



MANITOBA PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

Re: CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC.  
TRANSPORTATION AND PORTFOLIO APPLICATION

Before Board Panel:

Regis Gosselin	- Board Chairman
Monica Girouard	- Board Member
Raymond Lafond	- Board Member

HELD AT:

Public Utilities Board  
400, 330 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

June 25, 2012

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APPEARANCES

Bob Peters ) Board Counsel

Doug Bedford ) Manitoba Hydro

Brian Meronek ) CAC

Thomas Masi )

Nola Ruzycki (np) ) Just Energy Manitoba

Paul Kerr (np) ) Shell Energy

Kim Johnston (np) ) BP Energy Group

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1	LIST OF EXHIBITS		
2	Exhibit No.	Description	Page No.
3	PUB-1	Notice of Application and Pre-	Filed
4		Hearing Conference dated March	at
5		26, 2011	PHC
6	PUB-2	Draft Timetable	Filed at PHC
7	PUB-3	Affidavit of Service and	
8		Publication of Notice of Public	
9		Hearing	Filed at PHC
10	PUB-4	Board Order No. 49/12 dated April	
11		26, 2012	14
12	PUB/CENTRA-5-1 TO 5-24		
13		The Public Utilities Board's 1st	
14		round Information Requests and	
15		Centra Gas Manitoba Inc's responses	14
16	PUB/CAC 6-1 TO 6-16		
17		The Public Utilities Board's	
18		Information Requests and	
19		Consumers' Association of Canada	
20		responses	14
21	PUB-7	Book of Documents	15
22	CENTRA-1	Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.	Filed
23		Application dated March 23, 2012	at PHC
24	CENTRA-2	Rebuttal Evidence	Filed at PHC
25			

1	LIST OF EXHIBITS (Con't)	
2	Exhibit No.	Page No.
3	CENTRA-3	Witness Panel and Witness
4		Qualifications of Vince Warden,
5		Greg Barnlund, Neil Kostick, Lori
6		Stewart and Brent Sanderson
7	CAC/CENTRA-1-1 TO 1-22	17
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9		(Manitoba) Inc. - 1st round
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13		Evidence of Mark Staufft on behalf
14		of Consumers' Association of Canada
15		(Manitoba) Ltd.'s
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17		Just Energy Manitoba L.P.'s 1st
18		Round Information Requests and
19		Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.'s
20		Response
21		
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1	LIST OF UNDERTAKINGS	
2	No.	Description Page No.
3	1	Centra to determine whether or not
4		the costs shown are net of capacity
5		management revenues; and if they're
6		not, determine if that can also be
7		provided 97
8	2	Centra to reconcile the chart
9		included with pre-ask PUB/CENTRA-1
10		for the February 2006 point, with
11		the indication in CAC/CENTRA-17-E
12		which provides the 2005/'06 storage
13		withdrawal volumes 157
14	3	Centra to indicate what the
15		restructured proposal is from
16		TransCanada for tolls in the 2013
17		calender year, assuming the
18		restructuring proposal is implemented
19		but taking into account the updated
20		throughput study and related
21		assumptions, and provide the status
22		quo number that the TCPL is using as
23		the other end of the calculation 197
24		
25		

1 --- Upon commencing at 9:30 a.m.

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good morning, ladies  
4 and gentlemen. Welcome to the commencement of the oral  
5 hearing of Centra Gas and Manitoba Inc.'s incor --  
6 transportation and storage portfolio application.

7 We'll be -- we will be spending the next  
8 four (4) days, approximately, together in this hearing  
9 room, so I'd like to introduce myself and the other  
10 panel members. My name is Regis Gosselin.

11 On April 1st, 2012, I was appointed as  
12 the new chair of the Public Utilities Board. In that  
13 capacity, I'll be chairing this -- this hearing. With  
14 me are Board members Monica Girouard and Raymond  
15 Lafond. I know both of you are very busy people, so  
16 thanks very much for agreeing to sit on this panel.

17 The Board will be assisted by our acting  
18 secretary, Kurt Simonsen, and Board counsel, Bob  
19 Peters, together with Brady Ryall, the engineering  
20 advisor from ECI Consulting. So welcome to all of you.

21 The operating -- the Board's operating  
22 advise -- pardon me, accounting advisor is Roger  
23 Cathcart, but he is available to assist in this case in  
24 course -- in case the Board needs to call on his  
25 services.

1                   It appears from the material filed that  
2 Centra's transportation and storage portfolio in the US  
3 was established through contractual arrangements some  
4 twenty (20) years ago, and those will expire on March  
5 31st, 2013.

6                   My colleague, Mr. Girouard, was on the  
7 panel that authored the Board Order 65/11 subsequent to  
8 Centra's 2011/12 cost of gas application. In that  
9 hearing, the Board was advised that Centra had  
10 initiated a process to investigate alternatives in  
11 options with respect to the replacement of its  
12 transportation and storage arrangements.

13                  In that order, 65/11, the Board directed  
14 changes to the portfolio review process that Centra had  
15 in -- proposed at that time. The Board stated its  
16 intention, that it would require Centra to seek Board  
17 approval of changes to the existing arrangements prior  
18 to finalizing new contracts. The Board also directed  
19 that the review process should include an oral hearing  
20 component.

21                  On March 23rd of 2012, Centra filed its  
22 application seeking this Board's approval of the fixed  
23 costs associated with the proposed replacement  
24 contractual arrangements for natural gas storage and  
25 related interstate transportation with the ANR Pipeline



1 Company and the Great Lakes Grass Tan -- Gas  
2 Transmission Limited Partnership.

3 On April 11, 2012, the Board conducted a  
4 pre-hearing conference to deal with procedural matters.  
5 That hearing gave rise to Order 49/12, of which all  
6 participants should be aware.

7 Today is the start of the oral evide --  
8 evidentiary portion of the hearing. And I will turn  
9 the microphone over to Board counsel, Bob Peters, to  
10 address the procedures over the next four (4) days.  
11 Mr. Peters?

12 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you and good  
13 morning, Mr. Chairman, panel members Girouard and  
14 Lafond. For the record, my name is Bob Peters, and I'm  
15 counsel to the Public Utilities Board in respect of  
16 this application by Centra. As noted by the Chair, the  
17 Board is also assisted by its engineering advisor,  
18 Brady Ryall, seated to my right.

19 Recognizing the duration and the cost of  
20 the storage and transportation contracts entered into  
21 by Centra, the Board, in Order 65 of '11, directed that  
22 a meaningful opportunity should be provided to all  
23 stakeholders to explore Centra's options and  
24 alternatives prior to a new arrangement being  
25 finalized.

1                   That brings us to today's hearing.

2   Centra is seeking the Board's approval of the annual

3   fixed costs of Centra's preferred arrangement.

4   Notably, while the 1992 arrangements were for a twenty

5   (20) year period, the currently proposed arrangements

6   will extend seven (7) years.

7                   Mr. Chair and Board member Lafond, as

8   relative newcomers to the regulation of Centra Gas, you

9   need to be forewarned that there is a language unto its

10   own and there are acronyms, units of measure, and

11   abbreviations that all counsel and witnesses will be

12   mindful to explain.

13                  Please interrupt us at any time -- any

14   time there's a question or answer that needs

15   clarification. We recognize our roles in assisting the

16   Board in its understanding of the issues and the

17   evidence that will come before it.

18                  In turning to the procedures that you've

19   asked me address, Mr. Chairman, I've circulated on

20   yellow paper today an outline of procedures, and I'll

21   just take a few minutes to review them.

22                  In the opening comments, Mr. Chairman,

23   yours have already been given. I'll be concluding mine

24   shortly. I will then suggest that you turn to the

25   Intervenors that have been approved for intervention

1 into this Hearing.

2 And, excuse me, firstly, the Consumers'  
3 Association of Manito -- sorry, of Canada (Manitoba)  
4 Inc., or abbreviated as CAC, is represented across the  
5 Hearing room by Brian Meronek and Thomas Masi.

6 Secondly, Just Energy Manitoba Limited  
7 Partnership is in Intervenor. They're a gas retailer  
8 active in Manitoba, and they're represented by Nola  
9 Ruzycki. Ms. Ruzycki will not be in attendance during  
10 the oral evidentiary portion of the hearing.

11 Thirdly, Shell Energy North America  
12 (Canada) Inc. is a licensed gas broker in Manitoba  
13 that's also involved in gas trading and marketing  
14 throughout the rest of Canada. Shell Energy is  
15 represented by Mr. Kerr, and Mr. Kerr will not be in  
16 attendance during the evidentiary portion of the  
17 Hearing.

18 Lastly, in terms of Intervenors, BP  
19 Energy Group ULC is a supplier of natural gas to both  
20 transportation service customers and western  
21 transportation service customers served by Centra. And  
22 BP Energy group is represented by Kim Johnston, and  
23 again, Kim Johnston will not be in attendance during  
24 the oral evidentiary portion of the Hearings.

25 So with those Intervenors, I would

1 suggest that when I'm finished my opening comments that  
2 the Board turn to Mr. Meronek for his.

3 And then following Mr. Meronek's opening  
4 comments you'll see that there's time for Centra Gas  
5 (Manitoba) Inc., through its counsel, Mr. Bedford, to  
6 provide their opening comments.

7 Once the opening comments have been  
8 provided it would then be appropriate to swear in the  
9 witnesses and allow them to provide any direct evidence  
10 that they wish in response to any questions from Mr.  
11 Bedford.

12 The five (5) witnesses will be  
13 introduced, but I've listed their names on the outline  
14 of procedure. Following any questions that Mr. Bedford  
15 has of his witnesses, the witnesses would then be  
16 turned over for cross-examination, starting firstly  
17 with myself and then concluding with Mr. Meronek.

18 Once the Centra Panel witnesses are  
19 finished, CAC has a witness, Mr. Mark Stauf, who we  
20 will be bringing to Winnipeg to testify. And the  
21 procedure for Mr. Stauf will be similar in that he  
22 will provide his direct evidence through questions by  
23 Mr. Meronek and Mr. Masi, and then he'll be cross-  
24 examined firstly by Centra and secondly by myself.

25 The last matter on the outline of

1 procedures are closing submissions. And if I look back  
2 to the order your referenced, Mr. Chairman, Order 49 of  
3 '12, the procedural order, there seemed to be a  
4 consensus that closing submissions would be held on  
5 Wednesday, July the 4th. And we'll confirm that before  
6 this Hearing steps down or adjourns. But that is the  
7 date that is presently -- presently targeted.

8 I should indicate that with respect to  
9 the Intervenor Just Energy, Shell, and BP Canada, I've  
10 been in email communications with them, including  
11 recently, and I've indicated that if they have  
12 intentions to provide any closing submissions, and if  
13 they intend to do so in writing, they should advise  
14 myself and the Board and endeavour to have those  
15 closing submissions filed the day before the Board  
16 convenes for its oral closing submissions. I have yet  
17 to hear back as to when -- whether any of them will.

18 Mr. Chairman and Board members, I'd like  
19 to turn to the exhibit list that was also circulated to  
20 the parties in advance of today. And the exhibit list  
21 is to keep track of the record of proceedings, in terms  
22 of the documents that get filed. And I'll take the  
23 liberty of -- of just mentioning them for all parties.

24 Under the PUB's exhibits the notice that  
25 was published in the newspapers and approved by the

1 Board would be PUB Exhibit 1.

2 Exhibit 2 would be the draft timetable.

3 Exhibit 3 was the affidavit of service  
4 and the affidavit of publication of the public notice.

5 PUB-4 was the procedural order 49/12.

6

7 --- EXHIBIT NO. PUB-4: Board Order No. 49/12 dated  
8 April 26, 2012

9

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And then Exhibits PUB-  
11 5-1 through 5-24 would be the Public Utilities Board's  
12 written Information Requests of Centra and Centra's  
13 responses.

14

15 --- EXHIBIT NO. PUB/CENTRA-5-1 THROUGH 5-24:

16 The Public Utilities Board's 1st  
17 round Information Requests and Centra  
18 Gas Manitoba Inc's responses

19

20 MR. BOB PETERS: PUB Exhibit CAC-6-1 to  
21 6-16 would be the Public Utilities Board's written  
22 Information Requests of the witness for CAC and the  
23 responses.

24

25 --- EXHIBIT NO. PUB/CAC-6-1 THROUGH 6-16:

1                   The Public Utilities Board's  
2                   Information Requests and Consumers'  
3                   Association of Canada responses  
4

5                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And while we have the  
6 exhibit list open, Mr. Chairman, I will propose at this  
7 time that a book of documents that I've also circulated  
8 would be marked as PUB Exhibit 7.

9  
10 --- EXHIBIT NO. PUB-7:       Book of Documents

11  
12                  MR. BOB PETERS:   The book of documents  
13 that has been assembled is for convenience. Paper  
14 copies distributed this morning, although electronic  
15 copies were circulated I believe to Centra last  
16 Wednesday and to Mr. Meronek and Mr. Masi last Friday.

17                  For those who will follow the  
18 proceedings by way of the transcript, I've given an  
19 electronic copy to the Board to see if they can post it  
20 on their website. The notable point there is that the  
21 book of document (sic) has page numbers in the top  
22 right-hand corner. And to ensure that the PDF copy  
23 that will be posted on the Board's website is the same  
24 as the one we're working at in the hearing room, the  
25 page numbers have been numbered sequentially. And to

1 do that, I guess, I'm told the tabs themselves even  
2 have to have tabs -- page numbers.

3                   Now these documents, Mr. Chairman and  
4 Board members, are not necessarily newly created  
5 documents. For the most part they are documents that  
6 Centra will have seen before. In fact, most of them  
7 were prepared by Centra. There's a couple from PUB  
8 orders and there's a couple of others that they may not  
9 have authored but they're aware of. And if there's any  
10 issues, we'll -- we'll address that as we go through.

11                   I would just quickly note that the last  
12 tab in the book of documents, tab 24, contains unit  
13 conversions and some units of measure and abbreviations  
14 that the Board members may find useful during the  
15 hearing. Although again, I -- I reiterate that at any  
16 time there's questions by the Board for clarification  
17 or explanation of any units or acronyms or  
18 abbreviations, to please -- to please let us know.

19                   Following the PUB exhibits, Centra has -  
20 - Centra Exhibit 1 would be their application dated  
21 March the 23rd. That has already been filed.

22                   Centra Exhibit 2 will be the rebuttal  
23 evidence, and that was filed on Friday, June the 22nd,  
24 and the Board should have a copy of that.

25                   In terms of Centra Exhibit 3, I propose



1 that Centra Exhibit 3 be the witness qualifications  
2 that were also filed Friday by Centra, and they filed  
3 five (5) witness qualifications for the panel that's  
4 before the Board.

5

6 --- EXHIBIT NO. CENTRA-3: Witness Panel and Witness  
7 Qualifications of Vince  
8 Warden, Greg Barnlund, Neil  
9 Kostick, Lori Stewart and  
10 Brent Sanderson

11

12 MR. BOB PETERS: I will also note that  
13 in preparing the book of documents, Centra cooperated -  
14 - and much appreciated -- in providing responses to two  
15 (2) pre-asked questions. One (1) of them dealt with  
16 units of measure, and one (1) dealt with revising a  
17 chart on ANR storage. Those pre-asked questions are  
18 already incorporated into PUB Exhibit 7. But if my  
19 friend wants a further exhibit number, we can address  
20 that as well.

21 Then turning to the Consumers'  
22 Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc. exhibits, I  
23 propose that CAC/CENTRA-1-1 through 1-22 be the  
24 Information Requests posed by CAC and the written  
25 responses by Centra.

1 --- EXHIBIT NO. CAC/CENTRA-1-1 TO 1-22:

2 Consumers' Association of Canada  
3 (Manitoba) Inc. - 1st round  
4 Information Requests and Centra Gas  
5 Manitoba Inc.'s Response.

6

7 MR. BOB PETERS: CAC Exhibit 2 would  
8 become the pre-filed written evidence of Mr. Staft  
9 filed on behalf of the Consumers' Association of Canada  
10 (Manitoba) Inc.

11

12 --- EXHIBIT NO. CAC-2: Evidence of Mark Staft on  
13 behalf of Consumers'  
14 Association of Canada  
15 (Manitoba) Ltd.'s

16

17 MR. BOB PETERS: Then Just Energy  
18 Manitoba Limited Partnership has two (2) exhibits,  
19 JEMLP/CENTRA-1-1 to 1-2 would be the Information  
20 Requests posed by Just Energy and responded to by  
21 Centra.

22

23 --- EXHIBIT NO. JEMLP/CENTRA-1-1 TO 1-2:

24 Just Energy Manitoba L.P.'s 1st Round  
25 Information Requests and Centra Gas

1 Manitoba Inc.'s Response

2

3 MR. BOB PETERS: I can indicate that  
4 there are no exhibits from Shell Energy at this time,  
5 and no exhibits from BP Canada Energy at this time,  
6 although, as I've indicated, they may have some closing  
7 submissions.

8 Mr. Chairman, in closing I suggest the  
9 Board call on CAC counsel, Mr. Meronek, for any opening  
10 comments on behalf of his client. And then following  
11 Mr. Meronek's opening comments, I would suggest the  
12 Board call on Mr. Bedford for Centra's opening comments  
13 and introductions prior to the swearing of Centra's  
14 witnesses. And once the witness panel is sworn, it's  
15 suggested that direct evidence and cross-examinations  
16 will proceed as indicated in the outline.

17 And finally, Mr. Chairman, please call  
18 on me at any time during the hearing in respect of any  
19 procedural matters that the Board may have. And,  
20 subject to your questions of me at this time, I would  
21 again suggest you call on Mr. Meronek for his opening  
22 comments on behalf of his client.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
24 Peters. Mr. Meronek...?

25

1 OPENING COMMENTS BY CAC:

2 MR. BRIAN MERONEK: Excuse me. Good  
3 morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board.  
4 Welcome. Good morning to the panel, especially Mr.  
5 Bedford, who apparently has nothing better to do other  
6 than Bipole III.

7 Along with Mr. Thomas Masi, I represent  
8 the Consumers Association of Canada. And without fear  
9 of contradiction, I don't think, we are the major  
10 stakeholder other than the Board and -- and Centra. I  
11 -- I emphasize stakeholder as opposed to interested  
12 party because there are several interested parties.  
13 But this application deals with a long-term contract  
14 that Centra has negotiated on behalf of the consumers  
15 who are paying for the cost of the arrangement.

16 So the way I like to look at it is  
17 Centra is acting on our behalf. And we're -- we're  
18 going to be paying, good, bad or indifferent, whatever  
19 the results of this application determine.

20 It's -- it's a situation which is  
21 becoming more and more the norm as opposed to the --  
22 the exception in that for many years, more or less, CAC  
23 has been at odds with Centra on a -- on a number of  
24 serious issues. You will see as -- as the week unfolds  
25 that -- that the disagreements between Cen -- Centra

1 and CAC are not as extreme as they sometimes have been.  
2 We will be introducing evidence in the form of written  
3 and oral evidence from Mr. Staft, who agrees with a  
4 lot of the things that Centra has done.

5                   We find our role here is to assist the  
6 Board and to contribute in the sense of, if -- where we  
7 have issues, we will identify them. Where we have  
8 agreement, we will identify them. So the Board  
9 hopefully will have some confidence from an inde --  
10 independent perspective that -- that what Centra is  
11 proposing is appropriate. So the thrust of our  
12 intervention is going to be essentially to clarify a  
13 lot of the material, essentially, because it is  
14 complicated.

15                   The process some -- sometimes is  
16 inadequate in the sense that questions that get posed  
17 in information requests, if -- if the right question  
18 isn't asked, the -- the answer sought is not obtained.  
19 Sometimes the information obtained begs more questions.  
20 So that is one (1) of the roles that we deem to be  
21 appropriate.

22                   So I will be asking Centra some  
23 questions in various areas, assuming that Mr. Peters  
24 doesn't steal all my thunder, which he is wont to do.  
25 And then we will be calling Mr. Staft and -- for his

1 evidence. And we will be participating extensively  
2 throughout and also providing oral ar -- oral argument  
3 at the end. And we welcome the opportunity of being  
4 here and assisting the Board. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
6 Meronek. I'll turn it over to Mr. Bedford.

7

8 OPENING COMMENTS BY CENTRA GAS:

9 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Thank you and good  
10 morning. And as you've learned, my name is Doug  
11 Bedford and I work in the legal department of Manitoba  
12 Hydro. And I'm very happy to predict that the subject  
13 matter of this hearing over the next four (4) days is  
14 no doubt going to be far less controversial than the  
15 Bipole III project.

16 I'm going to introduce my colleagues  
17 from Manitoba Hydro and Centra Gas. I then have some  
18 very brief remarks I would like to make to you. And  
19 then I'll ask that the panel of witnesses be sworn in.  
20 Some of them in their direct evidence will tell you a  
21 little bit more about what their jobs are at Centra  
22 Gas.

23 I anticipate that the direct evidence  
24 that we're going to lead will take something less than  
25 an hour this morning. So by way of introduction, to my

1 immediate right is Mr. Vince Warden. Mr. Warden is the  
2 senior vice-president, finance and administration, at  
3 Manitoba Hydro. He's also the chief financial officer.  
4 And he's also the senior person responsible for the  
5 business of Centra Gas.

6                   Next to him is Mr. Greg Barnlund. And  
7 as I indicated, Mr. Barnlund and his colleagues will  
8 tell you more about what they do in their direct  
9 evidence. Next to Mr. Barnlund, Mr. Neil Kostick.  
10 Next to him is Lori Stewart. And next to her, Mr.  
11 Brent Sanderson.

12                   Behind me, Ms. Teri Bercier, who is a  
13 regulated -- regulatory coordinator with Centra Gas.  
14 Next to her, Ms. Natalia Giraldo-Gomez, who is a  
15 regulatory coordinator as well with Centra Gas, and Ms.  
16 Christine Foulkes, a storage and transportation  
17 specialist.

18                   Our purpose here is to seek your  
19 approval of the fixed costs of a set of eight (8)  
20 contracts we plan to enter into with ANR Pipeline  
21 Company and Great Lakes Transmission -- Great Lakes Gas  
22 Transmission Limited Partnership.

23                   We, at Centra Gas, believe that the  
24 eight (8) contracts, or as my colleagues here want to  
25 call them, "the portfolio," merit approval because 1)

1 they will help us to maintain reliable and secure  
2 service by which we mean, for example, that both ANR  
3 Pipeline Company and Great Lakes Gas Transmission  
4 Limited Partnership have a proven track record with  
5 Centra Gas through our experience with them over the  
6 last twenty (20) years.

7                   The contracts will allow us to reduce  
8 the amount of gas which we would otherwise be required  
9 to purchase in the winter. And, therefore,  
10 correspondingly these contracts will allow us to buy  
11 gas in the summer when prices historically have been  
12 lower.

13                   2) We believe that the eight (8)  
14 contracts merit approval because they give us greater  
15 operational flexibility, by which we mean, for example,  
16 that they will allow us to acquire gas in the winter  
17 when we need it even after the markets are closed.  
18 They will allow us to acquire gas even if our  
19 nominations are rejected.

20                   3) We believe the eight (8) contracts  
21 merit approval because they give us greater diversity,  
22 by which we mean, for example, that we have the option  
23 to draw from storage as well as buy in the market. We  
24 have the option to draw in gas from the United States  
25 as well as buying from suppliers in Alberta.



1                   And 4) We believe that the eight (8)  
2 contracts merit approval because they reduce costs, by  
3 which we mean the fixed costs are about \$3 million less  
4 per year than the current fixed costs that Centra Gas  
5 pays for storage and transportation.

6                   Thank you. And if it's now convenient,  
7 I would like to have the panel sworn.

8

9 CENTRA GAS PANEL:

10                   VINCE WARDEN, Sworn

11                   GREG BARNLUND, Sworn

12                   NEIL KOSTICK, Sworn

13                   LORI STEWART, Sworn

14                   BRENT SANDERSON, Sworn

15

16 EXAMINATION-IN-CHEF BY MR. DOUG BEDFORD:

17                   MR. DOUG BEDFORD: I would like to now  
18 proceed with Mr. Warden making a few initial remarks to  
19 you, and thereafter I will proceed by way of question  
20 and answer with the remaining members of the Panel.

21                   MR. VINCE WARDEN: Mr. Chairman,  
22 members of the Public Utilities Board, ladies and  
23 gentlemen, good morning and -- and welcome. Centra is  
24 pleased to have this opportunity to provide the Board  
25 with an overview of Centra's operations and to discuss

1 some of the major attributes -- attributes and  
2 challenges that Centra has in serving its customers.

