

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

SIERRA CLUB, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW)
AND POLICY CENTER, PRAIRIE RIVERS)
NETWORK, and CITIZENS AGAINST) PCB 13-15
RUINING THE ENVIRONMENT,)
Complainants,)
vs.)
MIDWEST GENERATION, LLC,)
Respondent.)

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS held in the
above-entitled cause before HEARING OFFICER
BRADLEY P. HALLORAN, taken by Raelene Stamm, CSR,
Certified Shorthand Reporter licensed by the State
of Illinois, at 100 West Randolph Street, Chicago,
Illinois, on the 15th day of June, 2023, commencing
at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

Reported By: Raelene Stamm, CSR

License No.: 084-004445

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On behalf of the Respondent.

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ALSO PRESENT:

MS. DAGMARA AVELAR, Public Comment

MS. DESTINY ORTIZ, Public Comment

MS. ANN TAYLOR, Public Comment

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I N D E X

WITNESS	DX	CX	RDX	RCX
DR. BRIAN RICHARD				
By Ms. Gale	7			
By Ms. Bugel		37		
By Ms. Gale			71	

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E X H I B I T S

NUMBER	MARKED	ADMITTED
Respondent Exhibit		
No. 1801	8	13
No. 1802	13	79

1 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. We're on
2 the record. Good morning. My name is Bradley
3 Halloran. I'm a hearing officer with the Illinois
4 Pollution Control Board. This case is PCB 13-15.
5 It has been continued on record from yesterday
6 June 14, 2023. Today is June 15, 2023.

7 I want to note for the record our staff
8 attorney, Vanessa Horton, is here.

9 And I believe Miss Gale has her next
10 witness unless there's anything else we need to
11 talk about.

12 MS. GALE: No. We call Mr. -- or Dr. Brian
13 Richard.

14 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. Mr. Richard.
15 Dr. Richard or Mr.?

16 THE WITNESS: Mr. is fine.

17 (WHEREUPON, the witness was
18 duly sworn.)

19 BRIAN RICHARD,
20 called as a witness herein, having been first duly
21 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. GALE:

24 Q. Good morning.

1 A. Good morning.

2 Q. Dr. Richard, you've been retained in this
3 matter?

4 A. Yes, correct.

5 Q. For what purpose were you retained?

6 A. To estimate the economic value of the
7 power generation facilities of Midwest Generation
8 in Illinois.

9 Q. You have a small binder in front of you.
10 Can you open it up to the first exhibit that's been
11 marked for identification purposes as 1801?

12 A. Yes.

13 (WHEREUPON, Exhibit No. 1801 was
14 marked for identification.)

15 BY MS. GALE:

16 Q. What is Exhibit 1801?

17 A. My resume.

18 Q. Okay. And looking at the first part of
19 your resume, please tell us about your educational
20 background.

21 A. I have a Ph.D. in international
22 development, a master's degree in applied
23 economics, and a bachelor's degree in finance.

24 Q. And below your education you have a group

1 **entitled experience. What do you currently do?**

2 A. I'm part of a group called Center For
3 Governmental Studies at Illinois University, and we
4 do economic development and workforce development
5 analysis, evaluation, policy development in
6 primarily four state agencies.

7 **Q. What is your title?**

8 A. Assistant director.

9 **Q. And to confirm, where is this Center For**
10 **Governmental Studies?**

11 A. NIU is located in DeKalb. My office is
12 actually in downtown Chicago a couple blocks from
13 you.

14 **Q. And what does NIU stand for?**

15 A. Northern Illinois University.

16 **Q. How long have you been with NIU?**

17 A. Just over a decade.

18 **Q. And before joining NIU, where did you**
19 **work?**

20 A. At the University of Southern Mississippi
21 where I was a faculty member in a department that
22 had a master's degree program in economic
23 development and a Ph.D. program in human capital
24 development.

1 **Q. Do you have any additional certifications?**

2 A. Certification as an economic development
3 finance professional which is additional training
4 beyond kind of the academic work more focused on
5 economic development, financial analysis.

6 **Q. And I'm sorry. I didn't hear you.**

7 **Did you say an economic development**
8 **finance professional?**

9 A. Correct.

10 **Q. Thank you.**

11 **And do you have any additional training**
12 **beyond your education and certification?**

13 A. The IMPLAN economic model offers a two-day
14 workshop for people that operate their model. I
15 went through that training. So it just focuses on
16 the operation of the model making sure you
17 understand how to choose the inputs correctly, how
18 to interpret the outputs of the model, those sorts
19 of things.

20 **Q. And what is the IMPLAN model?**

21 A. IMPLAN is an acronym short for Impact
22 Analysis For Planning. So it's a way of estimating
23 the economic impacts of any sort of economic
24 activity, a factory, a retail operation, a service

1 industry, where it estimates based on the activity
2 of the facility its payroll, the things it
3 purchases in the local economy for their inputs,
4 what the overall economic activity.

5 So it estimates -- you know, the employees
6 are spending their money in the local economy, so
7 it estimates additional jobs that are created as
8 the employees buy groceries, they buy clothes, they
9 go to the movies. Estimate -- you know, if the
10 company itself, say, is purchasing inputs, office
11 supplies, other things, maintenance, industrial
12 maintenance, that puts additional money into the
13 local economy, and it estimates the jobs and income
14 that are created from those activities.

15 **Q. And what data sources does the IMPLAN**
16 **model include?**

17 A. It uses a variety of primarily data
18 sources that are produced by the federal
19 government, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the
20 Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Census Bureau. So
21 those are things like expenditure patterns of
22 businesses, what do businesses spend their money
23 on. Expenditure patterns of households, so how do
24 people spend their money in the local economy. And

1 it uses all of those as input into its model.

2 **Q. And who developed the IMPLAN model?**

3 A. It was originally developed by the
4 U.S. Forest Service to estimate impacts of
5 activities and eventually was taken over by a group
6 at the University of Minnesota who developed
7 further so it could be used more widely. And it
8 now operates, I believe, as a private nonprofit
9 company out of North Carolina. I think they
10 continue to update the data on a yearly basis and
11 make improvements.

12 **Q. And you use the IMPLAN model.**

13 **Who else uses the IMPLAN model?**

14 A. I believe it's the most commonly used
15 economic impact model in the country. Lots of
16 universities use it. State agencies use it.
17 Federal agencies use it. There are some other
18 models that do similar types of analysis, but it's
19 the most commonly used model.

20 **Q. And for the model, what inputs go into the**
21 **IMPLAN model?**

22 A. It needs a measure of the economic
23 activity of the facility that you're analyzing. So
24 how many employees do they have, what's the total

1 payroll, what's the total sales of the business
2 that you're analyzing, so just measures of the size
3 of the business.

4 MS. GALE: And, Mr. Hearing Officer, we move
5 for the admission of Exhibit 1801 which is
6 Dr. Richard's CV, and we also move to qualify
7 Dr. Richard's as an expert in economic value.

8 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Miss Bugel, any
9 objections.

10 MS. BUGEL: No objection to either motion.

11 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. So qualified,
12 and Exhibit 1801 is admitted.

13 (WHEREUPON, Exhibit No. 1801 was
14 admitted for the record.)

15 BY MS. GALE:

16 **Q. Dr. Richard, can you turn to the next tab**
17 **in the binder in front of you? You'll see a**
18 **document that's been identified as Exhibit 1802?**

19 A. Yes.

20 (WHEREUPON, Exhibit No. 1802 was
21 marked for identification.)

22 BY MS. GALE:

23 **Q. What is this document?**

24 A. This is the report I prepared that

1 estimates the economic impact of Midwest Generation
2 generating stations in Illinois.

3 (Reporter clarification.)

4 MS. BUGEL: And before we continue, I want to
5 note that our copy is missing Page 1.

6 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Are we on 1802.

7 MS. GALE: We are on 1802. It has been noted
8 that Page 1 is missing.

9 THE WITNESS: I have a copy in my folder back
10 there.

11 MS. GALE: Why don't you pull out the copy in
12 your folder that we can follow, and then we can
13 correct it when we take a break.

14 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: It looks like every
15 odd page is missing.

16 MS. GALE: That's what it appears to have been
17 copied as.

18 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.

19 MS. BUGEL: And can I ask if Mr. Richard has
20 any notations or anything written on his copy?

21 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Are we off the
22 record or you have to speak up.

23 MS. BUGEL: We can be off the record.

24 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. We're off the

1 record for now.

2 (WHEREUPON, a discussion was had
3 off the record.)

4 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. We're
5 back on the record.

6 BY MS. GALE:

7 Q. So we're gonna put your report on the
8 screen in a minute, and you have your report in
9 front of you?

10 A. I do, yes.

11 Q. Okay. So you touched upon this related to
12 the IMPLAN model, but generally speaking what does
13 an economic impact analysis of an industry
14 evaluate?

