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BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. 20230019-EI

In re: Petition for recovery of costs  
associated with names tropical systems  
during the 2018-2022 hurricane seasons  
and replenishment of storm reserve, by  
Tampa Electric Company.

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PROCEEDINGS: PREHEARING CONFERENCE

COMMISSIONERS  
PARTICIPATING: ART GRAHAM  
PREHEARING OFFICER

DATE: Wednesday, April 24, 2024

TIME: Commenced: 11:15 a.m.  
Concluded: 11:48 a.m.

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center  
Room 148  
4075 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK  
Court Reporter

PREMIER REPORTING  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
(850) 894-0828

1 APPEARANCES:

2 J. JEFFREY WAHLEN, MALCOLM N. MEANS and  
3 VIRGINIA PONDER, ESQUIRES, Ausley Law Firm, Post Office  
4 Box 391, Tallahassee, Florida 32302; appearing on behalf  
5 of Tampa Electric Company. (TECO).

6 WALT TRIERWEILER, PUBLIC COUNSEL; CHARLES  
7 REHWINKEL, DEPUTY PUBLIC COUNSEL; MARY W. WESSLING,  
8 ESQUIRE, OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL, c/o The Florida  
9 Legislature, 111 West Madison Street, Room 812,  
10 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400; appearing on behalf of  
11 the Citizens of the State of Florida (OPC).

12 STEPHANIE U. EATON, ESQUIRE, Spilman Law Firm,  
13 110 Oakwood Drive, Suite 500, Winston-Salem, NC;  
14 appearing on behalf of Walmart, Inc., (Walmart).

15 MAJOR THOMPSON and RYAN SANDY, ESQUIRES, FPSC  
16 General Counsel's Office, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard,  
17 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850; appearing on behalf of  
18 the Florida Public Service Commission (Staff).

19 KEITH HETRICK, GENERAL COUNSEL; MARY ANNE  
20 HELTON, DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL, Florida Public Service  
21 Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee,  
22 Florida 32399-0850, Advisor to the Florida Public  
23 Service Commission.

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: All righty. I think  
3 it's about time to get this show started.

4 Let the record show today is April 24th, 2024.  
5 This is the Prehearing, and we will call this  
6 meeting to order.

7 Staff, can I get you to read the notice?

8 MR. THOMPSON: Pursuant to notice, this time  
9 and place has been set in for a prehearing  
10 conference in Docket No. 20230019, regarding a  
11 petition for recovery of costs associated with  
12 named tropical systems during the 2018 and 2022 --  
13 to 2022 hurricane systems -- seasons -- and  
14 replenishment of the storm reserve by Tampa  
15 Electric Company.

16 The purpose of the prehearing set out more  
17 fully in the notice.

18 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay. Let's take  
19 appearances.

20 MR. MEANS: Good morning, Commissioner.  
21 Malcolm Means with Ausley McMullen Law Firm,  
22 appearing on behalf of Tampa Electric. I would  
23 also like to enter appearances for Jeff Wahlen and  
24 Virginia Ponder with the Ausley firm.

25 Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: OPC.

2 MS. EATON: Good morning. Stephanie Eaton  
3 here on behalf of Walmart, Inc.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. WESSLING: And Ali Wessling here on behalf  
6 of the Office of Public Counsel. I would also like  
7 to enter appearances for Walt Trierweiler and  
8 Charles Rehwinkel.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. THOMPSON: This is Major Thompson. And I  
11 would also like to enter an appearance on behalf of  
12 Ryan Sandy for Commission staff.

13 MS. HELTON: And Mary Anne Helton is here as  
14 your advisor, along with Keith Hetrick, your  
15 General Counsel.

16 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay. Staff,  
17 preliminary matters that we need to address?

18 MR. THOMPSON: Staff is aware of none at this  
19 time.

20 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay. Any parties have  
21 any preliminary matters?

22 MS. WESSLING: No, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Oakie-dokie. I like it.  
24 Cruising along so far.

25 All right. Let's go through the draft

1 prehearing order.

2 I will identify the sections, and if the  
3 parties want to -- let me know if you have any  
4 corrections or changes to be made. We will go  
5 through them quickly, so please just feel free to  
6 speak up.