3 In this application Centra's applying to  
4 the Public Utilities Board for approval of the costs  
5 associated with the proposed new contracts for natural  
6 gas storage and related transportation. Before we get  
7 into the details of the application, however, I thought  
8 it might be useful to provide the Board with a brief  
9 overview of Centra Gas and the history of the  
10 acquisition by Manitoba Hydro.

11 Centra currently serves approximately  
12 two hundred and sixty-eight thousand (268,000)  
13 customers located primarily in the southern part of the  
14 province. Of the total customers, approximately --  
15 approximately two hundred and forty-three thousand  
16 (243,000), or 91 percent, are residential, with the  
17 balance of approximately twenty-five thousand (25,000)  
18 being commercial and industrial.

19 Centra's total assets are about \$590  
20 million, while annual revenues can range widely from  
21 approximately \$300 million to over \$600 million  
22 depending on the price of gas and the severity of -- of  
23 winter weather.

24 Most recently, with the very low natural  
25 gas prices, combined with an exceptionally mild winter,

1 Centra's total revenues were three (3) -- 328 million  
2 for the year ending March 31st, 2012. Of this total,  
3 approximately 200 million was the cost of natural gas  
4 and transportation, which is a flow-through cost to  
5 customers with no markup by Centra.

6                   Because Centra's revenues are so weather  
7 sensitive, Centra's net income can also be  
8 significantly impacted by weather. For example, for  
9 the year ended March 31st, 2011, which was a year in  
10 which colder winter weather was experienced, Centra's  
11 net income was \$7 million. This past year, however,  
12 for the year ended March 31st, 2012, in which a very  
13 mild winter weather was experienced, Centra will incur  
14 a net loss in the order of \$6 million.

15                   In fact, in six (6) of the past ten (10)  
16 years Centra has incurred a net loss in operations.  
17 Net losses have reduced Centra's retained earnings to  
18 approximately \$34 million at March 31st, 2012. And  
19 assuming that International Financial Reporting  
20 Standards, IFRS, are implemented next fiscal year,  
21 Centra's retained earnings will be totally eliminated  
22 and actually be in a negative position.

23                   While this is an issue for another day,  
24 in another hearing, it is an issue I thought the Board  
25 should be aware of.

1                   On the subject of retained earnings,  
2 because the gas utility is wholly-owned by Manitoba  
3 Hydro, and all of its debt has the guarantee, support  
4 of the Province of Manitoba, there isn't a need for  
5 Centra to have a large amount of retained earnings.  
6 This, together with the synergies realized by the  
7 operation of an integrated gas and electric utility has  
8 been of significant benefit to gas ratepayers in the  
9 province since the acquisition of Centra Gas by  
10 Manitoba Hydro in 1999.

11                   However, it's important that the very  
12 low retained earnings or equity in Centra not have a  
13 negative impact on the electricity ratepayers. And for  
14 this reason Centra will be submitting a general rate  
15 application to the Public Utilities Board applying for  
16 a modest distribution rate increase later this year.  
17 Again, this is an issue for another hearing but an  
18 important one for the fiscal stability of Centra Gas.

19                   Yet another issue that will be covered  
20 as part of the general rate application will be  
21 approval sought from the PUB for a new gas supply  
22 contract to replace the existing contract with  
23 ConocoPhillips that expires on October 31st, 2012.

24                   Centra is currently concluding  
25 negotiations on a new supply contract and, as with the

1 current supply contract, Centra intends to file the new  
2 contract in confidence with the Board prior to its  
3 commencement. With that filing, Centra will be seeking  
4 approval of the gas cost consequences of the new supply  
5 contract.

6                   With respect to this hearing, Centra is  
7 applying to the PUB for approv -- approval of the gas  
8 cost consequences of entering into contracts with the  
9 ANR Pipeline Company and the Great Lakes Gas  
10 Transmission Limited Partnership to provide 15.5  
11 million gigajoules, or 15.5 petajoules, per year of  
12 storage capacity; two hundred and seventeen thousand  
13 seven-sixty-four (217,764) gigajoules per day of  
14 storage deliverability; as well as access to related  
15 transportation facilities to connect with TransCanada  
16 Pipelines at Emerson, Manitoba.

17                   The total fixed costs of the proposed  
18 storage and transportation arrangements will be  
19 approximately \$14 million for each year of the seven  
20 (7) year contract commencing April the 1st, 2013.  
21 Centra's current contracts for similar storage and  
22 transportation arrangements were entered into in '90 --  
23 1993 and have fixed costs of approximately \$17 million  
24 per year.

25                   So, subject to the approval of the PUB,

1 the proposed new contracts will result in savings to  
2 natural gas consumers in Manitoba of approximately \$3  
3 million per year compared to the current contracts  
4 which expire on March 31st, 2013.

5                   Mr. Chairman, members of the Board, when  
6 Manitoba Hydro acquired Centra Gas back in 1999 our  
7 mandate was defined as follows: Centra will acquire,  
8 manage, and distribute supplies of natural gas to meet  
9 Manitoba market requirements in the most safe, cost-  
10 effective, reliable, and environment --  
11 environmentally-responsible manner.

12                   Our proposed new contracts with ANR  
13 Pipeline Company and the Great Lakes Gas Transmission  
14 Limited Partnership are totally consistent with that  
15 mandate, and through this proceeding we are requesting  
16 your approval of the gas cost consequences of those  
17 contracts. Thank you.

18                   MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Mr. Warden, before  
19 we move on to our next witness, do you adopt on behalf  
20 of this panel the written evidence filed with this  
21 application by Centra Gas?

22                   MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, I do.

23                   MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Mr. Kostick, would  
24 you please outline your areas of responsibility with  
25 respect to this application.

1                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK:    Thank you.   Good  
2 morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the Public Utilities  
3 Board, ladies and gentlemen.   In my testimony I will be  
4 providing evidence related to the proposed  
5 transportation and storage contracts with ANR and Great  
6 Lakes described in the application, including the  
7 evaluation process and the characteristics, benefits,  
8 and term of the proposed arrangements.

9                   MR. DOUG BEDFORD:    Mr. Kostick, before  
10 I move on to some of the details of the contracts that  
11 I'd like you to explain to the Board, can you tell the  
12 Board what your role and responsibilities are at Centra  
13 Gas, generally, your job title?

14                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:    My job title is  
15 Project Leader, and I have held that position for  
16 approximately two (2) years.   And one (1) of the key  
17 areas of responsibility was leading the project team  
18 that engaged in the evaluation of portfolio  
19 alternatives and ultimately negotiating and reaching  
20 agreement on a suite of services that we ultimately  
21 decided on with ANR and Great Lakes.

22                  MR. DOUG BEDFORD:    Can you please  
23 describe for us some of the key features of the  
24 proposed transportation and storage portfolio and how  
25 it differs from the current one?

1                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Certainly.   The  
2   proposed storage and transportation portfolio has a  
3   number of features that are similar to the current  
4   portfolio that has served Centra reliably for almost  
5   twenty (20) years.

6                   At the same time, the proposed portfolio  
7   has a number of new features that improve flexibility  
8   and access to supply, with no erosion of reliability or  
9   security of supply.

10                  Even with these enhancements, Centra's  
11   rate payers will enjoy a reduction in the annual fixed  
12   costs of the portfolio from 17 million to 14 million US  
13   dollars per year, or a reduction of \$3 million per  
14   year.

15                  The proposed portfolio features a  
16   similar level of total storage capacity of 15 1/2  
17   petajoules.   A new feature of the storage capacity is  
18   that it would include 7.4 petajoules of annual storage,  
19   which allows for winter injections and cycling of  
20   inventory up to one point four (1.4) times per year.

21                  In conjunction with this annual storage,  
22   Centra proposes to hold winter transportation capacity  
23   from the Chicago market to storage, providing a highly  
24   liquid source of supply to manage the storage levels  
25   through winter injections.   In addition, storage



1 deliverability is proposed to increase by about 7,000  
2 gigajoules per day.

3                   Regarding summer operations, total  
4 summer transportation capacity to storage will be  
5 reduced by about 25 percent, which will provide annual  
6 fixed cost savings. This summer storage fill can be  
7 accomplished through a combination of Western Canadian  
8 supply, Chicago supply, and Michigan supply purchased  
9 at storage.

10                   All of the proposed storage and  
11 transportation contracts are discounted below the ANR  
12 and Great Lakes tariff rates. These discounted rates  
13 cannot rise over the course of the contract term.  
14 Centra was also able to secure renewal rights on all  
15 contracts.

16                   MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Can you describe for  
17 us, please, the process that Centra Gas undertook to  
18 evaluate various transportation and storage options  
19 before you began exploring in detail negotiations with  
20 ANR and Great Lakes Gas, the proposals and the  
21 contracts that are before us?

22                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK: As the parties  
23 attending this hearing are aware, Centra's current ANR  
24 and Great Lakes transportation and storage arrangements  
25 expire March 31st, 2013.

1                   In anticipation of the expiry of these  
2 contracts, Centra investigated a wide range of storage  
3 and transportation options, including consideration of  
4 sources of natural gas supply that could be accessed  
5 through such arrangements.

6                   Upon examining an array of  
7 geographically dispersed options and the costs and  
8 operational considerations associated with those  
9 options, Centra determined that a portfolio that  
10 included storage located in the Michigan or Southern  
11 Ontario region would be the most reliable and cost-  
12 effective option.

13                  Centra then held detailed discussions  
14 with storage operators in this region, which included  
15 discussion of service attributes, rates, and  
16 interconnections with regional pipelines.

17                  Proposals were received from four (4)  
18 storage operators in this region. This allowed for the  
19 short list -- short-listing of storage operators based  
20 on the evaluation of reliability characteristics, the  
21 cost of storage services, and other costs that may not  
22 be under the storage operator's control, such as the  
23 cost of transportation to and from the storage  
24 operator's facilities.

25                  The discussions also allowed Centra to

1 evaluate other considerations, such as access to  
2 supply, supply diversity, and portfolio flexibility.

3 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Is this the extent  
4 of the analysis that was conducted?

5 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: No, it was really  
6 just the start of the analysis. Upon short-listing the  
7 two (2) leading storage operators, extensive  
8 negotiations ensued which involved ongoing discussion  
9 of rates and services.

10 These discussions provided the  
11 transportation and storage input data used in the  
12 optimization modelling that Centra conducted. The  
13 modelling also used forward price curves from various  
14 supply hubs that were derived from futures prices as  
15 well as price curves from a proprietary forecast  
16 provided by a consultant.

17 An iterative process ensued in which the  
18 model results would form the basis for further  
19 negotiation of rates and services. After several  
20 iterations of this process, final model results were  
21 obtained for the two (2) leading candidates and were  
22 compared.

23 On a total cost basis, the two (2)  
24 candidates were very close, less than 1 percent apart,  
25 with the ANR and Great Lakes storage and transportation

1 portfolio generally having a small cost advantage.

2 These model results were reported in Tab 7 of the

3 application.

4 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Mr. Kostick, given  
5 that the model results were so close, how is it that  
6 Centra was able to decide what the best storage and  
7 transportation portfolio was for its circumstances?

8 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: In selecting the ANR  
9 and Great Lakes portfolio over option B, Centra looked  
10 at other key factors beyond cost, starting with  
11 reliability. ANR and Great Lakes have, to date,  
12 flawlessly delivered Centra's storage gas to Manitoba,  
13 including accommodation of intra-day and late-night  
14 modifications to storage withdrawals.

15 ANR is ideally situated and connected to  
16 Great Lakes in Michigan, providing greater assurance of  
17 ANR's ability to deliver Centra's storage gas to Great  
18 Lakes under constrained operating conditions.

19 The ANR and Great Lakes portfolio also  
20 provides the ability to diversify from Western Canadian  
21 supply transported on TransCanada using both Chicago  
22 and Michigan supply.

23 Chicago is the most liquid natural gas  
24 hub in the region and one (1) of the most liquid in  
25 North America. In comparison, the option B portfolio

1 did not provide access to the Chicago market and placed  
2 greater reliance on supply at a single alternative hub  
3 to Western Canadian supply.

4 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Do you have any  
5 other comments in relation to the evaluation process or  
6 Centra's modelling results?

7 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: An important point  
8 related to portfolio modelling is that the model  
9 optimizes on the basis of minimizing costs on a total  
10 portfolio basis. The model used twenty (20) years of  
11 weather and selects a best-fit storage and  
12 transportation portfolio that minimizes costs over a  
13 range of Manitoba weather conditions.

14 To accomplish this, the model has to  
15 consider all inputs, including weather, the price of  
16 gas from various hubs, and the rates and stor -- and  
17 the rates for storage and transportation services,  
18 including the rates resulting from Centra's  
19 negotiations.

20 When it comes to Manitoba weather, it  
21 goes without saying that there will be mi -- mild  
22 winters and cold winters that can't be predicted in  
23 advance. It's Centra's job to implement a portfolio  
24 that can accommodate a wide range of weather outcomes  
25 in a cost-effective manner. And the model -- model

1 results assist in this regard.

2 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Mr. Kostick, please  
3 comment on Centra's choice of 15.5 petajoules of  
4 storage capacity in the proposed portfolio in relation  
5 to the modelling results that you've described.

6 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: As reported in Tab 7  
7 of the application, Centra ran four (4) different  
8 natural gas price curves in the model. In each case  
9 the model selected a single best-fit storage capacity  
10 that minimizes costs over the twenty (20) years of  
11 weather in the model.

12 For ANR storage, using the two (2) price  
13 curves derived from futures prices, the average best-  
14 fit storage capacity was 15 1/2 petajoules. Using the  
15 two (2) price curves from the consultant, the average  
16 best-fit storage capacity was 17.6 petajoules.

17 These results include consideration of  
18 both warm years and cold years and the cost of storage  
19 capacity that Centra negotiated with ANR. This annual  
20 -- this annual cost amounts to just over two hundred  
21 and eighty thousand dollars (\$280,000) per year -- per  
22 year per petajoule of capacity.

23 So the model minimizes costs on a total  
24 portfolio basis while taking into account twenty (20)  
25 years of weather and the cost of ANR storage capacity.

1 And the results do not support a reduction in storage  
2 capacity from the current 15 1/2 petajoules.

3 I think it's also worth noting that the  
4 twenty (20) years of weather in the model were the most  
5 recent twenty (20) years, which does not include the  
6 coldest year on record. So in other words, the model -  
7 - the model results were not unduly influenced by a  
8 single year's cold weather with respect to sizing  
9 storage capacity.

10 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Was any other  
11 analysis conducted that supported Centra's portfolio  
12 decision-making process?

13 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes. Centra engaged  
14 the services of a consultant to perform its own  
15 modelling of Centra's two (2) short-listed candidates  
16 as a check, if you will, on Centra's modelling results.

17 The modelling approach taken by the  
18 consultant was somewhat different in the sense that  
19 rather than selecting a single best-fit storage and  
20 transportation portfolio for a wide range of weather  
21 scenarios, the consultant's model produced discreet  
22 portfolios for each weather scenario.

23 Although the approach differed, the  
24 consultant's results in aggregate were directionally  
25 similar to Centra's results, that the ANR portfolio had

1 a slight total cost advantage over option B, that  
2 injections of Western Canadian supply into storage were  
3 economic, and storage capacity was directionally  
4 similar in not supporting a reduction from the current  
5 15 1/2 petajoules.

6 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Mr. Kostick,  
7 comment, please, on the suggestion that storage  
8 capacity should only be sized to accommodate normal  
9 weather with no consideration of colder than normal  
10 weather.

11 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Well, for starters,  
12 colder than normal weather can be expected to occur 50  
13 percent of the time. So potentially running out of  
14 storage gas during winter would become a frequent  
15 event.

16 I think there's generally two (2)  
17 perspectives on using natural gas storage: that of a  
18 local distribution company like -- or -- or an LDC,  
19 like Centra, and that of a natural gas marketer.

20 In the case of an LDC, like Centra, the  
21 LDC is responsible for serving a particular market on a  
22 long-term basis, which includes serving that market's  
23 natural gas requirements in both the warmest and the  
24 coldest years. The LDC has to plan its assets  
25 accordingly, including the size of storage.



1                   A marketer, on the other hand, has no  
2 long-term market to serve and will select storage  
3 capacity based on its appetite to buy gas into storage  
4 and then sell it to generate a profit by exploiting the  
5 summer/winter price differentials or short-term  
6 price volatility.

7                   It generally wouldn't select capacity,  
8 considering the need to serve a particular weather-  
9 sensitive market like Manitoba that can have wide-  
10 ranging natural gas requirements.

11                   Where an LDC like Centra and a gas  
12 marketer would likely agree is that completely  
13 depleting storage is not a goal. After all, if you  
14 paid for storage capacity and it's sitting empty, it  
15 can't provide any value.

16                   MR. DOUG BEDFORD:   Mr. Kostick, what  
17 are the consequences of running out of storage gas in  
18 the winter?

19                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Not having access to  
20 storage gas would make it more difficult and more  
21 costly to serve the Manitoba market requirement for  
22 natural gas in winter.

23                   Manitoba is, of course, a cold-weather  
24 market that is largely characterized by residential and  
25 commercial space heating requirements. As a result,

1 Centra serves a Manitoba natural gas load that is more  
2 variable and volatile than virtually any other market  
3 in North America.

4 This drives a significant need for swing  
5 supply, which is the ability to nominate gas volumes in  
6 highly variable quantities on a day-ahead basis and an  
7 intra-day basis, or within the day, and that includes  
8 even when natural gas markets are closed.

9 Storage is Centra's largest and most  
10 reliable source of swing supply and is Centra's primary  
11 tool to serve the Manitoba market's weather-driven  
12 winter gas requirements. Without access to storage  
13 gas, Centra would need to acquire other supply, which  
14 would be less flexible, less reliable, and potentially  
15 more expensive.

16 The consequence would certainly be  
17 higher balancing fees on the upstream pipeline,  
18 TransCanada, as it would -- as it would be difficult to  
19 match supply with daily Manitoba demand for natural  
20 gas.

21 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Mr. Kostick, it has  
22 been suggested that local distribution companies like  
23 Centra Gas can take whatever gas they need from the  
24 TransCanada pipeline and that a reduced ability to meet  
25 Manitoba's daily winter gas requirement should not

1 really be of great concern, as it would simply be a  
2 matter of paying higher penalty fees to TransCanada  
3 pipeline. Comment, please, on this.

4 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Certainly. I think  
5 any upstream pipeline would find the view that shippers  
6 can take whatever gas they need from the pipe to be  
7 quite alarming. The balancing penalties are in place  
8 to ensure LDCs operate responsibly in matching gas  
9 supply with gas demand.

10 This includes not only daily penalty  
11 fees for being out of balance, but cumulative penalty  
12 fees as well. The cumulative fees apply every day  
13 until the gas owed is made up by way of incremental  
14 deliveries to TransCanada. This can be a problem  
15 during consecutive days of cold weather in which Centra  
16 may already be maximizing its deliveries to Manitoba  
17 and has no excess capacity to make up the gas that is  
18 owed.

19 TransCanada also has the further ability  
20 to declare emergency operating conditions in which  
21 severe financial penalties can be assessed to shippers  
22 taking any gas from the pipeline that is not theirs.  
23 This can potentially amount to millions of dollars in  
24 penalties per day.

25 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Do you anticipate

1 any operational changes resulting from the increased  
2 flexibility associated with the proposed storage and  
3 transportation portfolio that's being considered by  
4 this Board?

5 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes. Centra expects  
6 to gener -- generally rely more heavily on storage  
7 withdrawals in the proposed portfolio which will enable  
8 less reliance on Western Canadian supply transported on  
9 TransCanada. The new ability to refill storage in  
10 winter and the corresponding firm winter transportation  
11 from the Chicago market to storage make this approach  
12 viable as it provides the assurance that Centra will  
13 not lose critical access to swing supply from -- from  
14 storage during the winter.

15 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Is it conceivable  
16 that the proposed new flexibility to refill storage in  
17 winter could allow Centra to reduce storage capacity  
18 below the 15.5 petajoules that I asked you about  
19 earlier?

20 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: The modelling that  
21 Centra performed took the ability to refill storage in  
22 winter into account. Over twenty (20) weather  
23 scenarios and among many other factors, the model  
24 evaluated the cost of the storage capacity against the  
25 cost of increased winter gas purchases that would be

1 necessary with less storage. The model -- model  
2 results suggest that 15 1/2 petajoules of storage  
3 capacity is appropriate to minimize the total portfolio  
4 costs combined with generally pulling harder on -- on  
5 storage gas with the ability to refill storage in  
6 winter with Chicago supply.

7 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Do you have any  
8 other general comments on the value of storage to  
9 Centra Gas?

10 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes. More than  
11 perhaps any other market, the Manitoba natural gas load  
12 is heavily weighted to winter demand, and summer  
13 purchases -- summer purchases for injection into  
14 storage help provide more balanced annual purchasing.  
15 This also contributes to rate stabilization for  
16 customers, as gas purchased throughout the summer at  
17 varying prices is later withdrawn in winter at a single  
18 weighted average price.

19 ARM and Great Lakes storage and  
20 transportation arrangements also provide diversity to  
21 Centra's portfolio. This diversity includes supply  
22 access at the Chicago and Michigan markets and  
23 transportation diversity by providing a second  
24 transportation path to Manitoba. Transportation  
25 diversity is both a cost and a reliability

1 consideration.

2 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Please comment on  
3 the seven (7) year term of the ANR Pipeline Company and  
4 Great Lakes Gas Transmission LP arrangements.

5 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Centra is very  
6 pleased to have secured these discounted storage and  
7 transportation arrangements for an intermediate term of  
8 seven (7) years. The discounted rates obtained by  
9 Centra cannot increase over the seven (7) term and  
10 secure as cost-effective access to the US market for  
11 reliability and supply diversity.

12 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: What would have been  
13 the risks associated with a shorter term?

14 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: In light of the  
15 discounted rates secured by Centra, a shorter term  
16 places Centra at risk of having to recontract for  
17 similar services at higher rates sooner than it would  
18 under a seven (7) year term. In some cases, such as  
19 the Great Lakes winter transportation to Manitoba,  
20 rates that are closer to the maximum tariff rate could  
21 add millions of dollars to the cost of Centra's  
22 portfolio annually.

23 Also, at the end of any contract term  
24 Centra could be required to match a competing bid to  
25 maintain its ANR and Great Lakes capacity which could

1 include having to match a longer term than desired.

2 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Does a seven (7)  
3 year term mean that Centra Gas cannot respond to  
4 changing market conditions?

5 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Not at all. This  
6 premise assumes that if a particular market or  
7 regulatory outcome appears to increase the  
8 attractiveness of an alternative portfolio, that Centra  
9 should respond by making radical portfolio changes -  
10 for example, abandoning storage and transportation in  
11 the US. This would basically require a conscious  
12 decision to abandon any element of portfolio diversity,  
13 when everything we know about energy markets suggests  
14 that ongoing change will continuously impact the val --  
15 the relative values of alternative portfolios.

16 Within the term of the proposed ANR and  
17 Great Lakes arrangements, Centra can respond  
18 appropriately to changes in market conditions.

19 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: And are there  
20 particular ways that Centra Gas can respond to changes?

21 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Absolutely. The  
22 proposed storage and transportation arrangements  
23 provide for supply diversity and the flexibility to  
24 adjust supply acquisition among different sources of  
25 supply. Centra can also release capacity and adjust

1 its TransCanada contract levels in response to changing  
2 market conditions.

3 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Mr. Kostick, before  
4 we move to Mr. Sanderson, do you have any other general  
5 comments about the proposed transportation and storage  
6 contracts with ANR and Great Lakes?

7 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes. I would simply  
8 like to observe that Centra has secured a number of  
9 beneficial outcomes in the proposed arrangements that,  
10 in aggregate, can be quite difficult to achieve.

11 These include fixed discounted rates on  
12 all contracts, renewal rights on all contracts,  
13 increased operational flexibility, improved access to  
14 liquid supply at Chicago, no reduction in reliability  
15 or security of supply, and an 18 percent reduction in  
16 costs amounting to savings of 3 million US dollars per  
17 year.

18 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Thank you, Mr.  
19 Kostick. Mr. Sanderson, would you tell us please what  
20 topics are your responsibility on this panel this week?

21 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Good morning, Mr.  
22 Chairman, members of the Public Utilities Board, ladies  
23 and gentlemen. In my testimony I will be providing  
24 evidence relating to the North American natural gas  
25 markets, market pricing data, modelling and forecasting



1 methodologies.

2 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: And, Mr. Sanderson,  
3 before we move to some more detailed questions, would  
4 you please tell the Board what your job title at Centra  
5 Gas is?

6 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: I am the manager  
7 of the gas market analysis and administration  
8 department.

