariff that has a cap.			
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COMMISSIONER CLARK: So you would not be 1 able to, unless you are permitted to charge market 2 base prices -- what is it -- you have to go to FERC 3 and get an approval to charge a certain rate? Okay. 4 So you could not simply meet whatever the merchant 5 plant is bidding without going to FERC and getting 6 7 approval of it? MR. DOLAN: Commissioner Clark, in the case 8 of Florida Power Corp., that's correct. We do not 9 have authority for market based rates in Florida. 10 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Neither does FP&L, is 11 12 that right? MR. DOLAN: That's correct. And given --13 and it's unlikely that we would get them given our 14 current understanding of the FERC rules. 15 COMMISSIONER CLARK: What about Tampa 16 17 Electric? 18 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I think we have filed 19 for them. 20 COMMISSIONER CLARK: You have filed for 21 market based rates on the theory that you don't own 22 enough transmission to be --23 MR. DOLAN: Enough generation. COMMISSIONER CLARK: Enough generation. 24 25 Okay.

MR. KORDECKI: I think most of the comments 1 about market based rates go to the fact that people 2 will sell above cost, not so much that they will sell 3 below cost. I think FERC couldn't care less if you 4 wanted to give it away. 5 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Well, I think they do 6 care in the case --7 MR. KORDECKI: No. As long as it's not 8 subsidized by ratepayers, I don't think they care. 9 COMMISSIONER CLARK: It seems they care if 10 11 they have market power. MR. KORDECKI: Well, I think if they have 12 13 market power, they don't have market based rates, they just have a tariff of some sort that -- either an 14 interchange agreement with another utility or some 15 type of capacity tariff. 16 17 COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think that's my point. FERC does care if they have market power. 18 19 MR. KORDECKI: Yes, but what I alluded to is I don't think FERC cares if they sell below cost as 20 21 long as it's not a cross subsidy to regulate 22 utilities. In other words, the difference being a 23 burden to other regulated utilities. 24 **COMMISSIONER DEASON:** But isn't the assumption that if they can sell below cost for them 25

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1 to be viable and stay in business they're getting a
2 subsidy from somewhere?

3	MR. KORDECKI: In the short run they could				
4	eat it out of their pockets because they want market				
5	shares. That's what a lot of, I think, utilities with				
6	market based rates, EWGs, merchant plants, whatever,				
7	may actually sell at cost at below the variable				
8	cost for a short period of time to derive a market				
9	share. That's what airlines do. I mean, it's not an				
10	uncommon thing.				
11	MR. VILLAR: Commissioner, my name is Mario				
12	Villar, Florida Power & Light Company. I wanted to				
13	clarify, for FPL we do have a floor which is our				
14	marginal cost, and a ceiling, which is a cost-based				
15	ceiling. We can negotiate a price somewhere in				
16	between the two.				
17	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Okay.				
18	COMMISSIONER DEASON: Could you you				
19	cannot go below obviously, you cannot go below your				
20	floor. That's why it's defined as a floor. So you				
21	cannot exercise market power to the detriment of				
22	competitors?				
23	MR. VILLAR: Correct.				
24	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Thank you. Any other				
25	questions?				

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1COMMISSIONER CLARK: It strikes me we2wouldn't really want them to make the sale if it3violated that floor.

4

CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Okay. Thank you.

5 MS. PAUGH: Mr. Willis has indicated that. 6 Tampa Electric will pass on making a presentation. Our next 7 presenter would be Mr. Kammer of IBEW, if he wishes to present 8 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Leslie, how many more do 9 we have after this? Two after this? LEAF and --MS. PAUGH: And Florida Wildlife Federation. 10 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Very good. Go right 11 ahead, Mr. Kammer. 12

13 MR. KAMMER: Terry Kammer with IBEW Council
14 U4. As others have said, I will be brief, but I will
15 be.

Our main concern in this whole area, of course, is employment. One of the questions in the presentation is employment enhancement and creation. Looking at the power industry as itself we feel that this would not create jobs, it would take jobs away.

21 On the global view where, if indeed the 22 power was cheaper and we brought industry to Florida, 23 that may actually occur. Our members, we have 24 approximately 9,000 to 10,000 workers in bargaining 25 units throughout the state with the various utilities 1 and municipalities. We're paid a fair wage. We have 2 fair benefits. We're not sure that will happen with 3 merchants.