7 Section No. I.

8 Section No. II.

9 Section No. III.

10 Section No. IV.

11 Section No. V.

12 MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Commissioner, staff  
13 suggests that the witness summaries of their  
14 testimony be no longer than three minutes.

15 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay. Are all parties  
16 in agreement with this?

17 MS. EATON: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay.

19 MR. THOMPSON: Pursuant to the order  
20 establishing procedure if a party wishes to use a  
21 demonstrative exhibit or other demonstrative tool  
22 at the hearing, those materials must be identified  
23 during today's prehearing conference.

24 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Does any of the parties  
25 wish to do that?

1           Okay. Let the record say no.

2           Offer of witnesses.

3           MR. THOMPSON: The draft prehearing order  
4 reflects the proposed order of witnesses at the  
5 hearing. Staff believes, based on the prehearing  
6 statements and subsequent conversations with the  
7 parties, that all witnesses related to Issues 1  
8 through 14 can be stipulated.

9           COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Do any of the parties  
10 have any issues with the order of witnesses set  
11 forth in the draft prehearing order?

12           Are any of the witnesses and parties willing  
13 to stipulate?

14           MR. MEANS: Tampa Electric is willing to  
15 stipulate to the entry of the testimony of all  
16 witnesses without objection, and we are also  
17 willing to waive cross-examination of Walmart  
18 Witness Perry.

19           COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Walmart?

20           MS. EATON: And Walmart is similarly willing  
21 to stipulate as to the entry of all the prefiled  
22 testimony and exhibits, and waive cross as to  
23 TECO's witnesses.

24           MS. WESSLING: OPC also stipulates to all the  
25 testimony and waiving cross.

1           COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay. How does that  
2           sound, staff?

3           MR. THOMPSON: Staff is also willing to  
4           stipulate, but we will need to reach out to the  
5           Commissioners to make sure that the witnesses can  
6           be excused. If the Commissioners don't have any of  
7           questions for these witnesses, then they may be  
8           excused from the hearing and their testimony and  
9           exhibits will be entered into the record as though  
10          read.

11          COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay. I encourage the  
12          parties to speak to each other and determine how --  
13          determine, as soon as we can whether any witnesses  
14          may be stipulated, mindful of the expenses -- okay,  
15          we did all of that.

16          Do any of the parties have any changes to  
17          their basic positions?

18          MR. MEANS: No.

19          MS. WESSLING: No.

20          MS. EATON: No.

21          COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay. You guys are  
22          making my day so far.

23          All right. Issues and positions. We will go  
24          through the issues now.

25          MR. THOMPSON: I know that TECO has a slight

1 change to their position on Issue, I believe it's  
2 9, so I will let them go first.

3 MR. MEANS: That's correct. Thank you.

4 On Issue 9, the second line there, where it  
5 says, "this amount reflects", we would just change  
6 that to "there are additional costs". That's our  
7 only change.

8 MR. THOMPSON: And staff will make sure to  
9 reflect that in the Prehearing Order.

10 Based on the parties' prehearing positions for  
11 the remainder of the issues, it appears that Issues  
12 1 through 12 and Issue 14 may be appropriate as  
13 Type 1 or Type 2 stipulations. Issue 13 may also  
14 be appropriate as a stipulation depending on the  
15 outcome of Walmart's contested Issue A.

16 Staff recommends taking up contested Issue A  
17 first, followed by TECO's proposed Issue B, and  
18 then Issues 1 through 14.

19 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: All right. Thank you,  
20 staff.

21 Walmart, would you like to address your Issue  
22 A?

23 MS. EATON: We would plan to present Issue A  
24 to the Commission at the hearing. And if our  
25 witness is excused, we would prefer to have an



1 opening to explain the position to the Commission,  
2 and have our position put on the record.