9 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: What, then, will be  
10 your role in implementing the contracts that are the  
11 subject of this application?

12 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: My staff and I  
13 will be responsible for working with Ms. Stewart's  
14 area, in order to model the planned operation of the  
15 new portfolio and serving our customers' requirements  
16 in the development of Centra's annual purchased gas  
17 cost budget.

18 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: In developing and  
19 negotiating the proposed portfolio what, from your  
20 perspective, were Centra's key considerations?

21 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: As covered  
22 earlier by both Mr. Warden and Mr. Kostick, Centra's  
23 key considerations were the maintenance of reliable  
24 service to customers, an increase in operational  
25 flexibility, diversification of sources of natural gas

1 supply, and reduction in our costs to the extent  
2 possible.

3 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Tell us, please,  
4 what has happened in the North American natural gas  
5 market in the recent past that is of relevance to those  
6 objectives?

7 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: The most notable  
8 development has been the rapid commercialization of  
9 previously uneconomic sources of unconventional natural  
10 gas. This has led to the opening of numerous new  
11 production basins throughout North America, many of  
12 which are adjacent to major demand centres that  
13 previously had to import their entire natural gas  
14 requirement from basins on the other side of the  
15 continent.

16 This has led to dramatic shifts in  
17 natural gas transportation patterns that has  
18 increasingly left some established pipelines with  
19 rapidly deteriorating business models, as their former  
20 shippers source their natural gas supply from basins  
21 much closer to their own market centres.

22 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Would you explain  
23 for us, please, your reference to "unconventional gas"?

24 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: "Unconventional  
25 gas" is a blanket term used to describe sources of

1 natural gas that until recently were thought to be too  
2 technologically challenging to produce with today's  
3 technology, at prevailing market prices.

4 Unconventional natural gas can take a  
5 number of different forms. Coalbed methane is one (1)  
6 source whose production has grown significantly over  
7 the past fifteen (15) years. Shale gas is the most  
8 notable example in the past five (5) years. And, in  
9 addition, given recent research breakthroughs, methane  
10 hydrates promise to be the next frontier source of  
11 unconventional gas that we can expect to achieve  
12 commercialization within the next ten (10) to twenty  
13 (20) years. With applied learning and improvements in  
14 exploration and production technologies, over time  
15 unconventional gas becomes conventional gas.

16 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: And is this growth  
17 confined to regions where natural gas has been  
18 traditionally found?

19 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: No, it has not.  
20 While traditional conventional natural gas basins are  
21 often rich in some of the previously mentioned sources  
22 of unconventional supply -- both the Western Canadian  
23 Sedimentary Basin in Alberta and the Texas, Oklahoma,  
24 and Louisiana production regions come to mind, large  
25 reserves of unconventional gas are now being developed

1 in areas that previously had no natural gas production  
2 to speak of.

3                   Such areas include the high-demand  
4 centres of the US northeast underlaid by the Marcellus  
5 shale as well as the Antrim shale in Michigan and the  
6 Utica shale in Quebec.

7                   MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Tell us, please,  
8 about the cost structure that producers are expecting  
9 to achieve with the application of new production  
10 technologies.

11                   MR. BRENT SANDERSON: The use of  
12 advanced new technologies, such as four (4) dimensional  
13 seismic imaging over the four (4) dimensions of length,  
14 height, width, and time, along with preproduction  
15 supercomputer modelling of hydrocarbon-bearing geologic  
16 formations has served to reduce exploration and  
17 production -- production risk such that producers now  
18 routinely refer to unconventional natural gas  
19 production as gas manufacturing.

20                   In addition, combining the use of long-  
21 standing oil and gas drilling and production and  
22 techniques, such as multiple directional horizontal  
23 drilling and hydraulic fracturing, has increased  
24 efficiency and brought down the cost structure of the  
25 natural gas industry dramatically in recent years.

1                   A typic -- typical example is Apache's  
2   announcements last week of its confirmation of 48  
3   trillion cubic feet of marketable gas with the  
4   potential for as much as 210 trillion cubic feet in the  
5   Liard basin in northern British Columbia.

6                   Apache expects production from the basin  
7   to be profitable at market prices of approximately two  
8   dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per gigajoule over the  
9   long term. By comparison, natural gas market prices  
10   average closer to seven dollars (\$7) a gigajoule for  
11   most of the first decade of the 21st Century with  
12   prices spiking to well in excess of ten dollars (\$10)  
13   per gigajoule on a number of occasions.

14                  MR. DOUG BEDFORD:   And before I ask Ms.  
15   Stewart a few questions, can you tell us, please, Mr.  
16   Sanderson, in light of the changes that you've just  
17   described for us that are taking place in the world of  
18   natural gas, should Centra Gas be seeking more or less  
19   diversity in its planning?

20                  MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   More diversity,  
21   Mr. Bedford. By developing a storage and  
22   transportation portfolio that allows Centra to  
23   diversify its natural gas purchases amongst a variety  
24   of very liquid hubs, Centra can reduce the volatility  
25   of its costs while in no way inhibiting its ability to

1 achieve the lowest long-run costs for its upstream  
2 supply, storage, and transportation, that being the  
3 broad average market price for those products and  
4 services over time.

5 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Thank you. Ms.  
6 Stewart, what topics are your responsibilities on this  
7 panel this week?

8 MS. LORI STEWART: Good morning, Mr.  
9 Chairman, members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen.  
10 In my testimony I will be providing evidence related to  
11 the operation of the proposed portfolio of  
12 transportation and storage assets and TransCanada  
13 mainline matters.

14 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: What is it that you  
15 do at Centra Gas?

16 MS. LORI STEWART: My team and I  
17 operate and optimize our portfolio of gas supply,  
18 transportation, and storage assets. This includes  
19 portfolio planning on a daily, weekly, monthly,  
20 seasonal, and annual basis to serve the requirements of  
21 the Manitoba market by arranging and scheduling gas  
22 supplies and performing these functions from the  
23 perspective of optimizing the portfolio for the benefit  
24 of Manitoba natural gas ratepayers. I also manage  
25 Centra's relationship with TransCanada Pipeline.

1                   MR. DOUG BEDFORD:   And what will you do  
2 to implement the contracts that are the subject of this  
3 application?

4                   MS. LORI STEWART:   The proposed  
5 contracts will be turned over to my team to operate and  
6 optimize. We will be closing out our use of the  
7 existing US asset portfolio this winter of 2012/'13 and  
8 preparing for the transition to the new portfolio,  
9 which will provide us with more operating flexibility.

10                  MR. DOUG BEDFORD:   What do you mean by  
11 "more operating flexibility"?

12                  MS. LORI STEWART:   The ability to cycle  
13 storage should provide Centra with a significant  
14 advantage over the previous arrangements. The proposed  
15 portfolio includes annual storage capacity, which  
16 effectively provides Centra with the ability to cycle  
17 an additional 3.1 million GJs, or 3.1 petajoules,  
18 through storage annually.

19                  This flexibility will allow Centra to  
20 reduce its TransCanada mainline capacity to Manitoba in  
21 the winter and to reduce the associated costs.  
22 Additionally, there is a greater opportunity to  
23 diversify our gas purchases. We can adjust our gas  
24 purchases to acquire either more or less US supplies  
25 from Chicago and Michigan, relative to the Western

1 Canadian Sedimentary Basin, in response to changing  
2 market circumstances.

3 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Mr. Sanderson told  
4 us about the changes in the natural gas market in North  
5 America. Can you tell us what these changes mean with  
6 regard to North American natural gas pipelines?

7 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes. Traditional  
8 flow patterns across the North American pipeline grid  
9 are changing as a result of the natural gas market  
10 evolution. Transportation infrastructure is being  
11 built out to facilitate areas of significant market  
12 demand, like the US northeast, in accessing natural gas  
13 from basins closer to home. Traditional export points  
14 on the TransCanada mainline, such as Niagara and  
15 Chippewa are being reconfigured to allow physical  
16 import of US gas to Canadian markets.

17 Closer to home, TransCanada reconfigured  
18 its meter station at Emerson recently, to facilitate  
19 bi-directional flow and the null point on Great Lakes,  
20 which is the point at which physical flows intersect,  
21 continues to shift west on a pipeline that has  
22 historically moved gas from west to east. In the case  
23 of the TransCanada mainline, this is driving  
24 reassessment of the use of existing assets and  
25 TransCanada itself is discussing the re-purposing of



1 some portion of these assets.

2 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: The National Energy  
3 Board, Ms. Stewart, is currently holding public  
4 hearings with regards to the TransCanada mainline  
5 system. Why is Centra Gas intervening in that  
6 proceeding?

7 MS. LORI STEWART: Centra is  
8 intervening in that proceeding because the TransCanada  
9 mainline physically transports all natural gas supplies  
10 that are consumed in Centra's service territory. As a  
11 result, the services provided by the mainline and their  
12 associated tolls are very important to Centra's  
13 operations.

14 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: And can you please  
15 provide us with an update on the current National  
16 Energy Board hearing on the TransCanada pipeline?

17 MS. LORI STEWART: The NEB hearing  
18 commenced on June the 4th in Calgary. A key  
19 development at that time was TransCanada's announcement  
20 that it was going to restate its throughput and related  
21 assumptions contained in its application.

22 On June the 13th, TransCanada offered  
23 some high level comments about its revised forecast.  
24 Firstly, TransCanada has lowered its 2012 North  
25 American natural gas price forecast, relative to its

1 2011 forecast, for the remainder of this decade, by  
2 approximately a dollar forty (\$1.40) US per million  
3 BTUs, in 2010 dollars, on an annual average basis.

4                   Secondly, receipt volumes are now  
5 expected  
6 to be, on average, approximately 1 billion cubic feet  
7 per day lower, or 1 Bcf, for the 2013 to 2020 forecast  
8 period. This is in part as a result of the lower gas  
9 price forecast contributing to a lower western Canadian  
10 supply basin supply forecast, and in part due to  
11 TransCanada now factoring in the commencement of west  
12 coast liquified natural gas, or LNG, exports towards  
13 the end of this decade.

14                   The third important point is that the  
15 tolls originally proposed by TransCanada last fall in  
16 its application are no longer valid and, in fact, are  
17 too low. It would appear now that the tolls for 2013  
18 will be at least 30 percent higher than those  
19 originally presented in the application.

20                   MR. DOUG BEDFORD: And before we turn  
21 to Mr. Barnlund do you have any closing comments, Ms.  
22 Stewart, that you would like to make with respect to  
23 the proposed portfolio?

24                   MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, I would like to  
25 say that we are pleased to be continuing to work with

1 ANR and Great Lakes Gas Transmission, given our  
2 positive experience with them over the past twenty (20)  
3 years as service providers. The proposed portfolio  
4 will maintain the high reliability standard we have met  
5 for many years now, while providing the flexibility to  
6 adapt to changing market conditions, improved supply  
7 diversity, and access to liquid sources of physical  
8 natural gas supplies, and reduced portfolio costs.

9 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Thank you. Mr.  
10 Barnlund, would you please introduce yourself to the  
11 panel.

12 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Good morning, Mr.  
13 Chairman, members of the Public Utilities Board, ladies  
14 and gentlemen. I am the manager of the regulatory  
15 services department and I'm here to testify on behalf  
16 of this application and the regulatory process  
17 associated with this application.

18 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Mr. Barnlund, Mr.  
19 Warden has already described the approvals that Centra  
20 Gas is seeking. Can you briefly touch on the steps  
21 that have brought us here to this point today?

22 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes. Tab 4 of our  
23 application provides the chronology of the events that  
24 have transpired since 2010 with regard to this matter,  
25 and I would like to summarize them.

1                   In 2010 Centra proposed a process for  
2 the replacement of its storage and transportation  
3 contracts that we know are set to expire on March 31st,  
4 2013. That process included public engagement with  
5 interested parties on the matter prior to advancing a  
6 proposal to the Public Utilities Board for approval.  
7 In order to provide for this public consultation Centra  
8 proposed to distribute a discussion paper on the state  
9 of the natural gas energy market in North America and  
10 the alternatives that Centra could consider in  
11 replacement of its storage and transportation  
12 arrangements.

13                   The process envisioned that a public  
14 technical conference would be held in 2011, after the  
15 distribution of the discussion paper, to provide an  
16 opportunity for Centra and interested parties to  
17 discuss the issues in as an open a manner as possible.

18                   MR. DOUG BEDFORD:   Were there any  
19 changes made to that process?

20                   MR. GREG BARNLUND:   Yes, there were.  
21 As noted in Public Utilities Board Order 65 of '11  
22 additional steps were added to the process. Interested  
23 parties were given the opportunity to ask information  
24 requests of Centra after the close of the technical  
25 conference. Furthermore, stakeholders were then

1 invited to provide Centra and the Public Utilities  
2 Board with written submissions giving their positions  
3 on the matters at hand.

4 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: And was this process  
5 followed?

6 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes. On June 27th,  
7 2011, almost a year ago to the day, Centra provided a  
8 comprehensive discussion paper which included a report  
9 known as "The Review of Natural Gas Portfolio Options  
10 for Centra Gas." This report was authored by ICF  
11 Consulting International.

12 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: And what happened  
13 thereafter?

14 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Following the  
15 distribution of the discussion paper, on July 8th,  
16 2011, Centra hosted a one (1) day technical conference  
17 that included a discussion of the natural gas market in  
18 North America, the storage and transportation options  
19 that may be available for consideration, and background  
20 information regarding the TransCanada pipeline's  
21 mainline situation.

22 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Who was invited to  
23 attend this technical conference?

24 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Centra provided  
25 notice and an invitation to attend this technical

1 conference to all Intervenors of record from past  
2 Centra rate hearings, all registered natural gas  
3 marketers in Manitoba, and all large volume industrial  
4 and commercial customers in Manitoba.

5 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: And who actually  
6 responded to that invitation and attended the  
7 conference?

8 MR. GREG BARNLUND: In addition to PUB  
9 staff and advisors there was representation from the  
10 Consumers Association of Canada, Manitoba Inc., the  
11 Green Action Centre, as well as five (5) large volume  
12 customer representatives and representatives from three  
13 (3) natural gas marketers.

14 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: And from your  
15 perception, how was the technical conference received  
16 by the parties who attended it?

17 MR. GREG BARNLUND: I believe that it  
18 was well-received by the participants and that it  
19 enabled good communication of the issues and  
20 opportunities, and provided for a good exchange of  
21 ideas and discussion of the matters at hand.

22 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: And thereafter, were  
23 interested parties given an opportunity to seek further  
24 clarification by way of information requests?

25 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes, all attendees

1 were afforded that opportunity. And while Centra only  
2 received information requests from one (1) party, the  
3 Public Utilities Board, Centra's responses were  
4 circulated to all participants on August 15th, 2011.

5 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: And in addition,  
6 were interested parties invited to provide their views  
7 to Centra in the form of written submissions?

8 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes, all interested  
9 parties were invited to make their views and positions  
10 on these matters known, by way of written submissions,  
11 by August 29th, 2011. Between August 29th and  
12 September 2nd, Centra received comments from four (4)  
13 parties.

14 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: And did any or all  
15 of those parties make specific recommendations or  
16 suggestions to Centra Gas as to the design of the  
17 portfolio?

18 MR. GREG BARNLUND: While Centra had  
19 anticipated that parties would provide specific  
20 comments on the issues around transportation and  
21 storage, the submissions spoke more to procedural  
22 matters.

23 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: And in terms of the  
24 continuing process, was there any suggestion that  
25 another technical conference be held before Centra

1 entered into contractual arrangements?

2 MR. GREG BARNLUND: There was a  
3 suggestion that another technical conference ought to  
4 be considered prior to Centra advancing the proposed  
5 option to Centra's Board of Directors for their  
6 approval.

7 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: And tell us, please,  
8 what was Centra Gas' view in response to that  
9 particular suggestion?

10 MR. GREG BARNLUND: There are  
11 significant challenges to effectively and meaningfully  
12 engaging stakeholders at that later stage in the  
13 evaluation and negotiation process. We did not believe  
14 that we could engage in a further conference that  
15 focussed on the final options without prejudicing our  
16 ongoing negotiations with storage providers.

17 Centra needed to fully pursue the  
18 negotiations with storage proponents to meaningfully  
19 evaluate the costs of the respective proposals. And  
20 such negotiations and the contents of their proposals  
21 are clearly commercially sensitive. Further public  
22 consultation at that stage would expose commercially  
23 sensitive information and jeopardize our efforts to  
24 negotiate the most favourable contract at the best  
25 price.



1                   MR. DOUG BEDFORD:   And did Centra Gas  
2 host a further technical conference after the filing of  
3 the application that is before this Board?

4                   MR. GREG BARNLUND:   Yes, we did. This  
5 application was filed on March 23rd and a technical  
6 conference was held on April 18th. The purpose of that  
7 technical conference was to assist the interested  
8 parties and Intervenor in obtaining a better  
9 understanding of the very technical nature of this  
10 evidence. In this way, we believe that Intervenor and  
11 interested parties would be better able to formulate  
12 their information requests of Centra.

13                  MR. DOUG BEDFORD:   Mr. Barnlund, does  
14 Centra Gas propose any changes to the western  
15 transportation service, commodity rate design, or the  
16 interruptible class with respect to billing percentages  
17 in this particular application?

18                  MR. GREG BARNLUND:   No, not at this  
19 time. If you refer to the response to PUB/CENTRA-18-B,  
20 we indicate that the adoption of the new portfolio  
21 might not result in a substantial change to the  
22 proportions of primary gas and supplemental gas that  
23 would be billed to customers on a normal-weather basis.

24                  MR. DOUG BEDFORD:   And finally, what is  
25 the status of Directive 14 from this Board's Order

1 65/11?

2 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Directive 14  
3 instructs Centra to propose a process to review  
4 Centra's rate and service structure, particularly the  
5 distinction between primary gas and supplemental gas.

6 We have been examining this issue and  
7 expect to advance this discussion through Centra's next  
8 general rate application.

9 MR. DOUG BEDFORD: Thank you, Mr.  
10 Barnlund. Mr. Chair and panel members, that concludes  
11 the direct-evidence of Centra Gas' witnesses. We can  
12 turn them over for cross-examination.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you all.  
14 Given the time, I suggest we take ten (10) minutes or  
15 so. Be back in this room by 11:00, please, and we'll  
16 start the cross-examination.

17

18 --- Upon recessing at 10:52 a.m.

19 --- Upon resuming at 11:02 a.m.

20

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: I think everybody's  
22 here. Let's resume the deliberations. Mr. Peters?

23 MR. BOB PETERS: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
24 Chairman. Good morning to Centra's panel of witnesses  
25 and their counsel.

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. BOB PETERS:

2 MR. BOB PETERS: Mr. Warden, to start  
3 things off, you are the senior Centra Gas executive on  
4 the witness panel and if not by age, certainly by  
5 corporate job title?

6 MR. VINCE WARDEN: You had to bring up  
7 that age thing again.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: But you are the senior  
9 representative?

10 MR. VINCE WARDEN: I am.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: Policy questions  
12 should be directed to you, sir?

13 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And I apologize to  
15 you, Mr. Warden, and also to your counsel. I neglected  
16 to mention in my opening comments that your schedule  
17 has you pulled between a number of matters and you  
18 won't be available, I believe it's tomorrow morning and  
19 also another partial day?

20 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, part of the  
21 time tomorrow morning and all morning on Thursday  
22 morning.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. Thank you.  
24 Mr. Warden, by way of some preliminary points to just  
25 make sure that we're clear on, my questions will be

1 directed to the witness panel, even if I mention a  
2 name, and they're open for a response by any witness,  
3 as I'm seeking the complete corporate answers for the  
4 Board.

5 Would that be acceptable and understood?

6 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, that's  
7 acceptable and understood. Thank you.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: And another matter,  
9 Mr. Warden, when I read the transcript I sometimes have  
10 a -- a bad habit of using the word "you", Y-O-U, when I  
11 ask questions. And if I relapse into that mode, I'm  
12 actually wanting to refer the witness to answer on  
13 behalf of Centra and my questions seek a response on  
14 behalf of the Corporation. I'm not looking for any  
15 personal positions or viewpoints of any specific  
16 witnesses, only that of the Corporation.

17 Would that also be acceptable?

18 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: Lastly, I think, Mr.  
20 Warden, in terms of confidentiality to you and your  
21 witnesses, my questions are not intended to elicit  
22 information that Centra considers confidential be  
23 placed on the public record.

24 If any witnesses consider their direct  
25 answer to my questions may disclose confidential

1 information, the witness should advise me and the  
2 Board, either directly or through Mr. Bedford, that  
3 they decline to answer, as the conf -- as the answer  
4 would be confidential.

5 Then based on the question, I'll either  
6 rephrase my question, or if the information is  
7 considered relevant and required by the Board, then we  
8 can work with Mr. Bedford as well as Messrs. Meronek  
9 and Masi, as well as the PUB's Rule 13 to see if we can  
10 address any confidentiality concerns, and we can report  
11 that back to the Board.

12 Would that be acceptable?

13 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, that's fine,  
14 thank you.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. All right.  
16 And speaking of confidential information, am I correct  
17 in understanding that due to Centra's concerns that  
18 certain responses to requests for proposals from the  
19 various proponents contain commercially sensitive  
20 information, the proponents not selected by Centra are  
21 identified as parties B, 'C', and, 'D' throughout these  
22 proceedings, rather than by their business name?

23 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Correct.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: However, Centra does  
25 file ANR's and Great Lakes Gas Transmission, or GLGT's,

1 term sheet that underpins Centra's eight (8) contracts  
2 if the fixed prices and the fixed costs are approved by  
3 this Board?

4 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: And, Mr. Warden, it's  
6 customary for Centra's board of directors to endorse  
7 the applications before they're filed with the Public  
8 Utilities Board. Is that correct?

9 MR. VINCE WARDEN: It is.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And when did -- well,  
11 I -- I -- maybe I can ask it this way. I think from  
12 one (1) of the IR responses, I have February 28th of  
13 2012, as the date that Centra's board of directors  
14 approved moving this matter forward to the Public  
15 Utilities Board?

16 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, that's correct.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: I guess, still by way  
18 of some introductory questions, Mr. Warden, for you and  
19 your witness panel, the witnesses have all been  
20 provided with a copy of a book of documents that I've  
21 now marked as PUB Exhibit 7. And I'll refer to that  
22 exhibit throughout my questions.

23 But if there is any additional  
24 information any witness wants to bring to the Board's  
25 attention, they should feel free to do so. This is

1 certainly not a closed-book exam, and all material  
2 should be brought to the Board's attention as your  
3 witnesses decide.

4 That's also acceptable, sir?

5 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, thank you.

6 MR. BOB PETERS: So in terms of  
7 starting with the overview, Mr. Warden, and perhaps Mr.  
8 Barnlund, I believe you've indicated that this  
9 application is pursuant to what's come out of Order  
10 number 65 of '11?

11 MR. GREG BARNLUND: I believe that in  
12 Order 65/11 there was direction that we would bring  
13 forth an application for full public review of the  
14 proposed arrangements. And, indeed, this is -- is the  
15 process that was described.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. And at Tab  
17 1 of the book of documents is Order 65/11, if we need  
18 to refer back to it. But at this point in time, Centra  
19 is seeking fin -- final approval of fixed costs for US  
20 storage and transportation arrangements?

21 In short, that would be what we're  
22 asking for today on behalf of Centra?

23 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes, sir.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: And when the Board  
25 looks at it, that number that I take from, I think, Tab

1 13 of the book of documents, the specific number that  
2 the Board is putting forward is fourteen million,  
3 forty-nine thousand, three hundred and forty-four  
4 dollars (\$14,049,344)? Mr. Barnlund, would you accept  
5 that?

6 MR. GREG BARNLUND: I would.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: And that fourteen (14)  
8 -- we'll -- we'll round it off to 14 million, but the  
9 specific amount that I've just mentioned is the amount  
10 that Centra intends to incur if its proposal is  
11 approved by this Board each and every year for the next  
12 seven (7) years, starting on April 1st of 2013?

13 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes, sir.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And this is  
15 denominated, Mr. Barnlund, in US dollars?

16 MR. GREG BARNLUND: It is.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: And Centra won't hedge  
18 its -- its US currency related to this transaction,  
19 will it?

20 MR. GREG BARNLUND: It has no intention  
21 to.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: But should there be a  
23 foreign exchange fluctuation, that fluctuation would  
24 add or subtract approximately a hundred and forty  
25 thousand dollars (\$140,000) a year based on one (1)



1 percentage point, or a hundred (100) basis points move  
2 of the foreign exchange rate?

3 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Should I ask you  
4 for a reference?

