

THE SASKATCHEWAN RATE REVIEW PANEL
SASKPOWER 2013 RATE APPLICATION

Transcript of Proceedings
of
A PUBLIC MEETING
held by the
Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel
at the Ramada Hotel & Convention Centre
Regina, Saskatchewan
on Tuesday, October 2nd, 2012

Panel Members

Kathy Weber	- Chairperson
Delaine Barber	- Member
Steve Kemp	- Member
Lyle Walsh	- Member

INDEX

	<u>PAGE</u>
Opening comments by Kathy Weber, Chairperson	3
Opening comments by Robert Watson, President & CEO of SaskPower	7
Presentation by Sandeep Kalra, Vice-President and CFO of SaskPower	9
Presentation by Dale Paterson, V-P of Operations for Paper Excellence	17
Reply by Sandeep Kalra	23
Presentation by Dale Hildebrand, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers	24
Reply by Peter Lawn, Manager of Pricing and Energy Forecasting, SaskPower	25
Presentation by Mitch Minken, Director, City of Swift Current Light & Power	37
Presentation by Eugene Setka, Chairman, Saskatchewan Industrial Energy Consumers Association	46
Reply by Robert Watson	52
Presentation by Pam Schwann, Executive Director of Saskatchewan Mining Association	54
Closing Remarks	58

1 **Tuesday, October 2, 2012**

2 (Commenced at 7:40 p.m.)

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening, everyone. My
4 name is Kathy Weber and I'm the Chair of the
5 Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel, and I'm
6 pleased to welcome you here this evening. I'm
7 glad so many of you could attend tonight.

8 We're going to be hearing a
9 presentation from SaskPower on their rate
10 application and we're also here to hear your
11 presentations and receive your feedback and
12 your comments.

13 I've tried to meet everyone
14 tonight, and I apologize to those that I did
15 not say hello to already. We've had a few
16 technical problems. We had one of our key
17 people was ill and had to leave and required a
18 replacement and as well we had a few other
19 technical issues, so I think we've got
20 everything ironed out now, so hopefully we'll
21 proceed fairly smoothly from here on.

22 We have three other members
23 of the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel that are
24 in attendance this evening. At my left is
25 Delaine Barber and she's from Weyburn. We

1 also have Steve Kemp from Regina, sitting near
2 the back there, and Lyle Walsh from Yorkton.

3 I'd also like to introduce
4 Ruth with Royal Reporting. She's going to be
5 taking a verbatim transcript of our meeting
6 tonight. This transcript will be made
7 available to the public upon request or it
8 will be available on our website.

9 I'd like to speak briefly
10 about the public consultation portion of the
11 Panel's review process. In addition to this
12 public meeting, we also held a public meeting
13 in Saskatoon on September the 19th.

14 We'd also encourage you
15 during the review process to check out our
16 website, saskratereview.ca. There you'll find
17 a copy of SaskPower's application, their
18 mid-application update, and various other
19 items, including all of our IRs and responses
20 from SaskPower as well as submissions that are
21 made by interested parties in this review
22 process.

23 Members of the public are
24 welcome to communicate with us and we
25 encourage that. You can communicate with us

1 via email, by phone or by mail. The
2 information on how to contact us is on our
3 website, again saskratereview.ca. The
4 deadline for submissions from the public is
5 fast approaching; it is October the 4th. So I
6 would encourage you to make sure that if you
7 have anything subsequent to tonight's meeting
8 that you would like to send to the Rate Review
9 Panel, that you keep that date in mind.

10 Your participation and
11 feedback at meetings like this are extremely
12 important to the process that we go through,
13 and you can be confident that the members of
14 this Panel are listening to what you have to
15 say and are taking that into account in our
16 review.

17 The Panel's mandate is to
18 review this rate application and then to
19 provide a report to the Government. The
20 balance is the interests of SaskPower, the
21 public, and SaskPower's customers.

22 In terms of the process that
23 we will be following this evening, we're going
24 to begin with the presentation by SaskPower on
25 its rate application. Then we will be hearing

1 from individuals who have identified
2 themselves as wishing to make a presentation.
3 I'm currently aware of five presentations.
4 Following that, there will be the
5 opportunity -- if anyone else wishes to make a
6 presentation, just please make that known, if
7 you haven't already, to Lyle or Steve or
8 myself or Delaine, and we'll include you in
9 our list of presenters. But if you just wish
10 to make some general comments or ask some
11 questions, you're welcome to do that, and that
12 will occur immediately following the formal
13 presentations.

14 When you're making a
15 presentation or posing a question, we would
16 ask that you go to the podium that's located
17 mid-room and speak into the microphone.
18 That's so that we can hear you, but also to
19 assist our individual from Royal Reporting to
20 make sure that all of the information that
21 you're either asking or giving is recorded.
22 We would ask that, for the benefit of Royal
23 Reporting, that you identify yourself and
24 please spell your name, and also if you're
25 representing an organization, that you

1 identify that organization.

2 We have three individuals
3 from SaskPower, and it's my pleasure to
4 introduce them to you this evening. We have
5 Robert Watson, President and CEO; Sandeep
6 Kalra, who is Vice-President and CFO; and
7 Peter Lawn, who is the Manager of Pricing and
8 Energy Forecasting with SaskPower. So I would
9 ask that -- I'll turn it over to you,
10 Mr. President, and let you begin your
11 presentation.

12 MR. WATSON: Thank you very much.
13 Welcome and thank you for coming this evening.
14 I won't take too much time. I'll just
15 introduce SaskPower. We -- this is my first
16 process of going through rate review.
17 However, on a federal basis on the
18 telecommunications side, we would go through
19 federal rate reviews all the time, so I'm
20 familiar with the process and, in fact, think
21 it's a necessary part of the process.

22 We at SaskPower have had two
23 good years. This is the first time in three
24 years we're coming for rate application. It
25 has to be one of the few jurisdictions in

1 North America, if not the world, that has come
2 this way, so it's your first one in three
3 years. The business has run well. We've done
4 a very good job, I think, of watching our
5 expenses. We are well on the way and on
6 target of our \$2 billion target for business
7 renewal of reduction in costs, and I think
8 we've been very good and sustainable --
9 providing sustainable energy.

10 We do pay attention and, in
11 fact, it's a primary goal of ours to provide
12 safe, reliable, sustainable power. We did
13 have situations through the summertime where
14 we had unprecedented storms that came through
15 the province, and I think each and every
16 SaskPower employee in the province performed
17 above and beyond to get the power back on, and
18 I think it was exemplary of our employees.

19 We are encouraged for the
20 future. We think we have long-term plans
21 working with our big customers as well as the
22 developments within the province to make sure
23 that there is, again, safe, reliable,
24 sustainable power for the future.

25 So with that, I'll turn it

1 over to Sandeep to do the presentation on our
2 rate application.

3 MR. KALRA: Thanks, Robert. And I'll
4 take you through a short presentation on the
5 rate application. The agenda for this evening
6 is to introduce you to the main salient
7 features of the application and its impact on
8 the customers, talk about the rate drivers --
9 rate increase drivers -- and also talk about
10 ways to minimize rate increases.

11 So this application is 5
12 percent system average rate increase for most
13 customers, except for some customers on
14 contract. The impact would be 4.9 percent
15 rate increase. The average urban residential
16 customer will pay \$4 more, and rural
17 residential customers will pay on average \$6
18 more because of this rate application, farm
19 customers will have an increase of \$10, and
20 this increase is needed to fund investments.
21 I'll talk about that a little bit later.

22 This table, I won't go
23 through in detail. As you will see, all the
24 customers, except for the contract customers,
25 will have an impact of 4.9 percent rate

1 increase because of this rate application.
2 And I've talked about the dollar impact
3 raising from \$4 to more for bigger customers.

4 If we compare our rates,
5 residential rates -- there is a chart over
6 here -- with the other jurisdictions in
7 Canada -- so this goes from west coast to east
8 coast -- you will see that our rates are, on
9 average, 8 percent lower than the Canadian
10 average, and they're 22 percent lower as
11 compared to the comparable thermal utilities.
12 So where the rates are lower, for example, in
13 Vancouver, Winnipeg, Montreal, that's the
14 impact of hydro -- legacy hydro assets -- and
15 in some cases, it's also because of lucrative
16 export contracts in some of these
17 jurisdictions. If you take those aside, our
18 rates compare very, very favourably with the
19 rest of Canada.

20 This is despite the fact
21 that we have probably the worst customer
22 density ratio in Canada. This chart shows, in
23 green, the number of customers and, in blue,
24 kilometres of line. So if you're BC Hydro,
25 there is a good match; and if you're

1 SaskPower, you have very few customers
2 supporting a very vast network, transmission
3 and distribution network. Despite that, as I
4 mentioned, our rates are favourable as
5 compared to the others in Canada.

6 The drivers for rate
7 increase are investment, investment and
8 investment. It's an investment to rebuild
9 infrastructure, it's an investment to meet
10 load growth, and it's an investment for
11 environmental upgrades, whether it's wind
12 power or whether it's carbon capture.

13 The electrical system was
14 built 30 to 50 years ago, and now it is
15 time -- over the last few years, we've been
16 kind of rebuilding this system. You see the
17 chart over here on this page which shows after
18 2007, on average, the investment level was 200
19 to \$300 million. Over the last few years, it
20 has ramped up to around \$600 million a year,
21 and this year we are on course to do roughly a
22 billion dollars capital expenditure for 2012,
23 and the forecast for 2013 is \$1.15 billion.
24 We see this trend continuing for the next 10
25 years, so we would have \$10 billion of

1 forecast investment for the next 10 years and
2 roughly \$3 billion to power purchase
3 agreements. This chart says 5. The number is
4 3 billion approximately in eight years.

5 Some of the examples of the
6 investments that are taking place, two major
7 projects for 2013. One is the Boundary Dam
8 carbon capture. Total project costs \$1.24
9 billion. Investment in 2013 will be \$365
10 million. This is the world's first and
11 largest carbon capture project being done at
12 the utility scale and will reduce the carbon
13 dioxide emissions by 90 percent, which is
14 equivalent of taking 180,000 vehicles off the
15 road.

16 The other thing which is
17 going on in 2013 is the expansion of the QE
18 Power Station, total project \$555 million.
19 \$110 million of that would be invested in
20 2013, and this would add an additional 200
21 megawatts to the system.

22 That was on the generation
23 side. Also as demand is growing, we're also
24 keeping up by adding a record number of new
25 customers. In 2010 the new customer

1 connections were 3,700, 2011 it's gone up to
2 4,159, and the numbers continue to grow in
3 2012 as well.

4 The electricity demand from
5 the industrial customer is expected to double
6 over the next 12 years from 7,000 gigawatt
7 hours to roughly 15,000 gigawatt hours during
8 this time period. In the last 10 years,
9 electricity demand grew by 1.4 percent. The
10 expectation is that the demand will grow by
11 double that rate between 2011 and 2021.

12 On the transmission side, 20
13 new major transmission projects are expected
14 to take place in 2013 at a capital cost of \$74
15 million during the year; that's \$683 million
16 overall. And also the urban system, the
17 distribution lines, are also being rebuilt and
18 work is taking place in Regina over the next 8
19 to 10 years. This slide also talks about the
20 wood pole maintenance program. We have 1.25
21 million power poles across the province, which
22 is more than the number of people that we
23 have in the province. And we roughly treat --
24 there is an ongoing program to treat roughly
25 110,000 power poles each year at an average

1 cost of \$210 per pole. So that's from the
2 distribution side.

3 Also the investment is being
4 made at the front end and investing in
5 customer service. We have plans to install
6 500,000 smart meters over the next few years
7 and they will be replacing the existing -- as
8 I said, existing meters that we have. We also
9 replaced a 25-year customer billing system in
10 2011, and also streamlining the process of
11 getting new customers. I'd also like to
12 mention that the benefit of the smart meter
13 project, there is an NPV of the project
14 benefit is \$25 million over the life of the
15 project.

16 The next slide -- few slides
17 talk about minimizing the rate increase/impact
18 by what we are doing and what can be done at
19 the customer end. So we have a business
20 renewal program to operate -- to help us
21 operate more efficiently. We looked at --
22 over the last few years, we looked at all our
23 major cost drivers: The operating,
24 maintenance and administrative functions; fuel
25 and purchased power; or the capital. And in

1 2013, as compared to the 2009 estimates, when
2 we had said last summer there are application,
3 in 2013 the savings are estimated at \$220
4 million, and these are real savings. These
5 are not fuel cost savings because of lower
6 natural gas prices.

7 Some of the examples of
8 business renewal savings are one is
9 procurement through strategic sourcing and
10 gaining more value from the suppliers. We
11 expect to save 30 to \$40 million on a
12 long-term basis. This project has just
13 started and, in 2013, \$1 million savings.

14 In power station, the
15 maintenance cycle has been extended to 24
16 months, from some cases from 18 months and
17 some cases from a little lower. That had an
18 impact of saving \$4 million in OM&A and \$23
19 million in fuel in 2013.

20 Also a lot of initiatives
21 are taking place in IT to reduce the number of
22 printers and also saving some of the desk
23 services, and those IT initiatives will save
24 roughly \$9 million. And a substantial amount
25 has been saved by rejigging our capital

1 structure and debt structure and reborrowing a
2 lot more on a short-term basis and saving a
3 lot of financing costs.

4 From the consumer's point of
5 view, for the small consumers, we have a lot
6 of recycling programs and lighting rebates and
7 the block heater program. There is lots about
8 that. \$100 a year can be saved by recycling
9 refrigerators; \$40 per bulb saving over the
10 life of each bulb by changing to more
11 efficient lighting; and also the block heater
12 program, \$65 will be saved over the winter by
13 plugging into a timer, which basically for the
14 block heater, that's for four hours rather
15 than 12 hours.

16 So the bottom line of this
17 big issue for SaskPower is rate increases are
18 needed to meet our 2013 targets and also to
19 maintain our financial strength and stability.
20 As Robert mentioned, this is our first
21 application in three years. This application
22 will result in \$89 million of additional
23 revenues from rate increase. Our ROE target
24 for this year, 2013, is 6.4. It would be 1.9
25 percent without the rate increase. Our

1 long-term target remains at 8.5. Over the
2 last couple of years, we've had more than 8.5,
3 so this kind of averages out to our long-term
4 target. And our debt ratio with this rate
5 increase would be 71.3 percent and our
6 long-term value between 60 and 75 percent.

7 So that's the presentation,
8 Madam Chair.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,
10 gentlemen. We'll now begin with our formal
11 presentations, and we're pleased to have
12 SaskPower with us this evening to participate
13 in answering any questions as well. So I
14 think it's a great opportunity for people to
15 get the answers to questions they may have.

16 So we will begin with our
17 formal presentations. The first presenter
18 this evening will be Dale Paterson with Paper
19 Excellence. Dale.

20 MR. PATERSON: Good evening. My name is
21 Dale Paterson and I'm the Vice-President of
22 Operations for Paper Excellence, looking after
23 their operations here in Canada. I'm located
24 in Richmond in that task, and I'm also the
25 General Manager of Prince Albert.

1 Before I start, I'd just
2 like to acknowledge the work that SaskPower
3 has done with Paper Excellence over the last
4 year; in particular, all the work that was
5 done by many, many people on allowing us to
6 bring Prince Albert on line, generating
7 biomass power into the grid, and also to
8 restore the power services in Meadow Lake that
9 were taken down by the storm that Mr. Watson
10 was referring to. So I'd just like to
11 acknowledge those two things. They were big
12 things for us and there was a lot of work
13 done.

14 What I'd like to do is
15 review some facts about Meadow Lake tonight,
16 to look at the annual production and revenue,
17 the electrical significance for Meadow Lake
18 Mechanical Pulp, historical costs, some
19 comparisons to other provinces, looking at the
20 employee ratios, possible alternatives,
21 challenges that we face at Meadow Lake, and
22 our impact in the community.

23 Some of the facts of Meadow
24 Lake are that the Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp
25 was purchased by Paper Excellence in 2007.

1 Since that point in time, the production at
2 Meadow Lake has increased from 300,000 tonnes
3 a year to 400,000 tonnes per year. That has
4 been accomplished by changing the final
5 product and working to find new customers.
6 There has been a substantial amount of capital
7 investment made in Meadow Lake to upgrade the
8 equipment and in the last five years, the
9 employees that we have are the same number we
10 had four and five years ago.