3 And I think that Issue 13 also has a little  
4 bit of potential to be impacted by our Issue A,  
5 which is generally that Walmart believes that for  
6 the demand metered customers, these storm cost  
7 recovery charges need to be collected for an --  
8 with a demand charge instead of an energy charge.  
9 And that's been Walmart's issue since it filed  
10 comments in March of 2023, and as it has filed  
11 testimony in this case, and Ms. Lisa Perry does  
12 reflect that those comments are incorporated by  
13 reference into her testimony. And it remains  
14 Walmart's position in this matter at this time.

15 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: That's all the comments  
16 you have making a position for making a  
17 determination on this?

18 MS. EATON: The -- well, I want to clarify on  
19 Issue 13, that the -- the way that is worded also  
20 incorporates Walmart's position on Issue A as to  
21 the methodology of collection from the customers.  
22 So that to the extent -- we are not opposed from  
23 the -- under or overrecovery being handled with an  
24 adjustment to the Energy Conservation Cost Recovery  
25 Clause. We are just concerned with it being

1 collected from customers, demand metered customers,  
2 on an -- with an energy charge. That is the issue  
3 for the entire matter.

4 We understand that the -- we understand that  
5 the Commission authorized Tampa Electric Company to  
6 recover the interim costs on an energy basis. We  
7 understand those orders were in place. We also  
8 understand that the issue -- the way the  
9 proceedings have gone, the issue was raised by  
10 Walmart, at which point in time we weren't in a  
11 position to intervene. The intervention was  
12 granted almost a year after those charges were  
13 being recovered.

14 So to the extent there would be some sort of  
15 administrative burden on Tampa Electric, we are not  
16 asking for the charges that have been collected to  
17 date on an energy charge basis be undone or redone.  
18 We would, for the pure of this docket, want to  
19 consider the issues going forward that remain to be  
20 collected, to be collected on a -- with the demand  
21 charges for demand metered customers like Walmart.  
22 They are on many demand tariffs, demand based  
23 tariffs.

24 And everything else was set forth in Ms.  
25 Perry's comments, so I don't have anything further

1 to say.

2 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: TECO?

3 MR. MEANS: You know, as Ms. Eaton just  
4 explained, Tampa Electric's interim surcharge was  
5 collected on an energy basis, and we also agree  
6 that it shouldn't be undone or redone. We think  
7 that collecting on an energy basis was appropriate,  
8 and we think any true-up in this proceeding should  
9 be also either handled through an energy charge,  
10 and that's the tie-in with Issue 13 that she  
11 referred to. And we think that the question of how  
12 future storm recovery should be handled, should be  
13 handled in future dockets.

14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: OPC?

16 MS. WESSLING: OPC has no position on Issue A.

17 And for Issue 13, if you are asking for that  
18 right now, we are willing to maintain, or  
19 facilitate our Type 2 stipulation, as long as the  
20 typical language in and footnote are included.

21 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Thank you.

22 Staff?

23 MR. THOMPSON: Staff's position is that Issue  
24 A should be stricken. The 2021 agreement, to which  
25 Walmart is a signatory, provides the storm damage

1 recovery at issue in this docket shall be made  
2 consistent with the rate design and cost allocation  
3 methods approved in that agreement. The parties to  
4 the settlement can contest the amount of TECO's  
5 costs, or whether the recovery is consistent with  
6 the agreement, but not the mechanism agreed to in  
7 the agreement, which is on pages 35 and 36.

8 Walmart's position seeks to relitigate matters  
9 that are settled by that agreement. It's Walmart  
10 position -- it appears that Walmart may be  
11 conflating the recovery of these storm costs, which  
12 are base rate item with recovery of storm costs  
13 through the Storm Protection Cost Recovery Clause.

14 The Commission has already established a  
15 surcharge for these storm costs through a dollar  
16 per kilowatt hour, or energy only basis, which is  
17 consistent with how similar costs have been  
18 recovered for many years.

19 If Walmart wishes to negotiate for recovery of  
20 future storm costs on a demand charge basis, it is  
21 free to do so. However, staffer believes that the  
22 opportunity is not available in this proceeding.

23 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Walmart, any comments on  
24 that?

25 MS. EATON: We would say that we raised the

1 issue again -- again, we raised the issue prior to  
2 any of the storm costs being collected in this  
3 particular docket, so the procedure did not really  
4 allow us to intervene and make this issue relevant  
5 to the collection of the bulk of the storm cost  
6 charges that have been collected to date.