5 MR. BOB PETERS: I knew you --

6 MR. GREG BARNLUND: I'll take it  
7 subject to check. I think that's the number, yes. I  
8 think that's what it is.

9 MR. BOB PETERS: I do recall reading  
10 one (1) of the responses being closer to a hundred and  
11 fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) a year, but that  
12 included the variable costs, just to be fair to you,  
13 Mr. Barnlund.

14 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Fair enough.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. Now in  
16 terms of the \$14 million, that amount has not yet been  
17 -- been denominated to any calendar year's exchange  
18 rate? It will float, depending on what the exchange  
19 rate is at the time that you're invoiced?

20 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Well, we will be  
21 paying \$14 million to the counter-parties for these  
22 arrangements. Given those payments are being made in  
23 US dollars, they will be subject ultimately to some  
24 effect, in terms of the actual foreign exchange we  
25 would experience throughout that period of time, across

1 a seven (7) year period, yes.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: But maybe I -- I --  
3 maybe I'll word it this way. The 14 million is not  
4 denominated in a foreign exchange rate as of a specific  
5 date at this point in time?

6 MR. GREG BARNLUND: No, it's not.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: And these fixed costs  
8 that relate to your application, Mr. Barnlund, those  
9 would be recovered in the transportation rate that this  
10 Board will ultimately approve to all of Centra's  
11 customers except for the transportation customers and  
12 perhaps some interruptible customers?

13 MR. GREG BARNLUND: It would only be  
14 the transportation customers that would not be -- not  
15 face these costs. But all other customers, including  
16 interruptible customers, would see these costs  
17 reflected in the transportation rate, yes.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MR. BOB PETERS: In the specific  
22 application by the Company found at Tab 2 of the book  
23 of documents, Mr. Barnlund, it references that the  
24 contractual relations for storage is with a company  
25 called ANR Transport Storage.

1 And I have that correct?

2 MR. GREG BARNLUND: I'm advised that  
3 may be a typographic error.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: Okay, well let's  
5 approach it this way. How many counter-parties will be  
6 involved in these eight (8) contracts that I believe,  
7 if we look at the last page of the term sheet found at  
8 Tab 3 of the book of documents -- and, Mr. Chairman and  
9 Board members, in the top right-hand corner it's marked  
10 as page 20 of Exhibit 7, but it's found as the last  
11 page in -- under Tab 3 -- you've listed a number of  
12 specific services in the term sheet.

13 Have I got that correct, Mr. Barnlund?

14 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes, that's  
15 correct.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: And if I go down and  
17 number out, there's eight (8) different services. I  
18 take it those will translate into eight (8) different  
19 contracts?

20 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes.

21 MR. BOB PETERS: And in terms of the  
22 number of counter-parties that you'll be entering into  
23 these with, can you just explain to the Board how many  
24 different counter-parties there will be?

25 MR. GREG BARNLUND: There would be two

1 (2). One (1) of them would be the ANR Pipeline  
2 Company, and the other would be Great Lakes Gas  
3 Transmission Limited Partnership.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. And so the  
5 storage is coming from the ANR arrangements. And  
6 there's also a little bit of storage transportation  
7 through ANR. But the balance of the transportation  
8 comes through Great Lakes?

9 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And when you say that  
11 there's two (2) separate counter-parties, these  
12 counter-parties are affiliated.

13 Am I correct in that?

14 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: What's your  
16 understanding of their affiliation?

17 MR. GREG BARNLUND: We would understand  
18 them both to be ultimately owned by the TransCanada  
19 Corporation.

20 MR. BOB PETERS: And this is the same  
21 TransCanada Corporation that Ms. Stewart spoke about  
22 when she talked about the mainline operation in her  
23 direct evidence to the Board?

24 MR. GREG BARNLUND: It would be a  
25 related company. I'm not sure if it's actually the

1 parent or not, but...

2 MR. BOB PETERS: And in -- in arranging  
3 these contracts, are there any corporate guarantees  
4 either given or sought by Centra?

5 MR. GREG BARNLUND: No, there were none  
6 required.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: None requested by  
8 Centra?

9 MR. GREG BARNLUND: No.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And that would be  
11 based on your previous twenty (20) years of  
12 relationship with ANR and Great Lakes?

13 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And likewise, none  
15 were sought from Centra?

16 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Correct.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: The seven (7) year  
18 term, Mr. Barnlund, will -- will commence on April 1st,  
19 2013?

20 MR. GREG BARNLUND: That's correct.

21 MR. BOB PETERS: And run forward to  
22 March 31 then of 2020?

23 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: You're asking this  
25 Board to provide its approval by August 31 of 2012?

1                   MR. GREG BARNLUND:    I believe the term  
2 sheet references a date of August 31, 2012, as the  
3 target that we would be expected or required by the  
4 counter-parties to obtain some form of approval in this  
5 regard. Of course, we would appreciate if that could  
6 be done as early as convenient, as early as practically  
7 possible for this Board.

8                   MR. BOB PETERS:    And likewise, that's  
9 seven (7) months before the expiry of the existing  
10 arrangements?

11                  MR. GREG BARNLUND:   It is, but there  
12 are steps that need to be undertaken between the  
13 conclusion or the receipt of that -- of a Board order  
14 and the approval of these costs and ultimately putting  
15 these contracts into effect for August -- or, sorry,  
16 excuse me, for April 1 of 2013.

17                  MR. BOB PETERS:    And from an  
18 operational perspective, Ms. Stewart testified to that  
19 in her direct evidence?

20                  MR. GREG BARNLUND:   Yes, she did.

21                  MR. BOB PETERS:    But also in the seven  
22 (7) months before the expiry of the existing  
23 arrangements there may be a requirement, depending on  
24 the outcome of this hearing, for Centra to go back to  
25 some of the counter-parties to -- to alter the

1 arrangement, correct?

2 MR. GREG BARNLUND: We're hoping not,  
3 but we have to wait and see what a Board order would  
4 direct us.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: Fair -- fair answer,  
6 Mr. Barnlund. But does the seven (7) months provide  
7 sufficient timing for there to be further discussions  
8 or negotiations for revised term sheets if that is  
9 ultimately the decision of this Board?

10 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Unfortunately, the  
11 seven (7) months is a very tight timeline as it stands,  
12 given that the counter-parties have -- have things they  
13 have to undertake on their own behalf and given that we  
14 have to, obviously, operationalize these contracts.  
15 The timing in that seven (7) months is extremely tight.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: Well, accepting that  
17 it's tight, it still does permit an opportunity, should  
18 it be directed by this Board and a requirement by this  
19 Board to go back and consider further options?

20 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Well, ultimately,  
21 we would pursue whatever avenues we need to pursue in  
22 terms of addressing any concerns the Board may have in  
23 this regard.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: And it's fair to say  
25 that your two (2) counter-parties are all aware that

1 the approval of the Public Utilities Board is required  
2 before these contracts can be finalized?

3 MR. GREG BARNLUND: That's correct,  
4 yes.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MR. BOB PETERS: While you say, Mr.  
9 Barnlund, that you'll certainly follow the decisions  
10 and directives from this Board, but can this Board take  
11 it that in the time from when this hearing concludes to  
12 March 31 of 2013, there will be sufficient time, if  
13 required, to renegotiate aspects if so directed and to  
14 bring it back before this Board?

15 MR. GREG BARNLUND: We would undertake  
16 our best efforts to conclude whatever negotiations or  
17 whatever activities we would need to. Given that the  
18 existing contracts expire March 31 of 2013, we have,  
19 obviously, an imminent and pressing deadline in that  
20 regard. And we would be undertaking every effort that  
21 we could to be able to satisfactorily conclude  
22 arrangements so that we, on April 1st of 2013, would  
23 have new storage and transportation arrangements in  
24 place.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you, sir. In



1 addition to the fixed costs that are the subject matter  
2 of your application and to be paid to ANR and to GLGT -  
3 - that's the \$14 million you've told me about, Mr.  
4 Barnlund -- Centra will also at some point seek  
5 recovery of some other costs related to transportation,  
6 including TransCanada Pipeline costs, correct?

7 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes. And there  
8 would also be variable costs associated with operating  
9 these arrangements in that there are fuel-related costs  
10 and other variable components of the toll that we would  
11 need to -- need to be paying, and obviously would need  
12 to incorporate those into our rate filings in terms of  
13 recovery of those costs.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: All right, but let's  
15 just talk about the TransCanada Pipeline, because even  
16 if the Board does approve the application that's before  
17 them, there is a requirement for TransCanada Pipeline  
18 tolls related to US storage, correct?

19 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes, insofar as all  
20 of our gas supply is -- that is sourced in Alberta is  
21 being moved on the TransCanada Pipeline and that a  
22 portion of that gas is then delivered into storage and  
23 is returned from storage to our market. So the  
24 TransCanada Pipeline does have a significant  
25 involvement in that regard.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And in the proceedings  
2 -- not to complicate it too much, but it's -- one (1)  
3 of its major TransCanada tolls is the STS toll or the  
4 storage transportation service toll.

5                   MR. GREG BARNLUND:   That is one (1)  
6 contract that we have with TransCanada, correct.

7                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And that relates  
8 directly to your storage arrangements?

9                   MR. GREG BARNLUND:   That it does, yes.

10                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And that refers to  
11 your indicating to get gas that is in storage back to  
12 the Manitoba marketplace you -- you need that  
13 arrangement with TransCanada?

14                  MR. GREG BARNLUND:   Yes, we do.

15                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And the TransCanada  
16 tolls, we heard from Ms. Stewart, those are tolls set  
17 by the National Energy Board?

18                  MR. GREG BARNLUND:   Yes, they are.

19                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And when it comes time  
20 to seek recovery of the TransCanada pipeline tolls,  
21 that would be included in Centra's next cost of gas  
22 filing?

23                  MR. GREG BARNLUND:   We would be  
24 including forecast costs for the upcoming gas year in  
25 our next filing. And given the nature of the recovery

1 of gas costs, we deal with costs on a forecast basis.  
2 And we also deal with costs on a retrospective basis  
3 where we have the presence of deferral accounts where  
4 we record and true-up the differences between our  
5 previous forecasts and the actual cost for that period.

6 MR. BOB PETERS: To be clear for the  
7 Board, those TCPL tolls and costs are not part of  
8 Centra's request before them in this application?

9 MR. GREG BARNLUND: That's correct.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And when you talk  
11 about your gas year, the -- the gas year commences, I  
12 believe, on November 1 of a particular calendar and  
13 goes to October 31 of the following calendar year?

14 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes, Mr. Peters.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: And so we are  
16 presently then in the midst of the 2011/'12 gas year?

17 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes, sir.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: And those costs, you  
19 say, would be forecast and brought to the Board for  
20 approval as a forecast. And you may also seek final  
21 approval of previous years' gas costs, if I understood  
22 your answer?

23 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes, that's  
24 generally the approach taken.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And are you able to

1 give the Board any indication as to when Centra expects  
2 to be in a position to file for approval of those other  
3 gas costs?

4 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Mr. Peters, at this  
5 time, our expectation is that we will be filing our  
6 general rate application in September for our November  
7 1st implementation, for rate change November the 1st.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: And, Mr. Warden and  
9 Mr. Barnlund, that general rate application would  
10 include a cost of gas component then to deal with the  
11 specifics of cost of gas issues, not just the  
12 distribution costs?

13 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes, that's  
14 correct.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: Mr. Barnlund, you told  
16 the Board a few answers ago that in addition to the  
17 fixed costs with ANR and with Great Lakes gas  
18 transmission there will also be variable costs, if I  
19 heard you correctly?

20 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes, that's  
21 correct.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: And variable costs are  
23 dependent largely on the volumes that are going through  
24 the pipelines?

25 MR. GREG BARNLUND: That would be one

1 (1) of the factors, yes.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: And those variable  
3 costs, I believe, in this filing have been estimated at  
4 approximately a million dollars. Do you agree with  
5 that?

6 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes, we have said  
7 that.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: And mostly related to  
9 fuel gas to run the compressors in the pipelines to  
10 keep the gas moving?

11 MR. GREG BARNLUND: That would be the  
12 major component, yes.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And approval of those  
14 variable costs would likewise come in the cost of gas  
15 portion of Centra's intended general rate application?

16 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes. We file for  
17 gas cost adjustments every year that'll reflect actuals  
18 and forecasts for those.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: Mr. Barnlund, Mr.  
20 Warden, the application speaks to fixed costs. And it  
21 is okay if the Board interprets those to be the  
22 reservation costs for storage and transportation?

23 MR. GREG BARNLUND: I believe that's  
24 fair.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And is it also fair

1 that Centra is going to have to pay these fixed costs  
2 even if Centra doesn't physically need the service?

3 MR. GREG BARNLUND: That would be the  
4 case, yes.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: So under Centra's  
6 proposal Centra will pay for 15 1/2 petajoules of  
7 storage even if Centra only uses say 10 petajoules per  
8 year?

9 MR. GREG BARNLUND: On the face of it,  
10 yes. Yeah.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: In terms of helping  
12 the Board understand the relative size of the storage,  
13 Mr. Barnlund, Mr. Warden, is 15 1/2 petajoules  
14 approximately a quarter of the total annual throughput  
15 excluding the transportation volumes?

16 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Including  
17 transportation volumes --

18 MR. BOB PETERS: No, ex -- excluding is  
19 what I asked.

20 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Excluding?

21 MR. BOB PETERS: Yeah.

22 MR. GREG BARNLUND: I think that our  
23 sales volumes would be in the neighbourhood of 55  
24 petajoules, and so 15 1/2, proportion of 55.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: Okay. So my estimate

1 of 60 petajoules is not too far off?

2 MR. GREG BARNLUND: For legal counsel  
3 that was pretty close.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: Yeah. Point noted.  
5 We -- we talked earlier about excluding transportation  
6 service customers, Mr. Barnlund, and can you explain to  
7 the Board why these customers are not part of the  
8 services that you're now trying to arrange?

9 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes, Mr. Peters.  
10 We have a small number of very large industrial  
11 customers that some time ago arranged for their own  
12 upstream gas supply, transportation, and storage  
13 services, and simply contract with Centra for the  
14 delivery of that -- of their gas supply from -- on our  
15 system from the interconnection with TransCanada  
16 pipelines to their plant gate. And I guess further to  
17 that then, given that they are not users of our  
18 upstream storage and transportation contracts or  
19 assets, they bear no cost of those.

20 MR. BOB PETERS: Are you able to give  
21 the Board an estimate of the volumes from the  
22 transportation customers that flows through Centra's  
23 system?

24 MR. GREG BARNLUND: I don't have the  
25 information right at my fingertips but I'm thinking it

1 would probably be in the neighbourhood of 20 petajoules  
2 in aggregate. Roughly speaking.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: Mr. Barnlund, perhaps  
4 through your counsel I could ask you to provide an  
5 undertaking to the Board as to the throughput back in  
6 1993 compared to the throughput most currently, and  
7 break out transportation service as a separate amount?

8 MR. GREG BARNLUND: We will endeavour  
9 to do that possibly by looking at some regulatory  
10 filings we may have on-hand from that period of time.  
11 But bearing in mind that that information back to '93  
12 is not readily available to us.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: All right, that's a  
14 fair comment. You're indicating if it's not in a Board  
15 order or in the regulatory records you'll have a hard  
16 time finding that? Well --

17 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Yes.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: -- in general terms,  
19 can you tell the Board whether the throughput of  
20 natural gas in the last twenty (20) years has increased  
21 or decreased if we exclude the transportation  
22 customers?

23 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Excluding the  
24 transportation customers I would expect that we have  
25 had a -- a decrease in throughput over a long period of



1 time, related to the advancement of energy conservation  
2 and changes in behaviour of end-use customers, in terms  
3 of reducing their energy usage and taking advantage of  
4 more energy conservation opportunities. So I think the  
5 general trend has been to lower consumption on an  
6 individual basis over a longer period of time, yes.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: So while you estimate  
8 that current throughput excluding transportation  
9 service could be around 55 Bcf or -- you're not sure  
10 how much -- how much it would have been twenty (20)  
11 years ago?

12 MR. GREG BARNLUND: I can't say at this  
13 point, no.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. If it's  
15 something that we want to pursue further I'll get back  
16 to Mr. Bedford on that, but you can cross that off your  
17 list of undertakings at this time. Yes, just for the  
18 record, I was thinking that Centra could provide an  
19 undertaking but I'll withdraw that request at this  
20 time.

21 Mr. Barnlund, you've told the Board that  
22 the \$14,049,344 -- US dollars a year is the maximum sum  
23 that will be paid to ANR and Great Lakes Gas  
24 Transmission for the US storage and transportation  
25 assets?

1                   MR. GREG BARNLUND:   Yes, it's fixed for  
2 the seven (7) year period.

3                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And "fixed" meaning, as  
4 you've said, it's take or pay? You're -- you're taking  
5 it so you're going to pay for it regardless of whether  
6 you use it?

7                   MR. GREG BARNLUND:   Essentially that's  
8 correct, yes.

9                   MR. BOB PETERS:   If Centra determines  
10 that it's not going to need that capacity, did I  
11 understand from the direct evidence of your colleagues  
12 that once Centra determines it has surplus capacity it  
13 will try to sell that capacity to some other third  
14 party?

15                  MS. LORI STEWART:   Yes, That's correct,  
16 Mr. Peters.

17                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And, Ms. Stewart, how  
18 is it that Centra's going to know whether it needs or  
19 does not need the total portfolio that's before this  
20 Board for approval in terms of costs?

21                  MS. LORI STEWART:   Mr. Peters, that's  
22 something that Centra determines as each day of a  
23 season proceeds over time. For example, it may be  
24 known at the commencement of the storage refill season  
25 that not all of our assets will be required to top

1 storage up. And in that situation we would then  
2 calculate what portion of our capacity could be  
3 released over that seasonal period and put that out to  
4 market and gain the value -- the value that we can on  
5 behalf of ratepayers for that portion of the assets  
6 that will be unutilized.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: What you're telling  
8 the Board, Ms. Stewart, is that you try to sell the acc  
9 -- the excess capacity that you don't need, and you  
10 apply that revenue as a credit to the consumers who are  
11 -- whose rates are already paying the \$14 million?

12 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And those sales, Ms.  
14 Stewart, the materials have reference to the secondary  
15 market. And that's what it's generically known as, in  
16 terms of selling it to third parties that are not  
17 involved in your contracts?

18 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: And in the secondary  
20 market, you could be selling to another gas local  
21 distribution company? You could be selling to a  
22 marketer? You may not know to whom you're selling?

23 MS. LORI STEWART: Well, I need to know  
24 to whom I'm selling because I have to collect the money  
25 from them. But -- but, yes, your characterization of

1 who might be a buyer in that market, it could be an  
2 LDC, it could be a marketer.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: And, Ms. Stewart, when  
4 we come to the cost of gas portions of a general rate  
5 application, Centra usually has a five (5) year average  
6 of their capacity release revenues. Are you familiar  
7 with that?

8 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, I'm familiar  
9 with the capacity management program, which consists of  
10 more than simply our capacity release revenues.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: Does Centra track its  
12 capacity release revenues for only its US assets,  
13 compared to other assets it has?

14 MS. LORI STEWART: We track our release  
15 revenues for both our Canadian and our US assets. And,  
16 yes, they are tracked discretely.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: Are you able to  
18 indicate to the Board, Ms. Stewart, what an average  
19 annual capacity release revenue has been from the  
20 existing portfolio that Centra has, in terms of how  
21 much money Centra's been able to realize from unused  
22 assets?

23 MS. LORI STEWART: I'm sure those  
24 results are on the various regulatory records in terms  
25 of our annual capacity management revenues, yes.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:    Can you indicate  
2 whether, percentage-wise, is Centra selling off and  
3 recovering at least 50 percent of unutilized demand  
4 charges, or less than fifty (50)? Or do you know?

5                   MS. LORI STEWART:   That would vary from  
6 season to season, and I think the most important thing  
7 to understand is that our capacity management revenues  
8 are largely driven by weather. If it is a cold winter,  
9 we will be more fully utilizing our asset suite, and as  
10 a result will not have the opportunity to release those  
11 assets into the secondary market and earn revenues.  
12 The -- those assets are being used by Manitoba  
13 ratepayers in that circumstance.

14                  MR. BOB PETERS:    Ms. Stewart, the Board  
15 will note that the tolls that are being proposed, as  
16 well as the tolls that are -- some of the tolls that  
17 are being currently paid, are discounted from the FERC  
18 approved maximum rate. Would that be correct?

19                  MS. LORI STEWART:   Yes, that's correct.

20                  MR. BOB PETERS:    Is Centra able, under  
21 its contractual terms, to sell off excess capacity at  
22 rates higher than what it is paying to ANR and Great  
23 Lakes?

24                  MS. LORI STEWART:   Yes, it is able to  
25 do that.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:    Can you sell them at  
2 rates above the FERC tariff?

3                   MS. LORI STEWART:   No, we may not.

4                   MR. BOB PETERS:    Does Centra typically  
5 get reimbursed its full cost of the capacity it seeks  
6 to release?

7                   MS. LORI STEWART:   That varies by every  
8 single release we do, Mr. Peters.

9                   MR. BOB PETERS:    So while -- while  
10 Centra may not get paid the full cost, would it be  
11 correct for the Board to understand that Centra does  
12 not enter into capacity release and capacity management  
13 arrangements unless there is some profit in it for the  
14 ratepayers of Manitoba?

15                  MS. LORI STEWART:   Yes, our objective  
16 is to recover whatever portion of our fixed costs we  
17 can by way of our capacity management transactions.

18

19                                       (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21                  MR. BOB PETERS:    Ms. Stewart, in one  
22 (1) of the responses that Centra gave as to an  
23 Information Request from my friends at CAC. Centra  
24 gave the load factors on ANR southwest and southeast,  
25 but after capacity management. And that was Centra --

1   sorry, that was CAC/CENTRA-13-C.

2

3                               (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5                               MS. LORI STEWART:   Will I need to -- to  
6   bring that up, Mr. Peters?

7                               MR. BOB PETERS:    I think so.   Yes, I  
8   think so.   I -- I wanted to find out what -- what  
9   you're telling the Board, and I'm looking at the chart  
10  for CENTRA/CAC-13-C, small Roman Numeral i, and small  
11  Roman Numeral ii.   Have you managed to locate that  
12  chart, Ms. Stewart?

13                              MS. LORI STEWART:    Yes, I have it.

14                              MR. BOB PETERS:    And what I'd like you  
15  to explain to the Board is that the load factor shows  
16  at 100 percent, and that shows at 100 percent even  
17  though Centra may not have used 100 percent of the  
18  service for themselves?

19                              MS. LORI STEWART:    Yes, that's correct.

20                              MR. BOB PETERS:    Are you able to  
21  provide the Board with what the load factors would have  
22  been prior to the capacity management activities?

23

24                              (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 MS. LORI STEWART: Not readily, Mr.  
2 Peters. That would involve a deal-by-deal review and  
3 quite a bit of -- of analysis.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: At the bottom of that  
5 chart, Ms. Stewart, are some -- some annual costs on  
6 the ANR southeast and southwest. Let's maybe just  
7 start off by saying in the -- while those are currently  
8 in the port -- portfolio, those southeast and southwest  
9 arrangements are not going to be continued forward if  
10 your proposal is approved as filed?

11 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

12 MR. BOB PETERS: And are the costs  
13 shown, Ms. Stewart, net of capacity management  
14 revenues?

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 MS. LORI STEWART: I would want to  
19 confirm that with someone back at the office, Mr.  
20 Peters, and I'm certainly willing to undertake to do  
21 that.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: If you could, please,  
23 and thank you, Ms. Stewart, to determine whether or not  
24 the costs shown are net of capacity management  
25 revenues, and if they're not determine if that can also



1 be provided.

2

3

(BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5

MS. LORI STEWART: Yes.

6

7

--- UNDERTAKING NO. 1: Centra to determine whether  
or not the costs shown are  
net of capacity management  
revenues; and if they're  
not, determine if that can  
also be provided

9

10

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12

13

14 CONTINUED BY MR. BOB PETERS:

15

MR. BOB PETERS: Okay. Thank you.

16

And, Ms. Stewart, in addition to Centra trying to sell  
its unutilized surplus capacity, there are companies  
that would offer to do that for Centra. Is that  
correct?

19

20

MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, I think I would  
characterize it as there are companies that would seek  
to manage Centra's assets, not strictly the capacity  
release, but also the capacity optimization.

21

22

23

24

MR. BOB PETERS: And these companies

25

that would seek to manage Centra's assets do so because

1 they may hold other assets from other companies, and  
2 they can find an optimal way that they can accomplish  
3 Centra's goals as well as make some money for  
4 themselves?

