STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

SCHEDULING CONFERENCES FOR:

Case Numbers 20135, 20136, 20137, 20138, 16409 and 16410

and

Case Numbers 20171, 20202, 16481, 16482

and

Case Numbers 16443, 20113 and 20114

January 24, 2019

Santa Fe, New Mexico

BEFORE: MICHAEL McMILLAN, CHIEF EXAMINER

KATHLEEN MURPHY, TECHNICAL EXAMINER

TERRY WARNELL, TECHNICAL EXAMINER GABRIEL WADE, LEGAL EXAMINER

DAVID K. BROOKS, LEGAL EXAMINER

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, Michael McMillan, Chief Examiner, Kathleen Murphy and Terry Warnell, Technical Examiners, and Gabriel Wade and David K. Brooks, Legal Examiners, on Thursday, January 24, 2019, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Wendell Chino Building, 1220 South St. Francis Drive, Porter Hall, Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

REPORTED BY: Mary C. Hankins, CCR, RPR

New Mexico CCR #20

Paul Baca Professional Court Reporters 500 4th Street, Northwest, Suite 105

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

- 1 (8:27 a.m.)
- 2 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Good morning. Today's
- 3 date is January 24th, 2019. This is Docket 4-19. My
- 4 name is Michael McMillan. I'll be the hearing examiner.
- 5 The first thing we're going to do today,
- 6 before we go through all the continuances, we will be
- 7 discussing cases 55 through cases 67 on the docket. And
- 8 in this situation, Terry Warnell will be in charge of
- 9 this portion because he will be setting a date for the
- 10 different cases.
- 11 EXAMINER WARNELL: Thank you.
- Good morning, everyone.
- 13 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Please proceed.
- 14 EXAMINER WARNELL: Yeah. So I hope most of
- 15 you know me. I've been around awhile.
- 16 I've been tasked with the responsibility of
- 17 getting the docket to a more manageable level. I think
- 18 last hearing, we had 206 cases on the docket, and I
- 19 believe everyone would agree that that's insane. So one
- 20 of the things we want to do -- and I'll also be the
- 21 hearing examiner, I believe, for all the special dockets
- 22 that we set up. So if you've got a docket issue, you
- 23 can email me or call me, or -- we have a new -- is our
- 24 new website up?
- 25 MS. MURPHY: Almost. We have two dedicated

1 emails, and they're working on getting them in our

- 2 boxes. So that'll be posted on the Web page soon
- 3 enough, within the next, probably, couple of days.
- 4 EXAMINER WARNELL: And I'm not sure how
- 5 we're going to get to that level, you know, of 30 or 40
- 6 cases on the docket, but I'm sure that we can figure it
- 7 out some way. It'll take a while. So please be patient
- 8 with me. I'll try to work with you in any way that I
- 9 can.
- I think everybody got the message last
- 11 hearing that continuances would be on the second docket
- 12 of the month.
- 13 EXAMINER WADE: The first available second
- 14 docket.
- 15 EXAMINER WARNELL: The first available but
- 16 never on the first docket.
- 17 EXAMINER WADE: Question?
- MS. KESSLER: How are you defining
- 19 available?
- 20 EXAMINER WADE: We are going to define
- 21 available by what's literally available. We don't know
- 22 what -- we don't know what's an appropriate level yet.
- 23 We're going to figure that out.
- MS. KESSLER: Okay.
- 25 EXAMINER WARNELL: So I think we'll start