7 We were a party to the 2021 settlement  
8 agreement, and believe that the settlement  
9 agreement -- the gist of the settlement agreement  
10 does allow the signatories of the settlement  
11 agreement to contest the charges, so we disagree  
12 with staff's interpretation of that settlement  
13 agreement on that regard.

14 But we also would say we understand that there  
15 is a difference between the Storm Protection Plan  
16 and the SPPCRC docket. Our point in raising those  
17 in the comments was because there were multiple  
18 utilities that filed the storm protection plans and  
19 sought cost recovery in that particular docket.  
20 Two sought it on demand charges for demand metered  
21 customers. Others sought all energy charges.

22 Walmart raised the issue of the problem of the  
23 cost recovery for energy charges for demand metered  
24 customers back in the SPPCRC dockets, and were able  
25 to negotiate and have the utilities all agree to

1 consistently recover those costs for the SPPCRC  
2 docket on a demand basis for demand metered  
3 customers, so we are looking for that sort of  
4 consistency in this particular docket.

5 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: All right. I am -- I  
6 guess I have to agree with staff. I don't see the  
7 need for this now, so I am going to strike Issue A.  
8 Staff, what do we do?

9 MR. THOMPSON: In light of the ruling on Issue  
10 A, staff believes it would be appropriate to  
11 revisit the witness testimony proffered by Walmart  
12 and any corresponding exhibits, as well as TECO's  
13 rebuttal testimony. Staff believes, in light of  
14 striking Issue A, that the testimony and exhibits  
15 should also be struck.

16 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Any comments, Walmart?

17 MS. EATON: I mean, we would disagree with  
18 striking the testimony, but -- I mean, I  
19 understand. I don't know that there is anything  
20 much more we can do. We have already agreed that  
21 the testimony with TECO and OPC could be stipulated  
22 into the record.

23 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: All right. So, staff,  
24 we are going to strike that witness?

25 MR. THOMPSON: That would be staff's position.

1           COMMISSIONER GRAHAM:   Okay.  We will do that.  
2           Okay.  Staff, where are we?

3           MR. THOMPSON:  Now it's time to take up TECO's  
4           proposed Issue B.

5           MS. CRAWFORD:  And for clarification,  
6           Commissioner, it appears to us that there doesn't  
7           appear to be any controversy to including this  
8           Issue B in this proceeding, but if the parties wish  
9           to address it, this would be an appropriate time to  
10          do so.

11          MR. MEANS:  Thank you.  That's correct.  I  
12          think there is -- I don't think there is any  
13          objection to including this issue, and really, this  
14          is just a list of additional lessons learned and  
15          best practices that we identified through this  
16          process and in collaboration with Office of Public  
17          Counsel, and I believe that they support inclu--  
18          also support inclusion of this issue.

19          MS. WESSLING:  Yes.  On behalf of OPC, we  
20          certainly appreciate the responsiveness and  
21          cooperation that TECO has demonstrated, both  
22          through the discovery process in conversations and  
23          development of Attachment A, and therefore, with  
24          regard to Issue B, we are happy to enter into a  
25          Type 1 Stipulation.

1 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Walmart?

2 MS. EATON: We have no position on Issue B,  
3 and so, you know, we can enter into a stipulation  
4 as to that issue.

5 I did want to go back to Issue A for one  
6 second and clarify, with respect to the hearing,  
7 whether or not we would be able to proffer Ms.  
8 Perry's testimony at the hearing just as, you know,  
9 as filed instead of her coming to testify. I am  
10 not sure whether that's possible or not.

11 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Staff? Mary Anne?

12 MS. HELTON: Yes, sir. I think that that's  
13 something that you should allow during the course  
14 -- that we should recommend to the presiding  
15 officer at the time of the hearing, that Walmart be  
16 allowed to proffer the testimony of that witness.

17 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: As filed?

18 MS. HELTON: As filed.

19 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: I don't have a problem  
20 with that.

21 MS. EATON: Okay. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay. So no --

23 MR. THOMPSON: Before -- I am sorry. Before  
24 we've move on, could we clarify with Walmart, was  
25 that a Type 1 or Type 2 stipulation to Issue B?