5 MS. LORI STEWART: There is the  
6 potential for that outcome, yes.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: And I believe Mr.  
8 Stauff, in his pre-filed evidence, lists about thirty  
9 (30) of such asset management companies.

10 And most of those you'd be familiar  
11 with, would you not, Ms. Stewart?

12 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, I am.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: Actually, I think the  
14 reference was PUB/CEN -- CAC-16, not his pre-filed  
15 evidence, that he provided those companies, just to  
16 clear up that point.

17 Has Centra determined whether it will  
18 issue a request for a proposal to -- to an asset  
19 management company to try to reduce the storage and  
20 transportation fixed costs for Manitobans, more than  
21 what Centra can propose?

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 MS. LORI STEWART: We have not

1 determined that as yet, Mr. Peters.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: Does that answer  
3 imply, Ms. Stewart, that that may be a matter that the  
4 Corporation will look into?

5 MS. LORI STEWART: Well, I'd like to  
6 say that we are always open to solicitations from  
7 marketers, in terms of them providing us with asset-  
8 management arrangements. That happens periodically,  
9 and when that happens we assess the value that we may  
10 see in the proposal relative to the risks that would be  
11 incurred as a result of executing such an arrangement.

12 MR. BOB PETERS: Has Centra determined  
13 whether it will seek out such marketers or managers of  
14 capacity?

15 MS. LORI STEWART: We have not  
16 determined that yet.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: Can you advise the  
18 Board as to when Centra may avert its mind to that  
19 consideration, Ms. Stewart?

20 MS. LORI STEWART: Certainly we need to  
21 know that we have assets -- contractual assets in -- in  
22 place, so that would be a first step, is that we  
23 actually understand what assets we will be managing.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: Does Centra need a  
25 year's experience or two (2) of its own before it can

1 enter into any asset-management arrangements?

2 MS. LORI STEWART: That would certainly  
3 make it easier to benchmark any proposals that we do  
4 receive from the market. In the absence of  
5 understanding what types of capacity management  
6 revenues we, ourselves, may be able to generate with  
7 the proposed portfolio, we would be in somewhat of a  
8 vacuum as it relates to what value we -- we may  
9 ascertain as offsetting the risks associated with an  
10 asset-management arrangement.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: All right.

12 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Mr. Peters, I might  
13 just add that in looking at any kind of management of  
14 those assets by a third party, we have to be very  
15 clear, first of all, in defining which assets we want  
16 to consider outsourcing and the risks associated with -  
17 - with so doing.

18 Any time we have looked at this in the  
19 past, we always come to the conclusion that the risk  
20 are not worth the -- perhaps the cost advantage that  
21 could be achieved through that -- through that process.

22

23 So we'd want -- we would want to assess  
24 this very, very carefully before we made any -- any  
25 moves in that direction that might impose risks on the

1 consumers in Manitoba.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: When you refer to  
3 risks, Mr. Warden, what risks are you referring to?

4 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Well, we would, in -  
5 - in effect, be turning over assets over to a third  
6 party that, of course, has a profit motive and that by  
7 using those assets they can -- they can optimize their  
8 total portfolio. However, you may recall, when we were  
9 close to doing this -- the closest we came to doing  
10 this was with a company named Enron. And we all know  
11 what happened there. And so the ri -- those are the  
12 kinds of risks that we would be very -- very concerned  
13 about.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 MR. BOB PETERS: Mr. Warden, maybe  
18 standing back from the details of the specific  
19 application that will be reviewed with your witness  
20 colleagues, I had understood from the direct evidence -  
21 - I believe from yourself -- that the objective was to  
22 arrange, I think, reliable and cost-effective services,  
23 sir?

24 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, absolutely.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And when you -- when

1 that answer was given, the answer wasn't looking for  
2 the cheapest storage and transportation arrangement.  
3 Is that correct?

4 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Well, it is the  
5 cheapest, provided that we can provide security of  
6 supply. We can guarantee security of supply. And so,  
7 yes, we want the lowest cost with that provision.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: When you say "security  
9 of supply," can we, as a default, accept what was  
10 stated by one (1) of your colleagues that if at any  
11 time Centra needs gas, natural gas for Manitobans, it  
12 will be available to Centra Gas?

13 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And the -- the only  
15 variable is the price?

16 MR. VINCE WARDEN: That's right. And -  
17 - and that's where the balance has to be achieved. So  
18 if we look at the fallback position, just taking the  
19 gas from -- from TransCanada and we're prepared to pay  
20 the penalties associated with that, that has to be  
21 taken into consideration into the -- the overall  
22 equation when we're looking at the options.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: Of the \$14 million  
24 approximately, Mr. Warden, that is part of the fixed-  
25 cost recovery request by Centra, there is no markup

1 included in that amount that goes to Centra's bottom  
2 line, is there?

3 MR. VINCE WARDEN: That's correct.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: There's no margin for  
5 Centra, or no profit?

6 MR. VINCE WARDEN: That's right.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: And would it also be  
8 correct for the Board to understand that related to the  
9 cost of gas matters which includes the molecules  
10 themselves, the storage, and the transportation, that  
11 there is zero profit in that for Centra?

12 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And so when you told  
14 the Board in your opening comments that Centra will be  
15 coming forward with a general rate application in which  
16 it will seek to recover a -- I'm not sure you used the  
17 word "modest", but net income, that net income would be  
18 the profit or the contribution to reserves that the  
19 utility seeks.

20 And that would be built into the  
21 distribution rate?

22 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, that's right.

23 And, yes, I did use the word "modest". And, yes, the  
24 application will be requesting a modest rate increase.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And the contribution

1 to reserves or the profit margin, Mr. Warden, has that  
2 been in the range of \$3 million on an annual basis?

3 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, we -- we target  
4 \$3 million on an annual basis. But as I mentioned, the  
5 -- the weather variability is such that it can swing  
6 ten (10) to \$12 million in any given year, depending on  
7 the weather.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: And the rates that  
9 Centra sets are based on what is statistically  
10 determined as normal weather?

11 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, that's right.

12 MR. BOB PETERS: And the numbers you  
13 reported to the Board, in terms of your profitability  
14 last year and this year, those would be actual as  
15 opposed to weather-normal numbers?

16 MR. VINCE WARDEN: That's right.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: Are you -- I think  
18 we're probably getting a little off speed here, and --  
19 but, on a weather-normal basis, are you able to  
20 indicate what the \$6 million actual loss would  
21 translate to?

22 MR. VINCE WARDEN: It would be in the  
23 range of \$3 million, bottom line.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: Okay. And, Mr.  
25 Warden, in Board Order 65/11, which we know is at the -



1 - one (1) of the first tabs in the book of document, I  
2 believe Tab number 1, the Board wanted the contracts  
3 that you entered into to have what amounts to a  
4 condition precedent that they receive Board approval  
5 before any contracts are formed, correct?

6 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Correct.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: And while, from Mr.  
8 Bedford's approach, I appreciate this is a bit  
9 hypothetical, but would that have normally been the  
10 route the company would have followed, or would you  
11 have brought to the Board contracts that are already  
12 signed, sealed, and delivered, and already working into  
13 operational changes?

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Mr. Peters, the last  
18 storage transportation contract was entered into in  
19 1993, before the acquisition by Manitoba Hydro. I  
20 believe at that time, and subject to -- as a matter  
21 fact, maybe I'll just turn this question over to Mr.  
22 Barnlund who was around at that time.

23 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Thank you, or not,  
24 for that. In 1991 the predecessor company was  
25 exploring options for the acquisition of access to

1 storage. Given that the supply arrangements that it  
2 was -- that it had -- it had entered into in the late  
3 1980s after the deregulation of -- of production  
4 pricing had occurred, Centra had essentially a five (5)  
5 year period where they were enjoying the benefit of a  
6 favourable pricing arrangement from their supplier  
7 without using storage.

8                   So Centra was receiving gas at a 30  
9 percent load factor, but paying for gas as though they  
10 were essentially taking gas at a 100 percent load  
11 factor. Those arrangements contractually were to end  
12 in 1993. And in the time period leading up to 1993  
13 Centra was involved in the evaluation of storage  
14 alternatives as a way to mitigate the -- the impending  
15 cost increase that they would have seen in 1993 had  
16 they not been able to address an improvement in their  
17 load factor.

18                   At that point in time in 19 -- it was  
19 actually in 1991 when some contractual arrangements had  
20 been notionally entered into by the predecessor  
21 company. The Public Utilities Board requested that a  
22 hearing be called to discuss those arrangements. And  
23 in the fall of 1991 such a hearing was held.

24                   Clearly we're under much different  
25 circumstances here and I think that the circumstances

1 that we've experienced in the last two (2) years are  
2 reflective of the fact that we have worked to  
3 collaborate with the Public Utilities Board and  
4 Intervenor and interested parties in a much more  
5 evolved process leading up to the replacement of these  
6 contracts.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Barnlund. My point, coming back to it, Mr. Warden, is  
9 that without prior Board approval, Centra would run the  
10 annual risk of a disallowance in costs if the Board  
11 determined that Centra's actions, including its  
12 contractual actions, were not necessarily prudent?

13 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, and I don't  
14 think we've ever come to grips. I know we've talked  
15 about disallowance in the past, but we've never really  
16 defined exactly what that means to a Crown corporation,  
17 if there's a disallowance what happens to that  
18 disallowance. Does it go to retained earnings and how  
19 are those retained earnings rebuilt in that  
20 circumstance. It would have to be through increased  
21 rates to consumers. So it's kind of a circular type of  
22 a -- an argument, really.

23 There -- there's no recourse to another  
24 shareholder or a stakeholder other than government, and  
25 I don't think they'd be too willing to cough up any

1 monies. So, yeah, the disallowance question is a bit  
2 of a question mark with -- with Centra Gas as -- as  
3 it's currently structured.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: But you'd agree with -  
5 - with me, sir, that by seeking approval at this time  
6 you're taking away any risks related to disallowance  
7 provided the Board approves what you're asking for?

8 MR. VINCE WARDEN: I agree with that,  
9 yes.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And in fact, you've  
11 told the Board there's no profit margin in it for  
12 Centra, per se. So again, it protects Centra with  
13 prior approval?

14 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: And staying at that  
16 policy level, Mr. Warden, would Centra acknowledge that  
17 at the end of its analysis, including those that used  
18 computer models, Centra's preferred and proposed  
19 portfolio recommendation contains subjective  
20 considerations?

21 MR. VINCE WARDEN: I wonder if you  
22 could be more specific with your question, Mr. Peters.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: Cer -- certainly, sir.  
24 There's a number of factors that Centra has considered  
25 and the witnesses have testified, including rel --

1 reliability and flexibility, this overall size of  
2 storage, the length of the contract. I'm suggesting  
3 that when it all boils out at the end Centra has had to  
4 make some, admittedly educated, from their perspective,  
5 subjective considerations on what the portfolio should  
6 -- would be optimal?

7 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yeah, I think that's  
8 always the case in a situation like this, Mr. Peters.  
9 You use the best information available, the best advice  
10 you can get from consultants, the best models that are  
11 out there. But at the end of all that, you have to  
12 make a decision. And that's the decision that's before  
13 this Board.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: Well, I think the  
15 point that -- you've reached the point I've come to,  
16 Mr. Warden, is that Centra's proposed portfolio can  
17 only be based on what amounts to maybe a subjective  
18 recommendation because the inputs that Centra would  
19 like to know, are in fact unknown at this point in  
20 time, such as the weather, the prices, market  
21 conditions, and TCPL situations.

22 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Well, the weather we  
23 expect to be normal over the long-term, so I don't  
24 think there's much subjectivity there. There's  
25 certainly variability from year to year. But as far as

1 TCPL, yes, that's a very open question at this point in  
2 time, price likewise.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: And so Centra is here  
4 today to explain what underpins their recommendations,  
5 whether they're considered subjective or not?

6 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, we're putting  
7 forward our best case based on the best information we  
8 have available. And we're here to support that.

9 MR. BOB PETERS: And is it correct, Mr.  
10 Warden, that while Centra has used computer modelling,  
11 the results should be considered by Centra, as well as  
12 this Board, to be directional only and not dispositive  
13 or absolutely determinative of what an optimal  
14 portfolio would be?

15 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, I think we've  
16 used the word "directional" in our filing. So, yes, I  
17 would agree with your statement.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: And does Centra  
19 concede that with hindsight its preferred portfolio  
20 today may not, in fact, after the fact, be optimal for  
21 any specific given future year?

22 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, I think any  
23 forecast is subject to hindsight review. And with that  
24 perfect knowledge you would do things differently than  
25 you might have with that uncertain information.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And then does it stand  
2 to reason, Mr. Warden, that should this Board direct  
3 Centra to develop a different portfolio than what's  
4 proposed, that portfolio may or may not be optimal in  
5 any future year likewise?

6                   MR. VINCE WARDEN:   Yes, I agree with  
7 that.

8                   MR. BOB PETERS:   All right. Mr.  
9 Chairman, in light of the hour, I'm going to move to a  
10 new area. But if you wish to recess for the lunch hour  
11 now, that would be appropriate in -- where I am in my  
12 questions, or I'll continue if you wanted to continue  
13 for a bit further.

14                  THE CHAIRPERSON:   I suggest we adjourn  
15 right now and resume at say 1:25.

16                  MR. BOB PETERS:   Thank you.

17                  THE CHAIRPERSON:   Thank you.

18

19 --- Upon recessing at 11:59 a.m.

20 --- Upon resuming at 1:27 p.m.

21

22                  THE CHAIRPERSON:   Good afternoon,  
23 everyone. I believe we are ready to proceed. Over to  
24 you, Mr. Peters.

25                  MR. BOB PETERS:   Yes, thank you and

1 good afternoon.

2

3 CONTINUED BY MR. BOB PETERS:

4 MR. BOB PETERS: Mr. Warden, I want to  
5 just tidy up one (1) line of questioning I had with you  
6 this morning, sir, if I could. You'll recall that in  
7 your opening comments you reported to the Board that  
8 the last fiscal year ending March 31 of 2012 there was  
9 an estimate of Centra's net income as being negative \$6  
10 million approximately. And I appreciate it's not a  
11 final number but an approximate number.

12 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And then I went on at  
14 some point to ask you about whether the company has  
15 recalculated that net income based on a weather-normal  
16 basis. Do you recall that?

17 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, I do.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: And you provided an  
19 answer. And I wonder if you could just tell me whether  
20 the answer was a further loss, or was it a positive or  
21 a negative number?

22 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, just for  
23 clarification, I -- I did say appro -- I think I said  
24 approximately \$3 million. And I was intending to say  
25 \$3 million net income, so a positive net income. In



1 our financial forecast, however, we do target between 3  
2 and \$5 million per year as the bottom line net income  
3 each -- each and every year based on normalized  
4 weather. And then for purposes of the forecast, we --  
5 we plug in the amount of rate increases that is  
6 necessary to achieve that amount of a bottom line.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: Thanks for the  
8 clarification. Ms. Stewart, likewise, this morning you  
9 had introduced me to a new word. And I wonder if you  
10 could explain to the Board the concept of a "null  
11 point" that you mentioned. And I believe it was  
12 referenced on the Great Lakes Gas Transmission line.

13 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct,  
14 Mr. Peters. My definition of a "null point," or  
15 perhaps another way to think about it would be as the  
16 balance point on a pipeline. This is not a physical  
17 point. It's a notional point on any pipeline. And  
18 it's the point at which physical flows are intersecting  
19 at any minute, hour, day. So it's changing on a -- on  
20 a very -- on a real-time basis.

21 And if I -- I described Great Lakes Gas  
22 Transmission as historically having flows that moved  
23 from the western terminus of the pipeline at Emerson,  
24 to St. Clair, which is the eastern terminus of that  
25 pipeline. And if all flows and all movement on that

1 pipeline was on a forward-haul basis, then the null  
2 point, theoretically, would be at the eastern terminus  
3 of that.

4                   However, on most pipelines, you have a  
5 combination of forward-haul flows and notional back-  
6 haul flows. And that point at which -- when I net the  
7 two (2) of them, that balance point is -- is sometimes  
8 referred to as a null point on the pipe. I hope that  
9 helps, Mr. Peters.

10                   MR. BOB PETERS: It's helping. The --  
11 you said the physical flows are then netted against the  
12 notional back-haul to find the null point. Would that  
13 be correct?

14                   MS. LORI STEWART: Well, my definition  
15 of it was the point at which the physical flows are  
16 intersecting on a pipeline. And I'm -- I'm trying to  
17 describe the situation where that null point could  
18 theoretically be at -- at one (1) terminus of the pipe.  
19 However, that's not the case on -- on most pipelines.  
20 There is a combination of both forward-haul flows and  
21 back-haul flows. And as a result, you have this  
22 concept of a null point or a balance point on a  
23 pipeline.

24                   MR. BOB PETERS: All right. Thank you.  
25 The point the Board should get from your point, or your

1 evidence on that point, Ms. Stewart, is that there is  
2 more gas that is either physically or notionally  
3 flowing from east to west, than there ever used to be.

4 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: And would that be  
6 correct for the Board to understand that contributing  
7 to that is -- is the -- the back-haul concept that  
8 you've called a notional back-haul?

9 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And someone also this  
11 morning -- and I'm not sure if it was you, Ms. Stewart,  
12 indicated that TransCanada pipeline at Emerson was  
13 changing the direction or installing bidirectional  
14 compressors or pumps related to their TransCanada  
15 pipeline?

16 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, the meter  
17 station that is located at Emerson, Manitoba, has been  
18 reconfigured by TransCanada recently, I believe in 2009  
19 or 2010, to accommodate physical bidirectional flow.

20 MR. BOB PETERS: What you're telling  
21 the Board is that TCPL is anticipating or getting ready  
22 to have the capabilities to physically move molecules  
23 from the United States back up north into Canada?

24 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.  
25 And I believe that there is actual experience with that

1 now on the record in terms of TransCanada actually  
2 executing the transaction in reverse of how we would  
3 typically think about it.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: Does that answer  
5 include, Ms. Stewart, that they've reversed the flow on  
6 -- on their pipeline?

7 MS. LORI STEWART: That's my  
8 understanding, yes.

9 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. And -- and  
10 can you remind the Board, or in -- indicate, does Great  
11 Lakes Gas Transmission have the physical capability to  
12 reverse the flows on its pipeline, or a portion of it?

13 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, it does.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And it's had that for  
15 some period of time?

16 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes. I couldn't  
17 confirm at -- at what point they put into place the  
18 facilities to accommodate that, but yes, they do.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: Is -- is it your  
20 understanding, Ms. Stewart, that Great Lakes Gas  
21 Transmissions can physically flow gas from Crystal  
22 Falls all the way through to Emerson now?

23 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: Okay. Ms. Stewart, I  
25 had it in my notes for later, I hope, but while we're

1 on some tr -- some pipeline issues, and we're talking  
2 specifically TransCanada, we mentioned a number of  
3 different services that they provide. And one (1) of  
4 the services they provide that I'd just like you to  
5 explain or define for the Board, is the -- is what has  
6 been called FTRAM service.

7 Are you familiar with that?

8 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, I am, Mr.  
9 Peters. FTRAM, first of all, what does that stand for?  
10 And it stands for firm transportation risk alleviation  
11 mechanism. So it is a service attribute of firm  
12 transportation service on the Canadian mainline. And  
13 it was designed, and is provided by the pipeline  
14 currently, to allow firm transportation shippers the  
15 opportunity to mitigate their unutilized demand  
16 charges, sometimes referred to as UDCs.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: Can you explain to the  
18 Board how Centra would use FTRAM?

19 MS. LORI STEWART: Certainly. On any  
20 given day Centra holds a firm transportation contract  
21 at present to the Manitoba delivery -- delivery area,  
22 or the MDA, of 110,000 GJs per day. So, for example,  
23 on a day like today where it is warm at the load, and  
24 we've already accommodated for the gas that is flowing  
25 by Manitoba and into our storage facility in Michigan,

1 at the -- when I sum our storage injection requirements  
2 and the requirements of the Manitoba load today there  
3 will be remaining GJs that are unutilized on a day like  
4 today.

5                   So for each of those GJs of -- of  
6 unutilized demand, you take the rate charged for -- for  
7 that service, and we earn a dollar credit associated  
8 with that, that we must use for transportation -- for  
9 interruptible transportation within the month. So I  
10 would need to use it by June 30th. And typically  
11 Centra is not a shipper using interruptible  
12 transportation but we have the opportunity to sell  
13 those credits into the secondary market and recoup some  
14 of the value of the fixed demand charge that we are  
15 paying in a month like -- like June.

16                   MR. BOB PETERS: Could you also, Ms.  
17 Stewart, use those credits the last couple of days of  
18 June if heaven forbid the weather turned colder and you  
19 found yourself needing volume to Manitoba?

20                   MS. LORI STEWART: That is not the  
21 current forecast, however, yes, we could in a  
22 circumstance like that.

23                   MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you.

24

25                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MR. BOB PETERS: Ms. Stewart, the FTRAM  
2 that you spoke of is currently a service offered by  
3 TransCanada Pipeline. Is that correct?

4 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: Is that embedded in  
6 the FT, or the firm transportation toll that Centra now  
7 pays? That -- that RAM capability?

8 MS. LORI STEWART: It's embedded in the  
9 -- in TransCanada's tariff, and as a firm shipper I'm  
10 entitled to access that service if I have UDCs.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: Is there an additional  
12 cost to Centra to do that?

13 MS. LORI STEWART: There is not.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: My point is it's  
15 included in the existing firm transportation tariff.  
16 You'd agree with that?

17 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, I would.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: And is it your  
19 understanding, Ms. Stewart, from your following of the  
20 TransCanada case before the National Energy Board  
21 that's currently ongoing that TransCanada has taken a  
22 position as to the future of FTRAM?

23 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes. As part of  
24 TransCanada's services and pricing proposal, in its  
25 business and services restructuring proposal, or

1 application, it is TransCanada's proposition that FTRAM  
2 be eliminated as a service attribute of firm  
3 transportation service.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: And that risk-  
5 alleviation mechanism that you indicated exists on the  
6 firm transportation, and in the firm transportation  
7 toll, Ms. Stewart, does that RAM service also exist in  
8 what has been called the short-term firm service, or  
9 the STFT?

10 MS. LORI STEWART: No. RAM credits  
11 cannot currently be earned, and thus used, with either  
12 short term firm transportation, also known as STFT, or  
13 interruptible transportation, or IT.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And would it also be  
15 correct at this point on the record, Ms. Stewart, to  
16 indicate that one (1) of the parties, at least before  
17 the National Energy Board, is asking that the STFT  
18 service be included -- include a RAM mechanism?

19 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes.

20 MR. BOB PETERS: And just to be more  
21 transparent, that would -- one (1) of the parties, at  
22 least, is a company that Mr. Stauf has identified  
23 acting as counsel for?

24 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.  
25 It is Tenaska's proposal to the National Energy Board



1 that the right to earn RAM credits be extended to one's  
2 short-term firm transportation contracts.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: But as you've  
4 indicated, that's -- that's a point that is opposed at  
5 this point in time by TCPL?

6 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you. Now  
8 turning back to our storage and transportation  
9 arrangements, Ms. Stewart, or perhaps Mr. Kostick, it's  
10 clear that you've told the Board that the existing  
11 relationship and contracts ex -- sorry, the existing  
12 contracts expire March 31 of 2013, correct?

13 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: Does Centra Gas hold a  
15 right of first refusal on the current arrangements?

16 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Centra has a right  
17 of first refusal on all of the existing contracts with  
18 the exception of the Great Lakes winter transportation  
19 from winter back to Emerson.

20 MR. BOB PETERS: And would it be  
21 correct, Mr. Kostick, that Centra has determined that  
22 there was a better deal out there than exercising a  
23 right of first refusal?

24 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: We did not have to  
25 enter into the right of first refusal or ROFR process

1 given the results of the negotiations that we undertook  
2 with ANR and Great Lakes.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: But how do you know,  
4 Mr. Kostick, that somebody's not going to come along  
5 and make an offer on the transportation and storage  
6 that Centra now holds at a price less than what you  
7 currently have negotiated?

8

9 (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Mr. Peters, could I  
12 ask you to just repeat the question. I'm not sure I  
13 quite got the gist of it.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: Apparently there was  
15 someone else who didn't get the gist of it. My -- my  
16 thought process, Mr. Kostick, to be transparent, is  
17 that under a right of first refusal if ANR and Great  
18 Lakes has an offer from a third party that -- that you  
19 don't need to identify or we don't even know today,  
20 Centra has the ability to match that offer and get the  
21 services rather than let the third party take the  
22 services?