11 We are working to maintain a
12 viable business in Meadow Lake, and our
13 direction is to further increase the
14 production another 20 percent to 500,000
15 tonnes per year.

16 Annual sales, just reviewing
17 this very quickly, depending on the price of
18 the product, we are generally in about the 200
19 million, \$230 million range a year.

20 The 17-day outage that
21 happened the middle of June to about into July
22 resulted in a lost revenue of about \$13
23 million for Meadow Lake.

24 Unlike chemical pulps where
25 you pulp chemicals, Meadow Lake pulps with

1 power to separate the fibres into wood chips.
2 Today, Meadow Lake is the fourth largest
3 customer of SaskPower. The annual electricity
4 costs for Meadow Lake is \$36 million. In
5 2011 -- and this continues through 2012 --
6 electricity is 35 percent of the total
7 variable cost of producing pulp. A 4.9
8 percent rate increase will increase the costs
9 approximately \$1.8 million per annum in Meadow
10 Lake. Is that cost significant? That will
11 take Meadow Lake from a profitable to an
12 unprofitable situation.

13 Although there has been no
14 increases in the last three years, the
15 electrical rate increases in the last 10 have
16 been about 50 percent.

17 If we look at the other
18 provinces today, yes, Saskatchewan has held
19 their power rate for the last three years,
20 Alberta has held their power rate for the last
21 three years, and British Columbia has had an
22 increase of about \$7 from 30 to 37. That's in
23 the prairie provinces here that you can see
24 where the costs are today.

25 I just wanted to put a

1 challenge out to SaskPower in this slide, and
2 what I'm looking at here is if I look at the
3 business in Meadow Lake, we have decreased the
4 man hours per tonne about 20 percent. I'd
5 like to issue that same challenge to
6 SaskPower. As you can see here, it moves the
7 other way.

8 Is there alternatives today?
9 SaskPower has a 60 megawatt spinning reserve
10 at Meadow Lake. That means that we kill 60
11 megawatts of power in 12 minutes and in the
12 event that there is a problem on the grid to
13 free that power, we are remunerated for that.

14 Can that be expanded to
15 offset the proposed rate increase? What are
16 other options open to Meadow Lake to offset
17 the rate increase? Is it possible to secure a
18 long-term industrial rate?

19 Are there other challenges
20 facing Meadow Lake other than power? Yes.
21 There was a recent rail line closure.
22 Staffing is difficult with power engineers in
23 our business. Our markets are constantly
24 threatened by the Asian pulp mills and they're
25 being built new. The Meadow Lake people have

1 done a tremendous job remaining competitive
2 with changing grades to answer an
3 ever-changing market, the property tax
4 increases that we see, raw materials, foreign
5 exchange rate, and resulting in a negative
6 EBITDA. So we face a number of pressures, not
7 only power.

8 We've seen this happen when
9 the former company went bankrupt, but we are
10 the largest employer in Meadow Lake. We
11 contribute about a million and a half dollars
12 a year in taxes. There is 160 people working
13 there and another 250 contractors that are
14 employed through the Meadow Lake operation.

15 I just want to thank people
16 and, listening to the presentation tonight, I
17 wanted to bring some facts to the group, the
18 fact that Meadow Lake works hard, they've done
19 a great job at making this business a good
20 business for Meadow Lake. We are surviving.
21 Two others haven't. The same design mill just
22 shut down permanently in Chetwynd, British
23 Columbia; and about eight months ago, the same
24 type of mill shut down in Quebec. So these
25 mills are -- they run -- they don't run a

1 high-profit business. It's a very tight
2 margin business, not really open to spending a
3 lot more money on different commodities.
4 Thank you very much.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for your
6 presentation. Do you have any comments that
7 you'd like to offer at this time in response
8 to this presentation?

9 MR. KALRA: Yeah, if I could quickly
10 touch on one point. The ratio that was
11 showing the number of customers per FTE, I
12 think that's one way of looking at it. The
13 challenge for us is that the major incremental
14 load is not coming from all 480,000 customers.
15 It's coming from big, lumpy industrial
16 customers, so that ratio doesn't necessarily
17 work all the time. We do track ratio which
18 are megawatt hours per FTE, and in that
19 ratio -- if you compare that ratio, that shows
20 total capacity and total sales. By FTE, that
21 ratio looks reasonable.

22 Also it takes us many, many
23 years to bring these projects on stream. So
24 if we need power five years from now, six
25 years from now, we need to start employing

1 people today to start working on some of those
2 projects. So it also takes us a few years
3 before we catch up to that right ratio. So I
4 just wanted to kind of mention that -- that
5 using the customers to FTE, maybe it's
6 misleading -- a misleading indicator of the
7 realities of our business.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thanks, Sandeep. Our
9 next presenter is Dale Hildebrand from CAPP.

10 MR. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
11 appreciate the opportunity. If it's okay, I
12 do not have a formal presentation tonight.
13 With your indulgence, I would just like to ask
14 a few questions of the Panel and then I do
15 have some closing comments if that's all
16 right.

17 Panel, good evening. We
18 came a little bit late to this process, so I
19 apologize. We did have an opportunity to
20 review all the information on the record and
21 did have an opportunity to ask a few questions
22 around the 2012 costs. We understand that
23 you've responded to those questions, although
24 we haven't seen them yet, but I think the
25 application update that you provided a week or

1 so ago sheds some light on the areas that we
2 were interested in, so we appreciate that.

3 In terms of the application
4 update, one of the significant changes was a
5 reduction in revenue from the power group or
6 the power rate cost. Can you just help me
7 understand why that very significant rate
8 reduction in revenue?

9 MR. LAWN: Sure. We have actually
10 reduced the power class energy sales forecast
11 for 2013. The other -- bulk of the other
12 customer classes are actually increasing,
13 resellers staying about the same, but the
14 power class load is down. That's for a number
15 of different reasons. One of the big things
16 is we've had some market conditions that have
17 changed since when we prepared the forecast
18 last year. Primarily in natural gas pumping,
19 we've had some surprise there. There has been
20 also some customer expansion projects that
21 have been delayed a little bit, not a long
22 time, but months and, in some cases, a year.

23 We've actually had some
24 conversations with customers about the
25 forecast that they're providing. As you

1 probably know that we -- we forecast the power
2 class of industrial customers by meeting with
3 them on a quarterly basis, and some of those
4 forecasts that we have been getting from
5 customers were a little bit on the high side
6 and so we have worked especially hard this
7 year, the account managers, to try and firm up
8 those load estimates a little bit better. So
9 that's the main things.

10 In general, the general
11 economic conditions in the global economy have
12 kind of slowed things down a little bit from
13 what customers might have been expecting.
14 Last year, things have slowed a little bit,
15 but we do think that all this load is going to
16 show up. It's just going to be delayed or in
17 some cases delayed a bit.

18 MR. HILDEBRAND: And just so I understand,
19 the rate application that was filed in July is
20 based on forecasts for -- that were prepared
21 in 2012?

22 MR. LAWN: No, in the second quarter of
23 2011.

24 MR. HILDEBRAND: So they were quite old?

25 MR. LAWN: Yeah.

1 MR. HILDEBRAND: And then the update which
2 you provided in September, I understand, had
3 used data up till the first six months of
4 2012?

5 MR. LAWN: Yeah, we -- the account
6 managers met with customers in July, August --
7 June, July and August to try and get the
8 latest numbers for the rate application.

9 MR. WATSON: I mean, the customers don't
10 tell us, right? You get -- customers will
11 stop production and we'll hear it in the news
12 the same time everybody else will hear it in
13 the news or they'll cut back their production
14 early or they'll delay their bill and they
15 just don't tell us. So we took a -- we did
16 take a review, a serious review, and look at
17 commitments that were given by our major
18 customers and then got a more conservative
19 view of it, quite frankly.

20 So the sooner they can tell
21 us ahead of time, the better it will be.

22 MR. HILDEBRAND: I feel your pain, sir. I
23 used to be a customer representative for a
24 utility, and I know how hard it was to get
25 them to disclose their forecasts.

1 CAPP has made a commitment
2 to SaskPower to work more closely with you and
3 provide those forecasts, so I would encourage
4 SaskPower to continue to foster that
5 relationship with CAPP and its few members
6 because we do understand the need for accuracy
7 in forecasting and to make sure that your
8 plans are the best they can be and that if
9 you're more efficient, then we're going to be
10 more efficient and profitable in the long run
11 as well.

12 My second area of questions
13 is really around the cost of service study
14 that I understand -- I got an email this
15 afternoon -- thanks very much -- from your
16 consultant, and I just want to understand that
17 process and how you see that rolling forward
18 and when the results of that cost of service
19 review you anticipate will actually be, in
20 fact, implemented into the rates.

21 MR. LAWN: Sure, I can help with that
22 one, too. The consultant has finished the
23 draft report and that's what was sent out
24 within the last day or so. He'll be
25 presenting that report on October 16th in

1 Regina here in the morning, and at that time
2 he will take questions and also invite written
3 questions from customers similar to the
4 process we followed the last time this was
5 done five years ago. And after that, the
6 consultant will respond in writing to anybody
7 who has questions, and then he'll invite
8 submissions, written submissions, and then he
9 will finish his final report and address the
10 written submissions at that time. We're
11 expecting that will probably happen in --
12 early in the new year.

13 And after the consultant is
14 finished his report, SaskPower will react to
15 the report, indicate for whatever
16 recommendations that the consultant has made,
17 whether we will be going ahead with each
18 recommendation and if we're not, reasons why
19 we're not going to. And at that time, we will
20 try and provide an indication of the impact of
21 the changes on different customer classes. So
22 that would happen, again, sometime early in
23 the new year, perhaps February time frame.

24 MR. HILDEBRAND: And if you saw, for example,
25 that the results of your revised cost of

1 service study started to move, as revenue to
2 cost ratios, outside of the bounds that you
3 historically deemed appropriate, would you
4 file a rate application even if you weren't
5 looking for an increase?

6 MR. WATSON: We can't comment on the
7 future until we see what it is.

8 MR. HILDEBRAND: I'm just asking what --

9 MR. WATSON: We'll have to have a look at
10 all the details of that -- what the report is
11 and everything, so we'll have to come back to
12 you on that one.

13 MR. HILDEBRAND: All right, sir.

14 The third area I'd like to
15 ask questions is really around the power
16 class, and I don't have a good understanding
17 of why the rate increase -- across-the-board
18 rate increase that you're looking for would be
19 different for some of those customers. Could
20 you explain to me why that is, why the average
21 for the power classes is a 6 percent rate
22 increase versus 4.9 for everybody else?

23 MR. LAWN: Well, it's 4.9 for all power
24 customers that are on published rates, and the
25 6 or roughly 6 percent increases for --

1 applies to just the contract customer class,
2 and then that's a bit of a catch-up in their
3 rates. Those contracts are -- they're tied to
4 published rates, but they're not tied directly
5 to published rates. There is other conditions
6 in their contracts as well, so --

7 MR. HILDEBRAND: Can you help me understand
8 what some of those conditions are? Are they
9 different indices or is it --

10 MR. LAWN: I don't want to talk
11 about -- there is not many contracts that we
12 have left in the --

13 MR. HILDEBRAND: Can you tell me what we're
14 talking about? Are we talking about the
15 cities, contracts with the cities, or are they
16 with industrial customers?

17 MR. LAWN: They're not the cities, no.
18 Cities are on published rates.

19 MR. HILDEBRAND: So they're large industrial
20 customers that have a specific rate?

21 MR. LAWN: Yes.

22 MR. HILDEBRAND: Okay, thank you. Madam
23 Chair, those are my questions, and I would
24 like to make a few comments if I could.

25 So firstly, as I mentioned,

1 I am here on behalf of the Canadian
2 Association of Petroleum Producers. The
3 oilfield, as I like to call them, customers in
4 Saskatchewan procure about 20 percent of the
5 electricity in the province. They are a
6 significant user. CAPP members appreciate the
7 opportunity to do business in Saskatchewan and
8 they appreciate doing business with SaskPower
9 and view SaskPower as a critical supplier to
10 our industry. And our goal in coming to these
11 meetings and participating in this process is
12 to try and encourage areas for continuous
13 improvement to make both Saskatchewan and the
14 oilfield industry more successful in the
15 future.

16 In terms of the process,
17 Madam Chair, we continue to be encouraged by
18 seeing some improvements in the quality of the
19 information and data that has been coming from
20 SaskPower and the quality of the questions
21 that are being asked by your consultants. As
22 we have said over the last decade or so, we
23 always -- or we continue to have concerns with
24 the lack of transparency for that data to
25 customers. I can think of no other

1 jurisdiction where the lack of transparency
2 and information not provided to customers, and
3 CAPP is of the view that we are the customers,
4 we're paying the bills. We should be afforded
5 the opportunity to test them in a more
6 rigorous manner. And I think in some respects
7 we're aligned on that view, so I'll leave it
8 at that.

9 We are encouraged that
10 SaskPower is looking at the cost of service
11 study review, and we intend to participate in
12 that process. We are not quite -- we're a
13 little bit concerned that that process is not
14 aligned with this process. However, we will
15 continue to follow the cost of service study
16 and look for if there are some significant
17 changes that I would say, you know, moving
18 outside of that bound, that I would encourage
19 SaskPower to realign their rates to make sure
20 that charges are equitable to all customers.

21 CAPP continues to be
22 concerned -- and, again, this is a theme that
23 we've been presenting for many years -- with
24 the level of capital cost expenditures. We
25 look at all utilities in North America with

1 aging infrastructure and the capital spending
2 coming down the pipe, and concerned with that
3 future impact on rates and encourage SaskPower
4 to continue to do the things they're doing to
5 try and mitigate future rate increases.

6 And on that note, we are
7 very appreciative of the efforts that we've
8 seen SaskPower make in the last few years
9 around trying to get their operating costs
10 lowered and in line with other utilities in
11 what I would call an area of continuous
12 improvement, and I would encourage SaskPower
13 to continue to do that and try to implement or
14 continue to implement that culture of cost
15 savings and cost optimization throughout your
16 organization. The gentleman before me
17 mentioned there is concern in his industry,
18 the oil companies have similar concerns, you
19 know, we see low commodity prices on the
20 natural gas side, and that's been a challenge,
21 and so every industry needs to find ways to
22 optimize costs to remain competitive.

23 We're also encouraged by
24 some of the plans to upgrade your metering and
25 billing system. This is a key area of concern

1 for CAPP members. Most of the larger oil
2 companies that operate in Saskatchewan have
3 hundreds and hundreds of accounts, and we find
4 there is a lot of issues and concerns with the
5 accuracy, the timing of the billing system,
6 how that information flows electronically
7 through the companies that manage that on
8 behalf of oil companies. So we're encouraged
9 to see some upgrades to your billing system
10 and encouraged to see accurate monthly
11 readings.

12 As I mentioned, despite that
13 we've not seen the response to the Round 2
14 questions that we posed, it appears to us that
15 the rate update you provided likely will
16 answer the bulk of those questions and provide
17 us with a greater understanding of where your
18 costs have come down from the forecast and
19 where your revenues have come down, but also
20 some of your costs have come up. So in
21 anticipation that those revised forecasts are
22 accurate as presented in the rate update and
23 hopefully they are a good indication of
24 expectations for 2013.

25 Overall, CAPP does not

1 oppose this rate increase. Based on the
2 information provided, it does seem reasonable,
3 and we would encourage the Panel to make sure
4 that SaskPower remains healthy and ask that
5 SaskPower continue their efforts to keep costs
6 in line. Thank you and those are the comments
7 we have.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks very much, Dale.
9 Will you be providing any additional material
10 to the Panel?

11 MR. HILDEBRAND: Madam Chair, I'm just a
12 hired gun and that depends on instructions I
13 get from my client tomorrow.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. We will have your
15 commentary on the transcript, but if you have
16 something else, we'd welcome that as well.

17 MR. HILDEBRAND: Thank you very much for the
18 opportunity.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Did you have any comments
20 that you'd like to make at this time? No?
21 Okay.