Constellation in Brevard, according to the paper there, 12 employees for 900 megawatts, which means to me they're going to have operating employees. The maintenance will be contracted out. That may come from Georgia, Alabama, Florida, wherever. I have no idea.

We have a real concern with the jobs in Florida that do pay well. They're getting fewer and fewer and our concern is that, and we want to stay at the table with this issue as it goes along. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Very well. And I think
16 you have been at the table as this issue has been
17 developing. All right. Good. Thank you. Next
18 presenter.

19

20 **MS. KAMARAS:** Thank you, Commissioners, for 21 affording me the opportunity. I know it's late in the 22 day and my comments are brief.

MS. PAUGH: Ms. Kamaras with LEAF.

The Commission suggested a cap on plants based on the number of proposed megawatts of solar photovoltaic capacity as one of its items in the Duke

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1 order.

LEAF, of course, is pleased to see the 2 Commission give recognition to the value of solar 3 generation and the need to incorporate mechanisms to 4 encourage it. However, we don't see a particular 5 rationale to treat one power plant different from 6 another in this regard. If the Commission is going in 7 this direction, then any new power supply, merchant or 8 utility, should be held to that same standard. 9

Likewise, with the suggested criteria for review based on the efficiency ratings of new plants it should apply across the board if it is to be used at all.

The Commission also expressed concerns about the potential impacts of merchant plants on the environment, and particularly, the use of ambient air pollution increments and the use of plants sites and other finite resources. I think the air pollution increment was addressed earlier today.

Again, LEAF is pleased to see the Commission's environmental concern, but suggests that to some extent it is misdirected. As you know, LEAF has a deep concern regarding air pollution and we would prefer to see nonpolluting resources, including energy efficiency, over any polluting ones.

However, the most damaging power plants are 1 the ones that are already here, many of which are 2 operating far beyond their design life. 3 Finally, the Commission expressed concern 4 about the potential impacts of merchant plants on 5 conservation goals and plans. LEAF believes that the 6 availability and cost of merchant plants applies, and 7 should be taken into account the same as any other 8 supply option by utilities in assessing the need for 9 conservation. We recognize that if those supply costs 10 are lower than other utility options, that less DSM 11 may become cost-effective. 12 However, how and what the Commission decides 13 concerning DSM cost-effectiveness is a subject of 14 another docket. So, we won't belabor it here. Thank 15 you. 16 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: 17 Thank you. COMMISSIONER CLARK: Just so I understand. 18 19 You're comfortable with the notion that merchant 20 plants may have the effect of driving down the cost of electricity which may back out some demand side 21 conservation measures? 22 MS. KAMARAS: I'm not comfortable with it, 23 but I think it may be a fact as power plants --24 whether merchant or otherwise, if they are lower in 25

cost to build, there is a relationship there and we 1 must, obviously, recognize that relationship. 2 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay. 3 MS. PAUGH: The Florida Wildlife Federation. 4 COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think he left. 5 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: We will let nature speak 6 7 for itself. That is it, correct? MS. PAUGH: As far as I know, yes, 8 Mr. Chairman. 9 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Okay. All right. Is10 there anything you want to announce or anything? 11 MS. PAUGH: No. I suppose the next step is 12 to decide what the Commission wishes Staff to do with 13 respect to this issue. 14 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Right. I think we've got 15 to digest what we've gone through today. FPC wants us 16 to do more to study this issue. FPL doesn't think we 17 18 need to do anything at all, and everyone else thinks we're doing just fine. So we'll think about it and 19 then I hope that Staff will think about it and meet 20 with the Commissioners and get some feeling or 21 22 consensus on where we need to go next and what issues fall out from what we've discussed here, and maybe 23 some specific areas where there may be some trouble if 24 the Court does rule in our favor, that we should at 25

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least some idea or maybe a few more workshops to hash
 that out. And I know Commissioner Clark is interested
 in exploring some of those things, so I would assume
 that we will let her take the lead here.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Mr. Chairman, it seems 5 to me that there have been some issues that have been 6 raised and maybe some of them have been answered, too. 7 But, I quess, I think it's important for us to make 8 some inquiry into what it does mean for planning 9 purposes. What it means for -- well, should we have 10 some set aside in merchant plants for a specific kind 11 of plant? Should there be a cap on merchant plants or 12 should we let competition dictate how much is fair? 13

I think we have to look at those issues and make some recommendations on them. And to that extent, you know, I think what would be appropriate is to work with Staff and develop, I guess, it would be a generic docket.