23 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's my  
24 understanding.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: Does it have to be

1 that the offer from the third party is greater than, in  
2 cost, than what Centra currently has, or could it be  
3 less than what Centra currently has?

4 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: I believe it could  
5 be less for what Centra currently has, subject to  
6 check.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: So my -- my -- where  
8 I'm going with the question then, Mr. Kostick, is let's  
9 suppose a third party is interested in some of the ANR  
10 storage, some of the Great Lakes gas transmission  
11 pipeline services. Can Centra get the services back at  
12 a lower price than what they're currently paying by  
13 matching someone else's offer?

14 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: I believe it's a  
15 possibility. But you would also have the potential for  
16 getting a -- having to pay a higher price through the  
17 ROFR process depending on what another shipper may be  
18 willing to offer for that service.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: Has Centra given up  
20 its right of first refusal on its existing arrangement  
21 in exchange for negotiating the new provisions that are  
22 before the Board?

23 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: There are some  
24 timing considerations. There are different ROFR  
25 periods for the ANR and Great Lakes contracts. The

1 fact that we have forwarded a request for new services  
2 to ANR and Great Lakes has basically taken the ROFR,  
3 the occurrence of ROFR out of the picture.

4 If we were to -- I'd have to check on  
5 the exact timelines to see whether the ROFR period has  
6 essentially elapsed or whether there is still an  
7 existing ROFR period, but the ROFR period is not being  
8 invoked by ourselves or ANR, given that we have  
9 submitted requests -- new requests for services.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: This may be more --  
11 Mr. Kostick, this may be more by accident than design,  
12 but at tab 4 of the book of documents is a --  
13 equivalent to a Gantt chart that Centra, I believe,  
14 prepared. Have you seen that before, sir?

15 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: When the -- when the  
17 Board looks at the -- down towards the bottom, the  
18 third line from the bottom is the earliest possible  
19 commencement of ANR ROFR process. Do you see that  
20 line?

21 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: And likewise, below  
23 that is the commencement of the Great Lakes Gas  
24 Transmission ROFE process -- sorry, ROFR process?

25 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And recognizing those  
2 timelines, would it be correct to say that Centra could  
3 have availed itself of that process but for entering  
4 into the negotiations?

5                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Yes.

6                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And Centra made a  
7 decision not to enter into the right of first refusal  
8 process because it felt it had a better financial  
9 arrangement for Manitobans?

10                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Yes.

11                  MR. BOB PETERS:   Are you able to  
12 quantify how much better the proposal that is before  
13 the Board today is then what it would be if you just  
14 exercised a right of first refusal on the existing  
15 arrangements?

16

17                                       (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

19                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   The package of  
20 services that Centra has negotiated, we believe, is at  
21 a lower price than could have been secured through the  
22 ROFR process. We do understand that ANR continues to  
23 sell storage at its tariff rate since the time that  
24 Centra entered into the term sheet with ANR and Great  
25 Lakes. But we're not able to quantify the -- any --

1 any difference in result that may have resulted from  
2 going through the ROFR process.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Another point that  
7 is important to raise in this regard is that a lot of  
8 the features that we have obtained with the new  
9 portfolio were the result of a specific negotiation and  
10 would not be obtainable through -- or likely to be  
11 obtainable through the ROFR process as -- as the  
12 services were negotiated as a large package of  
13 services. We believe we have obtained certain features  
14 that would not be available were pieces of the  
15 portfolio put through the ROFR process.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: Would it be correct,  
17 Mr. Kostick, and maybe Mr. Warden might need to think  
18 about this too, is Centra could have lived with the  
19 existing arrangement that it has with ANR and Great  
20 Lakes longer than twenty (20) years if it had to?

21 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: If the contract term  
22 were for longer than twenty (20) years we could manage  
23 with that portfolio.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: And so if -- if the  
25 portfolio could have been managed for more years, then

1 it would probably become a question of whether it was  
2 cost effective compared to any alternatives. Would  
3 that be a fair test?

4 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: It could be compared  
5 to other alternatives.

6 MR. BOB PETERS: But in this case you -  
7 - you weren't able to compare it to a right of first  
8 refusal because you don't have details of that from ANR  
9 or Great Lakes?

10 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: We did not go  
11 through the  
12 ROFR process, so we do not -- do not have that as a  
13 point of comparison.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: Maybe just let me  
15 wander seven (7) years from today when you and I are  
16 next talking, and you're -- you're saying that one (1)  
17 of the things that you were able to negotiate in that  
18 new portfolio that you brought before the Board in June  
19 of 2012, was a right of first refusal, because that's  
20 one (1) of your points that you say is advantageous to  
21 what you have negotiated. Correct?

22 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: And, again, we are  
24 getting into the depths of hypothetical, but at that  
25 time, again, you won't be able to tell the Board what

1 value that right of first refusal is, unless you  
2 actually got a -- a cost number from your counter-  
3 parties, ANR and GLGT. Would that be correct?

4 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Centra views the  
5 value of the right of first refusal is in being able to  
6 continue to hold the services, not necessarily as a  
7 comparator of costs or theoretical costs. It basically  
8 gives Centra the right to match an existing -- or a  
9 proposal on its existing services, to ensure that it  
10 can maintain those services. Therefore, the right of  
11 first refusal has value to Centra under any  
12 circumstances.

13 In this particular case, with this  
14 portfolio, we did not have to go that route because we  
15 negotiated in advance, and ANR and Great Lakes were  
16 amenable to reaching agreement on a suite of services  
17 that has been identified in this application.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: And, likewise, party  
19 B, who is unnamed, was also amenable to entering into  
20 contractual relations with Centra to optimize its  
21 portfolio, without any right of first refusal  
22 considerations?

23 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's correct.

24 MR. GREG BARNLUND: Mr. Peters, before  
25 we leave this line of questioning, I just want to make



1 sure the record is clear that we don't view that there  
2 is any deficiencies with regards to our existing  
3 assets, and the contracts that have served us very well  
4 for the last twenty (20) years. If anything, the thing  
5 that's wrong with them is that they are coming to an  
6 end, and we have to do something to replace them.

7                   So I just didn't want to leave any  
8 impression here that we're, you know, that there's any  
9 dissatisfaction with the existing arrangements and that  
10 -- that, you know, there was a need to dispose of them  
11 and move on to something else. But it's really the end  
12 of the contract term that we're involved with here.

13                   MR. BOB PETERS: I wasn't suspecting  
14 you were getting a divorce. You're actually just  
15 renewing your vows here, it looks like. Isn't that the  
16 analogy, Mr. Barnlund?

17                   MR. GREG BARNLUND: That's a good  
18 analogy.

19                   MR. BOB PETERS: And if -- if there  
20 weren't any deficiencies in what you have, you perhaps  
21 could have kept what you have at a lower price if you  
22 did exercise the right of first refusal process?

23                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK: We don't know  
24 whether it would ultimately be for a higher or a lower  
25 price, through the ROFR process.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:    Would that answer also  
2   apply, Mr. Kostick, if the Board looked down the road  
3   seven (7) years to the end of what's proposed before  
4   them?  Is that -- the Board -- you wouldn't be in a  
5   position to tell whether the proposed portfolio is  
6   going to be cheaper or more expensive if you -- if you  
7   exercised a right of first refusal?

8                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK:    There would be no  
9   way to say with certainty, but again we felt it was  
10  advantageous to negotiate a package of services as  
11  opposed to putting individual pieces of the portfolio  
12  up to bid, so to speak.  Correct.

13                  MR. BOB PETERS:    And that's a portfolio  
14  of services, the price of which will -- will be unknown  
15  in the future?

16                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:    It would be unknown,  
17  but it would not exceed the tariff rate.  And that's  
18  one (1) of the advantages of the AN -- ANR and Great  
19  Lakes services, is that the rates are capped at a FERC-  
20  regulated tariff rate.

21                  MR. BOB PETERS:    Just like your current  
22  arrangement is with ANR and Great Lakes.  It's capped  
23  at a -- at a tariff rate.

24                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:    That's correct.

25                  MR. BOB PETERS:    All right.  Moving --

1 moving along, then. I think you've agreed with me, Mr.  
2 Kostick, that the gas storage is really a strategy to  
3 reduce the pipeline capacity charges or demand charges  
4 that would otherwise be incurred?

5 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That is one (1) of  
6 the benefits of holding storage, yes.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: And if we flip to tab  
8 5 of the book of documents and look at the April to  
9 October, 2011, summer operations. And there'll be two  
10 (2) pages, if it was put together properly, that face  
11 each other. And I'm looking at the page numbered in  
12 the top right-hand corner, number 24.

13 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, I'm there.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And I want to -- the  
15 volumes and the deliverability numbers are all  
16 contained in the rectangular boxes that -- that have  
17 been put into the chart, sir, or the map?

18 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's right.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: And so leaving aside  
20 the volumes for now, this is the summer operation which  
21 is between -- which is what Ms. Stewart has as -- as  
22 constraints on her operation between April and October  
23 of two -- of -- of any given year?

24 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And in those summer

1 months, what you've shown here is that the gas is  
2 coming from Western Canada by the Saskatchewan/Alberta  
3 border, flowing through to Winnipeg, and then south  
4 along the GLGT line. And at Crystal Falls it makes a  
5 loop underneath Lake Michigan, and it goes up an ANR  
6 storage point.

7 Have I got that right?

8 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, that's correct.

9 MR. BOB PETERS: And what this is  
10 telling the Board in light of Ms. Stewart's comments  
11 after lunch, whatever gas we don't need in Winnipeg she  
12 will send on through into Great Lakes Gas transmission  
13 line to end up in storage?

14 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: And the physical  
16 molecules are actually in the pipelines, following  
17 those blue arrows, sir?

18 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: And on this particular  
20 map, Mr. Kostick, there is -- in the bottom -- excuse  
21 me, the bottom left there's an Oklahoma supply. And  
22 then from the bottom right there's a Louisiana supply  
23 that are also under current arrangements to provide gas  
24 to Centra into storage?

25 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's correct.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And is it correct that  
2   the Oklahoma and the Louisiana supply was utilized if  
3   the volumes from Western Canada were not sufficient to  
4   fill up the 15 1/2 petajoules of storage?

5                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Yes.

6                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And that would most  
7   likely occur after a cold winter?

8                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   That's correct.

9                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And to repeat a point  
10   earlier, when we come to looking at the current  
11   operations, the Oklahoma and Louisiana supply is no  
12   longer part of the portfolio proposed?

13                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   That's right.

14                  MR. BOB PETERS:   If we flip to Tab 6 of  
15   the book of documents and look at the top of page 27 --  
16   sorry, look at page 27, which is marked in the top  
17   right-hand corner, this is the current winter  
18   operations that Ms. Stewart and her department work  
19   with in -- in meeting the load and getting gas to flow  
20   to Winnipeg in the winter months.

21                  Is that correct?

22                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Yes.

23                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And Ms. Stewart was  
24   careful in her answer to me after lunch to be clear of  
25   two (2) concepts. One (1) was the forward haul. And

1 that's shown by the blue arrows on -- on the map of the  
2 winter operations, sir?

3 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: And then the back  
5 haul, which is shown in -- by red arrows, correct?

6 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Correct.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: And the phys -- the --  
8 the forward haul designated by the blue arrows would be  
9 the direction of the physical flow of the molecules.  
10 Is that correct?

11 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

12 MR. BOB PETERS: And the back haul is  
13 the concept where there's an interception of natural  
14 gas molecules upstream of a certain point, and Centra  
15 injects the same volume downstream of a certain point?

16 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: And if I'm getting  
18 this correct, the molecules from storage that Centra  
19 actually physically ships into storage are never burned  
20 in the furnaces in Manitoba?

21 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That is historically  
22 correct, although Ms. Stewart has noted that Great  
23 Lakes and TransCanada do have the potential to  
24 physically move gas north to the Manitoba market. And  
25 our understanding is that that has occurred at least

1 once in the past winter.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: But your proposed  
3 portfolio doesn't include any forward haul of gas from  
4 storage back to Manitoba, does it?

5 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: The arrangements  
6 don't specify forward haul or back haul. They simply  
7 specify a receipt point, where the gas is put onto the  
8 pipeline, and a delivery point, where the gas is taken  
9 off the pipeline.

10 So the contracts don't specify whether  
11 it's physical movement of gas or notional movement of  
12 gas. It's simply receipt and delivery points.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And the discounted  
14 toll is the same whether it's forward or back haul?

15 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's correct.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you. Just while  
17 I'm on that, is it now contemplated, Ms. Stewart, that  
18 in your operations of the need for gas in the winter  
19 months, that you will physically flow the gas back from  
20 ANR storage in Northern Michigan back to Emerson and  
21 north to Winnipeg, or the Manitoba delivery zone?

22 MS. LORI STEWART: As -- as Mr. Kostick  
23 outlined, in our -- in our nomination process which is  
24 linked to the contracts that underpin our capabilities  
25 with this portfolio, on any given day I'm not aware of

1 whether or not the gas is physically moving one (1) way  
2 or the other. That is all being managed by -- by the  
3 pipelines, in terms of whether it's by displacement or  
4 whether those volumes are physically moving backwards  
5 contrary to the historical flow pattern.

6 We just nom the gas from the receipt  
7 point to the delivery point. Whether it's physically  
8 flowing in that direction or notionally flowing in that  
9 direction is something that I don't need to be aware of  
10 on a daily basis.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: And when is it that  
12 you became aware that -- or, when is it that Centra  
13 became aware that gas could physically flow in a  
14 forward haul direction on Great Lakes back to Manitoba?

15

16 How long ago was that?

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 MS. LORI STEWART: In terms of being  
21 positioned to actually flow gas physically all the way  
22 back to the Manitoba delivery area, or the load centre  
23 there, I mentioned that the Emerson meter station on  
24 TransCanada was reconfigured to permit that, I believe,  
25 in 2009 or 2010, subject to check. And I would have to



1 go and talk to our customer service rep on Great Lakes  
2 to confirm at what point in time Great Lakes has become  
3 physically enabled to flow gas bidirectionally. But it  
4 was earlier than that point.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you, Ms.  
6 Stewart. So not every molecule of natural gas burned  
7 in Manitoba necessarily now comes from Western Canada?

8

9 (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 MS. LORI STEWART: The best way for me  
12 to characterize it right now, Mr. Peters, is that there  
13 is the potential for not every molecule burned in -- in  
14 the Manitoba delivery area to be coming from the WCSB.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: And you use the word  
16 "potential" because Centra doesn't, as you said  
17 earlier, have any knowledge, and nor need you know,  
18 which way the -- the pipelines are physically flowing?

19 MS. LORI STEWART: I'm using that to  
20 describe how, on a daily basis, I don't need to be  
21 aware of which way -- which way the molecules are  
22 flowing, although clearly for my portfolio management,  
23 from a portfolio management perspective, I need to be  
24 aware of the changes that are being made on the  
25 pipelines and why that might be happening, because it -

1 - it could impact future contracting decisions.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: And, Ms. Stewart, when  
3 we -- when you mentioned notional back haul, that's the  
4 -- the term to describe Centra releasing gas from its  
5 storage facility in Michigan in exchange for Centra  
6 taking additional quantities of gas off of presumably  
7 the TCPL?

8 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, the process of  
9 displacement is how it's generally characterized.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And when gas is  
11 released or -- downstream, and we're looking still on  
12 the map on page 27, it appears that you mentioned -- as  
13 you mentioned the Great Lakes gas transmission  
14 terminates in a place called St. Clair? Is that a  
15 Canadian point, or an American point?

16

17 (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

19 MS. LORI STEWART: I'm not sure whether  
20 the facilities actually reside in the US or Canada, but  
21 it is right at the -- at the border.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: And just across the  
23 international border, that's a large storage hub for  
24 Ontario local distribution companies of natural gas?

25 MS. LORI STEWART: The Dawn Hub is

1 located close to St. Clair, and yeah.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: So if -- if the  
3 notional back haul arrangement, Ms. Stewart, was being  
4 utilized in exchange for taking volumes off the  
5 TransCanada pipeline at Winnipeg, Centra would release  
6 storage gas through the Great Lakes gas transmission,  
7 through St. Clair, and into -- into the party from whom  
8 Centra borrowed the gas or displaced the gas?

9 MS. LORI STEWART: If we held Dawn  
10 storage, is that your question?

11 MR. BOB PETERS: No, it's just in  
12 exchange for taking gas off the TransCanada pipeline  
13 that would exceed -- I think your number after lunch  
14 here was 110 gigajoules a day.

15 MS. LORI STEWART: One hundred and ten  
16 thousand (110,000) GJs --

17 MR. BOB PETERS: Sorry.

18 MS. LORI STEWART: -- per day, yeah.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: Tara -- oh, 110,000  
20 gigajoules a day, Centra would release from storage to  
21 the counter-party...

22 MS. LORI STEWART: I'll jump in.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: Please.

24 MS. LORI STEWART: It isn't at St.  
25 Clair. We don't hold any transportation capacity all

1 the way to the Great Lakes terminus. So when our gas  
2 is swapped, so to speak, gas delivered to the MDA, that  
3 amount minus fuel taken out of the storage facility,  
4 and that would move to other counter-parties, most  
5 likely at Dew -- Deward or Farwell, on our -- on the  
6 ANR system.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you. Ms.  
8 Stewart, you mentioned, I think before lunch,  
9 nominations. And after lunch you already abbreviated  
10 that to "nom". But that's your -- that's Centra's  
11 process for telling the molecule provider and the  
12 transportation provider as to how much gas Centra  
13 Manitoba needs in its delivery -- in its service  
14 territory?

15 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes. We enter  
16 nominations, or in essence we're ordering up the amount  
17 of gas that we need and communicating that with the  
18 service provider, always relative, however, to our  
19 contractual limits.

20 So, you know, the decatherm or GJ limits  
21 that we have embedded within our contracts, obviously  
22 we don't have the luxury of exceeding those contractual  
23 limits when we nominate the gas.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: You also made mention  
25 in the opening comments from Mr. Bedford that the

1 storage allows Centra to adjust its nominations, either  
2 intra-day, or I think even the late-night window was  
3 open, if that's my understanding of the evidence?

4 MS. LORI STEWART: Sort of like a  
5 drive-in, but not quite. And, yes, we do have access  
6 to a late-night nomination window as a result of our  
7 storage and transportation contract with TransCanada,  
8 and it is then coordinated with both Great Lakes and  
9 ANR.

10 And why that late-night nomination  
11 window is so important to Centra is because at the time  
12 that we make our intra-day to nomination, it's at 5:00  
13 p.m. for -- effective for 9:00 p.m.

14 We're only twelve (12) hours into the  
15 gas day. So we've got some history under our belt, but  
16 we still have twelve (12) hours of load and consumer  
17 behaviour to attempt to respond to, such that by 9:00  
18 a.m., those two (2) things have come into balance as  
19 closely as possible, so supply and demand.

20 So the ability to log on in the middle  
21 of the night -- which is what our schedulers do.  
22 They're on shift for three (3) hours in the middle of  
23 the night. They log on, start monitoring the loads,  
24 and they're able to submit an nomination in advance of  
25 3:00 a.m. that will become effective for 5:00 a.m.

1                   So if indeed the temp -- the weather  
2 forecasters have been inaccurate, one way or the other,  
3 which is not uncommon, then we can adjust or nominate  
4 down our takes from storage in that last window.

5                   And it's very helpful to us, in terms of  
6 mitigating the balancing fees that we pay on the  
7 TransCanada pipeline.

8                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And while it may  
9 mitigate the fees you pay on the TransCanada pipeline,  
10 it also exposes Centra to unutilized demand charges on  
11 its US assets.

12                   Would that be correct?

13

14                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16                   MS. LORI STEWART:   From my perspective,  
17 those assets are there to allow us to swing. That's  
18 why we have them put in place, and they are a very cost  
19 effective swing service, given the type of flexibility  
20 that we have associated with it.

21                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And my point, Ms.  
22 Stewart, is that by exercising storage to help you with  
23 your swing service, Centra is being exposed to greater  
24 unutilized demand charges, because it isn't using,  
25 maybe, the full amount of its reservation.

1 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's right.  
2 We don't have the luxury of flowing at 100 percent load  
3 factor, given the weather variation and consumer --  
4 consumer adjustments to that.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: And would it follow,  
6 Ms. Stewart, that depending on how much lead time  
7 Centra has of its -- of its exact needs, that would be  
8 the time period in which Centra would have to see if  
9 they could sell that unutilized capacity or any  
10 unutilized capacity on a secondary market?

11 MS. LORI STEWART: I guess I think  
12 that's why I'm struggling with your characterization of  
13 it as UDCs, because at that -- at that time there is no  
14 market. The market has closed and, as a result, there  
15 -- there is no opportunity to sell excess assets at  
16 2:00 in the morning. The market will reopen in the  
17 morning, and at that point, the day is closing out.

18 So those cycles are not in sync and, as  
19 a result, I don't -- I think as an operator, I view  
20 that capacity a little differently, because it's there  
21 to allow us that opportunity to range up and down and  
22 to mitigate balancing fees.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: It's a spent cost that  
24 you say is a cost of -- of optimizing the portfolio and  
25 doing business?

1 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: And in exchange for  
3 exposing the Company and exposing Centra to greater  
4 balancing penalties or balancing fees, you're using the  
5 nominations process to avoid that?

6 MS. LORI STEWART: That's right.  
7 That's -- that's precisely what we're doing. We're  
8 optimizing our costs.

9  
10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11  
12 MR. BOB PETERS: Ms. Stewart or Mr.  
13 Kostick, at Tab 7 of the book of documents, if you  
14 could turn there with me, albeit briefly. You'll see  
15 on the top of page 31, this is in response, Mr.  
16 Chairman and Board members, to a pre-asked question  
17 that was posed through Mr. Bedford's office and -- and  
18 others at Centra to update an information request that  
19 had been provided. And we thank them for that.

20 On page 31 should be a chart that  
21 contains red lines, blue lines, and green lines all the  
22 way through to February of 2012. Do you have that, Ms.  
23 Stewart? And if not you, Mr. Kostick or others?

24 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, we have the  
25 reference.



1 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. And the  
2 red line is to show the sum of the blue lines and the  
3 green lines, correct?

4 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: And the red line shows  
6 the storage volumes that have come from either Western  
7 Canadian sources or US sources. Would that be fair?

8 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, confirming that  
9 it is all still storage gas.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And the storage gas  
11 tops out at around 15 1/2 petajoules; that's the -- the  
12 intent of this chart, is to show the maximum there?

13 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And then when the  
15 Board looks at the blue line -- which is not the  
16 highest, not the lowest, but the one (1) in the middle  
17 -- these represent molecules from Western Canada that  
18 have flowed past Winnipeg, through Emerson on GLGT, and  
19 into ANR storage?

20 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

21 MR. BOB PETERS: And the blue line tops  
22 out at about 10 petajoules a year, correct?

23 MS. LORI STEWART: That's correct.

24 That's correct.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And there's a few

1 years, it's either the -- the graph may be inaccurate,  
2 or in some years you put in more storage from Western  
3 Canada than in -- than in other years.

4 But in any event, that's the Western  
5 Canadian component to storage?

6 MS. LORI STEWART: That's correct.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: And that leaves the  
8 green line to be what are the US supplies into storage,  
9 correct?

10 MS. LORI STEWART: That's correct.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: And the US supplies  
12 into storage are also known as "supplemental gas"?

13 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And this chart shows  
15 that on an annual basis Centra draws down certain  
16 levels from storage, correct?

17 MS. LORI STEWART: That's correct.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: And in approximately  
19 seven (7) of the ten (10) years that are shown, the  
20 blue line will intercept the -- the x-axis at the zero  
21 volume level, meaning that all of the western Canadian  
22 gas that was put into storage was withdrawn from  
23 storage?

24 MS. LORI STEWART: That's correct.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And in a cold year the

1 US supply of supplemental gas is also drawn down,  
2 although never down to zero?

3 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct,  
4 for the time frame shown on this graph.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. Does that  
6 answer suggest that there have been other times when it  
7 was drawn down to zero?

8 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Following the  
9 winter of 1995/'96, which was not the coldest winter in  
10 our records but was very cold, our storage inventories,  
11 both western Canadian and US supplies, were drawn down  
12 effectively to zero for all intents and purposes at the  
13 end of that winter.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And in a warm year,  
15 Mr. Sanderson, Centra does not use all of the primary  
16 gas in storage, as can be seen in the February of 2006  
17 and the February 2012 years?

18 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Both of which  
19 were extraordinarily warm winters. That's an usual  
20 event, has been historically, that we wouldn't use all  
21 of our primary gas storage inventory.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: Not as unusual, Mr.  
23 Sanderson, that Centra doesn't use all of its  
24 supplemental gas in years such as, I guess, 2006, '07,  
25 2010, or 2012. In those years, Centra hasn't drawn

1 down all of its supplemental gas from storage?