22 Next I'm going to call on
23 Simon Imray from Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp,
24 and I apologize, I probably should have called
25 on you immediately following the first

1 presentation. No? Oh, you're together? Oh,
2 okay, good. Then that's fine.

3 Then the next person I'm
4 going to call on is Mitch Minken from the city
5 of Swift Current. I apologize to Royal
6 Reporting. I have not been getting people to
7 spell their names, but I have them written
8 here for after.

9 MITCH MINKEN: Yes, Mitch Minken with the
10 city of Swift Current. The city of Swift
11 Current sincerely thanks the Saskatchewan Rate
12 Review Panel for the opportunity to provide
13 input into the review of SaskPower's 2013 rate
14 application.

15 The city of Swift Current is
16 concerned with the revenue-to-revenue
17 requirement ratios by customer class proposed
18 by SaskPower in this rate application. We
19 believe that rate rebalancing should be
20 applied since the revenue-to-revenue
21 requirement ratios have become skewed since
22 the 2010 rate increase. The subsidization of
23 residential, farm and commercial classes by
24 the power, oilfield and reseller classes is
25 unfair. In SaskPower's original application,

1 this cross-subsidization is calculated at
2 approximately \$32.5 million of the total \$90.8
3 million increase or 35.8 percent of the total
4 increase for 2013. In SaskPower's updated
5 application, the cross-subsidization is
6 calculated at approximately \$25.5 million of
7 the total \$89.2 million rate increase.

8 There also appears to be a
9 problem with SaskPower's previous
10 revenue-to-revenue requirement calculations,
11 since the 2010 rate increase did not result in
12 the revenue-to-revenue requirement ratios
13 projected. The residential, farm and
14 commercial classes are all below the projected
15 revenue-to-revenue requirements, while the
16 power, oilfield and reseller are all above the
17 projected revenue-to-revenue requirements.

18 The city of Swift Current's
19 customer base is entirely made up of urban
20 residential and urban commercial customers.
21 We believe our revenue-to-revenue requirement
22 ratio should follow the urban residential and
23 urban commercial customer classes to provide
24 equity within the rate class structure. In
25 SaskPower's original application, based on our

1 customer mix, this would result in a
2 revenue-to-revenue requirement of .98 instead
3 of 1.03 or 5 percent less than proposed by
4 SaskPower. In SaskPower's updated
5 application, based on our customer mix, this
6 would result in a revenue-to-revenue
7 requirement of .98 instead of 1.01 or 3
8 percent less than that proposed by SaskPower.

9 In the previous two rate
10 applications (2009 and 2010), SaskPower
11 attempted to combine the reseller class with
12 the power published rates and power contract
13 classes in what we consider an effort to mask
14 the fact that we should be equivalent to the
15 urban residential and urban commercial
16 customer classes. This attempted amalgamation
17 with the power classes also mask the true
18 revenue-to-revenue requirements for the
19 reseller class.

20 In its April 2009 report,
21 the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel stated the
22 following: "The Panel recommends that the
23 resellers' revenue-to-revenue requirement be
24 reduced from the amount identified in the
25 application to 1.0 in accordance with the

1 previous Panel recommendations."

2 The report went on to
3 explain, "Given that the rates which apply to
4 the reseller category affect a significant
5 number of residential consumer households, the
6 Panel believes it is reasonable to require
7 SaskPower to adjust the resellers'
8 revenue-to-revenue requirement to 1.0. This
9 amount is lower than the pre-2009
10 revenue-to-revenue requirement for this class,
11 but remains higher than the .98
12 revenue-to-revenue requirement proposed for
13 urban residential, rural residential and farm
14 classes at .98." This recommendation was
15 approved by the Cabinet of the Provincial
16 Government and was to be implemented by
17 SaskPower. However, based on the information
18 published in the 2010 rate review application
19 by SaskPower, the actual reseller
20 revenue-to-revenue requirement for the 2009
21 rate increase was 1.01.

22 The reseller
23 revenue-to-revenue requirement for the 2010
24 rate increase application was also projected
25 to be 1.01. Based on the information

1 published in the 2013 rate increase
2 application, the actual reseller
3 revenue-to-revenue requirement was 1.02. It
4 appears even when SaskPower receives an order
5 from the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel,
6 approved by Cabinet, it did not follow through
7 that order in regards to the reseller customer
8 class.

9 All of this infers that the
10 actual revenue paid by the city of Swift
11 Current has, in fact, been higher than
12 required, and the city of Swift Current has
13 been overpaying for electricity since 2007.

14 We consider the proposed
15 revenue-to-revenue requirement to be a direct
16 attack on the city of Swift Current's
17 profitability with no justification in rate
18 setting protocol. This attack on the city of
19 Swift Current's profitability began with the
20 2007 rate review application when the reseller
21 class was set higher than the residential and
22 urban commercial customer classes we serve.
23 In SaskPower's original application, the
24 calculated value of this inequity to the city
25 of Swift Current is approximately \$600,000 per

1 year or the equivalent of an 8 percent
2 municipal tax increase if the city of Swift
3 Current were to have to make this revenue loss
4 up through other means. In SaskPower's
5 updated application, the calculated value of
6 this inequity to the city of Swift Current is
7 approximately \$450,000 per year or the
8 equivalent of a 6 percent municipal tax
9 increase.

10 The city of Swift Current
11 respectfully requests that the Saskatchewan
12 Rate Review Panel recommend that the reseller
13 class have a revenue-to-revenue requirement
14 reflective of the customer base we serve. For
15 the 2013 SaskPower rate review application,
16 this would be a blended revenue-to-revenue
17 requirement of urban residential and urban
18 commercial classes or .98.

19 The city of Swift Current
20 also respectfully requests that the
21 Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel consider
22 recommending a requirement of SaskPower to
23 maintain the actual revenue-to-revenue
24 requirement at the levels projected in their
25 rate applications or provide a remedy if this

1 is not achieved. At minimum, SaskPower should
2 be required to publish the actual
3 revenue-to-revenue ratio results on an annual
4 basis.

5 That makes up the bulk of my
6 formal presentation. We have a few more
7 comments that we'd like to make.

8 The city of Swift Current is
9 very disappointed in the Saskatchewan Rate
10 Review Panel consultant's first-round
11 questions. Of the 138 questions posed, not
12 one relates to the revenue-to-revenue
13 requirements or rate rebalancing. The failure
14 of the consultant to recognize
15 revenue-to-revenue requirement ratios by
16 customer class as a major issue of this rate
17 review application questions whether they are
18 actually in tune with the issues associated
19 with this rate review. The city of Swift
20 Current respectfully requests the Saskatchewan
21 Rate Review Panel have their consultant truly
22 consider this issue.

23 In the second round of 55
24 questions from the consultant, only one
25 question was posed on the revenue-to-revenue

1 requirement and rate rebalancing issue.
2 SaskPower's response used data from the
3 original submission and not from their
4 September update. Given the impact of the
5 revenue-to-revenue requirement ratios, this
6 inconsistency does not give the city of Swift
7 Current confidence in SaskPower's presented
8 data.

9 Finally, the city of Swift
10 Current is also disappointed to see the data
11 presented by SaskPower in its September
12 mid-application update, which appears to be
13 contradictory. Depreciation and finance costs
14 have increased dramatically. How is it
15 possible that SaskPower did not plan these
16 costs correctly in their original submission?
17 These items should not have changed that
18 dramatically in three months.

19 Fuel and OM&A costs have
20 both declined, yet SaskPower claims that:
21 "Increased generation and transmission costs
22 which decreases the revenue-to-revenue ratios
23 for large power and reseller customers
24 increases the revenue-to-revenue requirement
25 ratios for all other customers." Again, the

1 city of Swift Current disputes the fact that
2 we should be considered equivalent of the
3 power customer class and requests that we be
4 considered as part of the urban residential
5 and urban commercial classes.

6 How can there be increased
7 generation and transmission costs when both
8 fuel and OM&A costs have declined? Are all of
9 the increased finance and depreciation costs
10 related to generation and transmission with
11 none related to distribution?

12 With all of the
13 inconsistencies throughout SaskPower's
14 application update, we have difficulty
15 accepting the accuracy of the numbers and
16 remain with the belief that the reseller
17 revenue-to-revenue requirement ratios are not
18 correctly shown and remain at a level greater
19 than projected. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much for your
21 comments, and we will be taking them under
22 advisement.

23 I would add one comment with
24 respect to the second-round interrogatories.
25 Because of the timing of the mid-application

1 update, SaskPower has agreed that we can
2 continue to make further inquiries. So there
3 was kind of the first round of the second
4 round, so don't take that as the complete
5 interrogatories that were being provided to
6 SaskPower.

7 Do you have any comment that
8 you would like to add at this time? No?
9 Okay, thank you.

10 Again, thank you, and I
11 presume you'll be providing us with a written
12 submission as well. Thank you.

13 And our final submission --
14 formal submission this evening is by Eugene
15 Setka from SIECA.

16 MR. SETKA: Good evening, Madam Chair,
17 fellow Panel members, Mr. Watson, fellow
18 SaskPower executives and management.

19 Recognizing I'm last, I
20 won't keep us here until 11:00. My name is
21 Eugene Setka. I'm the Chairman of SIECA,
22 which is the Saskatchewan Industrial Energy
23 Consumers Association. We have 18 member
24 companies. The majority of our members have
25 been long-standing members of the province,

1 but we do have some newer members, including
2 some companies that have made some very major
3 substantial investments in the province. Our
4 membership employ a significant number of
5 people in Saskatchewan, and our members
6 consume 30 percent of the power consumed in
7 the province. Our membership is keenly
8 interested in cost and cost competitiveness.

9 First off, I'd like to thank
10 the Panel. We appreciate the efforts of the
11 members of the Panel and we appreciate the
12 efforts of Jerry. Unfortunately, he's not
13 with us here this evening, but his line of
14 questioning certainly was very good and I'm
15 sure will continue that way.

16 And we appreciate the
17 efforts of the panel to adhere to the process
18 of transparency. But Mr. Watson, we don't
19 appreciate the way SaskPower has addressed the
20 questions of the panel. In Round 1, the panel
21 asked 138 questions. 16 of the responses
22 stated: "The information has now been
23 provided to the Sask. Rate Review Panel and
24 their consultant in confidence." In Round 2,
25 the panel asked 100 questions. In 17

1 responses, SaskPower stated, "This response
2 contains confidential information. A
3 confidential response has been submitted to
4 the Rate Review Panel."

5 Not only has the number of
6 responses hiding behind the veil of
7 confidentiality increased; this type of
8 response undermines the trust and confidence
9 of the stakeholders. In prior recommendations
10 of the Panel, an effort was made to reduce the
11 number of responses claiming confidentiality.
12 This year the number has grown and defeats the
13 objective of working together with the
14 stakeholders. There are many more ways to
15 describe this, but I'm sure you understand our
16 point.

17 I'll address three major
18 issues that we'll talk about a little bit this
19 evening: Load forecasting, fuel cost
20 variance, and OM&A.

21 Load forecasting. SaskPower
22 continues to overestimate consumption. I
23 believe the mid-application update reconfirmed
24 this. If the forecasting methodology is
25 biased to overestimation in the short term,

1 then applying the same methodology to
2 long-term planning could result in the risk of
3 prematurely building or overbuilding
4 generation transmission infrastructure.

5 Fuel cost variance. In
6 2009, the Rate Review Panel recommended that
7 SaskPower establish a gas costs variance
8 account. There has been a consistent pattern
9 of overestimating fuel costs and that
10 behaviour parallels the load forecasting bias.
11 It's now three years later, and the fuel cost
12 variance situation is not going to be
13 addressed until after this rate application.
14 We ask, what is the hurry of this rate
15 application?

16 OM&A. We understand work is
17 being done to try and bring the OM&A costs
18 under control. SaskPower has identified an
19 efficiency and effectiveness agenda, but we
20 can't seem to find the \$200 million cost
21 reduction in OM&A costs. We are hopeful that
22 the Panel can.

23 When we look forward at the
24 timetable, we see October 4th is the
25 stakeholders final submissions due. October

1 16th is the cost of service study and fuel
2 cost variance account review, and October 19th
3 is the Rate Review Panel's final report. Rate
4 design and fuel cost variances account should
5 be happening in parallel with this rate
6 application, but they will not be complete in
7 time for the rate adjustment and your final
8 report.

9 In conclusion, if it is felt
10 that a modest rate increase needs to be put in
11 place, then the Rate Review Panel should not
12 allow greater than a two percent rate increase
13 equivalent to the CPI index for Saskatchewan.
14 We feel it is prudent to wait until the cost
15 of service study and fuel cost variance
16 account material is available before any rate
17 increase is awarded.

18 It is time for the veil of
19 confidentiality to be removed. As long as
20 SaskPower can hide behind the response that
21 this response contains confidential
22 information, the process of public
23 consultation with the stakeholders becomes
24 useless. Thank you for allowing us this time
25 this evening.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks very much, Gene.
2 Just a couple of comments. You indicated that
3 the Rate Review Panel's report to government
4 was October 19th. It's November 19th or did I
5 mishear you perhaps?

6 MR. SETKA: I thought I read October
7 19th.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: It's November 19th.

9 MR. SETKA: Okay, sorry.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: The meeting on the fuel cost
11 variance account and cost of service is
12 October 16th, and we have set the date of
13 October 4th as the deadline for submissions
14 from the public. If you needed to make an
15 additional submission, we could discuss that
16 if you needed to make something after that
17 date during our review process. You know, if
18 you'd like to talk to us about that, I'm sure
19 we could try and arrange something.

20 Your other comment with
21 respect to the confidentiality and the
22 responses?

23 MR. SETKA: Yes.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: What I will do is I will
25 contact our consultant and ask him to work

1 with SaskPower to determine if there are some
2 of those responses that perhaps don't fall
3 within the guidelines of the Panel. We also
4 recognized at the Panel that there were a
5 number of responses that were marked as
6 confidential, so I will undertake to do that
7 first thing tomorrow.

8 MR. SETKA: Thank you.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Did you have anything
10 further that you'd like to comment on?

11 MR. WATSON: Yeah, I generally take
12 exception -- maybe it's just me personally
13 taking exception to anybody suggesting anybody
14 at SaskPower is purposely hiding any
15 information or making up any numbers or
16 misleading anybody at any time. I take very
17 big exception to that and we don't. If there
18 is misunderstanding of any numbers or any
19 figures or anything, we're happy to sit down
20 with the Panel and clear that up. We do not
21 mislead people, we do not lie to people. I
22 believe that my people have full integrity all
23 the time and we'll work with the Panel to make
24 sure that all the factual information has come
25 out if there is anything missing.

1 MR. SETKA: Yes. And Mr. Watson, I know
2 that there are some areas of confidentiality
3 that you can't disclose, but there seems like
4 there is an awful lot here, and I don't think
5 I ever said you were lying to anybody or
6 hopefully I didn't imply that.

7 MR. WATSON: I did say that was my
8 personal view.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, I will just reiterate
10 Robert Watson's comments in that they --
11 SaskPower, from the President on down to all
12 the staff that we have worked with, with the
13 Panel and with our consultants, they have been
14 very responsive in endeavouring to provide us
15 whatever information we request. And I
16 understand your perspective as well is that
17 we're getting answers you're not getting, and
18 I will try and see if there is any -- if there
19 is -- I'll work with our consultant to see if
20 there is anything that we can do to add some
21 more clarity from your perspective. Perhaps
22 we can, perhaps we can't. I don't know at
23 this point, but I will talk to our consultant
24 about it tomorrow.

25 MR. SETKA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thanks. Were there
2 any other formal presentations that I was not
3 aware of?

4 MS. SCHWANN: I'd like to make a
5 presentation.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, sure. That's fine.
7 Could you please make sure that you identify
8 yourself or your organization and spell your
9 name. Thank you.

10 MS. SCHWANN: Good evening, everyone. My
11 name is Pam Schwann. I'm the Executive
12 Director of the Saskatchewan Mining
13 Association, and I do have some questions
14 based on the presentation and also some
15 comments. You can spell my name
16 S-C-H-W-A-N-N. First of all, maybe just for
17 clarification, if I could, going back to
18 SaskPower's presentation. In the initial rate
19 review application, the power class rate
20 increase was shown as 6.1 percent and on this
21 one it's 6.3 percent that you showed right
22 now. So can you just clarify which one it is?