19 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: All right. Well, why
20 don't we --

21 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Well, let me, I guess, 22 put in my comments. I think that to the extent that 23 we have any priorities it should be on reserve margins 24 and get that matter considered. I'm not opposed to 25 going forward. I think that should be the higher

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1				
1	priority. I think there is some merit to the argument			
2	that we just need to wait and see what the Court is			
3	going to do. And I'm not opposed to that either. But			
4	I make that statement with some caution, and that			
5	caution is, those entities who think that we're doing			
6	piecemeal policymaking here, realize that if we delay			
7	this and don't go forward with opening a docket on			
8	this, and we get another application, we are going to			
9	have to process it. We don't have the liberty to tell			
10	an applicant or anyone else that we're going to put it			
11	on hold because we want to conduct a generic			
12	investigation after the Court rules. So that's where			
	I am on it.			
13	lamonit.			
13 14	chairman garcia: Okay.			
14	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Okay.			
14 15	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Okay. COMMISSIONER JACOBS: In deference to that			
14 15 16	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Okay. COMMISSIONER JACOBS: In deference to that concern though, I think that it's very valid, that we			
14 15 16 17	CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Okay. COMMISSIONER JACOBS: In deference to that concern though, I think that it's very valid, that we will have to deal with all the applications, but I			
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there's some issues that have come up today, and I 1 guess I don't feel committed either way. But I think 2 Susan does make some good points. There is some 3 issues here that are out there, and I think 4 5 Commissioner Deason is echoing them to some degree that we need to work on because when someone applies 6 we still have to process that application. 7 And understanding that, we want to make sure 8 that when we process that application it's not to the 9 detriment of Florida's ratepayers and if, you know, 10 anywhere that Staff finds that there may be a problem 11 in, then that's an area we need to address now. Τt 12 13 may be work for naught if the Court rules against this Commission. That being the case, you know, so it was 14 15 work for naught. But --16 COMMISSIONER CLARK: See, I don't necessarily think it's work for naught because, 17 obviously, the Duke decision wasn't just because they 18 19 were allowed to be an applicant. It was the 20 conclusion of this Commission that they should --21 there was a need for it, too. 22 CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Right. COMMISSIONER CLARK: And, it strikes me that 23 there are implications of allowing merchant plants 24 into the generation market in Florida and we need to 25

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go forward and identify those and reach some conclusions as to whether the current law needs to be changed to accommodate those plants or if -- you know, there is a dilemma because we already made the decision that they should be part of it.

COMMISSIONER DEASON: I think that there's a 6 very valid point that's been made here today in that I 7 don't think the focus of this should be merchant 8 plants per se. I think that it is a question as to 9 how we -- if we're going to have a competitive 10 wholesale market, how that entire matter is going to 11 12 be structured and that there are relevant questions that involve our incumbent utilities just as much as 13 14 it does merchant plants.

And one of my bottom-line concerns is that 15 if we are going to have competition, I want to see 16 competition. I don't want there to be any advantages 17 to the new entrants. I don't want there to be any 18 19 disadvantages to the new entrants. And probably more importantly, I don't want to see our incumbent 20 21 utilities somehow advantaged in the wholesale market because they are incumbent. But just as important, I 22 don't want them to be disadvantaged because they've 23 got certain requirements, like having an obligation to 24 serve and those types of things and we're going to 25

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1 have to weigh all of that out.

For there to be a viable wholesale market, we're going to have to weigh all of those things, and there are some very serious questions that are going to have to be answered in that regard.

One of those questions is, is that if this 6 Commission is upheld at the court, it seems to me that 7 we're going to have to be upheld on our finding that 8 Duke, as an EWG, is an electric utility. That was one 9 of the fundamental decisions that we made. And if we 10 are upheld, well, then that means they're an electric 11 utility. Do we have the authority then to somehow 12 treat them differently than we do our other utilities 13 to put a cap on that type of generation? 14

And squarely -- obviously, it's not in our statute to do that. We just -- we have requirements that apply to utilities. We do have certain classes of utility, some are rate base regulated, we set the retail rates and those types of things, which certainly would not apply to merchants.

There are a lot of questions that are going to have to be answered and I certainly -- I can't sit here today and tell you I know all of the answers, but there are a lot of questions.