- 1 with Case 20135.
- 2 Call for appearances.
- 3 MS. BENNETT: Good morning. Deana Bennett
- 4 on behalf of Marathon Oil Permian, LLC.
- 5 MR. McMILLAN: Seth McMillan. I'm entering
- 6 an appearance on behalf of --
- 7 MS. BENNETT: ADP.
- 8 MR. McMILLAN: -- ADP, Advance Energy
- 9 Partners.
- 10 MR. BRUCE: And Jim Bruce for Ascent
- 11 Energy.
- 12 And, Mr. Warnell, cases 55 through 60 are
- 13 all connected.
- 14 EXAMINER WARNELL: 55 through 60?
- MS. BENNETT: That's right.
- 16 The parties are currently in negotiation,
- 17 the parties being Marathon and Ascent. And we had
- 18 asked, I believe, for a special docket date, but the
- 19 parties are working diligently towards an agreement.
- 20 And so hearing the case in the near term, I think, is
- 21 probably not warranted.
- MR. BRUCE: I agree with Deana.
- MS. BENNETT: The parties, I think, are
- 24 working, as I mentioned, diligently towards an
- 25 agreement, and so perhaps we will be able to remove this

1 from the contested case docket and just continue it for

- 2 affidavit purposes only, all of these cases, if we're
- 3 able to reach agreement.
- 4 EXAMINER WARNELL: Any idea when you'll be
- 5 able to reach that agreement?
- 6 MR. BRUCE: Do you just want to set it for
- 7 the 21st?
- MS. BENNETT: Yes. Can we reset it, if
- 9 it's available.
- 10 EXAMINER WADE: It is not. If it's a
- 11 special hearing docket and you don't know what time it's
- 12 going to be set, it would be more appropriate to set it
- 13 farther in the future.
- MR. BRUCE: Well, I mean, February 21st is
- 15 the first available continuance docket --
- 16 EXAMINER WADE: No.
- 17 MR. BRUCE: -- and we're hoping to have a
- 18 settlement, so why not set it for then rather than set
- 19 it two months in advance?
- 20 EXAMINER WADE: Well, because we set
- 21 hearings and they get continued, and all that does is
- 22 set a cycle of continuances. In other words, you should
- 23 be prepared to go to hearing if you're going to go to
- 24 hearing.
- 25 MR. BRUCE: Easier said than done.

1 EXAMINER WADE: Well, so is just setting it

- 2 indefinitely.
- 3 EXAMINER WARNELL: We'd like to able to
- 4 reduce the number of continuances going forward. I
- 5 mean, there are cases out there that have been continued
- 6 six, seven, eight times, and --
- 7 MS. BENNETT: May I just ask a quick
- 8 clarifying question? If we were able to resolve our
- 9 differences and reach an agreement to where we could put
- 10 these cases on by affidavit, then -- even if we were to
- 11 make that decision tomorrow, let's say, we still
- wouldn't be able to go on the February 21st docket?
- We'd go on the March 21st?
- 14 EXAMINER WADE: We have to be able to
- 15 handle the caseload that we have and be able to issue
- 16 orders in a timely manner. So what each docket looks
- 17 like is kind of dependent on a month-by-month basis. So
- 18 I'm not saying you could. I'm not saying you couldn't.
- 19 But this particular docket on the second -- let's see --
- 20 the second docket of February is already --
- How many cases? Over 70?
- 22 EXAMINER WARNELL: Around 70.
- 23 EXAMINER WADE: It's looking full.
- 24 MS. BENNETT: And I think that's the point
- 25 I was trying to understand, is even if we were able to

1 reach an agreement, it sounds like we wouldn't be able

- 2 to go on the 21st of February. It would have to go on
- 3 the 21st of March in any event.
- 4 EXAMINER WADE: Right.
- 5 MS. BENNETT: And so what I'm wondering --
- 6 and this is a bit -- feel free to shoot this idea down.
- 7 Could we go -- continue to March 21st, and then if we
- 8 are able to reach an agreement, request to go on the
- 9 21st of February, if there is available space, by
- 10 affidavit?
- 11 EXAMINER WADE: You could request a
- 12 continuance, and we will place it on the first available
- 13 docket.
- 14 MS. BENNETT: And then if we are able to
- 15 reach an agreement, could we request an earlier docket
- 16 if there is availability?
- 17 EXAMINER WADE: You can request, but,
- 18 again, that's going to be a question of availability.
- 19 MS. BENNETT: Understood. With that, I
- 20 think I would be okay with requesting a continuance to
- 21 the first available docket.
- MR. BRUCE: That's fine.
- 23 EXAMINER WADE: Does everyone understand
- 24 the concept?
- MS. BENNETT: Yes.