23 MR. LAWN: It's 6.3 percent with the
24 mid-application update.

25 MS. SCHWANN: Okay.

1 MR. LAWN: That's just for the contract
2 class.

3 MS. SCHWANN: Contract power class, yeah.
4 And the production and power purchase
5 agreements from 5 billion down to 3 billion,
6 is that related to the lower power generation
7 forecast?

8 MR. KALRA: It's a mix of projects what
9 we would do with this, you know, like maybe
10 going to buy PBA. And it's also a 10-year
11 horizon, the information that I've given you.
12 For the next 10 years, some of the projects
13 that may have fallen within 10 years may be
14 beyond that, so it's just a 10-year
15 projection.

16 MS. SCHWANN: And that's a result of the
17 mid-year or the September projection?

18 MR. KALRA: That's the latest
19 information that we have.

20 MS. SCHWANN: And I just want to go back
21 to a question that CAPP had asked about the
22 significant reduction in power class and the
23 revenue generation decrease of \$60 million.
24 So you can't identify specifically what
25 sector, whether it was oil sector or mining

1 sector; can you or no?

2 MR. LAWN: I'm sorry, do you want to go
3 back to the original question?

4 MS. SCHWANN: Oh, the question was that
5 there was significant reduction in the power
6 class, the revenues coming in, and I was
7 wondering if you could comment on which power
8 class customer -- sector that was, whether
9 that was in the mining sector or oil or --

10 MR. LAWN: It's from both sectors, but
11 most of the load growth over the next 10 years
12 is from the potash sector and oil pipeline
13 pumping.

14 MS. SCHWANN: So it's a mix of both?

15 MR. LAWN: It's a mix of all of them,
16 yeah, but those two are actually -- have the
17 largest percentage growth.

18 MS. SCHWANN: Okay, thank you for that. I
19 guess what I'd like to just do right now is
20 comment. Just some general comments that I
21 think it's important that the Panel hears from
22 the perspective of my members, and we will be
23 submitting a letter hopefully before the
24 October 4th deadline, but I might even speak
25 to you about a couple of days' grace on that.

1 Really what I want to do is
2 underscore the need for significant
3 investments in the infrastructure that
4 SaskPower has, particularly with respect to
5 baseload power generation and transmission.
6 My members are investing over \$50 billion in
7 the next 20 years in expansions and new
8 projects and they're making that investment
9 with the anticipation that there will be power
10 available to run their operations.

11 SaskPower has identified
12 that in the next 20 years, they're going to
13 have to rebuild or replace or acquire over 100
14 percent of their existing capacity, and if
15 that doesn't scare everybody in Saskatchewan,
16 then I don't know where they are because we're
17 at a critical stage here that we have to have
18 significant re-investment in the power
19 infrastructure in Saskatchewan.

20 You know, I can talk about
21 our northern transmission. We were pleased to
22 see the I2P line project going forward. But
23 power losses, because we're right at the brink
24 of where we can go with power transmission in
25 northern Saskatchewan, costs our operations

1 over \$20 million a year just from power
2 outages. So we need to make sure that they've
3 got the infrastructure in place to handle not
4 just mining growth, but, quite frankly, any
5 grow in northern Saskatchewan because it's
6 really just not there right now.

7 In our comments, we will be
8 providing comments on the specific rate
9 increase itself, but really just wanted to be
10 up here to say that we know SaskPower needs to
11 re-invest in the infrastructure, we support
12 their re-investment in the infrastructure.
13 It's absolutely needed for the growth of the
14 province, and we would like to advocate to
15 make sure that SaskPower retains any dividend
16 that they get and it not be re-invested into
17 the general revenue because we need that
18 re-investment in the power infrastructure in
19 Saskatchewan. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, Pam. Do you have
21 any comments?

22 MR. WATSON: We agree.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Pretty simple and
24 straightforward. Are there any other
25 questions, comments from anyone in the

1 audience?

2 Hearing none, then I would
3 like to thank everyone for attending, and the
4 presenters for your presentations. I think
5 the Panel gained a lot of information this
6 evening. We're looking forward to a speedy
7 release of the transcript from Royal
8 Reporting. She's smiling at me, so I'm sure
9 that that will happen. And, finally, I would
10 like to thank the participants from SaskPower
11 for your presentation, for your responding to
12 questions this evening. We appreciate that
13 very much. And with that, I will adjourn
14 tonight's meeting.

15 *(Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.)*

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE:

I, RUTH LEDGERWOOD, CSR, Certified Court Reporter,
hereby certify that the foregoing pages contain a true
and correct transcription of my shorthand notes taken
herein to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

RUTH LEDGERWOOD, CSR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

\$	180,000 [1] - 12:14 19th [6] - 4:13, 50:2, 51:4, 51:7, 51:8	Page 1 000 [1] - 23:14 4th [4] - 5:5, 49:24, 51:13, 56:24	
	2	5	
	2 [4] - 3:1, 8:6, 35:13, 47:24 20 [6] - 13:12, 19:14, 21:4, 32:4, 57:7, 57:12 200 [3] - 11:18, 12:20, 19:18 2007 [4] - 11:18, 18:25, 41:13, 41:20 2009 [5] - 15:1, 39:10, 39:20, 40:20, 49:6 2010 [6] - 12:25, 37:22, 38:11, 39:10, 40:18, 40:23 2011 [5] - 13:1, 13:11, 14:10, 20:5, 26:23 2012 [8] - 1:12, 3:1, 11:22, 13:3, 20:5, 24:22, 26:21, 27:4 2013 [19] - 1:5, 11:23, 12:7, 12:9, 12:17, 12:20, 13:14, 15:1, 15:3, 15:13, 15:19, 16:18, 16:24, 25:11, 35:24, 37:13, 38:4, 41:1, 42:15 2021 [1] - 13:11 22 [1] - 10:10 23 [1] - 2:9 24 [2] - 2:11, 15:15 25 [1] - 2:12 25-year [1] - 14:9 25.5 [1] - 38:6 250 [1] - 22:13 2nd [1] - 1:12	6	5 [4] - 9:11, 12:3, 39:3, 55:5 50 [2] - 11:14, 20:16 500,000 [2] - 14:6, 19:14 52 [1] - 2:17 54 [1] - 2:18 55 [1] - 43:23 58 [1] - 2:19
1		8	6 [5] - 9:17, 30:21, 30:25, 42:8 6.1 [1] - 54:20 6.3 [2] - 54:21, 54:23 6.4 [1] - 16:24 60 [3] - 17:6, 21:9, 21:10
1 [2] - 15:13, 47:20 1.0 [2] - 39:25, 40:8 1.01 [3] - 39:7, 40:21, 40:25 1.02 [1] - 41:3 1.03 [1] - 39:3 1.25 [1] - 13:20 1.4 [1] - 13:9 1.8 [1] - 20:9 1.9 [1] - 16:24 10 [8] - 11:24, 12:1, 13:8, 13:19, 20:15, 55:12, 55:13, 56:11 10-year [2] - 55:10, 55:14 100 [2] - 47:25, 57:13 110,000 [1] - 13:25 11:00 [1] - 46:20 12 [3] - 13:6, 16:15, 21:11 138 [2] - 43:11, 47:21 15,000 [1] - 13:7 16 [1] - 47:21 160 [1] - 22:12 16th [3] - 28:25, 50:1, 51:12 17 [2] - 2:8, 47:25 17-day [1] - 19:20 18 [2] - 15:16, 46:23			
	4	A	7 [2] - 2:5, 20:22 7,000 [1] - 13:6 71.3 [1] - 17:5 75 [1] - 17:6 7:40 [1] - 3:2
		3	
		3 [5] - 2:4, 12:2, 12:4, 39:7, 55:5 3,700 [1] - 13:1 30 [4] - 11:14, 15:11, 20:22, 47:6 300,000 [1] - 19:2 32.5 [1] - 38:2 35 [1] - 20:6 35.8 [1] - 38:3 37 [2] - 2:14, 20:22	9
	4		
	4 [3] - 9:16, 10:3, 15:18 4,159 [1] - 13:2 4.9 [5] - 9:14, 9:25, 20:7, 30:22, 30:23 400,000 [1] - 19:3 46 [1] - 2:16	A	9 [2] - 2:7, 15:24 90 [1] - 12:13 90.8 [1] - 38:2 98 [5] - 39:2, 39:7, 40:11, 40:14, 42:18 9:00 [1] - 59:15
		A	ability [1] - 60:6 absolutely [1] - 58:13 accepting [1] - 45:15 accomplished [1] - 19:4 accordance [1] - 39:25 account [8] - 5:15, 26:7, 27:5, 49:8, 50:2, 50:4, 50:16, 51:11 accounts [1] - 35:3
			accuracy [3] - 28:6, 35:5, 45:15 accurate [2] - 35:10, 35:22 achieved [1] - 43:1 acknowledge [2] - 18:2, 18:11 acquire [1] - 57:13 across-the-board [1] - 30:17 actual [5] - 40:19, 41:2, 41:10, 42:23, 43:2 add [4] - 12:20, 45:23, 46:8, 53:20 adding [1] - 12:24 addition [1] - 4:11 additional [4] - 12:20, 16:22, 36:9, 51:15 address [2] - 29:9, 48:17 addressed [2] - 47:19, 49:13 adhere [1] - 47:17 adjourn [1] - 59:13 Adjourned [1] - 59:15 adjust [1] - 40:7 adjustment [1] - 50:7 administrative [1] - 14:24 advisement [1] - 45:22 advocate [1] - 58:14 affect [1] - 40:4 afforded [1] - 33:4 afternoon [1] - 28:15 agenda [2] - 9:5, 49:19 aging [1] - 34:1 ago [5] - 11:14, 19:10, 22:23, 25:1, 29:5 agree [1] - 58:22 agreed [1] - 46:1 agreements [2] - 12:3, 55:5 ahead [2] - 27:21, 29:17 Albert [2] - 17:25, 18:6 Alberta [1] - 20:20 aligned [2] - 33:7, 33:14 allow [1] - 50:12 allowing [2] - 18:5, 50:24 alternatives [2] - 18:20, 21:8 amalgamation [1] - 39:16 America [2] - 8:1, 33:25 amount [4] - 15:24, 19:6, 39:24, 40:9 annual [3] - 18:16, 20:3, 43:3 Annual [1] - 19:16 annum [1] - 20:9 answer [2] - 22:2, 35:16 answering [1] - 17:13 answers [2] - 17:15,

<p>53:17 anticipate [1] - 28:19 anticipation [2] - 35:21, 57:9 apologize [4] - 3:14, 24:19, 36:24, 37:5 APPLICATION [1] - 1:5 application [44] - 3:10, 4:17, 4:18, 5:18, 5:25, 7:24, 9:2, 9:5, 9:7, 9:11, 9:18, 10:1, 15:2, 16:21, 24:25, 25:3, 26:19, 27:8, 30:4, 37:14, 37:18, 37:25, 38:5, 38:25, 39:5, 39:25, 40:18, 40:24, 41:2, 41:20, 41:23, 42:5, 42:15, 43:17, 44:12, 45:14, 45:25, 48:23, 49:13, 49:15, 50:6, 54:19, 54:24 applications [2] - 39:10, 42:25 applied [1] - 37:20 applies [1] - 31:1 apply [1] - 40:3 applying [1] - 49:1 appreciate [9] - 24:11, 25:2, 32:6, 32:8, 47:10, 47:11, 47:16, 47:19, 59:12 appreciative [1] - 34:7 approaching [1] - 5:5 appropriate [1] - 30:3 approved [2] - 40:15, 41:6 April [1] - 39:20 area [4] - 28:12, 30:14, 34:11, 34:25 areas [3] - 25:1, 32:12, 53:2 arrange [1] - 51:19 Asian [1] - 21:24 aside [1] - 10:17 assets [1] - 10:14 assist [1] - 6:19 associated [1] - 43:18 Association [6] - 2:11, 2:16, 2:18, 32:2, 46:23, 54:13 attack [2] - 41:16, 41:18 attempted [2] - 39:11, 39:16 attend [1] - 3:7 attendance [1] - 3:24 attending [1] - 59:3 attention [1] - 8:10 audience [1] - 59:1 August [2] - 27:6, 27:7 available [4] - 4:7, 4:8, 50:16, 57:10 average [8] - 9:12, 9:15, 9:17, 10:9, 10:10, 11:18,</p>	<p>13:25, 30:20 averages [1] - 17:3 awarded [1] - 50:17 aware [2] - 6:3, 54:3 awful [1] - 53:4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>balance [1] - 5:20 bankrupt [1] - 22:9 Barber [2] - 1:18, 3:25 base [2] - 38:19, 42:14 Based [2] - 36:1, 40:25 based [5] - 26:20, 38:25, 39:5, 40:17, 54:14 baseload [1] - 57:5 basis [5] - 7:17, 15:12, 16:2, 26:3, 43:4 BC [1] - 10:24 become [1] - 37:21 becomes [1] - 50:23 began [1] - 41:19 begin [4] - 5:24, 7:10, 17:10, 17:16 behalf [2] - 32:1, 35:8 behaviour [1] - 49:10 behind [2] - 48:6, 50:20 belief [1] - 45:16 believes [1] - 40:6 below [1] - 38:14 benefit [3] - 6:22, 14:12, 14:14 best [2] - 28:8, 60:6 better [2] - 26:8, 27:21 between [2] - 13:11, 17:6 beyond [2] - 8:17, 55:14 bias [1] - 49:10 biased [1] - 48:25 big [6] - 8:21, 16:17, 18:11, 23:15, 25:15, 52:17 bigger [1] - 10:3 bill [1] - 27:14 billing [4] - 14:9, 34:25, 35:5, 35:9 billion [10] - 8:6, 11:22, 11:23, 11:25, 12:2, 12:4, 12:9, 55:5, 57:6 bills [1] - 33:4 biomass [1] - 18:7 bit [11] - 9:21, 24:18, 25:21, 26:5, 26:8, 26:12, 26:14, 26:17, 31:2, 33:13, 48:18 blended [1] - 42:16 block [3] - 16:7, 16:11, 16:14 blue [1] - 10:23 board [1] - 30:17 bottom [1] - 16:16 bound [1] - 33:18</p>	<p>boundary [1] - 12:7 bounds [1] - 30:2 briefly [1] - 4:9 bring [4] - 18:6, 22:17, 23:23, 49:17 brink [1] - 57:23 British [2] - 20:21, 22:22 building [1] - 49:3 built [2] - 11:14, 21:25 bulb [2] - 16:9, 16:10 bulk [3] - 25:11, 35:16, 43:5 business [14] - 8:3, 8:6, 14:19, 15:8, 19:12, 21:3, 21:23, 22:19, 22:20, 23:1, 23:2, 24:7, 32:7, 32:8 buy [1] - 55:10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>Cabinet [2] - 40:15, 41:6 calculated [4] - 38:1, 38:6, 41:24, 42:5 calculations [1] - 38:10 Canada [5] - 10:7, 10:19, 10:22, 11:5, 17:23 Canadian [3] - 2:10, 10:9, 32:1 capacity [2] - 23:20, 57:14 capital [7] - 11:22, 13:14, 14:25, 15:25, 19:6, 33:24, 34:1 CAPP [9] - 24:9, 28:1, 28:5, 32:6, 33:3, 33:21, 35:1, 35:25, 55:21 capture [3] - 11:12, 12:8, 12:11 carbon [4] - 11:12, 12:8, 12:11, 12:12 cases [5] - 10:15, 15:16, 15:17, 25:22, 26:17 catch [2] - 24:3, 31:2 catch-up [1] - 31:2 category [1] - 40:4 Centre [1] - 1:11 CEO [2] - 2:5, 7:5 certainly [1] - 47:14 CERTIFICATE [1] - 60:1 CERTIFIED [2] - 60:1, 60:12 Certified [1] - 60:3 certify [1] - 60:4 CFO [2] - 2:7, 7:6 Chair [8] - 3:4, 17:8, 24:10, 31:23, 32:17, 36:11, 46:16, 53:25 Chairman [2] - 2:15, 46:21 Chairperson [2] - 1:17, 2:4</p>	<p>CHAIRPERSON [18] - 3:3, 17:9, 23:5, 24:8, 36:8, 36:14, 36:19, 45:20, 51:1, 51:8, 51:10, 51:24, 52:9, 53:9, 54:1, 54:6, 58:20, 58:23 challenge [4] - 21:1, 21:5, 23:13, 34:20 challenges [2] - 18:21, 21:19 changed [2] - 25:17, 44:17 changes [3] - 25:4, 29:21, 33:17 changing [4] - 16:10, 19:4, 22:2, 22:3 charges [1] - 33:20 chart [4] - 10:5, 10:22, 11:17, 12:3 check [1] - 4:15 chemical [1] - 19:24 chemicals [1] - 19:25 Chetwynd [1] - 22:22 chips [1] - 20:1 cities [3] - 31:15, 31:17 Cities [1] - 31:18 City [1] - 2:14 city [19] - 37:4, 37:10, 37:15, 38:18, 41:10, 41:12, 41:16, 41:18, 41:24, 42:2, 42:6, 42:10, 42:19, 43:8, 43:19, 44:6, 44:9, 45:1 claiming [1] - 48:11 claims [1] - 44:20 clarification [1] - 54:17 clarify [1] - 54:22 clarity [1] - 53:21 class [21] - 25:10, 25:14, 26:2, 30:16, 31:1, 37:17, 38:24, 39:11, 39:19, 40:10, 41:8, 41:21, 42:13, 43:16, 45:3, 54:19, 55:2, 55:3, 55:22, 56:6, 56:8 classes [14] - 25:12, 29:21, 30:21, 37:23, 37:24, 38:14, 38:23, 39:13, 39:16, 39:17, 40:14, 41:22, 42:18, 45:5 clear [1] - 52:20 client [1] - 36:13 closely [1] - 28:2 Closing [1] - 2:19 closing [1] - 24:15 closure [1] - 21:21 coast [2] - 10:7, 10:8 Columbia [2] - 20:21, 22:23 combine [1] - 39:11 coming [8] - 7:13, 7:24, 23:14, 23:15, 32:10,</p>
--	---	---	---