15 A. It estimates what's commonly called the
16 multiplier effect of economic activity. So, you
17 know, a business affects the economy by paying its
18 employees, by buying inputs in its production
19 process, and those have what they call multiplier
20 effects in the local economy. Those employees take
21 their paychecks, they purchase goods and services
22 in the local economy. They buys groceries,
23 clothes, go to the movies. And those purchases
24 create additional jobs, additional economic

1 activity.

2 Sometimes it's also referred as a ripple
3 effect as the money ripples through the economy.
4 And the same with the purchases of inputs by the
5 business. You know, maybe they have a landscaping
6 service that they purchase. They buy office
7 supplies. They buy, you know, whatever goods and
8 services that are needed to run their business, and
9 those activities then have impacts in the local
10 economy as those businesses pay their employees and
11 those employees spend their money in the local
12 economy.

13 **Q. And here for that economic impact**
14 **analysis, what did you use? What tool did you use?**

15 A. The IMPLAN input-output model.

16 **Q. And for the inputs for the IMPLAN model,**
17 **where did you obtain this information from?**

18 A. Midwest Generation provided their
19 employment numbers by ZIP code, so I knew the
20 location of where the employees were located and
21 the payroll figures for those employees.

22 **Q. Let's turn to Page 2 of your report. So**
23 **on Page 2 we have a few definitions of terms.**

24 **Dr. Richard, what is direct activity for**

1 **the purposes of an input-output analysis?**

2 A. That's the activity of the facility itself
3 or the business itself, its purchases and payroll.

4 **Q. And what is indirect activity?**

5 A. Indirect activity is economic activity
6 that results from the business buying goods and
7 services in local economy, their inputs in the
8 local economy.

9 **Q. And what are induced economic impacts?**

10 A. Induced impacts are those impacts from the
11 employees spending their money in the local
12 economy.

13 **Q. And what -- how does a multiplier work?**

14 **What's a multiplier?**

15 A. A multiplier is simply just the overall
16 activity, the direct, indirect and induced all
17 added together, divided by that original direct
18 activity. So it's just a way of kind of
19 summarizing the overall impact of this facility.

20 **Q. So back to Page 2, which is**

21 **MWG 13-15 underscore 82254.**

22 **When you wrote this opinion in April of**
23 **2021, how many employees did Midwest Generation**
24 **have?**

1 A. Just over 300, 303 employees.

2 **Q. And you said you had access to their**
3 **income as well?**

4 A. Correct. Overall it includes benefits, so
5 this is their pay plus the value of their benefits.

6 **Q. And how would you describe the salaries of**
7 **the Midwest Generation employees?**

8 A. These are well-paying jobs, well above
9 average pay for each of the regions or the state.

10 **Q. Let's turn to Page 3, Table 2. What is**
11 **depicted in Table 2?**

12 A. This is the overall statewide economic
13 impacts of all four Midwest Generation generating
14 stations, summarizes the employment, the labor
15 income which includes pay plus benefits. The value
16 added, this is a way of estimating or putting a
17 value on the overall economic activity. It's
18 similar to gross domestic product you hear about in
19 the news. And then output is like total sales of
20 all of the businesses in the regions, so four
21 different ways of presenting the impacts.

22 **Q. And just for clarification purposes, does**
23 **the statewide estimation include all of Midwest**
24 **Generation's employees, to your recollection?**

1 A. It does not. Some of their employees live
2 in Wisconsin, and so we excluded them from the
3 induced impacts because we were focused on the
4 impacts on the state of Illinois. And so we
5 recognizing that the Wisconsin based employees are
6 gonna spend most of their money in Wisconsin, we
7 excluded them from the estimates of the induced
8 economic impact. I should say I. I have a team of
9 seven, so I'm used to speaking -- but this is my
10 work personally.

11 **Q. Thank you.**

12 **Okay. So looking at Table 2, starting**
13 **with the second column under employment, you have**
14 **various rows there. What are those rows under**
15 **employment showing?**

16 A. So the direct impact is the employment at
17 the generating stations, 303 employees at the
18 generating stations. The indirect estimates that
19 488 additional jobs were generated across Illinois
20 based on the indirect impacts that the facilities
21 buying their inputs for their operations.

22 The induced impacts come from the
23 employees spending their incomes in the economy,
24 514 jobs across the state. And then the total is

1 simply those three -- first three rows added up, so
2 1305 total jobs.

3 **Q. And when you were going over this Table 2**
4 **did you notice a typographical error in the**
5 **multiplier?**

6 A. I did. The employment multiplier should
7 be 4.3. The output from this model comes out in a
8 very unattractive way, so I put it in an Excel
9 table. And I've double-checked every other number,
10 and every other number in the report is incorrect;
11 but that one somehow got transcribed incorrectly,
12 so that should be 4.3.

13 **Q. Thank you.**

14 **Looking at the next column of Table 2**
15 **which is entitled, Labor Income -- well, first of**
16 **all, labor income, you have an asterics there.**

17 **What is that asterics for?**

18 A. So this is just a way that -- so I can
19 show that we've adjusted those impacts based on
20 those employees that live outside of the state. So
21 we've excluded the Wisconsin based employees
22 from -- and there may have been one or two in
23 Indiana as well -- from the Will County area. So
24 any employee that lived outside of Illinois we've

1 excluded them from the induced impact.

2 **Q. Got it. And so under labor income, what**
3 **are those numbers showing?**

4 A. So the direct payroll, again, pay and
5 benefits at the generating stations is just over
6 51 million or was in 2020, \$51 million. The
7 indirect impacts, about \$34 million. So these are
8 the impact -- the labor income of those 488 jobs
9 that are created through the indirect impact.

10 Just over \$27 million for the induced
11 impacts, the 514 jobs created through the
12 514 induced jobs. And then for the total you just
13 add those three together. \$112.3 million in labor
14 income as a result of the operations of the
15 generating stations.

16 **Q. And then the next column is entitled,**
17 **Value Added, in Table 2. What does that depict?**

18 A. Value added is a measure of which I
19 believe is the best measure of economic impact of
20 an activity. It only includes the activity really
21 that stays within the region. So value added is
22 the payroll, any taxes that were paid, any income
23 profits from the operations that stay locally. So,
24 again, this is similar to gross domestic product

1 measure of the overall economy.

2 And so for the generating stations, the
3 direct impact in terms of value added is just over
4 \$170 million. Indirect from the facilities buying
5 goods and services in the local economy,
6 \$56.2 million, and then just under \$48 million for
7 the induced impact. So the total value added from
8 the operations of these facilities is just over
9 \$274 million.

10 **Q. So -- and then we have output.**

11 **What is output?**

12 A. Output is simply the total sales of each
13 facility, so essentially the revenue of the
14 generating stations or other businesses that are in
15 the indirect and induced -- and the reason this is
16 so much larger than the value added is that for a
17 lot of inputs that businesses buy, they buy them
18 from out of state.

19 So that's why they get -- it's not the
20 best measure of the economic impact of an activity,
21 but it's -- I think it's, on the other hand, the
22 easiest for people to understand. It's the total
23 sales of the businesses, so -- so for the direct
24 impacts of the generating stations 377.4 million,

1 about 99 million indirect from facilities buying
2 goods in the local economy, and then just under
3 79 million for the induced impacts for a total
4 output impact of over \$555 million statewide.

5 **Q. Next question, let's turn to the next**
6 **Page 4. So on Page 4 it's entitled, Powers and**
7 **Generating Stations. So in this report you looked**
8 **at statewide, and then what also did you look at?**

9 A. I looked at the impacts of each facility
10 on the local economy, the local region within the
11 state. For Joliet and Will County, I combined them
12 since they're both in the same county located just
13 a few miles from each other. So there's three, I
14 guess, regional economic impact analyses in the
15 rest of the report starting with Powerton.

16 **Q. And what county is Powerton in?**

17 A. Powerton is --

18 **Q. Or what region -- what regions do you look**
19 **at for Powerton?**

20 A. Yeah. So the way I constructed the
21 regions was looked at those commuting patterns and
22 tried to capture the county. So IMPLAN model, the
23 regions are all built on counties, so capture the
24 counties with the majority of the employee.

1 So 84 percent of the employees at Powerton
2 live in Mason, Peoria, or Tazewell County, so that
3 was the region that was used for Powerton.

4 **Q. Got it. Thank you.**

5 A. Let me correct that. Fulton and Woodford
6 counties were also included, so the five-county
7 region.

8 **Q. Thank you.**

9 **Okay. So looking at Table 3, what does**
10 **Table 3 depict?**

11 A. These are the same metrics we discussed
12 for the statewide impacts for the Powerton
13 Generating Station alone on those five counties.