1 EXAMINER WADE: We will place it on the

- 2 first available continuance docket. So asking for a
- 3 specific date, you can ask; that doesn't mean it's going
- 4 to happen.
- 5 MS. BENNETT: Fantastic. So I would ask
- 6 that this be placed on the next -- these five cases or
- 7 however many cases there are be placed -- continued to
- 8 the next available continuance docket.
- 9 EXAMINER WADE: Are these, at this time,
- 10 going to be considered request for special hearings? I
- 11 mean, that's where we were -- that's what we left off
- 12 as.
- MS. BENNETT: Yes. I think that requesting
- 14 a special hearing date at this time is premature. And
- 15 so what we're hopeful is to resolve this issue without
- 16 having to request a special hearing date.
- 17 EXAMINER WADE: If that's the case, before
- 18 special hearing dates are requested, that would be
- 19 incredibly helpful. We set these with the understanding
- 20 that they would go -- that they would take a day's worth
- 21 of time, and that's why we set the whole Friday,
- tomorrow, aside for these cases, which means that we
- 23 could not set other cases.
- 24 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Wade, I was informed that
- 25 there would be no contested hearings on this docket or

- 1 tomorrow, which is why we're in this situation.
- 2 EXAMINER WADE: Nobody informed you there
- 3 would be no contested cases.
- 4 MR. BRUCE: Well, I was informed. I won't
- 5 mention names, but I was informed.
- 6 EXAMINER WADE: If you have questions, you
- 7 can ask me directly. Okay?
- 8 Okay?
- 9 MS. BENNETT: Great. Thank you.
- 10 EXAMINER WADE: Go ahead.
- 11 EXAMINER WARNELL: Thank you.
- MR. McMILLAN: Thank you.
- 13 EXAMINER WARNELL: Let's continue then to
- 14 page 5.
- 15 MR. DeBRINE: Earl DeBrine with Modrall
- 16 Sperling for Apache.
- 17 MR. PADILLA: Mr. Examiner, Ernest Padilla
- 18 for EOG Resources.
- 19 MR. LARSON: Good morning, Mr. Examiner.
- 20 Gary Larson on behalf of Mewbourne Oil Company.
- MR. BRUCE: And, Mr. Examiner, I'm here
- 22 just kind of monitoring this situation for Ascent
- 23 Energy, LLC. I have been conflicted out of this case,
- 24 but Ascent does not have an attorney yet, but they
- 25 understand -- I have spoken with them about the need to

1 set a special hearing date, and we can address that

- 2 today.
- 3 EXAMINER WARNELL: All right. So could you
- 4 remind me which cases are involved here then?
- 5 MR. BRUCE: 61 through 64.
- 6 MR. MOELLENBERG: Mr. Examiner, Dalva
- 7 Moellenberg, from Gallagher & Kennedy, for OXY, on Case
- 8 16481, which is a part of this.
- 9 EXAMINER WARNELL: So will we go to hearing
- 10 anytime soon? Does this require a special docket?
- 11 MR. DeBRINE: Mr. Examiner, I believe it
- 12 does. It's a complex case with multiple parties.
- MR. BRUCE: It's kind of a four-way --
- 14 four-sided battle at this point, Mr. Warnell.
- 15 EXAMINER WARNELL: Is it only four-sided?
- 16 (Laughter.)
- MR. BRUCE: Mr. Moellenberg is a silent
- 18 partner.
- 19 (Laughter.)
- 20 EXAMINER BROOKS: Sounds like the
- 21 casualties will likely be high.
- 22 EXAMINER WARNELL: Yeah, they will be.
- So where do we stand as far as everyone
- 24 ready to go?
- MR. PADILLA: Not tomorrow.