32:19, 34:2, 56:6
Commenced [1] - 3:2
comment [7] - 30:6, 45:23, 46:7, 51:20, 52:10, 56:7, 56:20
commentary [1] - 36:15
comments [19] - 2:3, 2:5, 3:12, 6:10, 23:6, 24:15, 31:24, 36:6, 36:19, 43:7, 45:21, 51:2, 53:10, 54:15, 56:20, 58:7, 58:8, 58:21, 58:25
commercial [8] - 37:23, 38:14, 38:20, 38:23, 39:15, 41:22, 42:18, 45:5
commitment [1] - 28:1
commitments [1] - 27:17
commodities [1] - 23:3
commodity [1] - 34:19
communicate [2] - 4:24, 4:25
community [1] - 18:22
companies [6] - 34:18, 35:2, 35:7, 35:8, 46:24, 47:2
company [1] - 22:9
comparable [1] - 10:11
compare [3] - 10:4, 10:18, 23:19
compared [3] - 10:11, 11:5, 15:1
comparisons [1] - 18:19
competitive [2] - 22:1, 34:22
competitiveness [1] - 47:8
complete [2] - 46:4, 50:6
concern [2] - 34:17, 34:25
concerned [4] - 33:13, 33:22, 34:2, 37:16
concerns [3] - 32:23, 34:18, 35:4
conclusion [1] - 50:9
conditions [4] - 25:16, 26:11, 31:5, 31:8
confidence [3] - 44:7, 47:24, 48:8
confident [1] - 5:13
confidential [4] - 48:2, 48:3, 50:21, 52:6
confidentiality [5] - 48:7, 48:11, 50:19, 51:21, 53:2
connections [1] - 13:1
conservative [1] - 27:18
consider [4] - 39:13, 41:14, 42:21, 43:22
considered [2] - 45:2, 45:4
consistent [1] - 49:8

constantly [1] - 21:23
consultant [12] - 28:16, 28:22, 29:6, 29:13, 29:16, 43:14, 43:21, 43:24, 47:24, 51:25, 53:19, 53:23
consultant's [1] - 43:10
consultants [2] - 32:21, 53:13
consultation [2] - 4:10, 50:23
consume [1] - 47:6
consumed [1] - 47:6
consumer [1] - 40:5
consumer's [1] - 16:4
Consumers [2] - 2:15, 46:23
consumers [1] - 16:5
consumption [1] - 48:22
contact [2] - 5:2, 51:25
contain [1] - 60:4
contains [2] - 48:2, 50:21
continue [11] - 13:2, 28:4, 32:17, 32:23, 33:15, 34:4, 34:13, 34:14, 36:5, 46:2, 47:15
continues [3] - 20:5, 33:21, 48:22
continuing [1] - 11:24
continuous [2] - 32:12, 34:11
contract [5] - 9:14, 9:24, 31:1, 39:12, 55:1
Contract [1] - 55:3
contractors [1] - 22:13
contracts [5] - 10:16, 31:3, 31:6, 31:11, 31:15
contradictory [1] - 44:13
contribute [1] - 22:11
control [1] - 49:18
Convention [1] - 1:11
conversations [1] - 25:24
copy [1] - 4:17
correct [1] - 60:5
correctly [2] - 44:16, 45:18
cost [29] - 13:14, 14:1, 14:23, 15:5, 20:7, 20:10, 25:6, 28:13, 28:18, 29:25, 30:2, 33:10, 33:15, 33:24, 34:14, 34:15, 47:8, 48:19, 49:5, 49:11, 49:20, 50:1, 50:2, 50:4, 50:14, 50:15, 51:10, 51:11
costs [25] - 8:7, 12:8, 16:3, 18:18, 20:4, 20:8, 20:24, 24:22, 34:9, 34:22, 35:18, 35:20, 36:5, 44:13, 44:16, 44:19, 44:21, 45:7, 45:8,

, 49:7, 49:9, 49:17, 49:21, 57:25
couple [3] - 17:2, 51:2, 56:25
course [1] - 11:21
COURT [2] - 60:1, 60:12
Court [1] - 60:3
CPI [1] - 50:13
critical [2] - 32:9, 57:17
cross [2] - 38:1, 38:5
cross-subsidization [2] - 38:1, 38:5
CSR [2] - 60:3, 60:11
culture [1] - 34:14
Current [17] - 2:14, 37:5, 37:10, 37:11, 37:15, 41:11, 41:12, 41:25, 42:3, 42:6, 42:10, 42:19, 43:8, 43:20, 44:7, 44:10, 45:1
Current's [3] - 38:18, 41:16, 41:19
customer [25] - 9:16, 10:21, 12:25, 13:5, 14:5, 14:9, 14:19, 20:3, 25:12, 25:20, 27:23, 29:21, 31:1, 37:17, 38:19, 38:23, 39:1, 39:5, 39:16, 41:7, 41:22, 42:14, 43:16, 45:3, 56:8
customers [40] - 5:21, 8:21, 9:8, 9:13, 9:17, 9:19, 9:24, 10:3, 10:23, 11:1, 12:25, 14:11, 19:5, 23:11, 23:14, 23:16, 24:5, 25:24, 26:2, 26:5, 26:13, 27:6, 27:9, 27:10, 27:18, 29:3, 30:19, 30:24, 31:16, 31:20, 32:3, 32:25, 33:2, 33:3, 33:20, 38:20, 44:23, 44:25
cut [1] - 27:13
cycle [1] - 15:15

D

Dale [7] - 2:8, 2:10, 17:18, 17:19, 17:21, 24:9, 36:8
Dam [1] - 12:7
data [6] - 27:3, 32:19, 32:24, 44:2, 44:8, 44:10
date [3] - 5:9, 51:12, 51:17
days [1] - 56:25
deadline [3] - 5:4, 51:13, 56:24
debt [2] - 16:1, 17:4
decade [1] - 32:22
declined [2] - 44:20, 45:8

decrease [1] - 55:23
decreased [1] - 21:3
decreases [1] - 44:22
deemed [1] - 30:3
defeats [1] - 48:12
Delaine [3] - 1:18, 3:25, 6:8
delay [1] - 27:14
delayed [3] - 25:21, 26:16, 26:17
demand [4] - 12:23, 13:4, 13:9, 13:10
density [1] - 10:22
Depreciation [1] - 44:13
depreciation [1] - 45:9
describe [1] - 48:15
design [2] - 22:21, 50:4
desk [1] - 15:22
Despite [1] - 11:3
despite [2] - 10:20, 35:12
detail [1] - 9:23
details [1] - 30:10
determine [1] - 52:1
developments [1] - 8:22
different [5] - 23:3, 25:15, 29:21, 30:19, 31:9
difficult [1] - 21:22
difficulty [1] - 45:14
dioxide [1] - 12:13
direct [1] - 41:15
direction [1] - 19:13
directly [1] - 31:4
Director [3] - 2:13, 2:18, 54:12
disappointed [2] - 43:9, 44:10
disclose [2] - 27:25, 53:3
discuss [1] - 51:15
disputes [1] - 45:1
distribution [4] - 11:3, 13:17, 14:2, 45:11
dividend [1] - 58:15
dollar [1] - 10:2
dollars [2] - 11:22, 22:11
done [10] - 8:3, 12:11, 14:18, 18:3, 18:5, 18:13, 22:1, 22:18, 29:5, 49:17
double [2] - 13:5, 13:11
down [11] - 18:9, 22:22, 22:24, 25:14, 26:12, 34:2, 35:18, 35:19, 52:19, 53:11, 55:5
draft [1] - 28:23
dramatically [2] - 44:14, 44:18
drivers [4] - 9:8, 9:9, 11:6, 14:23
due [1] - 49:25
during [4] - 4:15, 13:7,