1 MS. EATON: I think it would be Type 1 because  
2 we didn't have a position, so, I mean, I don't -- I  
3 don't see a problem with it.

4 MS. CRAWFORD: It might be helpful to clarify.  
5 For Type 1, it's the type where the parties are all  
6 in agreement on the stipulation, which is fine if  
7 that's Walmart's position.

8 Type 2 would be party or parties agree, and at  
9 least a party takes no position, or does not object  
10 to the granting of it.

11 We are happy to reflect it whatever would be  
12 accurate in this case.

13 MS. EATON: Then it might be a Type 2. I  
14 mean, we just don't -- we don't have a position as  
15 to all of those proposed process improvements, so  
16 that might make more sense.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay. So let's move on  
19 to Issues 1 through 14.

20 Do any of the parties have any modifications  
21 they would like to make on their position?

22 MR. MEANS: None other than the one we noted  
23 for Issue 9.

24 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay.

25 MS. WESSLING: And --

1 MR. THOMPSON: I am sorry. Go ahead.

2 MS. WESSLING: OPC is willing to enter into  
3 Type 1 stipulations on Issues 1 through 12 and  
4 Issue 14.

5 MS. EATON: Yeah. The same for Walmart. It  
6 would be Issues 1 through 12 and 14.

7 MR. THOMPSON: And to be clear, that's a Type  
8 1 for Walmart on 1 through 12 and 14?

9 MS. EATON: Sure. Yeah.

10 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. And then what's the  
11 stipulation on 13 -- or is there a stipulation on  
12 13?

13 MS. WESSLING: OPC would maintain its Type 2  
14 stipulation. But again, with all of the language  
15 in the footnote that's normally included.

16 MR. THOMPSON: We will make sure that's added.

17 MS. EATON: And to the extent Issue 13 is  
18 interrelated to the issue that Walmart raised and  
19 would have in the proffered testimony, we wouldn't  
20 have a stipulation on Issue 13. We wouldn't join  
21 that.

22 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Jennifer, you are dying  
23 to say something.

24 MS. CRAWFORD: Where I am struggling is how we  
25 would proceed to hearing. It sounds like if a

1 proposed stipulation is not available on Issue 13,  
2 we would need to proceed to hearing on Issue 13.  
3 And with the witnesses excused, I am not sure what  
4 that would look like at a hearing, and I am not  
5 clear if Walmart would like to brief on Issue 13.

6 MS. EATON: If the testimony is stricken, and  
7 our witness isn't going to testify because her  
8 testimony is stricken, but we are going to be able  
9 to at least proffer her testimony at the hearing as  
10 filed, we could certainly prepare some sort of a  
11 short brief to explain why we believe Issue 13 is  
12 potentially related to the issue that we raised.  
13 But I am not sure how procedurally, if her  
14 testimony is stricken, how I would go about doing  
15 that.

16 MS. CRAWFORD: And perhaps it would be useful  
17 to clarify what the purpose of the proffer is. As  
18 I understand, the proffer at hearing would not be  
19 for the purpose of introducing substantive evidence  
20 into the evidentiary record for this proceeding.  
21 It would be to preserve it for purposes of further  
22 appellate review.

23 MS. EATON: That's right. But if it's -- if  
24 her testimony is stricken for this proceeding, then  
25 it wipes out Issue 13 and Issue A for purposes of

1 Walmart. So I don't know that we can even have --  
2 I mean, there wouldn't be a stipulation to enter on  
3 either one of those because they would be -- Issue  
4 13 would be irrelevant as to us. We have no  
5 position on it whatsoever if it -- if it doesn't  
6 address Issue A.

7 MS. CRAWFORD: Perhaps if we could take about  
8 five minutes to discuss internally, that would be  
9 very helpful for us.

10 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: You took the words right  
11 out of my mouth. We will take a five-minute  
12 recess.

13 MS. EATON: Thank you.

14 (Brief recess.)

15 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay. We are back on  
16 the record, and, staff, take me home.

17 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. So I think we've  
18 resolved Issue 13, but I will let TECO lead off.