- 1 EXAMINER WARNELL: Not tomorrow. Okay.
- 2 MR. PADILLA: But I think anytime with two
- 3 weeks' notice. But there are also some motions to
- 4 dismiss and other motions that need to be resolved, I
- 5 think, before a hearing.
- 6 EXAMINER WARNELL: Well, as we all know,
- 7 February 21st is full.
- 8 MR. BRUCE: Any time the week after that?
- 9 MR. DeBRINE: Mr. Examiner, for Apache, the
- 10 dates in February that work for us for a special hearing
- 11 date would be February 12, 18, 26 or 27.
- 12 EXAMINER WARNELL: Do we want to set a
- 13 special hearing?
- 14 EXAMINER WADE: Yeah. I would recommend
- 15 that for special hearings, the parties come prepared
- 16 with dates.
- 17 Will any of those dates work for the rest
- 18 of the parties?
- MR. BRUCE: 26th and 27th.
- 20 EXAMINER WADE: What were the dates?
- 21 MR. DeBRINE: 12, 18, 26 or 27.
- MR. PADILLA: I think the 26th and 27th
- 23 work for us.
- 24 EXAMINER WADE: And do you anticipate that
- 25 is this going to be a one-day hearing or a two-day

- 1 hearing?
- 2 MR. DeBRINE: I think it could be done in a
- 3 day.
- 4 EXAMINER WADE: Do you anticipate that you
- 5 need to have a motions hearing prior, or can that happen
- 6 the day of the hearing?
- 7 MR. DeBRINE: It would be preferable,
- 8 because it's a motion to dismiss, and it would obviate
- 9 the need for the hearing.
- 10 EXAMINER WADE: Altogether?
- MR. LARSON: Yes.
- MR. BRUCE: Yes.
- 13 EXAMINER WADE: So how long would that
- 14 particular hearing take?
- MR. DeBRINE: 20 minutes.
- 16 EXAMINER WADE: So we can set a motions
- 17 hearing. Anticipate that it would take 20 minutes; is
- 18 that correct?
- MR. DeBRINE: Yes.
- MR. BRUCE: It'll be short.
- 21 EXAMINER WADE: Okay. We can set that
- 22 either on a docket day, if it'll fit, or we can set that
- 23 one -- we can make that one separately. But likely a
- 24 20-minute hearing should go onto a normal docket day,
- and then if it obviates, then, obviously, we don't need

1 to set the special hearing. So first available docket,

- 2 it's looking like we can set this for a motions hearing.
- 3 Sound okay to the parties?
- 4 MR. DeBRINE: Works for Apache.
- 5 MR. MOELLENBERG: Yes.
- MR. BRUCE: That's fine.
- 7 MR. LARSON: Yes.
- 8 MR. PADILLA: Yes.
- 9 EXAMINER WARNELL: Mr. Padilla, are you
- 10 good with that?
- MR. PADILLA: I'm sorry?
- 12 EXAMINER WARNELL: Are you good with that?
- MR. PADILLA: I'm good with that.
- 14 EXAMINER WARNELL: Okay.
- 15 All right. Thank you.
- 16 Let's take the last three then, docket
- 17 numbers 65, 66 and 67, NGL, Case 16443.
- 18 Call for appearances.
- 19 MS. BENNETT: Good morning. Deana Bennett
- 20 on behalf of NGL Water Solutions Permian, LLC.
- 21 MR. BRUCE: Jim Bruce on behalf of Solaris
- 22 Water Midstream, LLC.
- MS. KESSLER: Jordan Kessler, from Holland
- 24 & Hart, on behalf of EOG Resources.
- 25 MS. BENNETT: And just to be clear, Jordan,