25

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I just think we need to

move forward regardless of where we are with the court 1 And Commissioner Deason, you mentioned the 2 case. margin of reserve, and I guess, there is -- I tried to 3 resolve, which is the thing you should do first. 4 Should you do the marginal reserve or should you look 5 into what is the right way to run the generation 6 market in Florida? I think that's really the correct 7 identification of what we want to do. 8

9 And, you know, my thought was kind of, you 10 would sort of make a conclusion that those retail --11 those entities required to serve load, in order to 12 assure reliability, you might require them to reach 13 a -- to maintain capacity to serve that plus a certain 14 margin. And then you will go to the -- the next step 15 would be to determine what that margin would be.

COMMISSIONER DEASON: Well, I don't 16 necessarily disagree with that. I'm not sure that's 17 the answer, but I'm not making a judgment on that 18 19 today. It seems to me that regardless of who is going to be generating in this state, whether that mix 20 includes merchants or not, we know that we've got to 21 answer the very critical question as to what we want 22 to do from a policy perspective as to reserve margins. 23 And we know that's a question we've got to answer. 24 And it seems to me that it's very critical and 25

1 extremely high priority, and that's where I think we 2 need to devote our resources and our time and put our 3 priority there.

If we need to review that issue in terms of two scenarios; one being how do we do reserve margins if merchants are in the mix, and how do we do reserve margins if merchants are not in the mix, so be it. I don't see how we can avoid that.

9 But to look at restructuring the wholesale 10 market when we don't even know how the Court is going 11 to rule, knowing that we've got the task in front of 12 us concerning reserve margins, I just think that needs 13 to be the little higher priority.

14 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Well, you know, I think 15 that implicit in this Commission's decision with 16 respect to the merchant plant was it was a good thing 17 and regardless of how the Supreme Court rules, I would 18 assume that we would be -- if they say they are not --19 can't be an applicant, we would be over in the 20 Legislature saying they should be an applicant.

21 **COMMISSIONER DEASON:** Well, I don't know as 22 I agree with that. You're taking that decision much 23 further than what I decided in my one vote, one out of 24 three.

25

I voted that they met the definition and in

applying the statutory criteria to them, they meet
 that criteria and that they passed the test. We
 granted the determination. I did not make any
 prevailing policy statement that we need to be
 endorsing merchant plants and that we need to do
 everything we can, over advocating the Legislature,
 whatever, to have merchant plants in this state.

That was not -- the issue of merchant plants 8 was not the issue in the need determination docket to 9 It was simply, we had one entity who expressed 10 me. that they felt they met the statutory definition of a 11 utility and that they had a proposal and they wanted 12 to know if their proposal met the test within the 13 statute. I said yes to both of these questions, but I 14 didn't answer anything more other than that. 15

I can only speak for myself. You know, I don't think it was a question of -- merchant plants were not on trial. It was one application from one entity who wanted to build a merchant plant.

CHAIRMAN GARCIA: All right. Staff, you try to figure a consensus from that and I think we'll get together again. We may have some issues that we need. Maybe we'll set up some more workshops to hash out some of these issues and maybe we can do some of those in internal affairs and make a decision from that

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point of view. 1 Again, if a Commissioner wants to open a 2 docket --3 MR. JENKINS: In the meantime, we are moving 4 5 || ahead with the reserve margin docket without the consideration of the merchant plant option or cushion 6 7 in it. CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Well, I think Commissioner 8 Deason just made a good point. I know we're a little 9 10 bit down the road from there. But I think it's a good point. Maybe we should discuss it. 11 12 MR. JENKINS: All right. CHAIRMAN GARCIA: All right. Thank you. 13 Thank you very much. Thank you for coming. 14 (Thereupon, the workshop concluded at 15 4:40 p.m.) 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF FLORIDA) 1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTERS 2 COUNTY OF LEON) We, JOY KELLY, CSR, RPR, Chief, Bureau of 3 Reporting and KIMBERLY BERENS, CSR, RPR, Official Commission Reporter, 4 5 DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the Undocketed Workshop was heard by the Florida Public Service 6 Commission at the time and place herein stated; it is further 7 CERTIFIED that we stenographically reported 8 the said proceedings; that the same has been transcribed by us; and that this transcript, 9 consisting of 259 pages, constitutes a true transcription of our notes of said proceedings 10 DATED this 21st day of May, 1999. 11 12 CSR, RPR 13 JOY KELLY, Chief, Bureau of Reporting (850) 413-6732 14 15 16 KIMBERLY BERENS, CSR, RPR FPSC Commission Reporter 17 (850) 413-6736 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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