19 MR. MEANS: Thank you. Thank you,  
20 Commissioner.

21 We think we can reach a Type 2 stipulation on  
22 Issue 13 now. Our position on that issue is that  
23 any under or overrecovery will be either recovered  
24 or refunded through an adjustment through the -- to  
25 the Energy Conservation Cost Recovery Clause. And

1           under that clause, some rates schedules are charged  
2           on a demand bases, so therefore, any true-up in  
3           this proceeding would be collected or refunded  
4           through the demand charge for those rate schedules.  
5           And for reference, this is tariff sheet 6.021. And  
6           I this think may alleviate Ms. Eaton's concern on  
7           this issue and facilitate a Type 2 stipulation.

8           MS. EATON: It does alleviate our concern, and  
9           we appreciate the reference to the tariff sheet to  
10          make the record clear on this issue. So the Type 2  
11          stipulation for them is fine.

12          COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Staff?

13          MR. THOMPSON: Okay. I think with that --  
14          just a moment. So staff will revise the Draft  
15          Prehearing Order to reflect a proposed Type 2  
16          stipulation on Issue 13, and then a Type 1  
17          stipulation on 1 through 12 and 14. And then also  
18          -- sorry -- a Type 2 on proposed Issue B.

19          Provided parties are willing to waive briefs,  
20          then that would place a position in a posture to  
21          take up a bench vote next week.

22          COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Is everybody agreeable  
23          with that?

24          MS. WESSLING: Yes.

25          MR. MEANS: Yes.

1 MS. EATON: Yes.

2 MS. GAMBA: Let the record show everybody's  
3 thumbs up.

4 Okay. Staff, talk to me.

5 MR. THOMPSON: Staff is has prepared and  
6 circulated to the parties a comprehensive exhibit  
7 list, which also includes all prefiled exhibits and  
8 also includes those exhibits staff wishes to  
9 include in the record.

10 Staff has requested that the parties advise  
11 whether there are any objections to the  
12 comprehensive exhibit list or the entry of staff's  
13 exhibits into the record.

14 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Are parties all willing  
15 to stipulate to staff's exhibits?

16 MR. MEANS: Yes.

17 MS. EATON: Yes.

18 MS. WESSLING: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: There you go.

20 Any additional stipulations need to be  
21 discussed that are not already in the record?

22 MR. THOMPSON: Not from staff.

23 MR. MEANS: None from Tampa Electric.

24 MS. EATON: None from Walmart.

25 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay. There is no

1 pending motions at this time?

2 MR. THOMPSON: No.

3 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Are there any pending  
4 confidential requests?

5 MR. THOMPSON: No, there are none pending at  
6 this moment.

7 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay. Staff?

8 MR. THOMPSON: So staff will prepare the  
9 Prehearing Order showing proposed Type 1 and Type 2  
10 stipulations as discussed. With briefs having been  
11 waived, the Commission may take a bench vote at  
12 next week's hearing.

13 Staff recommends that opening statements for  
14 next week's hearing be limited to three minutes per  
15 party.

16 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Are parties all  
17 agreeable with that?

18 MR. MEANS: Yes.

19 MS. WESSLING: Yes.

20 MS. EATON: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Okay. Any other matters  
22 for this prehearing conference?

23 MR. THOMPSON: None from staff.

24 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: All right. I want to  
25 thank everybody for your time and making sure this

1           is all nice and clean, clear.  If there is nothing  
2           else, any other matters, I say that this meeting is  
3           adjourned.

4                           (Proceedings concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

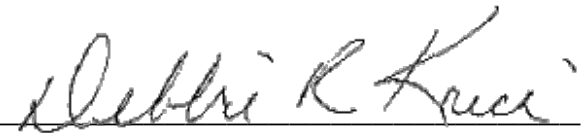
STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF LEON )

I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby  
certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the  
time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I  
stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the  
same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;  
and that this transcript constitutes a true  
transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,  
employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor  
am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'  
attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I  
financially interested in the action.

DATED this 8th day of May, 2024.

  
DEBRA R. KRICK  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
COMMISSION #HH31926  
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2024