1 you're here on behalf of EOG Resources in relation to

- 2 the Solaris cases, correct?
- 3 MS. KESSLER: Correct.
- 4 MS. BENNETT: Earlier, for the Division's
- 5 recollection, Santo had entered an appearance in this
- 6 case via the Holland & Hart firm, but Santo has since
- 7 agreed to withdraw any opposition to the Sidewinder
- 8 application.
- 9 MS. KESSLER: Correct.
- MS. BENNETT: So the only opposition that
- 11 we currently have to the Sidewinder application, which
- 12 is 16443, is Solaris.
- And I did just want to take a quick minute
- 14 to talk about how we got here before we talk about the
- 15 path forward. So NGL submitted its application for
- 16 Sidewinder back on August 24th, and at Mr. Goetze's
- 17 request, NGL continued its application so that it could
- 18 move the well location to be outside the 1.5-mile buffer
- 19 from the Telluride well, which is the well at issue for
- 20 Mr. Bruce's client.
- 21 EXAMINER WADE: Gentlemen, it's hard to
- 22 hear.
- Thank you.
- MS. BENNETT: So upon Mr. Goetze's request
- 25 to move the Sidewinder well, NGL undertook to do that,

- 1 and it took a month or so to move the location of the
- 2 well to be outside the 1.5-mile buffer. And during that
- 3 time, Mr. Bruce entered his appearance on behalf of
- 4 Solaris asserting that -- or he intervened, actually,
- 5 and the basis for his intervention was that the
- 6 Sidewinder would be within 1.5 miles of the Telluride
- 7 well.
- 8 Well, on December 14th, approximately, we
- 9 filed our amended application that moved the well
- 10 outside the 1.5-mile radius or buffer from the Telluride
- 11 well. And I communicated that to counsel for Solaris,
- 12 along with a request -- multiple requests, actually,
- 13 that counsel for Solaris dismiss or drop its protest
- 14 given that we are now outside the 1.5-mile buffer.
- 15 Those requests to dismiss have been, I guess, not
- 16 answered in the affirmative, which why we're here today.
- 17 And I also wanted to mention that we're
- 18 here today because NGL is ready and prepared to go to
- 19 hearing on this. We've been ready. We've been
- 20 prepared. I've been asking for special docket dates.
- 21 We've been trying to work toward getting this case on
- the docket, and, in fact, we were prepared to go
- 23 tomorrow. And to the extent that there was any
- 24 miscommunication on my part about our readiness to go
- 25 tomorrow, I certainly apologize for that, Mr. Warnell.

1 We were prepared to go tomorrow, and, in

- 2 fact, I have with me three NGL witnesses: Mr. Neel
- 3 Duncan, whom you're all familiar.
- 4 I also have with me Scott Wilson. He is
- 5 the senior vice president for Ryder Scott in Denver.
- 6 He's testified before the Division twice, I believe, and
- 7 we've also presented his affidavits to the Division in
- 8 our other NGL cases. And he is a petroleum engineer,
- 9 and the work that he's doing for NGL is a nodal analysis
- 10 and reservoir stimulations to determine the potential
- 11 impacts of the increased tubing size. And as we
- 12 presented in our prior cases, his analysis is showing
- 13 favorable results, that there is no impact.
- 14 Also with me today is Mr. Todd Reynolds.
- 15 Todd Reynolds is the managing director of FTI Platt
- 16 Sparks. Mr. Reynolds hasn't testified before the
- 17 Division before, but we have presented his studies in
- 18 our prior NGL applications. And he actually does the
- 19 fault slip probability analysis based on the Stanford
- 20 University tool, and he -- bless you.
- 21 EXAMINER BROOKS: Thank you.
- 22 MS. BENNETT: -- and he supports the work
- of Dr. Steven Taylor, who is a seismologist. Dr. Steven
- 24 Taylor, as you know, based on his prior affidavits, is a
- 25 researcher -- former researcher at LANL. He,