13:15, 51:17		Page 4	
E			
<p>early [3] - 27:14, 29:12, 29:22 east [1] - 10:7 EBITDA [1] - 22:6 economic [1] - 26:11 economy [1] - 26:11 effectiveness [1] - 49:19 efficiency [1] - 49:19 efficient [3] - 16:11, 28:9, 28:10 efficiently [1] - 14:21 effort [2] - 39:13, 48:10 efforts [5] - 34:7, 36:5, 47:10, 47:12, 47:17 eight [2] - 12:4, 22:23 either [1] - 6:21 electrical [3] - 11:13, 18:17, 20:15 electricity [6] - 13:4, 13:9, 20:3, 20:6, 32:5, 41:13 electronically [1] - 35:6 email [2] - 5:1, 28:14 emissions [1] - 12:13 employ [1] - 47:4 employed [1] - 22:14 employee [2] - 8:16, 18:20 employees [2] - 8:18, 19:9 employer [1] - 22:10 employing [1] - 23:25 encourage [9] - 4:14, 4:25, 5:6, 28:3, 32:12, 33:18, 34:3, 34:12, 36:3 encouraged [6] - 8:19, 32:17, 33:9, 34:23, 35:8, 35:10 end [2] - 14:4, 14:19 endeavouring [1] - 53:14 Energy [4] - 2:12, 2:15, 7:8, 46:22 energy [2] - 8:9, 25:10 engineers [1] - 21:22 entirely [1] - 38:19 environmental [1] - 11:11 equipment [1] - 19:8 equitable [1] - 33:20 equity [1] - 38:24 equivalent [6] - 12:14, 39:14, 42:1, 42:8, 45:2, 50:13 especially [1] - 26:6 establish [1] - 49:7 estimated [1] - 15:3 estimates [2] - 15:1,</p>	<p>26:8 Eugene [3] - 2:15, 46:14, 46:21 evening [19] - 3:3, 3:6, 3:24, 5:23, 7:4, 7:13, 9:5, 17:12, 17:18, 17:20, 24:17, 46:14, 46:16, 47:13, 48:19, 50:25, 54:10, 59:6, 59:12 event [1] - 21:12 ever-changing [1] - 22:3 example [2] - 10:12, 29:24 examples [2] - 12:5, 15:7 Excellence [5] - 2:8, 17:19, 17:22, 18:3, 18:25 except [2] - 9:13, 9:24 exception [3] - 52:12, 52:13, 52:17 exchange [1] - 22:5 Executive [2] - 2:18, 54:11 executives [1] - 46:18 exemplary [1] - 8:18 existing [3] - 14:7, 14:8, 57:14 expanded [1] - 21:14 expansion [2] - 12:17, 25:20 expansions [1] - 57:7 expect [1] - 15:11 expectation [1] - 13:10 expectations [1] - 35:24 expected [2] - 13:5, 13:13 expecting [2] - 26:13, 29:11 expenditure [1] - 11:22 expenditures [1] - 33:24 expenses [1] - 8:5 explain [2] - 30:20, 40:3 export [1] - 10:16 extended [1] - 15:15 extremely [1] - 5:11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <p>face [2] - 18:21, 22:6 facing [1] - 21:20 fact [8] - 7:20, 8:11, 10:20, 22:18, 28:20, 39:14, 41:11, 45:1 facts [3] - 18:15, 18:23, 22:17 factual [1] - 52:24 failure [1] - 43:13 fairly [1] - 3:21 fall [1] - 52:2 fallen [1] - 55:13 familiar [1] - 7:20</p>	<p>¹[4] - 9:18, 37:23, 38:13, 40:13 fast [1] - 5:5 favourable [1] - 11:4 favourably [1] - 10:18 features [1] - 9:7 February [1] - 29:23 federal [2] - 7:17, 7:19 feedback [2] - 3:11, 5:11 fellow [2] - 46:17 felt [1] - 50:9 few [16] - 3:15, 3:18, 7:25, 11:1, 11:15, 11:19, 14:6, 14:16, 14:22, 24:2, 24:14, 24:21, 28:5, 31:24, 34:8, 43:6 fibres [1] - 20:1 figures [1] - 52:19 file [1] - 30:4 filed [1] - 26:19 final [6] - 19:4, 29:9, 46:13, 49:25, 50:3, 50:7 finally [1] - 59:9 Finally [1] - 44:9 finance [2] - 44:13, 45:9 financial [1] - 16:19 financing [1] - 16:3 fine [2] - 37:2, 54:6 finish [1] - 29:9 finished [2] - 28:22, 29:14 firm [1] - 26:7 first [11] - 7:15, 7:23, 8:2, 12:10, 16:20, 17:17, 27:3, 36:25, 43:10, 46:3, 52:7 First [2] - 47:9, 54:16 first-round [1] - 43:10 firstly [1] - 31:25 five [5] - 6:3, 19:8, 19:10, 23:24, 29:5 flows [1] - 35:6 follow [3] - 33:15, 38:22, 41:6 followed [1] - 29:4 following [4] - 5:23, 6:12, 36:25, 39:22 Following [1] - 6:4 forecast [8] - 11:23, 12:1, 25:10, 25:17, 25:25, 26:1, 35:18, 55:7 Forecasting [2] - 2:12, 7:8 forecasting [5] - 28:7, 48:19, 48:21, 48:24, 49:10 forecasts [5] - 26:4, 26:20, 27:25, 28:3, 35:21 foregoing [1] - 60:4 foreign [1] - 22:4 formal [7] - 6:12, 17:10,</p>	<p>17:17, 24:12, 43:6, 46:14, 54:2 former [1] - 22:9 forward [4] - 28:17, 49:23, 57:22, 59:6 foster [1] - 28:4 four [2] - 16:14, 19:10 fourth [1] - 20:2 frame [1] - 29:23 frankly [2] - 27:19, 58:4 free [1] - 21:13 front [1] - 14:4 FTE [4] - 23:11, 23:18, 23:20, 24:5 Fuel [2] - 44:19, 49:5 fuel [11] - 14:24, 15:5, 15:19, 45:8, 48:19, 49:9, 49:11, 50:1, 50:4, 50:15, 51:10 full [1] - 52:22 functions [1] - 14:24 fund [1] - 9:20 future [6] - 8:20, 8:24, 30:7, 32:15, 34:3, 34:5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>gained [1] - 59:5 gaining [1] - 15:10 gas [4] - 15:6, 25:18, 34:20, 49:7 Gene [1] - 51:1 General [1] - 17:25 general [5] - 6:10, 26:10, 56:20, 58:17 generally [2] - 19:18, 52:11 generating [1] - 18:6 generation [8] - 12:22, 44:21, 45:7, 45:10, 49:4, 55:6, 55:23, 57:5 gentleman [1] - 34:16 gentlemen [1] - 17:10 gigawatt [2] - 13:6, 13:7 given [2] - 27:17, 55:11 Given [2] - 40:3, 44:4 glad [1] - 3:7 global [1] - 26:11 goal [2] - 8:11, 32:10 Government [2] - 5:19, 40:16 government [1] - 51:3 grace [1] - 56:25 grades [1] - 22:2 great [2] - 17:14, 22:19 greater [3] - 35:17, 45:18, 50:12 green [1] - 10:23 grew [1] - 13:9 grid [2] - 18:7, 21:12 group [2] - 22:17, 25:5 grow [3] - 13:2, 13:10,</p>
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<p>58:5 growing [1] - 12:23 grown [1] - 48:12 growth [5] - 11:10, 56:11, 56:17, 58:4, 58:13 guess [1] - 56:19 guidelines [1] - 52:3 gun [1] - 36:12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p> <p>I2P [1] - 57:22 identified [4] - 6:1, 39:24, 49:18, 57:11 identify [4] - 6:23, 7:1, 54:7, 55:24 ill [1] - 3:17 immediately [2] - 6:12, 36:25 impact [10] - 9:7, 9:14, 9:25, 10:2, 10:14, 15:18, 18:22, 29:20, 34:3, 44:4 implement [2] - 34:13, 34:14 implemented [2] - 28:20, 40:16 imply [1] - 53:6 important [2] - 5:12, 56:21 improvement [2] - 32:13, 34:12 improvements [1] - 32:18 Imray [1] - 36:23 include [1] - 6:8 including [2] - 4:19, 47:1 inconsistencies [1] - 45:13 inconsistency [1] - 44:6 increase [36] - 9:9, 9:12, 9:15, 9:19, 9:20, 10:1, 11:7, 16:23, 16:25, 17:5, 19:13, 20:8, 20:22, 21:15, 21:17, 30:5, 30:17, 30:18, 30:22, 36:1, 37:22, 38:3, 38:4, 38:7, 38:11, 40:21, 40:24, 41:1, 42:2, 42:9, 50:10, 50:12, 50:17, 54:20, 58:9 increase/impact [1] - 14:17 Increased [1] - 44:21 increased [5] - 19:2, 44:14, 45:6, 45:9, 48:7 increases [8] - 9:10, 16:17, 20:14, 20:15, 22:4, 30:25, 34:5, 44:24 increasing [1] - 25:12 incremental [1] - 23:13 INDEX [1] - 2:1 index [1] - 50:13 indicate [1] - 29:15 indicated [1] - 51:2 indication [2] - 29:20, 35:23 indicator [1] - 24:6 indices [1] - 31:9 individual [1] - 6:19 individuals [2] - 6:1, 7:2 indulgence [1] - 24:13</p>	<p>Industrial [2] - 2:15, 46:22 industrial [6] - 13:5, 21:18, 23:15, 26:2, 31:16, 31:19 industry [4] - 32:10, 32:14, 34:17, 34:21 inequity [2] - 41:24, 42:6 infers [1] - 41:9 information [18] - 5:2, 6:20, 24:20, 32:19, 33:2, 35:6, 36:2, 40:17, 40:25, 47:22, 48:2, 50:22, 52:15, 52:24, 53:15, 55:11, 55:19, 59:5 infrastructure [9] - 11:9, 34:1, 49:4, 57:3, 57:19, 58:3, 58:11, 58:12, 58:18 initial [1] - 54:18 initiatives [2] - 15:20, 15:23 input [1] - 37:13 inquiries [1] - 46:2 install [1] - 14:5 instead [2] - 39:2, 39:7 instructions [1] - 36:12 integrity [1] - 52:22 intend [1] - 33:11 interested [3] - 4:21, 25:2, 47:8 interests [1] - 5:20 interrogatories [2] - 45:24, 46:5 introduce [4] - 4:3, 7:4, 7:15, 9:6 invest [1] - 58:11 invested [2] - 12:19, 58:16 investing [2] - 14:4, 57:6 investment [14] - 11:7, 11:8, 11:9, 11:10, 11:18, 12:1, 14:3, 19:7, 57:8, 57:18, 58:12, 58:18 Investment [1] - 12:9 investments [4] - 9:20, 12:6, 47:3, 57:3 invite [2] - 29:2, 29:7 ironed [1] - 3:20 IRs [1] - 4:19 issue [5] - 16:17, 21:5, 43:16, 43:22, 44:1 issues [4] - 3:19, 35:4, 43:18, 48:18 IT [2] - 15:21, 15:23 items [2] - 4:19, 44:17 itself [1] - 58:9</p>	<p>July [4] - 19:21, 26:19, 27:6, 27:7 June [2] - 19:21, 27:7 jurisdiction [1] - 33:1 jurisdictions [3] - 7:25, 10:6, 10:17 justification [1] - 41:17</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>half [1] - 22:11 handle [1] - 58:3 happy [1] - 52:19 hard [3] - 22:18, 26:6, 27:24 healthy [1] - 36:4 hear [4] - 3:10, 6:18, 27:11, 27:12 Hearing [1] - 59:2 hearing [2] - 3:8, 5:25 hears [1] - 56:21 heater [3] - 16:7, 16:11, 16:14 held [4] - 1:10, 4:12, 20:18, 20:20 hello [1] - 3:15 help [4] - 14:20, 25:6, 28:21, 31:7 hereby [1] - 60:4 herein [1] - 60:6 hide [1] - 50:20 hiding [2] - 48:6, 52:14 high [2] - 23:1, 26:5 high-profit [1] - 23:1 higher [3] - 40:11, 41:11, 41:21 HILDEBRAND [14] - 24:10, 26:18, 26:24, 27:1, 27:22, 29:24, 30:8, 30:13, 31:7, 31:13, 31:19, 31:22, 36:11, 36:17 Hildebrand [2] - 2:10, 24:9 hired [1] - 36:12 historical [1] - 18:18 historically [1] - 30:3 hopeful [1] - 49:21 hopefully [4] - 3:20, 35:23, 53:6, 56:23 horizon [1] - 55:11 Hotel [1] - 1:11 hours [6] - 13:7, 16:14, 16:15, 21:4, 23:18 households [1] - 40:5 hundreds [2] - 35:3 hurry [1] - 49:14 Hydro [1] - 10:24 hydro [2] - 10:14</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>Jerry [1] - 47:12 job [3] - 8:4, 22:1, 22:19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>Kalra [3] - 2:6, 2:9, 7:6 KALRA [4] - 9:3, 23:9, 55:8, 55:18 Kathy [3] - 1:17, 2:3, 3:4 keenly [1] - 47:7 keep [3] - 5:9, 36:5, 46:20 keeping [1] - 12:24 Kemp [2] - 1:18, 4:1 key [2] - 3:16, 34:25 kill [1] - 21:10 kilometres [1] - 10:24 kind [5] - 11:16, 17:3, 24:4, 26:12, 46:3 knowledge [1] - 60:6 known [1] - 6:6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>lack [2] - 32:24, 33:1 Lake [25] - 18:8, 18:15, 18:17, 18:21, 18:24, 19:2, 19:7, 19:12, 19:23, 19:25, 20:2, 20:4, 20:10, 20:11, 21:3, 21:10, 21:16, 21:20, 21:25, 22:10, 22:14, 22:18, 22:20, 36:23 large [2] - 31:19, 44:23 larger [1] - 35:1 largest [4] - 12:11, 20:2, 22:10, 56:17 Last [1] - 26:14 last [18] - 11:15, 11:19, 13:8, 14:22, 15:2, 17:2, 18:3, 19:8, 20:14, 20:15, 20:19, 20:20, 25:18, 28:24, 29:4, 32:22, 34:8, 46:19 late [1] - 24:18 latest [2] - 27:8, 55:18 Lawn [2] - 2:12, 7:7 LAWN [14] - 25:9, 26:22, 26:25, 27:5, 28:21, 30:23, 31:10, 31:17, 31:21, 54:23, 55:1, 56:2, 56:10, 56:15 leave [2] - 3:17, 33:7 LEDGERWOOD [2] - 60:3, 60:11 left [2] - 3:24, 31:12</p>

legacy [1] - 10:14
less [2] - 39:3, 39:8
letter [1] - 56:23
level [3] - 11:18, 33:24, 45:18
levels [1] - 42:24
lie [1] - 52:21
life [2] - 14:14, 16:10
Light [1] - 2:14
light [1] - 25:1
lighting [2] - 16:6, 16:11
likely [1] - 35:15
line [8] - 10:24, 16:16, 18:6, 21:21, 34:10, 36:6, 47:13, 57:22
lines [1] - 13:17
list [1] - 6:9
listening [2] - 5:14, 22:16
Load [2] - 48:19, 48:21
load [7] - 11:10, 23:14, 25:14, 26:8, 26:15, 49:10, 56:11
located [2] - 6:16, 17:23
long-standing [1] - 46:25
long-term [7] - 8:20, 15:12, 17:1, 17:3, 17:6, 21:18, 49:2
look [8] - 18:16, 20:17, 21:2, 27:16, 30:9, 33:16, 33:25, 49:23
looked [2] - 14:21, 14:22
looking [8] - 17:22, 18:19, 21:2, 23:12, 30:5, 30:18, 33:10, 59:6
looks [1] - 23:21
loss [1] - 42:3
losses [1] - 57:23
lost [1] - 19:22
low [1] - 34:19
lower [7] - 10:9, 10:10, 10:12, 15:5, 15:17, 40:9, 55:6
lowered [1] - 34:10
lucrative [1] - 10:15
lumpy [1] - 23:15
lying [1] - 53:5
Lyle [3] - 1:19, 4:2, 6:7

M

Madam [7] - 17:8, 24:10, 31:22, 32:17, 36:11, 46:16, 53:25
mail [1] - 5:1
main [2] - 9:6, 26:9
maintain [3] - 16:19, 19:11, 42:23
maintenance [3] - 13:20, 14:24, 15:15
major [8] - 12:6, 13:13,

14:23, 23:13, 27:17, 43:16, 47:2, 48:17
majority [1] - 46:24
man [1] - 21:4
manage [1] - 35:7
management [1] - 46:18
Manager [3] - 2:12, 7:7, 17:25
managers [2] - 26:7, 27:6
mandate [1] - 5:17
manner [1] - 33:6
margin [1] - 23:2
marked [1] - 52:5
market [2] - 22:3, 25:16
markets [1] - 21:23
mask [2] - 39:13, 39:17
match [1] - 10:25
material [2] - 36:9, 50:16
materials [1] - 22:4
Meadow [25] - 18:8, 18:15, 18:17, 18:21, 18:23, 18:24, 19:2, 19:7, 19:12, 19:23, 19:25, 20:2, 20:4, 20:9, 20:11, 21:3, 21:10, 21:16, 21:20, 21:25, 22:10, 22:14, 22:18, 22:20, 36:23
mean [1] - 27:9
means [2] - 21:10, 42:4
Mechanical [3] - 18:18, 18:24, 36:23
meet [3] - 3:13, 11:9, 16:18
MEETING [1] - 1:10
meeting [7] - 4:5, 4:12, 5:7, 26:2, 51:10, 59:14
meetings [2] - 5:11, 32:11
megawatt [2] - 21:9, 23:18
megawatts [2] - 12:21, 21:11
member [1] - 46:23
Member [3] - 1:18, 1:18, 1:19
members [13] - 3:22, 5:13, 28:5, 32:6, 35:1, 46:17, 46:24, 46:25, 47:1, 47:5, 47:11, 56:22, 57:6
Members [2] - 1:16, 4:23
membership [2] - 47:4, 47:7
mention [2] - 14:12, 24:4
mentioned [5] - 11:4, 16:20, 31:25, 34:17, 35:12
met [1] - 27:6
meter [1] - 14:12
metering [1] - 34:24

methodology [2] - 48:24, 49:1
microphone [1] - 6:17
mid [7] - 4:18, 6:17, 44:12, 45:25, 48:23, 54:24, 55:17
mid-application [5] - 4:18, 44:12, 45:25, 48:23, 54:24
mid-room [1] - 6:17
mid-year [1] - 55:17
middle [1] - 19:21
might [2] - 26:13, 56:24
mill [2] - 22:21, 22:24
million [29] - 11:19, 11:20, 12:10, 12:18, 12:19, 13:15, 13:21, 14:14, 15:4, 15:11, 15:13, 15:18, 15:19, 15:24, 16:22, 19:19, 19:23, 20:4, 20:9, 22:11, 38:2, 38:3, 38:6, 38:7, 49:20, 55:23, 58:1
mills [2] - 21:24, 22:25
mind [1] - 5:9
minimize [1] - 9:10
minimizing [1] - 14:17
minimum [1] - 43:1
Mining [2] - 2:18, 54:12
mining [3] - 55:25, 56:9, 58:4
MINKEN [1] - 37:9
Minken [3] - 2:13, 37:4, 37:9
minutes [1] - 21:11
mishear [1] - 51:5
mislead [1] - 52:21
misleading [3] - 24:6, 52:16
missing [1] - 52:25
misunderstanding [1] - 52:18
MITCH [1] - 37:9
Mitch [3] - 2:13, 37:4, 37:9
mitigate [1] - 34:5
mix [5] - 39:1, 39:5, 55:8, 56:14, 56:15
modest [1] - 50:10
money [1] - 23:3
monthly [1] - 35:10
months [6] - 15:16, 22:23, 25:22, 27:3, 44:18
Montreal [1] - 10:13
morning [1] - 29:1
Most [1] - 35:1
most [2] - 9:12, 56:11
move [1] - 30:1
moves [1] - 21:6
moving [1] - 33:17

MR [47] - 7:12, 9:3, 17:20, 23:9, 24:10, 25:9, 26:18, 26:22, 26:24, 26:25, 27:1, 27:5, 27:9, 27:22, 28:21, 29:24, 30:6, 30:8, 30:9, 30:13, 30:23, 31:7, 31:10, 31:13, 31:17, 31:19, 31:21, 31:22, 36:11, 36:17, 46:16, 51:6, 51:9, 51:23, 52:8, 52:11, 53:1, 53:7, 53:25, 54:23, 55:1, 55:8, 55:18, 56:2, 56:10, 56:15, 58:22
MS [9] - 54:4, 54:10, 54:25, 55:3, 55:16, 55:20, 56:4, 56:14, 56:18
municipal [2] - 42:2, 42:8

N

name [7] - 3:4, 6:24, 17:20, 46:20, 54:9, 54:11, 54:15
names [1] - 37:7
natural [3] - 15:6, 25:18, 34:20
near [1] - 4:1
necessarily [1] - 23:16
necessary [1] - 7:21
need [6] - 23:24, 23:25, 28:6, 57:2, 58:2, 58:17
needed [5] - 9:20, 16:18, 51:14, 51:16, 58:13
needs [3] - 34:21, 50:10, 58:10
negative [1] - 22:5
network [2] - 11:2, 11:3
new [9] - 12:24, 12:25, 13:13, 14:11, 19:5, 21:25, 29:12, 29:23, 57:7
newer [1] - 47:1
news [2] - 27:11, 27:13
next [12] - 11:24, 12:1, 13:6, 13:18, 14:6, 14:16, 24:9, 37:3, 55:12, 56:11, 57:7, 57:12
Next [1] - 36:22
none [2] - 45:11, 59:2
North [2] - 8:1, 33:25
northern [3] - 57:21, 57:25, 58:5
note [1] - 34:6
notes [1] - 60:5
November [2] - 51:4, 51:8
NPV [1] - 14:13
number [15] - 10:23, 12:3, 12:24, 13:22,