14 **Q. Got it. And so for those five counties,**
15 **under the IMPLAN model what were the employment**
16 **numbers?**

17 A. So 113 employees at the Powerton facility
18 in 2020, so those are the direct impacts.
19 191 indirect resulting from the facility buying
20 goods and services in the region. Employees
21 spending the induced impacts generated another
22 138 jobs for a total of 442 jobs. That's what we
23 call the employment impact of Powerton Generating
24 Station.

1 Q. And I think when we talk labor income, I'm
2 just gonna have you go to -- for labor income for
3 the employees in the Powerton region, the five
4 counties, what was the total labor income for the
5 region?

6 A. About 19.7 million. For the direct
7 overall 13 -- 32.9 million.

8 Q. Right. Similarly, for the five counties
9 in the Powerton region, what was the -- what was
10 the direct value added and the total value added
11 for the Powerton region?

12 A. About 62.3 million direct value added, in
13 total 84, just over \$84.1 million.

14 Q. And, finally, what was the total output
15 for the Powerton region from the Powerton station?

16 A. Total output \$186.3 million total output
17 resulting from Powerton Generating Station.

18 Q. If you turn to Page 5 of your report -- if
19 you turn to Page 5 of your report, what are you
20 showing here?

21 A. So these are the property taxes paid by
22 Midwest Generation for this facility, and these
23 figures come from the tax assessor's office. These
24 are some of the impact -- the indirect and induced

1 impacts are estimated. These are actual taxes paid
2 by the facility in 2019 which was the most recent
3 data available at the time of the report.

4 **Q. And where did you get this information?**

5 A. The Tazewell County Tax Assessor's Office.
6 It's publicly available.

7 **Q. And why was this important for your**
8 **evaluation?**

9 A. This is just another way of showing the
10 impacts of a facility on the local economy. IMPLAN
11 does estimate tax revenues, but it's more accurate
12 to get the actual figures from the taxing
13 authorities.

14 **Q. Dr. Richard, to your knowledge is the**
15 **Powerton Generating Station continuing to operate?**

16 A. Yes, to my knowledge.

17 **Q. And to your knowledge it continues to have**
18 **employees?**

19 A. Yes.

20 **Q. And so as it continues to employ people,**
21 **will the station still create economic and labor**
22 **impacts?**

23 A. Yes.

24 **Q. And if it continues to produce goods or**

1 **services, what type of value added economic impact**
2 **will it have?**

3 A. As long as it continues to operate at a
4 similar level as it did in 2020, the total economic
5 impacts will be similar.

6 **Q. Thank you.**

7 I want to turn to the next -- well, no.
8 We'll stay on this page. We have -- we're moving
9 down to the next section of your report under
10 Joliet Generating Station and Will County
11 Generating Station.

12 I believe you touched upon this, but just
13 to make the record clear, why did you group these
14 two stations together?

15 A. A couple of reasons. First, they are very
16 close. They're only 12 miles apart, and so it's
17 not really possible to disentangle the impacts.
18 Also, the IMPLAN model -- regions are county based,
19 so we can't do subcounty analysis. So it just made
20 sense to combine them and look at the overall --
21 the regions would have been the same for the two
22 stations, so we just -- I just combined them and
23 did the analysis on the two combined.

24 **Q. And what were -- what was the region for**

1 **the Joliet station and the Will County station?**

2 **If you look at the second paragraph, last**
3 **or second to last sentence in the paragraph under**
4 **Joliet --**

5 A. Oh, yes. Will, Kendall, Cook and DuPage
6 Counties.

7 **Q. Thank you.**

8 A. Yeah. Here's another example where they
9 have some employees out of state. Five lived in
10 Indiana, so we exclude those.

11 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Speak up,
12 Dr. Richard.

13 THE WITNESS: Yes.

14 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.

15 BY MS. GALE:

16 **Q. And we turn to the next page, and we'll**
17 **look at Table 5 of your report.**

18 **What is this depicting here?**

19 A. Yeah. Just like the other tables, this is
20 the summary of economic activities for the combined
21 generating stations of Joliet and Will County
22 depicting employment labor income, value added and
23 output.

24 **Q. And what were the total employees at the**

1 two stations when you created your report?

2 A. 107 direct employees.

3 Q. So what were the total employment of those
4 107 employees upon the region?

5 A. 435.

6 Q. And the next column, again I see you have
7 an asteric there, and I think you touched upon it.

8 What does that asterics mean?

9 A. Again, some of the employees live outside
10 the region of the four -- in this case outside of
11 that four-county region, and so we -- I excluded
12 those from the induced impacts.

13 Q. And so of the two generating stations,
14 what was the labor -- what was the direct labor
15 income of the two generating stations together?

16 A. About 17 and a half million dollars.

17 Q. And what was the total labor income of the
18 two stations together upon the entire region?

19 A. Total labor income was about
20 \$39.8 million.

21 Q. And looking at the next column under value
22 added, what was the direct value added of the
23 employees of the two stations?

24 A. About \$62.7 million.

1 **Q. And what was the total value added of**
2 **those two stations upon the entire region?**

3 A. About \$99.2 million.

4 **Q. And, finally, similarly under the output,**
5 **what was the direct output of the employees of the**
6 **two stations upon the region?**

7 A. \$141.4 million with just over \$200 million
8 in total output.

9 **Q. And again you have on the same page a**
10 **local tax revenue estimates. What is this showing?**

11 A. These are the taxes paid by each facility
12 to the various local property taxing bodies.
13 Again, obtained from the local tax assessor's
14 office.

15 **Q. And, similarly, why was this important to**
16 **your opinion?**

17 A. It's another way of showing its importance
18 in the local economy.

19 **Q. So to your understanding do you know the**
20 **status of the Will County station?**

21 A. I believe Will County has ceased producing
22 power.

23 **Q. But what is your understanding of the**
24 **future of the Will County station?**

1 A. I understand that it will be converted to
2 a power storage facility.

3 **Q. And assuming it continues operating as a**
4 **power storage facility, what is your understanding**
5 **of that -- whether they'll employ people there?**

6 A. They will still need to employ people to
7 run the facility, yes.

8 **Q. So and as it continues to operate as a**
9 **power storage facility with employees, what impact**
10 **or what type of impact will that create on the**
11 **employment and labor economic impact on the**
12 **regions?**

13 A. I can't speak to what the numbers will be.
14 I haven't done that analysis. But as long as they
15 continue to operate, have revenue, have employees,
16 they will have some level of economic impact.

17 **Q. And similarly with Joliet 29, if it**
18 **continues to operate and have employees, what type**
19 **of economic impact will it have?**

20 A. If it continues to operate at a similar
21 level to what it was in 2020, it will have a
22 similar economic impact going forward.

23 **Q. I'm gonna turn to the Waukegan station.**
24 **Here we're looking at the Waukegan Generating**

1 **Station.**

2 **And what do you describe here on Page 5 of**
3 **your report?**

4 A. Yeah. Similar to the others, this is the
5 economic impacts of the Waukegan Generating Station
6 on its local region. In this case the local region
7 was the Lake, Cook and McHenry Counties.

8 **Q. Thank you.**

9 **Let's turn to the next page. Looking at**
10 **Table 5, what is depicted in -- I'm sorry, not**
11 **Table 5. Table 8, what is depicted in Table 8?**

12 A. Scroll up one page. Yeah.

13 So similar to the other tables, the
14 employment labor income, value added and output
15 impacts of the Waukegan Generating Station on that
16 three-county region.

17 **Q. I actually want to go back. I think you**
18 **said earlier that the region was Lake, Cook and**
19 **McHenry County. If you look in the top paragraph,**
20 **how many employees lived out of state?**

21 A. 28 out of the 83 lived in Wisconsin.

22 **Q. And so were they included in your analysis**
23 **here?**

24 A. Not the Wisconsin employees. If you

1 compare this table to some of the others, the
2 induced labor income impacts is considerably
3 smaller relative to the other numbers, and so
4 that's where you really see the impacts of those
5 employees being excluded from the induced impacts.

6 **Q. But if they're excluded from the induced**
7 **impacts in the state of Illinois, do they have any**
8 **impacts?**

9 A. They have impacts on Wisconsin, yes. My
10 analysis was limited to Illinois, so yeah. And all
11 of these activities probably have nationwide
12 impacts as, you know, people go on vacations and
13 things and spend their money in other states. So
14 we just focus -- I just focused on Illinois, the
15 impacts on Illinois.

16 **Q. Back to Table 8, when you wrote this**
17 **opinion how many employees were working at the**
18 **Waukegan Generating Station?**

19 A. 83 employees.

20 **Q. And in Table 8, what was the total**
21 **employment impact of the Waukegan station?**

22 A. 299.

23 **Q. And the next column under labor income,**
24 **what was the direct labor income of the employees**

1 at the Waukegan station?