1 unfortunately, isn't here with us today because he's in

- 2 Idaho for the ski season, but he is and was planning to
- 3 be available by phone tomorrow.
- 4 And also not with us today is Kate Zeigler,
- 5 who is our geologist, and Kate is and was planning on
- 6 being here tomorrow as well.
- 7 And so I brought -- asked the witnesses to
- 8 come today to clear up any confusion that I may have
- 9 caused about our readiness and willingness to go to
- 10 hearing. We are willing. We are ready. We are
- 11 prepared.
- 12 And so I would just ask that if there is a
- 13 possibility of dismissing Solaris' protest -- I know
- 14 this is unconventional, but I would like to ask that it
- 15 be dismissed because it is moot. But to the extent that
- 16 we can't have a hearing tomorrow -- obviously, we're
- 17 here at the Division's pleasure. We would like to have
- 18 a hearing tomorrow. That would be fantastic. But to
- 19 the extent we can't have a hearing tomorrow, I would
- 20 like to suggest special hearing dates in early February,
- 21 with the understanding that Mr. Bruce is unavailable the
- 22 13th through the 19th. So we're available the week
- 23 before or the week after for a special hearing date, and
- 24 we would prefer the week before given the circumstances
- 25 but understand that it may need to be the week after.

1 EXAMINER WARNELL: Ready to go tomorrow?

- 2 MR. BRUCE: What's that?
- 3 EXAMINER WARNELL: Are you ready to go
- 4 tomorrow?
- 5 MR. BRUCE: No, I'm not. Again, it was my
- 6 understanding there would no contested cases, so I told
- 7 my witnesses not to come.
- 8 EXAMINER WADE: There is also a motion to
- 9 dismiss that needs to be disposed of.
- 10 MR. BRUCE: I think that could be done on
- 11 the special hearing date.
- 12 And I suppose the other thing is if -- you
- 13 know, they've asked to dismiss. And I will ask my
- 14 clients again, believe me. But are they willing to
- 15 dismiss their protest against the Aspen and Telluride
- 16 Solaris cases?
- 17 MS. BENNETT: And the answer to that is no,
- 18 we are not willing to dismiss those. We -- just to put
- 19 this in context, NGL is a landowner, fee surface owner,
- 20 and not only was the Sidewinder and Telluride well
- 21 within the 1.5-mile proximity, but we moved the
- 22 Sidewinder well. The Telluride well is currently
- 23 proposed to be drilled only 1,200 feet away from the
- boundary of NGL's fee property on a BLM lease.
- 25 EXAMINER WADE: If I could interrupt. So

- 1 this is a whole separate case; am I correct?
- 2 MS. BENNETT: This is the Telluride.
- 3 EXAMINER WADE: Is this consolidated?
- 4 MS. BENNETT: No. They're not
- 5 consolidated.
- 6 EXAMINER WADE: So we're talking about a
- 7 whole different case that we haven't called and it's not
- 8 before us at this moment?
- 9 MS. BENNETT: It's part of the scheduling
- 10 conference.
- 11 EXAMINER WARNELL: Yeah. It's part of
- 12 these three.
- 13 EXAMINER WADE: Okay. Okay.
- MS. BENNETT: And, in fact, my
- 15 understanding is that EOG is also protesting the
- 16 location of the Telluride or Aspen well. I'm not sure
- 17 which one. But even if NGL were to dismiss its protest,
- 18 which it's not willing to do because of its status as a
- 19 fee owner and the implications to NGL's ability to make
- 20 use and fully develop its fee interests, there would
- 21 still be the independent protest from EOG to Solaris'
- 22 application.
- So one of the things that I had suggested
- in an email was uncoupling these three cases, letting
- 25 the Sidewinder case go. And if Solaris wants to come in

- 1 and have witnesses just for the Sidewinder case, if
- 2 that's more efficient for the Division, we're happy to
- 3 do that, and then handle the Telluride and Aspen cases
- 4 separately with EOG's participation in that as well.
- 5 MR. BRUCE: And it's my point that why
- 6 bring the witnesses back for two hearings rather than
- 7 just one?
- 8 MS. BENNETT: And just circling back to the
- 9 motion to dismiss, if I need to make a more formal
- 10 motion to dismiss, I will. But if it were granted, then
- 11 I believe NGL would be able to just put this case on by
- 12 affidavit, and we would request that we be allowed to do
- 13 so at the next available docket date. I understand that
- 14 normally that would have to be on the next available
- 15 docket date for continuances, but under the
- 16 circumstances, I would ask that it be on the next
- 17 available docket date, but I understand that may not be
- 18 possible. That would be our preference. But that's
- 19 assuming the motion to dismiss would be granted or that
- 20 Solaris' -- I mean, if Solaris is willing to drop its
- 21 protest, that would make it more convenient for all of
- 22 us, I think.
- MR. BRUCE: I will check on that, but,
- 24 again, I suggest a hearing date sometime that week
- 25 before.