<p>15:21, 19:9, 22:6, 23:11, 25:14, 40:5, 47:4, 48:5, 48:11, 48:12, 52:5 numbers [5] - 13:2, 27:8, 45:15, 52:15, 52:18</p>	<p>overestimate [1] - 48:22 overestimating [1] - 49:9 overestimation [1] - 48:25 overpaying [1] - 41:13</p>	<p>percent [29] - 9:12, 9:14, 9:25, 10:9, 10:10, 12:13, 13:9, 16:25, 17:5, 17:6, 19:14, 20:6, 20:8, 20:16, 21:4, 30:21, 30:25, 32:4, 38:3, 39:3, 39:8, 42:1, 42:8, 47:6, 50:12, 54:20, 54:21, 54:23, 57:14 percentage [1] - 56:17 performed [1] - 8:16 perhaps [4] - 29:23, 51:5, 52:2, 53:22 Perhaps [1] - 53:21 period [1] - 13:8 permanently [1] - 22:22 person [1] - 37:3 personal [1] - 53:8 personally [1] - 52:12 perspective [3] - 53:16, 53:21, 56:22 Peter [2] - 2:12, 7:7 Petroleum [2] - 2:11, 32:2 phone [1] - 5:1 pipe [1] - 34:2 pipeline [1] - 56:12 place [6] - 12:6, 13:14, 13:18, 15:21, 50:11, 58:3 plan [1] - 44:15 planning [1] - 49:2 plans [4] - 8:20, 14:5, 28:8, 34:24 pleased [3] - 3:6, 17:11, 57:21 pleasure [1] - 7:3 plugging [1] - 16:13 podium [1] - 6:16 point [5] - 16:4, 19:1, 23:10, 48:16, 53:23 pole [2] - 13:20, 14:1 poles [2] - 13:21, 13:25 portion [1] - 4:10 posed [3] - 35:14, 43:11, 43:25 posing [1] - 6:15 possible [3] - 18:20, 21:17, 44:15 potash [1] - 56:12 Power [2] - 2:14, 12:18 power [50] - 8:12, 8:17, 8:24, 11:12, 12:2, 13:21, 13:25, 14:25, 15:14, 18:7, 18:8, 20:1, 20:19, 20:20, 21:11, 21:13, 21:20, 21:22, 22:7, 23:24, 25:5, 25:6, 25:10, 25:14, 26:1, 30:15, 30:21, 30:23, 37:24, 38:16, 39:12, 39:17, 44:23, 45:3, 47:6, 54:19, 55:3, 55:4, 55:6, 55:22, 56:5, 56:7, 57:5, 57:9,</p>	<p>57:18, 57:23, 57:24, 58:1, 58:18 prairie [1] - 20:23 pre-2009 [1] - 40:9 prematurely [1] - 49:3 prepared [2] - 25:17, 26:20 Presentation [6] - 2:6, 2:8, 2:10, 2:13, 2:15, 2:18 presentation [19] - 3:9, 5:24, 6:2, 6:6, 6:15, 7:11, 9:1, 9:4, 17:7, 22:16, 23:6, 23:8, 24:12, 37:1, 43:6, 54:5, 54:14, 54:18, 59:11 presentations [7] - 3:11, 6:3, 6:13, 17:11, 17:17, 54:2, 59:4 presented [3] - 35:22, 44:7, 44:11 presenter [2] - 17:17, 24:9 presenters [2] - 6:9, 59:4 presenting [2] - 28:25, 33:23 President [7] - 2:5, 2:7, 7:5, 7:6, 7:10, 17:21, 53:11 pressures [1] - 22:6 presume [1] - 46:11 Pretty [1] - 58:23 previous [3] - 38:9, 39:9, 40:1 price [1] - 19:17 prices [2] - 15:6, 34:19 Pricing [2] - 2:12, 7:7 Primarily [1] - 25:18 primary [1] - 8:11 Prince [2] - 17:25, 18:6 printers [1] - 15:22 problem [2] - 21:12, 38:9 problems [1] - 3:16 proceed [1] - 3:21 Proceedings [1] - 1:9 process [20] - 4:11, 4:15, 4:22, 5:12, 5:22, 7:16, 7:20, 7:21, 14:10, 24:18, 28:17, 29:4, 32:11, 32:16, 33:12, 33:13, 33:14, 47:17, 50:22, 51:17 procure [1] - 32:4 procurement [1] - 15:9 Producers [2] - 2:11, 32:2 producing [1] - 20:7 product [2] - 19:5, 19:18 production [6] - 18:16, 19:1, 19:14, 27:11, 27:13, 55:4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">O</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">P</p>		
<p>objective [1] - 48:13 occur [1] - 6:12 October [12] - 1:12, 3:1, 5:5, 28:25, 49:24, 49:25, 50:2, 51:4, 51:6, 51:12, 51:13, 56:24 offer [1] - 23:7 offset [2] - 21:15, 21:16 oil [6] - 34:18, 35:1, 35:8, 55:25, 56:9, 56:12 oilfield [4] - 32:3, 32:14, 37:24, 38:16 old [1] - 26:24 OM&A [7] - 15:18, 44:19, 45:8, 48:20, 49:16, 49:17, 49:21 One [2] - 12:7, 25:15 one [14] - 3:16, 7:25, 8:2, 15:8, 23:10, 23:12, 25:4, 28:22, 30:12, 43:12, 43:24, 45:23, 54:21, 54:22 ongoing [1] - 13:24 open [2] - 21:16, 23:2 Opening [2] - 2:3, 2:5 operate [3] - 14:20, 14:21, 35:2 operating [2] - 14:23, 34:9 operation [1] - 22:14 operations [3] - 17:23, 57:10, 57:25 Operations [2] - 2:8, 17:22 opportunity [9] - 6:5, 17:14, 24:11, 24:19, 24:21, 32:7, 33:5, 36:18, 37:12 oppose [1] - 36:1 optimization [1] - 34:15 optimize [1] - 34:22 options [1] - 21:16 order [2] - 41:4, 41:7 organization [4] - 6:25, 7:1, 34:16, 54:8 original [6] - 37:25, 38:25, 41:23, 44:3, 44:16, 56:3 outage [1] - 19:20 outages [1] - 58:2 outside [2] - 30:2, 33:18 overall [1] - 13:16 Overall [1] - 35:25 overbuilding [1] - 49:3</p>	<p>p.m [2] - 3:2, 59:15 page [1] - 11:17 PAGE [1] - 2:2 pages [1] - 60:4 paid [1] - 41:10 pain [1] - 27:22 Pam [3] - 2:18, 54:11, 58:20 panel [4] - 47:17, 47:20, 47:25 PANEL [1] - 1:4 Panel [36] - 1:11, 1:16, 3:5, 3:23, 5:9, 5:14, 24:14, 24:17, 36:3, 36:10, 37:12, 39:21, 39:22, 40:1, 40:6, 41:5, 42:12, 42:21, 43:10, 43:21, 46:17, 47:10, 47:11, 47:23, 48:4, 48:10, 49:6, 49:22, 50:11, 52:3, 52:4, 52:20, 52:23, 53:13, 56:21, 59:5 Panel's [4] - 4:11, 5:17, 50:3, 51:3 Paper [5] - 2:8, 17:18, 17:22, 18:3, 18:25 parallel [1] - 50:5 parallels [1] - 49:10 part [2] - 7:21, 45:4 participants [1] - 59:10 participate [2] - 17:12, 33:11 participating [1] - 32:11 participation [1] - 5:10 particular [1] - 18:4 particularly [1] - 57:4 parties [1] - 4:21 PATERSON [1] - 17:20 Paterson [3] - 2:8, 17:18, 17:21 pattern [1] - 49:8 pay [3] - 8:10, 9:16, 9:17 paying [1] - 33:4 PBA [1] - 55:10 people [13] - 3:17, 13:22, 17:14, 18:5, 21:25, 22:12, 22:15, 24:1, 37:6, 47:5, 52:21, 52:22 per [10] - 14:1, 16:9, 19:3, 19:15, 20:9, 21:4, 23:11, 23:18, 41:25, 42:7</p>		

<p>profit [1] - 23:1 profitability [2] - 41:17, 41:19 profitable [2] - 20:11, 28:10 program [5] - 13:20, 13:24, 14:20, 16:7, 16:12 programs [1] - 16:6 project [8] - 12:8, 12:11, 12:18, 14:13, 14:15, 15:12, 57:22 projected [6] - 38:13, 38:14, 38:17, 40:24, 42:24, 45:19 projection [2] - 55:15, 55:17 projects [8] - 12:7, 13:13, 23:23, 24:2, 25:20, 55:8, 55:12, 57:8 property [1] - 22:3 proposed [6] - 21:15, 37:17, 39:3, 39:8, 40:12, 41:14 protocol [1] - 41:18 provide [9] - 5:19, 8:11, 28:3, 29:20, 35:16, 37:12, 38:23, 42:25, 53:14 provided [7] - 24:25, 27:2, 33:2, 35:15, 36:2, 46:5, 47:23 providing [5] - 8:9, 25:25, 36:9, 46:11, 58:8 province [10] - 8:15, 8:16, 8:22, 13:21, 13:23, 32:5, 46:25, 47:3, 47:7, 58:14 provinces [3] - 18:19, 20:18, 20:23 Provincial [1] - 40:15 prudent [1] - 50:14 PUBLIC [1] - 1:10 public [9] - 4:7, 4:10, 4:12, 4:23, 5:4, 5:21, 50:22, 51:14 publish [1] - 43:2 published [7] - 30:24, 31:4, 31:5, 31:18, 39:12, 40:18, 41:1 pulp [3] - 19:25, 20:7, 21:24 Pulp [3] - 18:18, 18:24, 36:23 pulps [2] - 19:24, 19:25 pumping [2] - 25:18, 56:13 purchase [2] - 12:2, 55:4 purchased [2] - 14:25, 18:25 purposely [1] - 52:14 put [2] - 20:25, 50:10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Q Page 8</p> <p>QE [1] - 12:17 quality [2] - 32:18, 32:20 quarter [1] - 26:22 quarterly [1] - 26:3 Quebec [1] - 22:24 questioning [1] - 47:14 questions [25] - 6:11, 17:13, 17:15, 24:14, 24:21, 24:23, 28:12, 29:2, 29:3, 29:7, 30:15, 31:23, 32:20, 35:14, 35:16, 43:11, 43:17, 43:24, 47:20, 47:21, 47:25, 54:13, 58:25, 59:12 quickly [2] - 19:17, 23:9 quite [4] - 26:24, 27:19, 33:12, 58:4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>rail [1] - 21:21 raising [1] - 10:3 Ramada [1] - 1:11 ramped [1] - 11:20 range [1] - 19:19 rate [74] - 3:9, 5:18, 5:25, 7:16, 7:19, 7:24, 9:2, 9:5, 9:8, 9:9, 9:10, 9:12, 9:15, 9:18, 9:25, 10:1, 11:6, 13:11, 14:17, 16:17, 16:23, 16:25, 17:4, 20:8, 20:15, 20:19, 20:20, 21:15, 21:17, 21:18, 22:5, 25:6, 25:7, 26:19, 27:8, 30:4, 30:17, 30:18, 30:21, 31:20, 34:5, 35:15, 35:22, 36:1, 37:13, 37:18, 37:19, 37:22, 38:7, 38:11, 38:24, 39:9, 40:18, 40:21, 40:24, 41:1, 41:17, 41:20, 42:15, 42:25, 43:13, 43:16, 43:19, 44:1, 49:13, 49:14, 50:5, 50:7, 50:10, 50:12, 50:16, 54:18, 54:19, 58:8 RATE [2] - 1:4, 1:5 Rate [18] - 1:11, 3:5, 3:23, 5:8, 37:11, 39:21, 41:5, 42:12, 42:21, 43:9, 43:21, 47:23, 48:4, 49:6, 50:3, 50:11, 51:3 rates [16] - 10:4, 10:5, 10:8, 10:12, 10:18, 11:4, 28:20, 30:24, 31:3, 31:4, 31:5, 31:18, 33:19, 34:3, 39:12, 40:3</p>	<p>er [1] - 16:14 ratio [11] - 10:22, 17:4, 23:10, 23:16, 23:17, 23:19, 23:21, 24:3, 38:22, 43:3 ratios [10] - 18:20, 30:2, 37:17, 37:21, 38:12, 43:15, 44:5, 44:22, 44:25, 45:17 raw [1] - 22:4 re [5] - 57:18, 58:11, 58:12, 58:16, 58:18 re-invest [1] - 58:11 re-invested [1] - 58:16 re-investment [3] - 57:18, 58:12, 58:18 react [1] - 29:14 read [1] - 51:6 readings [1] - 35:11 real [1] - 15:4 realign [1] - 33:19 realities [1] - 24:7 really [5] - 23:2, 28:13, 30:15, 58:6, 58:9 Really [1] - 57:1 reasonable [3] - 23:21, 36:2, 40:6 reasons [2] - 25:15, 29:18 rebalancing [3] - 37:19, 43:13, 44:1 rebates [1] - 16:6 reborrowing [1] - 16:1 rebuild [2] - 11:8, 57:13 rebuilding [1] - 11:16 rebuilt [1] - 13:17 receive [1] - 3:11 receives [1] - 41:4 recent [1] - 21:21 recognize [1] - 43:14 recognized [1] - 52:4 Recognizing [1] - 46:19 recommend [1] - 42:12 recommendation [2] - 29:18, 40:14 recommendations [3] - 29:16, 40:1, 48:9 recommended [1] - 49:6 recommending [1] - 42:22 recommends [1] - 39:22 reconfirmed [1] - 48:23 record [2] - 12:24, 24:20 recorded [1] - 6:21 recycling [2] - 16:6, 16:8 reduce [3] - 12:12, 15:21, 48:10 reduced [2] - 25:10, 39:24 reduction [6] - 8:7, 25:5, 25:8, 49:21, 55:22, 56:5 referring [1] - 18:10</p>	<p>reflective [1] - 42:14 refrigerators [1] - 16:9 regards [1] - 41:7 Regina [4] - 1:12, 4:1, 13:18, 29:1 reiterate [1] - 53:9 rejigging [1] - 15:25 related [3] - 45:10, 45:11, 55:6 relates [1] - 43:12 relationship [1] - 28:5 release [1] - 59:7 reliable [2] - 8:12, 8:23 remain [3] - 34:22, 45:16, 45:18 remaining [1] - 22:1 remains [3] - 17:1, 36:4, 40:11 Remarks [1] - 2:19 remedy [1] - 42:25 removed [1] - 50:19 remunerated [1] - 21:13 renewal [3] - 8:7, 14:20, 15:8 replace [1] - 57:13 replaced [1] - 14:9 replacement [1] - 3:18 replacing [1] - 14:7 Reply [3] - 2:9, 2:12, 2:17 report [12] - 5:19, 28:23, 28:25, 29:9, 29:14, 29:15, 30:10, 39:20, 40:2, 50:3, 50:8, 51:3 Reporter [1] - 60:3 REPORTER [1] - 60:12 REPORTER'S [1] - 60:1 Reporting [5] - 4:4, 6:19, 6:23, 37:6, 59:8 representative [1] - 27:23 representing [1] - 6:25 request [2] - 4:7, 53:15 requests [4] - 42:11, 42:20, 43:20, 45:3 require [1] - 40:6 required [3] - 3:17, 41:12, 43:2 requirement [24] - 37:17, 37:21, 38:10, 38:12, 38:21, 39:2, 39:7, 39:23, 40:8, 40:10, 40:12, 40:20, 40:23, 41:3, 41:15, 42:13, 42:17, 42:22, 42:24, 43:15, 44:1, 44:5, 44:24, 45:17 requirements [4] - 38:15, 38:17, 39:18, 43:13 reseller [13] - 37:24, 38:16, 39:11, 39:19, 40:4, 40:19, 40:22, 41:2,</p>
---	--	--	---