2 A. \$14.1 million.

3 Q. And what was the total labor income of the
4 Waukegan station?

5 A. \$28.6 million.

6 Q. And then under value added, what was the
7 direct value added of the Waukegan employees in the
8 Waukegan -- in the region of the Waukegan station?

9 A. \$56.7 million.

10 Q. And what was the total value added?

11 A. \$79.3 million.

12 Q. And, finally, what was the output of the
13 Waukegan employees in the Waukegan region?

14 A. Output of the facility -- generating
15 facility, almost \$123.5 million with a total output
16 impact of \$160.6 million.

17 Q. Turning to the last page or, excuse me,
18 the next page, what is the local tax revenue
19 estimates?

20 A. They paid \$560,000 in property taxes in
21 2019.

22 Q. And, again, similar to the other stations,
23 why was this important for your analysis?

24 A. It shows the impacts on the local

1 governments as a result of the facility.

2 **Q. And what was your understanding of the**
3 **status of the Waukegan station today?**

4 A. It has ceased operations as a coal-fired
5 plant, and I believe there are plans to also make
6 that a power storage facility.

7 **Q. And as a power storage facility, assume --**
8 **which will have employees, what will the impacts**
9 **be -- generally speaking, what will the impacts be**
10 **of the employment and labor economic impacts of**
11 **Waukegan station?**

12 A. Depending on the level of employment, it
13 will also have, you know, these multiplier effects
14 in the local economy. So it will have some level
15 of employment labor income and value added impact
16 on the local economy depending on the level of
17 employment.

18 **Q. And are you -- well, you're aware that the**
19 **Waukegan station still generates energy using**
20 **peaker units?**

21 A. Yes, there are --

22 (Reporter clarification.)

23 BY MS. GALE:

24 **Q. I'm sorry. Finish your sentence.**

1 A. Yes. I'm aware that there are peaker
2 units there.

3 **Q. So it'll have -- peaker units --**

4 A. Those -- the operation of those will have
5 some level of economic impact as well.

6 **Q. So in sum, what is your opinion of the**
7 **Midwest Generation stations as it relates to**
8 **economic impact statewide and for each of the**
9 **regions?**

10 A. I guess I just summarized the overall
11 impacts. It generates hundreds of jobs in Illinois
12 with millions of dollars of labor income and value
13 added in the economy.

14 **Q. Will those -- I mean, as employment**
15 **numbers change, what'll happen?**

16 A. If employment numbers -- if the economic
17 activity changes, the overall economic impact
18 changes. If there's fewer employees, there's
19 fewer -- less labor income going into the economy.
20 If there's more, there's more labor income.

21 MS. GALE: Mr. Hearing Officer, we are
22 collecting correct copies of Exhibit 1801 to
23 replace what we have in here. 1802, excuse me,
24 sir, 1802, and they're on their way.

1 I would move for the admission of the
2 correct copy of Exhibit 1802, and we can wait for
3 your ruling on that.

4 MS. BUGEL: We would like to reserve our
5 objections until we see the copy.

6 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yeah. We have to
7 kind of see what it --

8 MS. GALE: Yeah, that's fair.

9 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: So I assume you're
10 finished with direct, Miss Gale.

11 MS. GALE: Yes.

12 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.

13 Miss Bugel.

14 MS. BUGEL: We're ready.

15 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. Thank you.

16 You may start when you you're ready.

17 MS. BUGEL: Thank you.

18 CROSS-EXAMINATION

19 BY MS. BUGEL:

20 Q. Dr. Richard, I'm Faith Bugel representing
21 Sierra Club. You and I met --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- by Zoom in a deposition.

24 A. Yes.

1 Q. So we talked a little bit about other
2 projects that you did in your deposition. I just
3 want to ask a couple questions.

4 You had analyzed the economic impact of a
5 nuclear energy project once, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. But you have not analyzed the economic
8 impact of any existing coal-fired power plant prior
9 to this report, correct?

10 A. I've analyzed the potential economic
11 impact of a proposed generating facility.

12 Q. And was that just one project that you did
13 on a proposed plant?

14 A. Yes. That was -- there was just one
15 project on that plant. I've done dozens of
16 economic impact studies over my career, so . . .

17 Q. But never before on existing coal-fired
18 power plants, correct?

19 A. Not on that type of activity specifically.

20 Q. And when you say that type of activity
21 specifically, you're referring to existing
22 coal-fired power plants?

23 A. Correct. Yes.

24 Q. And I just want to run through the data

1 inputs into your analysis.

2 Your report is based on data for Midwest
3 Generation's employment numbers, correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And it's also based on data for Midwest
6 Generation's payroll numbers, correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And by payroll numbers, I'm referring to
9 how much they pay their employees.

10 A. Including benefits, yes.

11 Q. Including benefits.

12 A. Correct. Yes.

13 Q. And your report is based on data for the
14 value of the power produced by the Midwest
15 Generation plants, correct?

16 A. That would be the estimate of the output.

17 Q. And your report is also based on the
18 residential information for the employees, correct?

19 A. I was provided with the ZIP code of where
20 each employee lives, correct. Yes.

21 Q. And then when you use the IMPLAN modeling
22 application, is it accurate to say that there's
23 data embedded in that IMPLAN modeling?

24 A. Yes.

1 **Q. And do those five categories we just**
2 **covered cover all the data that went into your**
3 **analysis?**

4 A. That I entered into or that is included in
5 the model?

6 **Q. Both. Does that --**

7 A. Well, the model has data included in it,
8 things like expenditure patterns of households and
9 businesses that are embedded in the model that I
10 don't need to enter.

11 **Q. Right.**

12 A. Yeah.

13 **Q. So I just want to understand that between**
14 **the questions I asked you about what you put in**
15 **plus what is in the model --**

16 A. Yeah.

17 **Q. -- that is the universe of data that went**
18 **into the whole analysis, correct?**

19 A. Yes.

20 **Q. And with the exception of what is embedded**
21 **in the modeling application, all of the inputs --**
22 **all of the other inputs came from Midwest**
23 **Generation, correct?**

24 A. Correct.

1 Q. And you didn't attempt to gather this
2 information from anywhere else, correct?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And you didn't consider any other data
5 sources, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And you didn't independently verify any of
8 the information that Midwest Gen gave you?

9 A. No, I did not.

10 Q. And can you tell me, is it possible for an
11 economic impact analysis to include more impacts in
12 terms of -- let me rephrase that question.

13 Is it possible for an economic impact
14 analysis to include more than just these impacts
15 that we've discussed or that -- strike that.

16 Okay. Let me refer you to a page number,
17 Page 2 of your report, second paragraph. And what
18 I'm trying to understand is whether it's possible
19 for an economic impact analysis to include more
20 impacts than just the value of the product,
21 employment and personal income.

22 A. You mean more metrics?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. I guess I'm not sure what other metrics

1 you would be looking at. Some models will estimate
2 things like migration. Say you're evaluating a
3 proposed facility, a big, new proposed facility, it
4 will estimate how many people will move into the
5 region to take the jobs there. So that might be an
6 example.

7 **Q. I think in your direct testimony you may**
8 **have mentioned another example which is if people**
9 **go on vacation and go outside the region?**

10 A. Correct.

11 **Q. Then they take their money elsewhere?**

12 A. Yeah.

13 **Q. And that's something that wasn't included**
14 **in your model?**

15 A. Expenditure patterns include those types
16 of expenditures. So the model estimates -- you
17 know, it's impossible to estimate what an
18 individual -- what they're gonna spend, but it's
19 quite easy to estimate what a thousand people are
20 gonna spend in aggregate.

21 And so they use that type of data,
22 consumer expenditure survey data, where they know
23 on average people are gonna spend 5 percent of
24 their income going on vacations outside of their

1 region. And so the model takes that into account,
2 and that money leaves the region and is not part of
3 the impacts of the local economy.

4 **Q. And do you recall in your deposition you**
5 **and I had a conversation about externalities?**

6 A. Yes.

7 **Q. Do you have an understanding of**
8 **externalities?**

9 A. In basic terms, yes.

10 **Q. What's your understanding?**

11 A. It might be impacts that are not -- that a
12 facility is not directly, say, compensated for or
13 charged for. So that -- I don't know. Maybe an
14 example is a damn that's built for power
15 generation. Some externalities might be, well, it
16 harms fisheries, but it also provides recreational
17 opportunities for boaters and things, so -- but the
18 damn does not pay or receive for those benefits and
19 costs.

20 **Q. And externalities can include positive**
21 **things?**

22 A. Correct.

23 **Q. Yes?**

24 A. Yes.

1 Q. And the -- one of the examples that I've
2 always used to define it is some somebody buys
3 flowers, plants them in front of their house, but
4 everybody walking by gets the benefit of seeing the
5 flowers --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So that's a good example of externalities?