- 1 MS. BENNETT: Yes. That's the week of
- 2 February -- I don't have the dates right in front of me,
- 3 but the week before.
- 4 MR. BRUCE: 3rd or 4th.
- 5 MS. BENNETT: 3rd or 4th through the 8th or
- 6 9th, I think it would be. That's the week of the new
- 7 cases, which is February 7th.
- 8 EXAMINER WARNELL: February 7th.
- 9 MS. BENNETT: But if we could have the
- 10 hearing on the 5th, if that works for your availability.
- 11 As I mentioned and as you can see, we're ready to go, so
- 12 we're flexible and ready.
- 13 EXAMINER WADE: Okay. So we have some
- 14 proposed dates for a special hearing. We also have a
- 15 motion to dismiss. I think it probably would be easier
- if you did a formal motion and a response.
- 17 MS. BENNETT: Thank you. I will do that.
- MR. BRUCE: Okay.
- 19 EXAMINER WADE: And maybe we can dispose of
- 20 that prior to the hearing dates. I think that's what we
- 21 need.
- 22 Oh, well, I guess the third issue is -- are
- 23 you saying these need -- they're not consolidated cases,
- 24 right?
- MS. BENNETT: They're not.

1 EXAMINER WADE: But they have witnesses in

- 2 common?
- 3 MR. BRUCE: They have witnesses in common.
- 4 EXAMINER WADE: And are you proposing that
- 5 they be completely heard separately, or it sounds like
- 6 it's most efficient to hear all three in one day?
- 7 MS. BENNETT: The only reason I propose
- 8 that they be heard separately was due to scheduling
- 9 conflicts. I agree that having all of our witnesses
- 10 together is the ideal situation and would be more
- 11 efficient if we have to have a contested hearing.
- 12 EXAMINER WADE: How long for each case?
- MS. BENNETT: Well, I anticipate that
- 14 Sidewinder might take -- well, our witnesses would
- 15 probably take about three hours, based on the Division's
- 16 questions, and I'm not certain how long
- 17 cross-examination of our witnesses would take, but
- 18 assuming half as much time. Perhaps four-and-a-half
- 19 hours for Sidewinder. And then I believe the Solaris --
- 20 and I'm not trying to speak for Mr. Bruce. But if those
- 21 two were consolidated, so then they're only asking
- 22 questions of -- although there are two very different
- 23 locations. But I don't know how much time he would need
- 24 for his witnesses.
- 25 MR. BRUCE: I think combined, a day.

1 EXAMINER WADE: All three cases in one day?

- 2 But it sounds like you were anticipating one case would
- 3 take three hours, case-in-chief. That would be a day.
- 4 And then cross-examination, you know, let's assume half.
- 5 That's not a bad assumption. You're talking
- 6 four-and-a-half hours. That's one case. That's roughly
- 7 a day.
- 8 MS. BENNETT: I think, though, the issues
- 9 here, to go to Mr. Bruce's point, are interrelated, such
- 10 that much of my cross -- or his cross of my witnesses
- 11 would then perhaps shorten the direct or cross of his
- 12 witnesses on the Solaris -- I mean the Aspen and
- 13 Telluride issues. So there is that interrelationship
- 14 that might make the questioning more efficient.
- 15 EXAMINER WADE: Well, I mean, the idea
- 16 behind the scheduling conference is to get a good idea
- of when and how to schedule a hearing, right?
- MS. BENNETT: Uh-huh.
- 19 EXAMINER WADE: Maybe it would be best if
- 20 you two discussed this more and gave us a pre-hearing
- 21 statement maybe in the next week that would give us a
- 22 better idea of when we should set this and how long we
- 23 should set this for.
- 24 MR. BRUCE: Okay. That's fine. I'll take
- 25 care of that today or tomorrow.