2 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: As Mr. Kostick  
3 mentioned earlier, it's our responsibility to plan to  
4 be able to serve our load in extraordinarily cold  
5 winter conditions. So it follow that it wouldn't be a  
6 frequent event that we would be historically drawing  
7 down our storage inventory to zero be -- because we  
8 need to use those assets in order to maintain our  
9 reliability in the coldest weather conditions that we  
10 might experience, which are outside our control.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: And but for the -- the  
12 year that I think you mentioned was '95/'96, and  
13 including the ten (10) years that's shown on page 31 at  
14 Tab 7 of the book of documents, Centra never needed 15  
15 1/2 petajoules of storage?

16 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: I wouldn't agree  
17 with that characterization. Maybe with the benefit of  
18 20/20 hindsight it may appear that way. But if we take  
19 ourselves back to the commencement of that arrangement,  
20 we had no idea at that point in time whether we would  
21 have five (5) or six (6) 1995/'96 equivalent winters.  
22 And, in fact, we have colder winters than that in the  
23 historical record that occurred prior to the  
24 commencement of the twenty (20) year agreement that  
25 we're looking at right here. So that would be how I

1 would respond to that characterization.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: And would you respond  
3 to that characterization, Mr. Sanderson, that in the --  
4 the cold year you mentioned, of 1995/'96, Centra could  
5 have used more than 15 1/2 petajoules of storage?

6 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Again, I guess --  
7 I guess the characterization is in the eye of the  
8 beholder. That 15 1/2 petajoules allowed us to serve  
9 our market requirement. And whatever excess we needed  
10 we managed to purchase that cost-effectively and the  
11 load was met when it was required without any  
12 interruption to our firm customers' requirement in a  
13 cost-effective way. So I wouldn't say that we could  
14 have used more. We managed through that winter very  
15 effectively with the storage inventory we had at the  
16 time.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: Well -- well, I don't  
18 have the numbers in front of me, Mr. Sanderson. Did  
19 Centra get gas in 1995/'96 on the market to meet the  
20 load that was cheaper than the gas it was taking out of  
21 storage, or can you answer that from -- from your  
22 information?

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1                   MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   Subject to check,  
2   there -- the prices that would have been paid for  
3   market gas, if you will, during the course of that  
4   winter in order to manage through that -- that very  
5   cold winter weather, some would have been at lower  
6   prices, some would have been at higher prices.

7                   But there were instances of small  
8   amounts of gas purchased that were for -- relative to  
9   our storage inventory, were at higher prices, which  
10   again just points to the value of having inventoried  
11   storage the summer before we get into a condition like  
12   that.

13                  MR. BOB PETERS:   But it also  
14   demonstrates that, in -- in terms of saying that Centra  
15   was able to meet the load.

16                  That's almost a given, is it not, Mr.  
17   Sanderson, that Ms. Stewart is always going to find gas  
18   for Manitobans; it's only a question of price?

19                  MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   I wouldn't  
20   necessarily agree with that, depending on the  
21   configuration of assets that you hold.

22

23                                       (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25                  MS. LORI STEWART:   If you're talking

1 about a one (1) day occurrence, then, yes, we would  
2 clearly take from the pipe what we need on a single day  
3 if there was some type of circumstance, a disruption of  
4 the pipeline system, and -- but we do have to be  
5 cognizant that there are other users downstream of us,  
6 LDCs in the Eastern Canadian market, who are reliant on  
7 -- on receiving their requirements from the pipeline.

8                   So, you know, this -- this -- we have to  
9 be very careful about walking away with the impression  
10 that you can just take what you need, because you would  
11 be causing harm potentially to another party further  
12 down the pipeline. And that's why parties work hard to  
13 ensure that they have the deliverability that is  
14 required in order to meet the needs of their  
15 marketplace.

16                   And I -- I also want to -- to help the  
17 Board with a detail, perhaps. But from an operator's  
18 perspective, once we've drawn down storage levels to 20  
19 percent, so there's only 3.1 PJs in our facility again,  
20 I'm into ratchets, which means that now I can't pull  
21 the same amount of gas out of storage as what I've been  
22 relying on from a planning perspective. And that's  
23 that daily deliverability number.

24                   So once I've drawn down the capacity to  
25 20 percent, then I start to lose deliverability, and

1 that means that then I'm exposed to buying in the day  
2 market and moving gas potentially on an interruptible  
3 transportation path, which makes me feel pretty  
4 uncomfortable in February and March.

5                   So when we are talking about the notion  
6 of storage, you've heard my colleagues suggest that the  
7 objective is not to draw down storage to zero, because  
8 I will have blown through all of my ratchets, and I'm  
9 out scrambling to find gas in the latter part of the  
10 winter, which is not the modus operandi that a utility  
11 should be in.

12                   It -- rather, if we're ending the winter  
13 at storage in at about 20 percent, then that's where we  
14 should have ended up, and then move forward to refill  
15 the storage facility after that, recognizing that all  
16 of this is completely dependent on weather.

17                   MR. BOB PETERS: Ms. Stewart, thank you  
18 for that. And maybe what we should do is just take a  
19 minute or two (2) to -- to flip back to Tab 6 of the  
20 book of documents for the winter operations.

21                   And in terms of your current  
22 deliverability, we see for example that on Great Lakes  
23 you're showing 237,388 gigajoules a day of back haul  
24 capability on Great Lakes? And I'm looking on page 27,  
25 almost right in the middle of the page.



1 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: And what you're  
3 telling the Board is that if your storage volumes get  
4 down below, I think your number was, 20 percent of what  
5 you've contracted, you then have an obligation with ANR  
6 that you can't withdraw your maximum amounts that you  
7 entered into the contract. Your -- your deliverability  
8 suffers.

9 MS. LORI STEWART: That's correct. My  
10 daily deliverability out of storage would be -- would  
11 be impacted, and that number is actually the two-o-  
12 eight, five-ninety-one (208,591). So that's not our  
13 Great Lakes capacity. It's the ANR pipeline --

14 MR. BOB PETERS: Sorry, I --

15 MS. LORI STEWART: -- capacity out of  
16 storage.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: And how many -- it  
18 ratchets down, I believe that was either in the  
19 rebuttal or in one (1) of the IRs. There was an  
20 indication of -- of the ratcheting process. But that  
21 ratcheting process exists currently as well, correct?

22 MS. LORI STEWART: It does.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: And it'll exist in the  
24 future portfolio as well?

25 MS. LORI STEWART: That's correct.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:    When we look back at  
2   the -- the chart on page -- at Tab 7 of the book of  
3   documents, pre-ask PUB/CENTRA-1, page 31, in the top  
4   right-hand corner. In a warm year such as 2006, would  
5   it be correct to say that Centra only needed 4  
6   petajoules of storage? And we can get that by the --  
7   the drop in the red line on that year?

8                   MS. LORI STEWART:   Given the context of  
9   everything that has gone before us, yes, that's  
10  correct.

11                  MR. BOB PETERS:    And we see that the US  
12  storage, the green line, of supplemental gas, wasn't  
13  called upon at all in terms of draw-downs during that  
14  winter?

15                  MS. LORI STEWART:   That's correct.

16                  MR. BOB PETERS:    And to a similar  
17  extent, I suppose, we're going to see that in the year  
18  Mr. Warden has alerted us to, and that is 2012, where  
19  only 6 petajoules of storage, it looks like, was -- was  
20  actually needed if we -- if we assume the red line is  
21  bottoming out where it leaves off?

22                  MS. LORI STEWART:   On a -- on a  
23  hindsight basis, yes, that's correct.

24                  MR. BOB PETERS:    And whether or not the  
25  volumes were 6 petajoules or 4 petajoules from storage,

1 the costs were still based on 15 petajoules. Correct?

2 MS. LORI STEWART: That's correct.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: I don't want to dwell  
4 on this, but I'm going to ask, through Mr. Bedford, if  
5 you could perhaps take an undertaking, Ms. Stewart and  
6 Mr. Sanderson, that in the -- on the graph on page 31  
7 of the book of documents, for the 2005/'06 year, it  
8 looks like storage volumes, as I said, were drawn down  
9 in '04 to 4 1/2 petajoules. Do you see the point I'm  
10 referencing?

11 MS. LORI STEWART: I'm sorry. Are you  
12 referencing the 2005/2006 winter?

13 MR. BOB PETERS: Yes. February '06  
14 would be the -- the point on the graph that would best  
15 demonstrate my point.

16 MS. LORI STEWART: And your request  
17 is...?

18 MR. BOB PETERS: No, my -- my point is  
19 that 4 1/2, or 4 -- 4 1/2 petajoules of storage gas was  
20 used that winter?

21 MS. LORI STEWART: That looks about  
22 right.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. And here's  
24 -- here comes the question, Ms. Stewart. At  
25 CAC/CENTRA-18-E, there's a table that provides the

1 storage withdrawal, and shows it at 7.4 petajoules.

2 And I'm not sure it can be something  
3 that you can identify on the -- while on the  
4 microphone, but I'd like you to maybe reconcile those  
5 two (2) for the Board at some point by way of an  
6 undertaking, unless it's something that you can readily  
7 respond to at this time.

8 MS. LORI STEWART: Can you provide that  
9 reference again?

10 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: I'm sorry, did  
11 you say CAC/CENTRA-18-E?

12 MR. BOB PETERS: I think I said 17-E,  
13 but I'm just now checking to see if that's correct, or  
14 I meant to say 17-E if I didn't. You've got that, Mr.  
15 Sanderson?

16 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Yes, I do.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: And by way of  
18 undertaking, would you be amenable to reconciling  
19 those, if you can?

20 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Yes, I'll look  
21 into that for you, sir.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. The  
23 request for undertaking was for Centra to reconcile the  
24 chart included with pre-ask PUB/CENTRA-1 for the  
25 February 2006 point, with the indication in CAC/CENTRA-

1 17-E which provides the 2005/'06 storage withdrawal  
2 volumes.

3

4 --- UNDERTAKING NO. 2: Centra to reconcile the  
5 chart included with pre-ask  
6 PUB/CENTRA-1 for the  
7 February 2006 point, with  
8 the indication in  
9 CAC/CENTRA-17-E which  
10 provides the 2005/'06  
11 storage withdrawal volumes

12

13 CONTINUED BY MR. BOB PETERS:

14 MR. BOB PETERS: Ms. Stewart, we're on  
15 a roll, so let's keep going. Let's explain to the  
16 Board how Centra ensures there's natural gas to burn in  
17 the furnaces of Manitobans even on that coldest day.  
18 And if we can go to Tab 8 of the bok of documents,  
19 we'll see some supply stacks and some peak day  
20 requirements.

21 And, Mr. Sanderson, just by way of  
22 curiosity, what is the coldest day on record that  
23 Centra has for Manitoba?

24 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: February 1, 1996,  
25 where the average daily temperature was minus 38

1 degrees Celsius.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: And that date is  
3 burned into your mind, probably not because you had to  
4 go to work that day, but also because that's the day  
5 that you use for planning purposes in terms of what a -  
6 - what a maximum day could like for the utility?

7 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Yes, that  
8 constitutes what we refer to as our design peak day, so  
9 the worst-case experience conditions historically.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And on page 36, found  
11 at Tab 8 of the book of documents, the annual peak day  
12 that's shown, is that for the 2010/11 year, to the best  
13 of your knowledge?

14 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Yes, that's  
15 correct, Mr. Peters.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: And the left-hand  
17 column in the chart shows that the peak day firm load  
18 was 481.3 terajoules?

19 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: By way of minor  
20 correction, it shows what our firm designed peak-day  
21 load would be, given our current market and a  
22 reoccurrence of the weather experienced on February  
23 1st, 1996.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. As opposed  
25 to an actual date, it's recreated based on the design

1 load?

2 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: It's a  
3 theoretical calculation, and it's a forecast estimate.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: And what you show at  
5 the top of that peak-day firm load is that the  
6 interruptible customers are shown separately, correct?

7 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Yes, sir, that's  
8 correct.

9 MR. BOB PETERS: And that's because on  
10 the coldest day of the year, if Centra needs to --  
11 doesn't have the gas readily available, the  
12 interruptible customers will be the first customers to  
13 be told to interrupt their service and either shut down  
14 or find alternate means?

15 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: They're one (1)  
16 of the tools in our toolbox to deal with peak-day  
17 management. But under most anticipated conditions,  
18 they would be offered what we refer to as alternate  
19 service in lieu of regular interruptible service in  
20 order to replace that regular interruptible service.  
21 And they basically would pay their way on the day at  
22 current prevailing market prices.

23 We would line up incremental supply at  
24 prevailing market prices. And they have the choice  
25 whether to take that or to go to an alternate fuel

1 source under those curtailment conditions.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: Have you included  
3 interruptible customers under your portfolio design  
4 that you're pu -- putting -- putting before the Board?

5 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: For the design of  
6 the peak-day requirements, interruptible customers are  
7 excluded. But interruptible load is included for the  
8 seasonal load, as interruptible customers could  
9 transition between -- or, could transition to firm at  
10 any time.

11 So that load was considered for -- on a  
12 seasonal basis but not for the peak day.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you. And then  
14 in terms of meeting those requirements, Ms. Stewart,  
15 there's a supply stack on the right-hand side of the  
16 chart shown on this document.

17 And the first -- it looks like the first  
18 building block would be your TransCanada firm service  
19 that you would -- you would get and you told the Board  
20 about, coming from Alberta?

21 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: And this would be gas  
23 that is under contract pursuant to Centra's long-term  
24 primary gas contract?

25 MS. LORI STEWART: That's correct.



1                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And you would  
2 essentially take the maximum amount that you could  
3 under that contract on this day?

4                   MS. LORI STEWART:   I would take the  
5 maximum amount that I can move on my transportation  
6 contract on that day.

7                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And the second supply  
8 source to serve the Manitoba load on this day that  
9 we've notionally depicted here was the US storage and  
10 transportation shown in red.

11                   And that would have been primarily, we  
12 think, by way of back haul, most likely notional back  
13 haul?

14                   MS. LORI STEWART:   Yes, that component  
15 of the supply stack is made up of our withdrawal -- our  
16 withdrawal capability from storage, so our daily  
17 deliverability as well as the ANR southwest piece that  
18 allows us to move gas to the market in the winter.

19                   MR. BOB PETERS:   All right. That's a  
20 new wrinkle, your last comment. And that was an  
21 ability that you could take some gas and move it  
22 directly to market, rather than have to rely on storage  
23 gas.

24                   MS. LORI STEWART:   That's correct.

25                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And then peaking

1 demand service is shown in green. That's correct?

2 MS. LORI STEWART: Peaking delivered  
3 service, yes.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: And the peaking  
5 delivered service was by way of a contractual  
6 arrangement that Centra would have entered into prior  
7 to the winter season?

8 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, prior to the  
9 winter season, or prior to the likelihood of any  
10 incurrence of our peak day. So, for example, it may  
11 not get put in place until November the 15th, but I  
12 don't have any risk until January or February of  
13 incurring that peak day.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And in terms of this  
15 peaking delivered service, Ms. Stewart, this would be  
16 with a counter-party that would provide Centra with a  
17 certain volume of gas when you called on it?

18 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes. In essence, it  
19 represents a call option for gas on a specific day for  
20 a specific amount.

21 MR. BOB PETERS: Do you pay cash for  
22 that, or do you pay in kind with -- with gas at a later  
23 time?

24 MS. LORI STEWART: Typically neither.  
25 Typically we have been able to avoid the incurrence of

1 demand charges associated with our peaking services.

2 And payment is not in kind with gas, again, typically.

3               Rather, the counter-party would -- would  
4 gain their value in the event that I call on that  
5 service. So the premium above market for gas on the  
6 day on which I might be calling on a peaking service,  
7 you know, there could be a thirty (30) cent, or a fifty  
8 (50) cent per GJ premium, if I call on it on that day.

9               MR. BOB PETERS: But you -- you have to  
10 pay the counter-party for the service they provide and  
11 the molecules they provided?

12              MS. LORI STEWART: Only if I call on  
13 it.

14              MR. BOB PETERS: Correct.

15              MS. LORI STEWART: Correct.

16              MR. BOB PETERS: Yeah. And so that's  
17 paid in cash. Do they send an invoice or do you offset  
18 that by way of returning gas to that counter-party?

19              MS. LORI STEWART: No, they would  
20 invoice us for it.

21              MR. BOB PETERS: And the last brick in  
22 the wall is the purple one (1), the delivered service?  
23 That's uncontracted delivered service at the start of  
24 the year, Ms. Stewart?

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MS. LORI STEWART: Yeah, that swath of  
4 delivered service, Mr. Peters, is pre-contracted.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: It's what you'd call  
6 seasonal delivered service?

7 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, it has been  
8 characterized as seasonal delivered service. We've  
9 made a shift in terms of referring to it as primary gas  
10 transported by others, because it represents Western  
11 Canadian supplies as opposed to US supplies. But, yes,  
12 seasonal delivered services is what we have referred to  
13 it as historically.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: But it also  
15 represents, Ms. Stewart, an amount by which Centra  
16 exposes Manitobans to not having gas in the preferred  
17 portfolio?

18 That's something that Centra has to  
19 source outside your portfolio?

20 MS. LORI STEWART: That swath of -- of  
21 delivered service was contracted because it was a more  
22 economic alternative, relative to holding TransCanada  
23 mainline capacity at a time when tolls are at an all-  
24 time high.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And so it's gas that's

1 not coming under your primary gas contract or from your  
2 American sources?

3 MS. LORI STEWART: That's correct.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: And if what we're  
5 looking at, Ms. Stewart, on page 36 of the book of  
6 documents found at tab ni -- 8, is the 2010/11 year  
7 peak-day supply stack. If we turn the page, I think  
8 we're looking there at a different year, probably 2011  
9 and '12.

10 Do you accept that, subject to check?

11 MS. LORI STEWART: Actually, what is  
12 represented on page 37 of -- of the book of documents  
13 is what we know about how -- what the peak-day supply  
14 stack would look like, given the proposed portfolio  
15 being implemented. So it would actually be 2013/14.  
16 Well, it's a combination of -- of two (2) gas years,  
17 actually. It would be a combination of 2012/13 and  
18 2013/14.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: And that's because,  
20 Ms. Stewart, your storage portfolio commences April 1,  
21 when your gas year and your supply contracts start  
22 November 1?

23 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: And what you're  
25 showing the Board, Ms. Stewart, is that Centra expects

1 its supply of the peak-day needs to change, or at least  
2 relative proportions change, in that the Western  
3 Canadian supply here includes what you had previously  
4 called delivered service and compares that with what  
5 would be made up from the US or supplemental gas?

6 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, if I can use  
7 the colour blocks on both pages. On page 36 of the  
8 book of documents, the blue, the purple, and the green  
9 would all represent gas coming from Western Canada,  
10 while the red is gas notionally sourced in the US.

11 Of -- of course, it's coming out of  
12 storage, so -- and storage was filled primarily with  
13 Canadian gas, so putting all of that together.

14 And on page 37 then we have the same red  
15 block of -- of deliverability associated with our US  
16 storage and transportation assets. And we've combined  
17 all of those other blocks into Western Canadian  
18 deliverability.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: One (1) of the points  
20 of distinction, Ms. Stewart, when you juxtapose those  
21 two (2) graphs, is that the TCPL firm service provided  
22 on the -- page 36 of the book of documents, that  
23 represents Centra's primary gas under its long-term  
24 storage contract as limited by its transportation  
25 capability?

1 MS. LORI STEWART: Under its long-term  
2 supply contract. You said "storage contract," but...

3 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. Sorry if I  
4 misspoke, but it's under the long-term primary gas  
5 supply contract as limited by TCPL firm transportation?

6 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: Whereas on page 37  
8 you've combined a number of the ingredients, including  
9 the gas that is to be supplied and delivered through  
10 the services of others other than your long-term  
11 primary gas contract and your -- and Centra's TCPL firm  
12 contract?

13 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, we were looking  
14 to simplify and distinguish between deliverability from  
15 our US assets and deliverability from Western Canada.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Can I ask a  
17 question? In respect to the -- the new table, or at  
18 least the looking-forward table, you're combining three  
19 (3) elements: the -- the delivered service, peaking  
20 delivered service, and TCPL.

21 If you were to ventilate the new  
22 looking-forward table, would you get the same three (3)  
23 factors? In other words, delivered service, peaking  
24 service, and the TCPL regular fixed service?

25 I mean, if you ventilate the blue, are

1 you getting the same components?

2 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

4 MS. LORI STEWART: The same components  
5 would be there. The relative percentages may be  
6 different.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

8

9 CONTINUED BY MR. BOB PETERS:

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And just a point, Ms.  
11 Stewart, on that is that when you look at the forward-  
12 looking one (1) on page 37, even though it's cau --  
13 it's -- there's a red block indicating US  
14 deliverability, some of that gas is -- is Western  
15 Canadian gas?

16 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes. I should have  
17 -- to be precise, the blue block represents Western  
18 Canadian gas delivered to the load or direct to the  
19 load, as opposed to some of what's in the red block is  
20 Western Canadian gas that has flowed by us and into  
21 storage as opposed to direct to load.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: Let's take a quick  
23 review of the current gas market, if we could. And  
24 would Centra agree that some of the same factors that  
25 have reduced the cost of natural gas have also impacted



1 on the transportation costs, Mr. Sanderson?

2 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Could you restate  
3 the question, Mr. Peters? I'm sorry.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: Yes, certainly. You  
5 in your direct evidence to Mr. Bedford told the Board  
6 that presently known unconventional gas has caused some  
7 changes in the -- in the gas market.

8 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Yes, that's  
9 correct.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And as an example, one  
11 (1) of those unconventional sources of gas was shale  
12 gas, which is now being produced in locations that are  
13 closer to their marketplace, and that will impact  
14 transportation requirements.

15 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Yes, to the  
16 extent that eastern markets that previously shipped  
17 large amounts of natural gas in the TransCanada  
18 mainline from western Canada, to the extent that those  
19 US northeastern markets, and now increasingly eastern  
20 Canadian markets, can access gas closer to home and pay  
21 much less -- much lower shipping costs because of its  
22 proximity, lesser volume shipped westward on the  
23 TransCanada mainline, which results in a fixed cost of  
24 service that is being divided by an ever-shrinking  
25 volume of gas being shipped on the mainline, which has

1 been the model that has been adhered to thus far, which  
2 results in continued escalating unit tolls for the  
3 shippers remaining on that system.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: Putting a name to it,  
5 Mr. Sanderson, shale gas is displacing western Canadian  
6 gas, which leaves, for example, TransCanada pipeline  
7 with extra capacity.

8 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: That's an  
9 accurate characterization.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And you see that  
11 happening not necessarily only for TCPL, but for other  
12 shippers as well. There's been an adjustment of  
13 transportation arrangements.

14 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: There's differing  
15 degrees in terms of the pain that's being inflicted on  
16 certain mark -- prior market participants, but this is  
17 wide-ranging. And TCPL is by no means the only example  
18 of a pipeline that is encountering difficulties because  
19 of the wholesale shift in transport -- in production  
20 and natural gas transportation patterns in North  
21 America.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: Mr. Sanderson, you'd  
23 agree that shale gas is also affecting the market price  
24 of natural gas?

25 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: In terms of the

1 law of supply and demand, the more supply that there is  
2 in the marketplace, the usual outcome is that prices  
3 fall. And that has been the case as a result of the  
4 explosive growth in shale ba -- gas production in North  
5 America.

6 MR. BOB PETERS: And at Tab 9 of the  
7 book of documents, we see from one (1) of the previous  
8 Public Utilities Board Orders 54 of '12, a depiction of  
9 the primary gas billed rate by Centra, shown on the red  
10 line that is characterized by being stepped, compared  
11 to the dotted line of the AECO C monthly prices,  
12 correct?

13 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Correct.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And AECO C monthly was  
15 a -- it's a demarcation for the Alberta Energy Company?

16 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: AECO C, as noted  
17 here, the AECO acronym stands for the Alberta Energy  
18 Company. And the AECO C delivery hub is a notional  
19 storage point just inside the Alberta border, just west  
20 of the Saskatchewan-Alberta border. And it's the  
21 predominant price benchmark for western Canadian gas.  
22 And it's the underlying price indi -- index by which  
23 the prices of our western Canadian purchases are set.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: Is AECO C a legacy  
25 name, Mr. Sanderson, now known as Nova Inventory

1 Transit, or Transfer?

2 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Well, to be more  
3 specific the -- without wanting to get into too much of  
4 the -- the details of the names of these points, the  
5 proper industry name for this AECO C hub is the AECO C  
6 and Nova Inventory Transport price index hub. So it's  
7 an inventory transfer point on the Nova system, which  
8 is today referred to as the intra-Alberta system, which  
9 is the pipelines within the province of Alberta.