10 A. Yes. They don't pay to enjoy the flowers.

11 Q. Just to confirm, your analysis -- in your
12 analysis economic activity is measured by dollars,
13 correct?

14 A. Correct. Correct.

15 Q. And it included payroll?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And it included the value of the power
18 produced?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And the value of the jobs supported in the
21 region?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And all those are measured in dollars?

24 A. Yes.

1 Q. And externalities are -- is it accurate to
2 say externalities are harder to measure in dollars?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. But it's not impossible to measure
5 externalities in dollars, correct?

6 MS. GALE: Objection, speculative and vague.

7 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Overruled. He can
8 answer if he's able.

9 THE WITNESS: I'm generally aware of ways to
10 try to estimate the value of externalities.

11 BY MS. BUGEL:

12 Q. And in the examples we were talking about,
13 externalities can have a positive effect like the
14 flowers, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And externalities can also have a negative
17 effect, and I think you mentioned a damn that might
18 impact fisheries --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- correct?

21 And economic value can be positive, right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. But economic value can also be negative,
24 right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Something -- something that costs people
3 money --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- is a negative economic impact, right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did your report consider any of the
8 economic impacts caused by pollution?

9 A. It did not. The model only evaluates
10 flows of dollars, so . . .

11 Q. So your report also did not evaluate any
12 of the benefit that were -- would occur if
13 pollution was reduced, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And potable water has an economic value
16 that can be quantified, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And if potable water were impacted in a
19 way that it was no longer drinking water, that can
20 be quantified as well, correct?

21 MS. GALE: Objection to the hypothetical,
22 evidence, excuse me, facts not in evidence.

23 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I think it's fair
24 game. I think she can ask these questions of

1 Dr. Richard, but you may proceed.

2 You may answer, Dr. Richard, if you're
3 able.

4 THE WITNESS: We're getting outside of my area
5 of expertise. And maybe this is similar to
6 externalities in that -- as long as there is some
7 potable water available to a community -- again, I
8 don't know if we're talking about all of the water
9 in the region or just a portion of the water in the
10 region. Scarcity plays into this as well, so . . .

11 BY MS. BUGEL:

12 Q. Would you agree that potable water being
13 rendered unusable is an externality?

14 A. Yes. Excuse me, yes.

15 Q. And if -- you know, this is a
16 hypothetical, but if you had a community where
17 there were insufficient potable water and they had
18 to buy drinking water from elsewhere, that's an
19 example of how potable water -- the value of
20 potable water could be quantified?

21 MS. GALE: Mr. Hearing Officer, I'm gonna
22 object again. He just said we're going outside his
23 expert opinion, and this is beyond the scope of my
24 direct.

1 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yeah. I'm not real
2 concerned. I usually give both parties a lot of
3 latitude. If he can answer, he's able, but if it's
4 beyond his scope of expertise, then Dr. Richard can
5 say so. But how much more are you gonna be asking
6 these questions?

7 MS. BUGEL: This is the last one on this line.

8 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. Dr. Richard,
9 if you're able to answer, if you remember the
10 question.

11 THE WITNESS: Could you repeat, please?

12 MS. BUGEL: Can I have the court reporter read
13 it back?

14 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sure. Thank you.

15 (WHEREUPON, the record was read
16 as requested.)

17 THE WITNESS: Presumably there's a cost to
18 bringing that water in from outside of the region.
19 If they didn't have enough water, then, yeah, that
20 would be a cost. Yes.

21 BY MS. BUGEL:

22 **Q. And did your report consider any impacts**
23 **caused by groundwater contamination found at the**
24 **Powerton Generating Station?**

1 A. It did not. There were no dollar flows.

2 Q. And did your report consider any of the
3 impacts caused by groundwater contamination found
4 at the Waukegan station?

5 A. It did not.

6 Q. And did your report consider any impacts
7 caused by groundwater contamination found at the
8 Will County Generating Station?

9 A. It did not. Again, there was no flows of
10 dollars.

11 Q. And did your report consider any impacts
12 caused by groundwater contamination found at the
13 Joliet 29 Generating Station?

14 A. It did not.

15 Q. And I'd like to turn to Page 1 of your
16 report, and I am looking at the second paragraph
17 and the third sentence. Your report here says, the
18 study will focus on the direct, indirect and
19 induced impacts which result from the operations of
20 the generating stations.

21 Did I read that correctly?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And are you familiar with coal ash ponds
24 at all?

1 A. Generally, yes.

2 Q. Can you tell me what your understanding of
3 a coal ash pond is?

4 A. It's a place to store the coal ash that
5 results from the generation of power.

6 Q. And looking back at this sentence here, it
7 finishes with the operations of generating
8 stations. Do the operations of generating stations
9 include the operations of coal ash ponds?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And do the operations of generating
12 stations include the maintenance of coal ash ponds?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So if a coal ash pond at a generating
15 station were to contaminate groundwater, would that
16 be an indirect impact of the operation of the
17 generating station?

18 MS. GALE: Objection, beyond the scope of my
19 direct and outside his expertise.

20 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Well, he hasn't said
21 it was outside his expertise yet, so that's
22 speculation, but, yeah.

23 A lot of this stuff is outside direct,
24 Miss Bugel. You know, do you have a response?

1 MS. BUGEL: Yes. The report and the direct is
2 all about the operations of these stations and what
3 is indirect, induced and direct impacts. I am
4 trying to find out what falls within the
5 category -- the categories that he used.

6 MS. GALE: May I respond?

7 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes, you may.

8 MS. GALE: His report as he explained quite
9 clearly is about the economy value of the
10 operations of these generation stations. He
11 responded to questions earlier that I rely upon
12 dollar signs. Her questions are unrelated to my
13 direct which is about the employment numbers and
14 the dollar signs.

15 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yeah.

16 You know, I gave you latitude, and it
17 seems like this is far beyond direct, and with each
18 question it gets farther beyond direct.

19 MS. BUGEL: Okay. I can move on.

20 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. Thank
21 you, Miss Bugel.

22 BY MS. BUGEL:

23 **Q. So in your opinion can negative**
24 **externalities detract from the total value of a**

1 **facility that is subject to an economic impact**
2 **analysis?**

3 A. Again, externalities, there are not dollar
4 flows associated with them. My analysis is based
5 on the dollar flows that occur related to the
6 facilities.

7 **Q. If externalities were quantified in terms**
8 **of dollars, could they be -- could they detract**
9 **from the total value of a facility that is subject**
10 **to an economic impact analysis?**

11 A. I think it's a separate issue. Again,
12 there are no dollar flows from that. It's a
13 different way of looking at value.

14 **Q. Okay. Moving on, I want to talk a little**
15 **bit specifically -- more specifically about the**
16 **actual stations.**

17 **So just to confirm, your analysis for the**
18 **Waukegan station for your report took place prior**
19 **to April of 2021, correct?**

20 A. Correct.

21 **Q. And you have not updated your analysis of**
22 **Waukegan since then, correct?**

23 A. Correct.

24 **Q. And you were aware that the -- at the time**

1 of writing your report, you were aware that the
2 operations at the Waukegan plant were going to
3 change, correct?

4 A. I don't recall being aware of that at the
5 time.

6 Q. And but now you're aware that the Waukegan
7 plant ceased operations of its coal-fired units in
8 2022, correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And currently it only operates peaker
11 units. Are you aware of that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Are you aware that retiring the coal units
14 impacted the number of people employed at Waukegan?

15 A. I'm aware that that's possible, but I'm
16 not aware of the scale of that.

17 Q. So your analysis doesn't account for the
18 coal units retiring, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And reduced employment at Waukegan would
21 have an impact on payroll, correct?

22 A. If employment is reduced, payroll is
23 reduced, yes.

24 Q. And reduced payroll at Waukegan would

1 affect the amount of money directed to the local
2 economy, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And changes in the amount of money
5 directed to the local economy would affect the
6 amount of money that supports jobs outside the
7 plant, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. And basically reduced employment at
10 Waukegan would result in fewer jobs outside the
11 plant supported, correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Also, if there is reduced production from
14 a coal-fired power plant, is there reduced value
15 added?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And I want to look at Table 2 in your
18 report. So looking at the upper left box where
19 direct and employment intersect, the figure that
20 appears there is 113, correct?

21 Oh, I'm sorry. I'm looking at Table 3.
22 Well, that's -- Table 2 is on my computer. Okay.
23 That's better.

24 Same Table 2, same box, there's a place

1 where direct and employment intersect. And the
2 number that appears there is 303, right?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Okay. And if Midwest Gen retires coal
5 units and that causes a reduced employment at that
6 plant, the number that appears in this box would be
7 incorrect, right?

8 A. That represents the employment as of 2020.
9 So if it's changed since then, that number changed.

10 Q. And if employment is reduced since 2020,
11 that number would also be reduced, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And, similarly, if that number 303 is
14 reduced, then labor income in the next box to the
15 right would be reduced as well, correct?