- 1 MS. BENNETT: And I did submit a
- 2 pre-hearing statement last week in anticipation of
- 3 hoping to go tomorrow, and I laid out in my pre-hearing
- 4 statement the amount of time that I thought would be
- 5 required. And I roughly set 40 minutes per witness, and
- 6 we will have five witnesses. If I need to provide a
- 7 more fulsome pre-hearing statement, I'm happy to do
- 8 that.
- 9 EXAMINER WADE: I don't think so, other
- 10 than maybe if this idea of consolidating needs to be
- 11 explored a little bit more.
- 12 MS. BENNETT: And in the meantime, I
- 13 understand you want us to set the pre-hearing -- or get
- 14 a pre-hearing statement with those times in it, but I
- 15 also am hopeful that we'll still be able to get a
- 16 hearing date set in the relatively near future, since we
- 17 are ready to go and want to go and are prepared to go.
- 18 So I would hope that we can work together efficiently
- 19 and expeditiously to get this before the Division so
- 20 that we can set a hearing date in the early week of
- 21 February.
- 22 EXAMINER WADE: Yeah. Maybe in your formal
- 23 motion to dismiss, you can explore that a little bit as
- 24 well.
- I mean, you can see the tension, where it's

difficult to set cases when we don't know necessarily

- 2 how long they're going to be, whether they're
- 3 consolidated or not. You know, we put dates aside, and
- 4 they get continued. It doesn't help -- it's difficult
- 5 for us to schedule.
- 6 MS. BENNETT: And right now, standing here
- 7 right now, I am willing to say I will trim down my
- 8 witness list to take one day, if that would -- and work
- 9 with Jim to get it down to one day so that we can set a
- 10 hearing date today, and I would be committed to a
- 11 one-day hearing.
- 12 EXAMINER WADE: So maybe you discuss this a
- 13 little bit more and circle back?
- MR. BRUCE: Sure. Tomorrow, I'll --
- 15 EXAMINER WADE: I don't know that we're
- 16 having a hearing date for tomorrow.
- 17 MR. BRUCE: No, no. I'm just saying report
- 18 back.
- 19 EXAMINER WADE: Back by tomorrow? So would
- 20 file a pre-hearing statement, essentially?
- 21 MR. BRUCE: Yeah. I already filed
- 22 pre-hearing statements, but I can revise those.
- 23 EXAMINER WADE: Ms. Kessler, EOG?
- MS. KESSLER: EOG is just monitoring the
- 25 situation, so whatever proposed dates, we will make

Page 26 work, and we will not have any witnesses. EXAMINER WARNELL: Okay. We're good with that. MS. BENNETT: Great. Thank you very much. Appreciate you. EXAMINER McMILLAN: Thank you very much. (The scheduling conferences conclude, 9:58 a.m.)

- 1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
- 2 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO

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- 4 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER
- 5 I, MARY C. HANKINS, Certified Court
- 6 Reporter, New Mexico Certified Court Reporter No. 20,
- 7 and Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify
- 8 that I reported the foregoing proceedings in
- 9 stenographic shorthand and that the foregoing pages are
- 10 a true and correct transcript of those proceedings that
- 11 were reduced to printed form by me to the best of my
- 12 ability.
- I FURTHER CERTIFY that the Reporter's
- 14 Record of the proceedings truly and accurately reflects
- 15 the exhibits, if any, offered by the respective parties.
- I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither
- 17 employed by nor related to any of the parties or
- 18 attorneys in this case and that I have no interest in
- 19 the final disposition of this case.
- 20 DATED THIS 8th day of February 2019.

21

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MARY C. HANKINS, CCR, RPR
Certified Court Reporter
New Mexico CCR No. 20

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