41:7, 41:20, 42:12,
44:23, 45:16
resellers [1] - 25:13
resellers' [2] - 39:23,
40:7
reserve [1] - 21:9
residential [14] - 9:15,
9:17, 10:5, 37:23, 38:13,
38:20, 38:22, 39:15,
40:5, 40:13, 41:21,
42:17, 45:4
respect [3] - 45:24,
51:21, 57:4
respectfully [3] - 42:11,
42:20, 43:20
respects [1] - 33:6
respond [1] - 29:6
responded [1] - 24:23
responding [1] - 59:11
response [8] - 23:7,
35:13, 44:2, 48:1, 48:3,
48:8, 50:20, 50:21
responses [8] - 4:19,
47:21, 48:1, 48:6, 48:11,
51:22, 52:2, 52:5
responsive [1] - 53:14
rest [1] - 10:19
restore [1] - 18:8
result [6] - 16:22, 38:11,
39:1, 39:6, 49:2, 55:16
resulted [1] - 19:22
resulting [1] - 22:5
results [3] - 28:18,
29:25, 43:3
retains [1] - 58:15
revenue [67] - 18:16,
19:22, 25:5, 25:8, 30:1,
37:16, 37:20, 38:10,
38:12, 38:15, 38:17,
38:21, 39:2, 39:6, 39:18,
39:23, 40:8, 40:10,
40:12, 40:20, 40:23,
41:3, 41:10, 41:15, 42:3,
42:13, 42:16, 42:23,
43:3, 43:12, 43:15,
43:25, 44:5, 44:22,
44:24, 45:17, 55:23,
58:17
revenue-to-revenue [29]
- 37:16, 37:20, 38:10,
38:12, 38:15, 38:17,
38:21, 39:2, 39:6, 39:18,
39:23, 40:8, 40:10,
40:12, 40:20, 40:23,
41:3, 41:15, 42:13,
42:16, 42:23, 43:3,
43:12, 43:15, 43:25,
44:5, 44:22, 44:24,
45:17
revenues [3] - 16:23,
35:19, 56:6
REVIEW [1] - 1:4
review [21] - 4:11, 4:15,

4:21, 5:16, 5:18, 7:16,
18:15, 24:20, 27:16,
28:19, 33:11, 37:13,
40:18, 41:20, 42:15,
43:17, 43:19, 50:2,
51:17, 54:19
Review [17] - 1:11, 3:5,
3:23, 5:8, 37:12, 39:21,
41:5, 42:12, 42:21,
43:10, 43:21, 47:23,
48:4, 49:6, 50:3, 50:11,
51:3
reviewing [1] - 19:16
reviews [1] - 7:19
revised [2] - 29:25,
35:21
Richmond [1] - 17:24
rigorous [1] - 33:6
risk [1] - 49:2
road [1] - 12:15
Robert [6] - 2:5, 2:17,
7:5, 9:3, 16:20, 53:10
ROE [1] - 16:23
rolling [1] - 28:17
room [1] - 6:17
roughly [7] - 11:21, 12:2,
13:7, 13:23, 13:24,
15:24, 30:25
round [5] - 43:10, 43:23,
45:24, 46:3, 46:4
Round [3] - 35:13,
47:20, 47:24
Royal [5] - 4:4, 6:19,
6:22, 37:5, 59:7
run [5] - 8:3, 22:25,
28:10, 57:10
rural [2] - 9:16, 40:13
Ruth [1] - 4:4
RUTH [2] - 60:3, 60:11

S

S-C-H-W-A-N-N [1] -
54:16
safe [2] - 8:12, 8:23
sales [3] - 19:16, 23:20,
25:10
salient [1] - 9:6
Sandeep [5] - 2:6, 2:9,
7:5, 9:1, 24:8
Sask [1] - 47:23
SASKATCHEWAN [1] -
1:4
Saskatchewan [27] -
1:11, 1:12, 2:15, 2:18,
3:5, 3:23, 20:18, 32:4,
32:7, 32:13, 35:2, 37:11,
39:21, 41:5, 42:11,
42:21, 43:9, 43:20,
46:22, 47:5, 50:13,
54:12, 57:15, 57:19,
57:25, 58:5, 58:19

katoon [1] - 4:13
SASKPOWER [1] - 1:5
SaskPower [64] - 2:5,
2:7, 2:12, 3:9, 4:20,
5:20, 5:24, 7:3, 7:8,
7:15, 7:22, 8:16, 11:1,
16:17, 17:12, 18:2, 20:3,
21:1, 21:6, 21:9, 28:2,
28:4, 29:14, 32:8, 32:9,
32:20, 33:10, 33:19,
34:3, 34:8, 34:12, 36:4,
36:5, 37:18, 39:4, 39:8,
39:10, 40:7, 40:17,
40:19, 41:4, 42:15,
42:22, 43:1, 44:11,
44:15, 44:20, 46:1, 46:6,
46:18, 47:19, 48:1,
48:21, 49:7, 49:18,
50:20, 52:1, 52:14,
53:11, 57:4, 57:11,
58:10, 58:15, 59:10
SaskPower's [14] - 4:17,
5:21, 37:13, 37:25, 38:4,
38:9, 38:25, 39:4, 41:23,
42:4, 44:2, 44:7, 45:13,
54:18
saskratereview.ca [2] -
4:16, 5:3
save [2] - 15:11, 15:23
saved [3] - 15:25, 16:8,
16:12
saving [4] - 15:18,
15:22, 16:2, 16:9
savings [6] - 15:3, 15:4,
15:5, 15:8, 15:13, 34:15
saw [1] - 29:24
scale [1] - 12:12
scare [1] - 57:15
Schwann [2] - 2:18,
54:11
SCHWANN [9] - 54:4,
54:10, 54:25, 55:3,
55:16, 55:20, 56:4,
56:14, 56:18
second [5] - 26:22,
28:12, 43:23, 45:24,
46:3
second-round [1] -
45:24
sector [6] - 55:25, 56:1,
56:8, 56:9, 56:12
sectors [1] - 56:10
secure [1] - 21:17
see [17] - 9:23, 10:8,
11:16, 11:24, 20:23,
21:6, 22:4, 28:17, 30:7,
34:19, 35:9, 35:10,
44:10, 49:24, 53:18,
53:19, 57:22
seeing [1] - 32:18
seem [2] - 36:2, 49:20
send [1] - 5:8
sent [1] - 28:23

separate [1] - 20:1
September [5] - 4:13,
27:2, 44:4, 44:11, 55:17
serious [1] - 27:16
serve [2] - 41:22, 42:14
service [9] - 14:5, 28:13,
28:18, 30:1, 33:10,
33:15, 50:1, 50:15,
51:11
services [2] - 15:23, 18:8
set [2] - 41:21, 51:12
SETKA [7] - 46:16, 51:6,
51:9, 51:23, 52:8, 53:1,
53:25
Setka [3] - 2:15, 46:15,
46:21
setting [1] - 41:18
sheds [1] - 25:1
short [3] - 9:4, 16:2,
48:25
short-term [1] - 16:2
shorthand [1] - 60:5
show [1] - 26:16
showed [1] - 54:21
showing [1] - 23:11
shown [2] - 45:18, 54:20
shows [3] - 10:22, 11:17,
23:19
shut [2] - 22:22, 22:24
side [6] - 7:18, 12:23,
13:12, 14:2, 26:5, 34:20
SIECA [2] - 46:15, 46:21
significant [1] - 18:17
significant [11] - 20:10,
25:4, 25:7, 32:6, 33:16,
40:4, 47:4, 55:22, 56:5,
57:2, 57:18
similar [2] - 29:3, 34:18
Simon [1] - 36:23
simple [1] - 58:23
sincerely [1] - 37:11
sit [1] - 52:19
sitting [1] - 4:1
situation [2] - 20:12,
49:12
situations [1] - 8:13
six [2] - 23:24, 27:3
skewed [1] - 37:21
skill [1] - 60:6
slide [3] - 13:19, 14:16,
21:1
slides [1] - 14:16
slowed [2] - 26:12, 26:14
small [1] - 16:5
smart [2] - 14:6, 14:12
smiling [1] - 59:8
smoothly [1] - 3:21
sometime [1] - 29:22
sooner [1] - 27:20
sorry [2] - 51:9, 56:2
sourcing [1] - 15:9
specific [2] - 31:20, 58:8

<p>specifically [1] - 55:24 speedy [1] - 59:6 spell [4] - 6:24, 37:7, 54:8, 54:15 spending [2] - 23:2, 34:1 spinning [1] - 21:9 stability [1] - 16:19 staff [1] - 53:12 Staffing [1] - 21:22 stage [1] - 57:17 stakeholders [4] - 48:9, 48:14, 49:25, 50:23 standing [1] - 46:25 start [3] - 18:1, 23:25, 24:1 started [2] - 15:13, 30:1 Station [1] - 12:18 station [1] - 15:14 staying [1] - 25:13 Steve [3] - 1:18, 4:1, 6:7 stop [1] - 27:11 storm [1] - 18:9 storms [1] - 8:14 straightforward [1] - 58:24 strategic [1] - 15:9 stream [1] - 23:23 streaming [1] - 14:10 strength [1] - 16:19 structure [3] - 16:1, 38:24 study [6] - 28:13, 30:1, 33:11, 33:15, 50:1, 50:15 submission [6] - 44:3, 44:16, 46:12, 46:13, 46:14, 51:15 submissions [7] - 4:20, 5:4, 29:8, 29:10, 49:25, 51:13 submitted [1] - 48:3 submitting [1] - 56:23 subsequent [1] - 5:7 subsidization [3] - 37:22, 38:1, 38:5 substantial [3] - 15:24, 19:6, 47:3 successful [1] - 32:14 suggesting [1] - 52:13 summer [1] - 15:2 summertime [1] - 8:13 supplier [1] - 32:9 suppliers [1] - 15:10 support [1] - 58:11 supporting [1] - 11:2 surprise [1] - 25:19 surviving [1] - 22:20 sustainable [4] - 8:8, 8:9, 8:12, 8:24 Swift [20] - 2:14, 37:5, 37:10, 37:15, 38:18, 41:10, 41:12, 41:16,</p>	<p>41:19, 41:25, 42:2, 42:6, 42:10, 42:19, 43:8, 43:19, 44:6, 44:9, 45:1 system [9] - 9:12, 11:13, 11:16, 12:21, 13:16, 14:9, 34:25, 35:5, 35:9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <p>table [1] - 9:22 talks [1] - 13:19 target [5] - 8:6, 16:23, 17:1, 17:4 targets [1] - 16:18 task [1] - 17:24 tax [3] - 22:3, 42:2, 42:8 taxes [1] - 22:12 technical [2] - 3:16, 3:19 telecommunications [1] - 7:18 term [9] - 8:20, 15:12, 16:2, 17:1, 17:3, 17:6, 21:18, 48:25, 49:2 terms [3] - 5:22, 25:3, 32:16 test [1] - 33:5 THE [19] - 1:4, 3:3, 17:9, 23:5, 24:8, 36:8, 36:14, 36:19, 45:20, 51:1, 51:8, 51:10, 51:24, 52:9, 53:9, 54:1, 54:6, 58:20, 58:23 theme [1] - 33:22 themselves [1] - 6:2 thermal [1] - 10:11 they've [2] - 22:18, 58:2 third [1] - 30:14 threatened [1] - 21:24 three [11] - 3:22, 7:2, 7:23, 8:2, 16:21, 20:14, 20:19, 20:21, 44:18, 48:17, 49:11 throughout [2] - 34:15, 45:13 tied [2] - 31:3, 31:4 tight [1] - 23:1 timer [1] - 16:13 timetable [1] - 49:24 timing [2] - 35:5, 45:25 Today [1] - 20:2 today [4] - 20:18, 20:24, 21:8, 24:1 together [2] - 37:1, 48:13 tomorrow [3] - 36:13, 52:7, 53:24 tonight [6] - 3:7, 3:14, 4:6, 18:15, 22:16, 24:12 tonight's [2] - 5:7, 59:14 tonne [1] - 21:4 tonnes [3] - 19:2, 19:3, 19:15 took [1] - 27:15</p>	<p>[1] - 12:8 total [7] - 12:18, 20:6, 23:20, 38:2, 38:3, 38:7 touch [1] - 23:10 track [1] - 23:17 transcript [4] - 4:5, 4:6, 36:15, 59:7 Transcript [1] - 1:9 transcription [1] - 60:5 transmission [10] - 11:2, 13:12, 13:13, 44:21, 45:7, 45:10, 49:4, 57:5, 57:21, 57:24 transparency [3] - 32:24, 33:1, 47:18 treat [2] - 13:23, 13:24 tremendous [1] - 22:1 trend [1] - 11:24 tried [1] - 3:13 true [2] - 39:17, 60:4 truly [1] - 43:21 trust [1] - 48:8 try [9] - 26:7, 27:7, 29:20, 32:12, 34:5, 34:13, 49:17, 51:19, 53:18 trying [1] - 34:9 Tuesday [2] - 1:12, 3:1 tune [1] - 43:18 turn [2] - 7:9, 8:25 Two [1] - 22:21 two [6] - 7:22, 12:6, 18:11, 39:9, 50:12, 56:16 type [2] - 22:24, 48:7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <p>under [2] - 45:21, 49:18 undermines [1] - 48:8 underscore [1] - 57:2 undertake [1] - 52:6 unfair [1] - 37:25 Unfortunately [1] - 47:12 Unlike [1] - 19:24 unprecedented [1] - 8:14 unprofitable [1] - 20:12 up [15] - 11:20, 12:24, 13:1, 24:3, 26:7, 26:16, 27:3, 31:2, 35:20, 38:19, 42:4, 43:5, 52:15, 52:20, 58:10 update [12] - 4:18, 24:25, 25:4, 27:1, 35:15, 35:22, 44:4, 44:12, 45:14, 46:1, 48:23, 54:24 updated [3] - 38:4, 39:4, 42:5 upgrade [2] - 19:7, 34:24</p>	<p>upgrades [2] - 11:11, 35:9 urban [14] - 9:15, 13:16, 38:19, 38:20, 38:22, 38:23, 39:15, 40:13, 41:22, 42:17, 45:4, 45:5 useless [1] - 50:24 user [1] - 32:6 utilities [3] - 10:11, 33:25, 34:10 utility [2] - 12:12, 27:24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <p>value [4] - 15:10, 17:6, 41:24, 42:5 Vancouver [1] - 10:13 variable [1] - 20:7 variance [7] - 48:20, 49:5, 49:7, 49:12, 50:2, 50:15, 51:11 variances [1] - 50:4 various [1] - 4:18 vast [1] - 11:2 vehicles [1] - 12:14 veil [2] - 48:6, 50:18 verbatim [1] - 4:5 versus [1] - 30:22 via [1] - 5:1 viable [1] - 19:12 Vice [3] - 2:7, 7:6, 17:21 Vice-President [3] - 2:7, 7:6, 17:21 view [6] - 16:5, 27:19, 32:9, 33:3, 33:7, 53:8 VP [1] - 2:8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <p>wait [1] - 50:14 Walsh [2] - 1:19, 4:2 watching [1] - 8:4 Watson [7] - 2:5, 2:17, 7:5, 18:9, 46:17, 47:18, 53:1 WATSON [7] - 7:12, 27:9, 30:6, 30:9, 52:11, 53:7, 58:22 Watson's [1] - 53:10 ways [3] - 9:10, 34:21, 48:14 Weber [3] - 1:17, 2:3, 3:4 website [3] - 4:8, 4:16, 5:3 week [1] - 24:25 welcome [4] - 3:6, 4:24, 6:11, 36:16 Welcome [1] - 7:13 west [1] - 10:7 Weyburn [1] - 3:25 wind [1] - 11:11</p>
--	---	--	--

Winnipeg [1] - 10:13
winter [1] - 16:12
wish [1] - 6:9
wishes [1] - 6:5
wishing [1] - 6:2
wondering [1] - 56:7
wood [2] - 13:20, 20:1
works [1] - 22:18
world [1] - 8:1
world's [1] - 12:10
worst [1] - 10:21
writing [1] - 29:6
written [5] - 29:2, 29:8,
29:10, 37:7, 46:11

Y

year [23] - 11:20, 11:21,
13:15, 13:25, 16:8,
16:24, 18:4, 19:3, 19:15,
19:19, 22:12, 25:18,
25:22, 26:7, 26:14,
29:12, 29:23, 42:1, 42:7,
48:12, 55:17, 58:1
years [34] - 7:23, 7:24,
8:3, 11:14, 11:15, 11:19,
11:25, 12:1, 12:4, 13:6,
13:8, 13:19, 14:6, 14:22,
16:21, 17:2, 19:8, 19:10,
20:14, 20:19, 20:21,
23:23, 23:24, 23:25,
24:2, 29:5, 33:23, 34:8,
49:11, 55:12, 55:13,
56:11, 57:7, 57:12
Yorkton [1] - 4:2
yourself [2] - 6:23, 54:8