16 A. Yeah. If average pay levels remain the
17 same for the fewer number of employees, yes, labor
18 income would be reduced.

19 Q. And if retirement affects production, then
20 value added would similarly be affected, correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And then that final box of output, direct
23 output, if all those other numbers are reduced,
24 that final number --

1 A. Correct. They're all --

2 (Reporter clarification.)

3 THE WITNESS: All the numbers are related. So
4 typically if one goes down, they all go down.

5 BY MS. BUGEL:

6 **Q. And do you have an understanding of**
7 **whether the retirement of coal units at Waukegan**
8 **would affect local property tax revenues?**

9 MS. GALE: Objection, outside the scope of his
10 expertise.

11 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Miss Bugel.

12 MS. BUGEL: He has property tax in his report.

13 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I agree. Overruled.

14 THE WITNESS: Property taxes are based on the
15 value that the local tax assessor puts on the
16 facility. So if the tax assessor changes the value
17 put on the property, then the property taxes
18 change.

19 BY MS. BUGEL:

20 **Q. I want to turn to Will County now. And,**
21 **similarly, your analysis for the Will County plant**
22 **took place prior to April of 2021, correct?**

23 A. Correct.

24 MS. GALE: I object to the extent that his

1 analysis was for both plants at the same time, so
2 mischaracterizes his analysis.

3 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Miss Bugel.

4 MS. BUGEL: I believe that in the report
5 they're put together, but the actual analysis takes
6 figures from the individual plant. The inputs are
7 figures from the individual plant.

8 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I'm sorry to do this
9 to you. Could you read the initial question back
10 from Miss Bugel?

11 (WHEREUPON, the record was read
12 as requested.)

13 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I think it's a
14 legitimate question. Overruled.

15 You may answer, sir.

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, this was as of 2020.

17 BY MS. BUGEL:

18 Q. And I'll make my question about the
19 inputs, just to be clear.

20 You have not updated the inputs for the
21 Will County plant since April of 2021, correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And are you aware that the operations at
24 the Will County plant changed since April of 2021?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you're aware that Will County ceased
3 operations of its one remaining coal-fired unit in
4 2022?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And now the plant is no longer operating?

7 MS. GALE: Objection, mischaracterizes facts in
8 evidence.

9 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Miss Bugel.

10 MS. BUGEL: I'll rephrase.

11 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.

12 BY MS. BUGEL:

13 Q. And now coal-fired operations at the plant
14 no longer continue?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And are you aware that retiring the coal
17 unit had an impact on the number of people employed
18 at Will County?

19 A. I'm aware that it could have, but I'm not
20 aware of the extent.

21 Q. And the analysis in your report does not
22 account for the Will County coal unit retiring,
23 correct?

24 A. Correct.

1 Q. And I want to turn to Page 2 of your
2 report, Table 1. The entry for Will County --
3 thank you. I've got it right here. Thanks.

4 The entry for Will County that says 53,
5 does that reflect current Will County employment?

6 A. That was as of 2020.

7 Q. And I think I skipped this for Waukegan.
8 I just want to look up one cell.

9 Looking at the entry for Waukegan that
10 says 83, that doesn't affect current employment at
11 Waukegan, correct?

12 A. That was employment as of 2020.

13 Q. And reduced employment at Will County
14 would have an impact on payroll?

15 A. Correct. If average payroll stayed the
16 same, yes. Fewer jobs, lower payroll, yes.

17 Q. And if payroll were reduced, that would
18 affect the amount of money directed to the local
19 economy, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And changes in the amount of money
22 directed to the local economy would affect the
23 amount of money that supports jobs outside the
24 plant, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And reduced -- so reduced employment at
3 the Will County plant would result in fewer jobs
4 outside the station supported, correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And reduced production from the Will
7 County plant would result in reduced value added,
8 correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And if there were no production from the
11 Will County plant, there would be no value added,
12 correct?

13 A. If there's no power production, there's no
14 value added from power production. Yes.

15 Q. And I just want to ask you, do you have an
16 understanding of whether the Will County retirement
17 of its coal units would have an effect on local
18 property tax revenues?

19 A. Again, that -- it's up to the tax assessor
20 to determine the value for tax purposes.

21 Q. And turning to Joliet, the inputs for the
22 Joliet plant for your report were based on data
23 provided prior to April of 2021, correct?

24 A. Correct.

1 **Q. And are you aware that operations at the**
2 **Joliet plant are potentially changing in September**
3 **of 2023?**

4 **A. I don't know specifics. I think maybe**
5 **I've heard something, but not --**

6 **Q. What have you heard?**

7 **A. I don't -- about Joliet?**

8 **Q. Yeah.**

9 **A. I don't recall any specifics about that.**

10 **Q. If units at the Joliet plant retire in**
11 **2021 -- I'm sorry. Strike that.**

12 **If units at the Joliet plant retire in**
13 **2023, do you have an understanding of whether that**
14 **will impact employment at the station?**

15 **A. If -- yeah. If economic activity changes,**
16 **presumably employment will change.**

17 **Q. And your analysis -- let me rephrase that.**

18 **Your inputs for Joliet don't account for**
19 **any potential upcoming retirements at the plant,**
20 **correct?**

21 **A. Correct.**

22 **Q. And if retirement of units at the Joliet**
23 **plant led to no production from the plant, there**
24 **would be no value added, correct?**

1 A. If there's no production of electricity,
2 there's no value added from production of
3 electricity.

4 Q. Okay. And I just want to turn to Table 1
5 again, Page 2. The entry for Joliet of
6 54 employees, does that account for any upcoming
7 unit retirements at the plant?

8 A. No. It's labeled as 2020, so it's
9 employment as of 2020.

10 Q. And I want to look at Table 2 and the
11 number -- the total number of 303. Does that
12 represent 2023 Midwest Gen employment numbers?

13 A. It does not.

14 Q. And so below the entry 303, there's an
15 entry for indirect of 488. And can you refresh my
16 memory of what indirect represents?

17 A. Indirect jobs are those that are created
18 by the facility's spending in the regional economy
19 for their inputs.

20 Q. Okay. So if Midwest Generation retired
21 units, that would lead to reduced purchasing of
22 inputs?

23 MS. GALE: Objection, asked and answered. I
24 think we've gone through this four times now.

1 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sustained.

2 BY MS. BUGEL:

3 Q. Okay. So if there's reduced purchasing of
4 inputs, would that affect the employment numbers in
5 the indirect box?

6 MS. GALE: Same objection, asked and answered.

7 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Miss Bugel.

8 MS. BUGEL: I honestly think that some of these
9 are phrased slightly differently.

10 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Overruled.

11 You may answer if you're able to,
12 Dr. Richard.

13 THE WITNESS: Could you repeat the question,
14 please?

15 BY MS. BUGEL:

16 Q. So my question is whether -- if there is
17 reduced purchasing of inputs, that would affect the
18 employment number in the indirect box on Table 2,
19 correct?

20 MS. GALE: Same objection, asked and answered.

21 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Overruled.

22 THE WITNESS: Yes. If the facilities are
23 spending less in the local economy, the indirect
24 impacts would be reduced.

1 BY MS. BUGEL:

2 Q. And can you tell me what does induced
3 represent?

4 A. That's the effects of the employees
5 spending their income in the regional economy.

6 Q. And if retirement of Midwest Generation
7 units led to less employment, then the number
8 514 for induced employment would not be correct,
9 right?

10 MS. GALE: Objection, asked and answered.
11 We've gone through all four stations on this.

12 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yeah. Miss Bugel,
13 you've been asking these type of questions for
14 quite sometime, and you might phrase them a little
15 differently, but it's the same question.

16 MS. BUGEL: Hearing Officer, it's not the same
17 question. I asked it individually for the
18 stations, but this chart puts everything together.

19 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Well, it is.

20 I disagree, but you may answer
21 Dr. Richard, if you can.

22 THE WITNESS: If there's less labor income from
23 employment at the facility, the induced impacts
24 will be reduced.

1 BY MS. BUGEL:

2 Q. Okay. And presumably that would have an
3 effect on the total?

4 A. That's just addition, yes. If any number
5 is lower, then the total is lower.

6 Q. And how would that affect the multiplier
7 that appears in this table?

8 A. It depends. So impacts have different --
9 the indirect impacts are somewhat different from
10 the induced impacts. So it's possible the
11 multiplier could even go up if the employment
12 numbers go down, so . . .

13 Q. And Miss Gale asked you about the future
14 of Will County. Do you recall that?

15 A. I believe so, yes.

16 Q. And you two talked about power storage at
17 Will County?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And how presumably power storage will lead
20 to employment at Will County?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I just want to establish, you don't know
23 the employment figures for future power storage at
24 Will County, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And you said presumably that would lead to
3 some level of economic activity, I'm sorry,
4 economic impact?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. But you can't quantify that, can you?

7 A. Not here today.

8 Q. And same question for Joliet, if
9 employment continues there, presumably -- well, let
10 me strike that question and rephrase it.

11 You don't know the future numbers for
12 employment at Joliet, do you?

13 MS. GALE: Objection, asked and answered. This
14 is another question. She just went through and
15 asked if the numbers go down, the numbers will go
16 down, and now we're on the same topic basically.

17 MS. BUGEL: This is a different topic. This is
18 specific to the questions that Ms. Gale talked
19 about with Dr. Richard, and just Ms. Gale talked
20 about the potential for future employment. I just
21 want to establish that Dr. Richard actually cannot
22 quantify the future employment at Joliet.

23 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. I've heard it
24 a number of times, but Dr. Richard, if you can

1 answer.

2 THE WITNESS: I don't have the information to
3 quantify the future impacts.

4 BY MS. BUGEL:

5 Q. And turning to Waukegan, Ms. Gale talked
6 to you about power storage at Waukegan, correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And you don't know the labor numbers for
9 future employment at Waukegan under a power storage
10 scenario, do you?

11 A. I do not.

12 Q. And you can't quantify the level of
13 economic impact for a power storage scenario, can
14 you?

15 A. I cannot.

16 Q. And you -- your overall opinion was that
17 Midwest Generation generates hundreds of jobs in
18 the region, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. But those figures -- you cannot quantify
21 those figures for 2023, can you?

22 A. These figures are as of 2020.

23 Q. And your -- you also said there are
24 millions of dollars of labor income that go into

1 **the economy. You cannot quantify that for 2023,**
2 **correct?**

3 A. Again, those are 2020 figures. Yes.

4 MS. BUGEL: I have no further questions.

5 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.

6 Miss Gale.

7 MS. BUGEL: Hearing Officer, I'm sorry, counsel
8 interrupted me. I didn't confer with counsel. May
9 I take a minute?

10 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. Sure. We can
11 go off the record.

12 (WHEREUPON, a short recess was
13 taken.)

14 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: We're back on the
15 record, Rae. Thank you.

16 MS. GALE: Mr. Hearing Officer, I conferred
17 with Miss Bugel. She let me do this. We have the
18 proper copy of Dr. Richard's report. It's
19 Exhibit 1802. I'll ask that everybody in their
20 binder take out the copy in the binder and replace
21 it with what I'm handing out to you now.

22 MS. BUGEL: Hearing Officer, I just have a few
23 more questions.

24 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. Did Miss Gale

1 want to move that in?

2 MS. GALE: I was gonna wait until she was done.

3 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. Yes,
4 Miss Bugel. Go ahead.

5 BY MS. BUGEL:

6 Q. And, Dr. Richard, I know we talked at
7 length about Table 2. I just have one clarifying
8 question.

9 You do not add the columns together,
10 correct? Did you say that?

11 A. Add the columns?

12 Q. The columns.

13 A. No. Each column is added from top to
14 bottom, so the total is the sum.

15 Q. But as you go -- you wouldn't add labor
16 income plus value added --

17 A. No.

18 Q. -- plus output?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Can you explain why not?

21 A. Cause each is a component of the next.
22 Labor income is a component of output -- of value
23 added. Value added is a component of output. It's
24 actually a common mistake you see in this type of

1 analysis, but it's not appropriate.

2 Q. Thank you. That's very helpful.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. And I want to ask you, if Midwest
5 Generation were to engage in coal ash cleanup
6 activities at the facilities and had to hire
7 employees, that is something that could be
8 quantified, right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And hiring employees would be a form of
11 economic activity?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And presumably if Midwest Gen had to
14 procure equipment to carry out cleanup, that would
15 also be a form of economic activity?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And those economic activities attributable
18 to cleanup would also have indirect and induced
19 impacts, correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And that -- and you did not attempt to
22 estimate the economic impact of any cleanup
23 activities, right?

24 A. I did not.

1 **Q. And do you have any opinion on the**
2 **economic value of coal ash located at the plants?**

3 A. Opinion on the value of coal ash, I
4 understand it can be used for other uses, sold for
5 other uses, but I don't have -- I can't quantify
6 that.

7 MS. BUGEL: Okay. That's it. Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you,
9 Miss Bugel.

10 Miss Gale, redirect.

11 MS. GALE: Mr. Hearing Officer, can I get five
12 minutes off the record, please?

13 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sure. Off the
14 record five minutes.

15 (WHEREUPON, a short recess was
16 taken.)

17 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: We're back on the
18 record. I think Miss Gale's ready to do her
19 redirect. Thank you.

20 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY MS. GALE:

22 **Q. Dr. Richard, Miss Bugel asked you a few**
23 **questions about the data you used for your IMPLAN**
24 **modeling and your analysis.**

1 **And you received that data from where?**

2 A. From Midwest Generation.

3 **Q. In your expertise when you do the dozens**
4 **of IMPLAN models, where do you typically receive**
5 **the data from?**

6 A. Either -- if it's an existing operating
7 facility, from the company itself. Sometimes
8 they're for potential projects, and so we rely on
9 estimates of employment and payroll from the
10 company that's going to build the facility.

11 **Q. Is it acceptable in your field of**
12 **expertise to receive data from the companies?**

13 A. Yes.

14 **Q. And I want you to turn to Page 6 of your**
15 **report, MWG 13-15 underscore 82258.**

16 **Where else did you receive data from?**

17 A. From the tax assessor's office in the
18 counties where the facilities are located.

19 **Q. So you didn't just receive data from**
20 **Midwest Generation, right?**

21 MS. BUGEL: Objection, leading.

22 BY MS. GALE:

23 **Q. What other areas did you receive data**
24 **from?**

1 A. Data on employment and payroll came from
2 Midwest Generation. The tax payment data came from
3 tax assessors of the counties where the facilities
4 are located, publicly available data.

5 **Q. And Miss Bugel asked you about your**
6 **specific analysis of a coal plant.**

7 Do you recall that testimony?

8 A. Yes.

9 **Q. And I believe you said you had done one**
10 **for a potential plant, right?**

11 A. It was either a coal or gas-fired plant.

12 **Q. When you do an IMPLAN model, what kind of**
13 **industries does the IMPLAN model can it analyze?**

14 A. So the model is industry specific. There
15 are over 500 industries available in the model. So
16 a power plant that has \$50 million in revenue is
17 gonna have different impacts than, say, a Walmart
18 with \$50 million in revenue.

19 The employment levels are gonna be
20 different. The indirect induced impacts are gonna
21 be different. So the model has industry specific
22 data that allows you to analyze the impacts of the
23 specific industry.

24 **Q. And as part of your training as for the**

1 **IMPLAN model and your experience using dozens --**
2 **using the model, does the specific industry make**
3 **any difference to your analysis --**

4 A. Yes.

5 **Q. -- for --**

6 A. It can make tremendous difference.

7 **Q. And --**

8 A. Purchasing patterns of different types of
9 businesses are very different. Sort of sector, for
10 example, say a law firm, primarily labor, their
11 costs are primary labor. Something like a power
12 plant, of course they're buying fuel. They're
13 buying more technical maintenance kinds of things.
14 And so, yes, businesses in different industries can
15 have very different impacts on the local economy.

16 **Q. And what industry did you input here?**

17 A. This is power generation from coal or gas.

18 **Q. And by inputting that type of industry in**
19 **the IMPLAN model, does that impact your ability to**
20 **do this analysis?**

21 A. I think it makes it more accurate than
22 just some sort of generic analysis.

23 **Q. Miss Bugel asked you about externalities.**

24 **Do you recall that discussion?**

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you discussed positive and negative
3 externalities, and you used the example of a damn.

4 Do you recall that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So in your -- you know, could an
7 externality also be heavy truck traffic?

8 A. Could be, yes.

9 Q. And do externalities -- could that also
10 consider the value of renewable energy?

11 MS. BUGEL: Objection to the leading questions.

12 BY MS. GALE:

13 Q. Is renewable energy an externality?

14 A. If you're replacing coal-based energy with
15 renewal, that's not an externality. That's a
16 replacement of activity.

17 Q. Is there value to that?

18 A. Yes. There's economic activity associated
19 with all types of energy creation, generation.

20 Q. And we touched upon this, but for each of
21 the stations that are subject here, you understand
22 that -- and I believe you sat yesterday through
23 part of Miss Shealey's testimony.

24 Do you recall that?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did you hear her testify about groundwater
3 monitoring?

4 A. Some, yes.

5 Q. Yes. And to your recollection what did
6 she say about the future of groundwater modeling?
7 Monitoring, excuse me.

8 A. I don't recall the specifics. I believe
9 she said it will continue into the future, yes.

10 Q. So assuming it continues into the future
11 which assuming that requires people?

12 A. Yes. There's economic activity associated
13 with that testing, yes.

14 Q. And I believe you sat through yesterday,
15 Miss Shealey testified about closing certain ash
16 ponds.

17 Do you recall that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And that will be in the future?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So assuming that's in the future and
22 assuming closing those ponds requires people, will
23 that have economic -- any economic value?

24 A. Yes. Jobs generated by that activity will

1 have activity just as the current activity does.

2 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Speak up, please.

3 THE WITNESS: Yes.

4 BY MS. GALE:

5 Q. And your analysis analyzes jobs --
6 employments of Midwest Generation, right?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. What about construction jobs, are those --
9 what happens with those in your analysis?

10 A. So I would analyze construction activity
11 separately cause it's a different sector of the
12 economy. So if they're -- I don't -- just picking
13 a number out of the -- if there's a \$10 million
14 construction project, that would be a separate
15 analysis.

16 Q. And so in that separate analysis, if
17 that -- let's assume Midwest Generation employs --
18 not employs, excuse me, engages construction
19 companies?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Would that have an economic value?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And then you were asked a number of
24 questions -- oh, Miss Bugel asked you about your

1 current -- whether you had a current analysis, and
2 I believe you stated that today I could not, but I
3 want to clarify.

4 Why could you not do that today?

5 A. Because I don't have the data available
6 here as I sit. If I was provided with the data, I
7 could do it, yes.

8 Q. And then Miss Bugel asked you a number of
9 questions about each station, but I want to focus
10 on Table 3 or, excuse me, Table 2 which is the
11 statewide. So Miss Bugel's questions focused on
12 the negative. I want to focus on the positive.

13 If the statewide or for any of these
14 stations employment numbers go up, what happens to
15 labor income?

16 A. If pay levels on average stay the same,
17 more employees means more payroll.

18 Q. Similar question, if Midwest Gen employs
19 more people than was reflected in Table 2 that's
20 from 2020, what happens to value added?

21 A. If there's more economic activity, then
22 there's more value added.

23 Q. And same question under -- for Table 2 if
24 Midwest Generation employs more people from 2020,

1 **what happens to output?**

2 A. So I would look at the opposite. If
3 there's more output, it results in more employment,
4 but they are related, yes. So if one goes up, the
5 other goes up.

6 **Q. It's complicated.**

7 A. Yes.

8 MS. GALE: Nothing further for now, Mr. Hearing
9 Officer. I would before I go ask to move to admit
10 the proper Exhibit 1802.

11 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Miss Bugel.

12 MS. BUGEL: No objection.

13 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.

14 Exhibit 1802 is admitted, respondents.

15 (WHEREUPON, Exhibit No. 1802 was
16 admitted into evidence.)

17 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Miss Bugel, any
18 recross?

19 MS. BUGEL: Let me confer.

20 I do not have any recross.

21 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you. You may
22 step down, sir. We're off the record.

23 (WHEREUPON, a short recess was
24 taken.)

1 (WHEREUPON, proceedings were had
2 which are not herein
3 transcribed.)

4 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: We're back on the
5 record. Good afternoon. It's approximately 1:03,
6 04, and I think we designated this time for a
7 couple of public comments. And if they would
8 approach and they can give their comment.

9 Good afternoon, sir. You can either stand
10 or have a seat here.

11 THE WITNESS: I'll sit, if you don't mind.

12 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you. State
13 your name for the court reporter.

14 MR. THORN: Yes, sir. My name is James Thorn,
15 hello. I wanted to appreciate the opportunity to
16 come here and speak with all you all. A little bit
17 about myself, I want to let you know I'm married.
18 I have five children, eight grandchildren. I'm a
19 retired Chief Warrant Officer 3. I was a aviation
20 safety officer in the service. I retired after
21 23 years and have been working for Midwest
22 Generation for 15 years and moved up here from
23 Alabama and have been a member or a member of the
24 community for 16 years. And I appreciate the

1 opportunity to come and share some thoughts with
2 you.

3 So there's three things I'd like to --
4 points I'd like to make. First one is there's
5 already a mechanism in place to address what to do
6 with the coal ash ponds. The authority was granted
7 to the Illinois EPA because its knowledge and
8 expertise. Changing that process would be quite
9 disruptive and would jeopardize existing
10 environmental progress that's already been made and
11 likely lead to things becoming handled by a
12 case-by-case basis, thus risking this becoming a
13 purely political process rather than one that's
14 based on science and what's the best interest of
15 the community and the environment.

16 Second, closing in place is far safer and
17 more environmental friendly because the alternative
18 of closing by removal would subject the
19 surrounding communities and potential others to
20 unnecessary and excessive truck traffic. Right. I
21 don't know if you've been around the area that I'm
22 at. The truck traffic is not only very disruptive
23 in day-to-day living neighboring communities, but
24 also increases the risk of accidental coal release.

1 So if you think about it, worse case
2 scenario, you got trucks driving down with coal and
3 stuff. I was thinking about this last night. What
4 if that truck hits a school bus. Ten,
5 fifteen children get killed in a truck accident
6 because we're transporting this CCR, this coal
7 combustion residue. I think it's a horrible idea.

8 But not only that, I am -- I am
9 flabbergasted and almost fed up with the trucks.
10 When I moved to the area it wasn't anything like it
11 is now, nothing. If it gets much worse, I'm
12 packing up and leaving to another county cause I
13 just cannot -- the risk on being on the road with
14 all the trucks, I've got teenagers that are
15 drivers, scares me to increase what is already out
16 of control, but, anyway, third -- I think I said
17 enough about that. I think you know where I stand
18 on the trucks.

19 Third, what Midwest Generation is
20 proposing is based on highly advanced
21 scientifically proven technology. Outside from a
22 few voices, the meeting the other day, I didn't
23 even know there was anybody that had any concerns
24 with it. I've worked there for 15 years. I don't

1 have any concerns. I got a huge family, a lot of
2 family members that live in this community. I
3 haven't heard one person say anything about being
4 concerned about that. They know I've worked there
5 for 15 years.

6 I personally believe that this -- you
7 guys, the Board, should tell Midwest Gen to follow
8 the new laws and let Illinois EPA do their job.
9 That's pretty much it.

10 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you so much,
11 sir.

12 MR. THORN: Thank you very much. Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Good afternoon, sir.
14 How are you?

15 MR. WEHLING: I'm well. Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thanks. You may
17 have a seat or stand and just tell the court
18 reporter your name and go ahead.

19 MR. WEHLING: Thank you. My name is Mark
20 Wehling, W-e-h-l-i-n-g. I'm here as a resident of
21 Lake County. I've been a resident there for over
22 20 years. I've also worked at the Waukegan
23 Generating Station for 20 years. The station's
24 provided an important service in keeping the lights

1 and air conditioning on for the communities.

2 I'd like to thank you for the opportunity
3 to speak today. I'm here because I believe capping
4 and closing the ash ponds at Waukegan station is
5 the best solution for managing those impoundments.
6 First, the design and subsequent monitoring of the
7 ash ponds under our proposal will help ensure the
8 ash in the pond does not contaminate the
9 groundwater. The cap at the top and the liner at
10 the bottom of the ponds will prevent rainwater from
11 contacting and leaching through the ash.
12 Subsequent groundwater monitoring will be performed
13 for 25 years and will be able to detect if there is
14 any issues, which aren't expected. If detected,
15 they can be immediately addressed.

16 Second, what Midwest Generation proposes
17 is already an approved method for managing coal ash
18 ponds, and that's because it works. The science
19 and history have proven this. Professional
20 engineers and other scientists who are expert in
21 the field say this. The IEPA was specifically
22 tasked to oversee this sort of project and let the
23 IEPA do their job.

24 Lastly, Midwest Generation is a big part

1 of the green energy future of Illinois. We believe
2 it's important to help the state in that
3 transition. That's why we are planning to use a
4 portion of the Waukegan property to build a battery
5 storage field. These batteries will be employed to
6 help power renewables when the sun isn't shining
7 and the wind isn't blowing. Battery storage is
8 vital to the success of any renewable energy
9 project.

10 The Board should let -- should tell
11 Midwest Generation to follow the new laws and let
12 IEPA to do its job. Thank you again for inviting
13 me to speak today.

14 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you, sir.
15 Appreciate it. The Board will read it and take
16 note.

17 MR. WEHLING: Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you. Off the
19 record.

20 (WHEREUPON, a short recess was
21 taken.)

22 (WHEREUPON, proceedings were had
23 which were not herein
24 transcribed.)

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF C O O K)
4

5 RAELENE STAMM being first duly sworn, on
6 oath says that she is a court reporter doing
7 business in the City of Chicago; and that she
8 reported in shorthand the proceedings of said
9 hearing, and that the foregoing is a true and
10 correct transcript of her shorthand notes so taken
11 as aforesaid, and contains the proceedings given at
12 said hearing.

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Certified Shorthand Reporter

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