10 And so basically it's the terminus of a  
11 large gathering and processing system which collects  
12 the gas from all of the production region in Alberta.  
13 And it generally flows into a large storage facility  
14 within Alberta, and that's the natural point because  
15 there's so much takeaway capacity from that point  
16 physically that it's a natural gathering place for  
17 buyers and sellers to congregate and determine the  
18 price for the commodity. And there is a number of  
19 pipeline systems that take that gas away to the  
20 northwestern US east across the TransCanada mainline,  
21 and so forth.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: Mr. Sanderson, the --  
23 the graph on -- at Tab 9 of Board Counsel's book of  
24 documents, Exhibit PUB 7, compares the billed rate that  
25 consumers of Centra are paying to -- to the monthly

1 index price at AECO.

2 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Yes.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: And you said the law  
4 of supply and demand. It looks like there's lots of  
5 supply. And whatever the demand is, the price is  
6 falling?

7 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: That's correct.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: At a ten (10) year low  
9 at least?

10 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: We've -- we've  
11 been at thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) year lows at  
12 certain points in the -- the current year.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And the forecast is  
14 for low prices to continue at least for the foreseeable  
15 future?

16 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: If one were to  
17 want to go out and fix, financially, a five (5) year  
18 average purchase price as of the close of the market on  
19 Friday, one could do that at a price of three dollars  
20 and forty (\$3.40) cents per gigajoule for the coming  
21 five (5) years.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: Again, a relative low  
23 price in terms of the historic prices?

24 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Given that, as we  
25 described, over most of the first decade of the 21st

1 century prices averaged much closer to seven dollars  
2 (\$7) a gigajoule and spiked to prices well in excess of  
3 ten dollars (\$10), as high as thirteen (13), fourteen  
4 dollars (\$14) during that period.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: And Centra looks at  
6 the futures market as an indicator of the likely prices  
7 going forward. Would that be fair?

8 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: It's our position  
9 that it's the best forecast of prices for the commodity  
10 for future delivery periods.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: For the general reason  
12 that the market knows what the market knows and the  
13 market sets the price that it thinks is -- is going to  
14 be extracted at that point in time?

15 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Actual market  
16 transactions act as a great information filter, in our  
17 opinion. Proprietary forecasts, just to express an  
18 opinion, is a very low-risk endeavour. But market  
19 prices in the futures market are set on the basis of  
20 counter-parties each taking risk in the marketplace and  
21 backing up their respective forecasts with the dollars  
22 and cents that they're exchanging for those  
23 transactions. And the equilibrium the prices reach in  
24 terms of executed transactions should represent the  
25 consensus opinion of the marketplace as to the value of

1 natural gas for future delivery periods.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: Mr. Sanderson, in the  
3 direct evidence I heard today -- I actually thought it  
4 was in Mr. Bedford's opening comments so I won't take  
5 it as sworn testimony, but I also thought Ms. Stewart  
6 may have repeated it. But there's a -- there was an  
7 indication that Centra believes that gas purchased in  
8 the summer season will be generally cheaper than gas  
9 purchased in the winter season. Is that accurate?

10 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Like so many  
11 things with the natural gas industry, generally that is  
12 true, but there is a lot of exceptions underlying that  
13 general tendency. On average over the past eleven (11)  
14 years, if you take on-average winter gas, prices for  
15 gas in the winter months have averaged approximately 10  
16 percent higher prices than those in the summer months.

17 But within that eleven (11) year period  
18 pro -- about half the time winter prices end up being  
19 cheaper than summer prices and the converse. So on  
20 average, when you take the whole sum total of what goes  
21 on on average, winter prices are a bit more expensive,  
22 on average 10 percent in the winter months. But each  
23 individual -- each individual year it's anyone's guess  
24 how each individual year will turn out summer relative  
25 to winter.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:   All right. I raise  
2   that because Mr. Stauft, in his pre-filed evidence --  
3   and we'll certainly speak to him about that, indicated  
4   that he was going to notionally credit a calculation of  
5   Centra's portfolio and their ability to access summer  
6   supply as costing perhaps \$4 million less than if they  
7   had to buy that gas in the winter. Do you recall that  
8   at all in his evidence?

9                   MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   I do recall the  
10   reference you're speaking of, but I have no particular  
11   point of view as to the accuracy of his \$4 million  
12   figure.

13                  MR. BOB PETERS:   Now, Mr. Stauft was  
14   quick to agree with Centra. And you're now not quick  
15   to agree with him?

16                  MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   I'm not  
17   disagreeing with him either.

18                  MR. BOB PETERS:   That was an attempt at  
19   humour, Mr. Sanderson. But if you could turn to Tab 23  
20   of the book of documents. And we look to an  
21   Information Request that was pulled from a cost of gas  
22   application in 2010 and '11. You'll see PUB/CENTRA-4.  
23   You've located that?

24                  MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   Yes, I have.

25                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And the -- the second-



1 last page at Tab 23 of that book of documents contains  
2 a chart. It's probably a chart that you helped  
3 prepare, Mr. Sanderson. And that's on page 98 of the  
4 book of documents.

5 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: The staff in my  
6 area prepared that, yes, sir.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. And back  
8 to page 90, which was the first page, under "Question  
9 B," starting on line 12. On behalf of the Board you  
10 were asked to explain whether a summer-winter price  
11 differential exists at the AECO Hub and, if possible,  
12 demonstrate graphically.

13 And the answer that came back was:

14 "No systemic summer-winter price  
15 differential exists at the AECO Hub."

16 And then you provided the -- the graph.  
17 And then you went further and provided the data points  
18 in the page following the graph. Correct?

19 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Correct.

20 MR. BOB PETERS: And now you just told  
21 the Board, in the last eleven (11) years, on average,  
22 winter has been -- winter prices have been 10 percent  
23 higher than the summer prices have been. Correct?

24 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: By approximately  
25 a 10 percent margin, on average.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And just to understand  
2   your graph, there's a zero point in the middle of the  
3   page.   If buying gas in the summer is more expensive  
4   than buying gas in the winter, the data points would be  
5   above that zero line.   Would that be correct?

6                   MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   Can you restate  
7   -- restate the price relationship you just described?  
8   One (1) of the difficulties here is depending on what  
9   annual period we're talking to, so I just want to make  
10   sure that I respond accurately to your question in the  
11   way you described it.

12                  MR. BOB PETERS:   All right.   Let me  
13   step back.   You're showing two (2) lines on the -- on  
14   the graph, one (1) depicting spot prices, monthly spot  
15   prices, and the other is a daily spot price.   Correct?

16                  MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   Yes.

17                  MR. BOB PETERS:   But they relatively  
18   move in lock-step, or relatively parallel to each  
19   other?

20                  MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   Over -- yes.  
21   They do.

22                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And -- and I'm  
23   suggesting that for the Board to interpret this chart,  
24   they would look at the middle of the chart and see the  
25   zero dollars in the middle of the chart where the

1 seasonal price differential is plotted. You've got  
2 that?

3 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Yes, I do.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: And I'm suggesting to  
5 you that in any year, if the actual summer prices are  
6 lower than the winter prices, the data points would be  
7 all above that zero point on the --

8 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: No, actually --  
9 actually the opposite would be true in the case of this  
10 chart, where the prices are, in the winter period, are  
11 below zero, that would indicate that summer prices were  
12 lower on average than the following winter's prices.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: I think we're saying  
14 the same things, but I'm suggesting the bottom part of  
15 the chart shows gas in the summer is less expensive  
16 than gas in the winter.

17 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Okay, yes. I  
18 would agree with you.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: And then, conversely,  
20 if it's above the zero, buying gas in the summer is  
21 more expensive than buying gas in the winter in those  
22 periods?

23 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Yes, sir.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: And so when we look at  
25 that chart, we're looking for some kind of a -- a ra --

1 conclusion to reach from it, the Board wouldn't readily  
2 determine that winter was necessarily cheaper than  
3 summer by, on average, 10 percent unless it actually  
4 did the actual mathematical calculations?

5 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Not wanting to  
6 quibble on details, but the opposite of what you  
7 described. They wouldn't readily be able to determine  
8 that summer gas was cheaper by 10 percent, on average,  
9 compared to winter gas. You stated the converse.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: I apologize.

11 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: They might not  
12 readily be able to discern that from the chart. With  
13 my educated eye, when I look at this, I would be able  
14 to see that relationship that I just described start  
15 forming by virtue of the fact that when the price  
16 differential dips below zero -- meaning summer gas is  
17 cheaper than winter gas, it dips further below zero in  
18 those cases than the extent to which it rises above  
19 zero in the cases where winter gas would have been  
20 cheaper than summer gas.

21 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. That's a  
22 fair answer and I apologize if I misspoke. But the --  
23 the suggestion you made was the gas purchased in the  
24 winter could be 10 percent more expensive than gas  
25 purchased in summer, in a particular year?

1                   MR. BRENT SANDERSON:    The last eleven  
2   (11) years of historical experience indicates that, on  
3   average, winter -- the purchase of winter gas, on  
4   average, would have been approximately 10 percent  
5   higher-priced than purchases in the previous summer.  
6   But within any individual year, what's going to happen  
7   in terms of that relationship, it's anyone's guess.

8                   MR. BOB PETERS:    And was this  
9   relationship built into the computer models that Centra  
10   ran?

11                  MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   Well, while we  
12   didn't build in the historical experience, our futures  
13   price curves that Centra developed, employing futures  
14   market prices in their send-out modelling, inherently  
15   incorporated the market's assumption about a forward  
16   winter-summer price differential.

17                  And, as so many of these things work out  
18   sometimes, it -- it almost seems more than a  
19   coincidence. The average premium of winter prices  
20   versus summer prices in those futures price curves, as  
21   determined by participants transacting in the market  
22   place, was the same 10 percent that we've experienced  
23   and seen in the market over the past eleven (11) years  
24   in actual fact.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MR. BOB PETERS: I'll come back to  
4 that, Mr. Sanderson, in a few minutes. Perhaps in five  
5 (5) minutes or less I can get you to turn to Tab 10 of  
6 the book of documents and when Centra is designing its  
7 storage and transportation portfolio, Centra has to be  
8 aware that the price of natural gas is different in  
9 different supply hubs across North America. Would that  
10 be correct?

11 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Yes, that's  
12 correct.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And that's information  
14 that the computer model needs to know if it's going to  
15 run iterations of what an optimal portfolio would be?

16 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: To the extent  
17 that the portfolio developer has the opportunity to  
18 purchase gas from those different basins, yes, that  
19 would be part of the parameters embedded in the model.

20 MR. BOB PETERS: And what you're saying  
21 to the Board, Mr. Sanderson, is that it may be  
22 advantageous for Centra to be able to purchase the gas  
23 molecules from places other than AECO on occasion?

24 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: That very may --  
25 they -- may very well be the case, Mr. Peters.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:    But not only do you --  
2   does Centra have to consider the cost of the molecules,  
3   it then has to also take into account the  
4   transportation needed to get it to market?

5                   MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   It's always the  
6   case that there would be ancillary costs involved in  
7   trying to exploit an attractive market price  
8   differential between basins.

9                   MR. BOB PETERS:    And so we see on Tab  
10  10 of the book of documents, on page number 41, we see  
11  that the basis differential as between a number of  
12  supply hubs is plotted always in comparison to the AECO  
13  hub.  Is that correct?

14                  MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   Yes, that's  
15  correct.

16                  MR. BOB PETERS:    And in this particular  
17  instance, the Henry Hub is located in, is it Louisiana?

18                  MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   Yes, it's  
19  located, again, at the intersection of a number of  
20  inter and intra-state pipeline systems in Louisiana.  
21  And as the AECO C Nova Inventory Transfer point  
22  functions as the benchmark hub for the price of  
23  Canadian natural gas, the Henry Hub is the US  
24  equivalent for the benchmark price -- or the benchmark  
25  market value of gas in the United States.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And not only Henry  
2 Hub, but there are some other hubs that you've listed  
3 here that -- that are purchase options for the  
4 Corporation?

5                   MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   Yes, just being  
6 clear that Henry Hub, for example, wouldn't be a  
7 purchase option for Centra itself. So there is some  
8 that are options. There's other benchmark hubs in here  
9 that wouldn't necessarily be physical supply hub  
10 options for us. The cost of taking advantage of those  
11 hubs would far outweigh any possible benefit in terms  
12 of a differential.

13                  MR. BOB PETERS:   All right. But gas  
14 may be priced based on those hubs is what you're  
15 telling the Board, and that may be gas your purchase?

16                  MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   Yes.

17                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And when we talk about  
18 the basis differential would it be correct, or would it  
19 be too simplistic, to suggest that the basis  
20 differential is really the relative costs of gas as  
21 between those -- those two (2) hubs. So it would take  
22 into account such things as transportation?

23                  MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   Yes, "basis  
24 differential," you'll hear that terminology used in  
25 different context. There can be different -- basis



1 differentials can take on different forms. There can  
2 be basis differentials through time, basis  
3 differentials between different commodities. In the  
4 case of this chart, these are what we'd refer to as  
5 locational basis differentials. And they're simply  
6 nothing more than the market price differential, one  
7 (1) point relative to another as specified in the  
8 chart.

9 MR. BOB PETERS: Would the Board be  
10 correct in interpreting that chart as saying that AECO-  
11 indexed gas has generally been the cheapest index of  
12 gas over those last fifteen (15), seventeen (17) years?

13 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Generally  
14 speaking, yes.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: And that's but for  
16 Louisiana, mid-continent dipping down between '07 and  
17 '09 -- I'm sorry, Oklahoma.

18 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Correct.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: Maybe -- maybe your  
20 memory will allow the Board the anecdotal comment, Mr.  
21 Sanderson, as to what happened in Oklahoma or mid-  
22 continent that its gas was significantly cheaper than  
23 others at that point in time.

24 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Subject to check,  
25 without knowing all of the explicit details of it, it

1 was a physical -- a physical phenomena of gas having  
2 backed up in that basin. I remember -- to the best of  
3 my recollection, it had to do with operational  
4 phenomena and the -- such that there was an excess  
5 supply accumulated for a short period of time at that  
6 hub, which would have, again, the -- the tendency to  
7 drive down price when that supply exceeds the regional  
8 demand. But as you can see, it was very short-lived  
9 and the phenomena that gave rise to it was resolved.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: Mr. Sanderson,  
11 Centra's long-term primary gas contract is indexed to  
12 AECO?

13 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Yes.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And the one (1) -- you  
15 also told the Board, or was told to the Board in direct  
16 evidence, that Centra is currently considering a new  
17 long-term primary gas contract that would be effective  
18 on November 1st of 2012?

19 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

20 MR. BOB PETERS: And, Ms. Stewart, are  
21 you able to indicate to the Board whether it's a  
22 requirement of that contract to also be priced on the  
23 in -- the AECO index?

24 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, I can confirm  
25 that.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And is that because,  
2 Ms. Stewart, that Centra's empirical evidence is that  
3 AECO-priced gas is cheaper than any other place?

4                   MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   Not explicitly,  
5 Mr. Peters. It's more a function of the liquidity at  
6 the AECO -- AECO C Nova Inventan - Inventory Transfer  
7 point delivery hub. One (1) of the benefits of a  
8 liquid trading hub is the liquidity, the ease of buying  
9 and selling, and the transparency and price discovery  
10 that accrue from that. The greater liquidity and the  
11 more activity that takes place at a particular point,  
12 the more confident that a buyer can be that they're  
13 paying what would -- one would characterize as the fair  
14 market price for the commodity.

15                  MR. BOB PETERS:   Couldn't that same  
16 answer apply to the Henry Hub, Mr. Sanderson?

17                  MR. BRENT SANDERSON:   If the attendant  
18 transportation costs and the geographic pri --  
19 positioning of the buyer made that a logical physical  
20 point at which to buy, yes. If you had your choice  
21 among hubs in the US, Henry Hub would be the one (1)  
22 you would pick, all other things being equal.

23                  MR. BOB PETERS:   All right. And if  
24 Centra were to buy gas elsewhere, then it would need to  
25 factor in the transportation costs and this basis

1 differential that you've now told the Board about?

2 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

3

4 MR. BOB PETERS: And that was an input  
5 into the computer mo -- computer modelling that was  
6 done?

7 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes. It's a  
8 function of the price curves at the various points that  
9 were embedded in send out (phonetic).

10 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. At that  
11 point, Mr. Chairman, if the Board was interested in an  
12 afternoon recess this might be an appropriate time.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Let's take ten (10)  
14 minutes, please.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you.

16

17 --- Upon recessing at 3:08 p.m.

18 --- Upon resuming at 3.22 p.m.

19

20 MR. BOB PETERS: Yes. Thank you. If I  
21 can continue. And Mr. Warden is not the target of my  
22 next questions, although he's always welcome to -- to  
23 provide his information.

24

25 CONTINUED BY MR. BOB PETERS:

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:    I'd like to turn with  
2   the witness panel to the TCPL tolling situation.  And  
3   this was mentioned by the Board in Order 65 of '11 that  
4   was included in Tab 1 of the book of documents.

5                   But in consideration of the tolling, Ms.  
6   Stewart, you are the witness most closely aligned to  
7   the TransCanada pipeline contractual relations as well  
8   as the National Energy Board hearing that it's  
9   presently having?

10                  MS. LORI STEWART:   Yes, that's correct.

11                  MR. BOB PETERS:    And what we've talked  
12   about earlier is that, in essence, storage is a proxy  
13   for pipeline capacity, albeit supposedly at a cheaper  
14   cost?  Correct?

15                  MS. LORI STEWART:   Yes, that's correct.  
16   And as well we've talked about the benefits of  
17   diversity of transportation paths as well.

18                  MR. BOB PETERS:    And one (1) of the  
19   options for Centra would be, to meet the Manitoba load,  
20   is to buy its -- all of its capacity on TransCanada  
21   pipeline, sufficient to meet that 100 percent load.  
22   Correct?

23                  MS. LORI STEWART:   We could do that,  
24   but I think you appreciate that that would be a very  
25   expensive option.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And Mr. Stauft, in his  
2 evidence, quantified that as if Centra was to contract  
3 with TransCanada pipeline for 100 percent of its needs  
4 on a firm basis, the price tag is in the range of \$50  
5 million, five-zero (50)?

6                   MS. LORI STEWART:   I -- I didn't myself  
7 do that calculation, however, it sounds in the  
8 ballpark, Mr. Peters.

9                   MR. BOB PETERS:   So it was probably  
10 prohibitively too high to even put it on the list as an  
11 option. Would that be fair? Like, Centra's knowledge  
12 just made that not even a worthwhile calculation to  
13 work through?

14                  MS. LORI STEWART:   Yes, that's correct.

15                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And would it be  
16 correct that, while Mr. Sanderson has told the Board  
17 that pre-1993, when apparently only Mr. Barnlund knew  
18 about it, the -- the company did get all of its gas  
19 shipped on TransCanada pipeline?

20                  MS. LORI STEWART:   That's my  
21 understanding.

22                  MR. BOB PETERS:   One (1) of the points  
23 that Mr. Stauft made, and was addressed by Centra in  
24 their rebuttal, was that for TCPL to be a viable  
25 option, there would need to be some assumptions made

1 with the service offerings by TransCanada pipeline as  
2 wall -- as well as the tolling levels that TransCanada  
3 pipeline would charge going forward. Do you recall  
4 that?

5 MS. LORI STEWART: I recall Mr.  
6 Stauff's evidence, yes.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: And in many regards,  
8 Centra wasn't prepared to agree with the assumptions  
9 that Mr. Stauff was making to make TransCanada pipeline  
10 a competitive offering in -- in the future?

11 MS. LORI STEWART: My recollection of  
12 Mr. Stauff's evidence is that he was building a premise  
13 based upon a number of assumptions that -- that are not  
14 in place today. And so whether or not they come to be  
15 in the future, of course, neither Mr. Stauff or I are -  
16 - are aware of that. But that's what he was -- I think  
17 he was trying to paint a picture of what-ifs, built  
18 upon another what-if.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: And what we do know  
20 from a factual basis, Ms. Stewart, is that Centra has  
21 been reducing its firm service capacity on TransCanada  
22 over the past several years?

23 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: And one (1) of the  
25 reasons Centra has been reducing its TCPL capacity is

1 that the tolls have been increasing, and Centra has  
2 determined there are economic alternatives to TCPL  
3 providing all of the transportation?

4 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.  
5 To date, when we've been evaluating our contracting on  
6 the TransCanada mainline and comparing them to other  
7 alternatives available in the marketplace, there has  
8 been sufficient value in those other alternatives to --  
9 to result in us making the decision to reduce our  
10 contract demand on TransCanada.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: And the general issue  
12 -- and not to -- not to get in it too deeply, Ms.  
13 Stewart, is that because the volumes shipped on  
14 TransCanada have been decreasing, and the fixed costs  
15 have not been decreasing in lock-step, there's been  
16 increases in the unit costs including the unit tolls  
17 that go along with the services offered by TCPL.

18 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: And to illustrate the  
20 tolls issue, at least in approximate terms, if we could  
21 turn to the book of documents Tab 12, Ms. Stewart, this  
22 is a document, if I recall correctly, it was from a  
23 presentation you made?

24 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct,  
25 at the first technical conference back in July of 2011.



1                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And while I may not  
2   have been there, the -- the illustrative Empress to  
3   eastern zone dollars per gigajoule column was  
4   representative of what TransCanada was indicating back  
5   in 2007 when it looked into its -- into its future.

6                   MS. LORI STEWART:   Yes, that's correct.

7                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And so that first  
8   column starts off at a dollar two (\$1.02), goes down to  
9   a dollar six (\$1.06).   That was illustrative of what  
10   they thought might be the toll going forward from  
11   Empress to the eastern zone.

12                  MS. LORI STEWART:   Yes, that's correct.

13                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And when we talk the  
14   eastern zone -- and although I did skip over the map in  
15   the book of documents found at Tab 11, the eastern  
16   zone, all we need to know about that is it's east of  
17   Manitoba and it goes all the way out to Quebec.

18                  MS. LORI STEWART:   That's correct.

19                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And when we look at  
20   the eastern zone relative to the Manitoba delivery  
21   zone, or Manitoba delivery area, the Manitoba tolls are  
22   approximately one-third (1/3) of the eastern zone toll.  
23   Would that be fair?

24                  MS. LORI STEWART:   Yes, it is.

25                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And the middle -- or

1 the next column is called "Actual Empress to Eastern  
2 Zone Prices." And what this shows is what has, in  
3 fact, transpired since 2007 on the TCPL tolling  
4 structure for their mainline service?

5 MS. LORI STEWART: That's correct.

6 MR. BOB PETERS: And so if we -- if we  
7 jump down to test year of 2010, and test years 2011, we  
8 see prices that were not previously envisioned by  
9 TransCanada in their early years.

10 MS. LORI STEWART: That's correct.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: And just to bring to  
12 the Board's attention the test year 2012, that would be  
13 the year in which we are currently in for TransCanada?  
14 Would that be correct?

15 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.  
16 TransCanada tolls are set on a calendar year basis.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: And the toll that is  
18 presently being charged through to Centra by TCPL is  
19 the 2011 toll, although it's being charged on an  
20 interim basis going forward?

21 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.  
22 The 2012 interim toll is the two dollars and twenty-  
23 four cent (\$2.24) to the eastern zone which is the  
24 benchmark toll. And the toll that we pay to move the  
25 gas to Manitoba is sixty-eight-decimal-zero-two cents

1 (68.02).

2 MR. BOB PETERS: And is there a test  
3 year 2013 number that you can provide us with, Ms.  
4 Stewart, based on the -- based on the initial filing of  
5 TCPL?

6 MS. LORI STEWART: The restructuring  
7 proposal presented by TransCanada has embedded, or  
8 there is embedded in it, tolls associated with complete  
9 implementation of the restructuring proposal relative  
10 to what TransCanada refers to as the "status quo," so  
11 if everything was going to remain as is without its  
12 proposed changes.

13 And as I spoke to in my direct evidence  
14 this morning, the basis of all of those numbers has  
15 significantly changed as a result of TransCanada's  
16 advice that it would be re -- restating its throughput  
17 and related assumptions. There are more detail --  
18 there's more detailed information becoming available on  
19 June the 29th, associated with that restatement. And I  
20 -- I'm not sure whether or not you would -- I -- I  
21 certainly can go and get you the old number but we're  
22 probably all more interested in the restated numbers.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: Well, I won't speak on  
24 behalf of the Board, Ms. Stewart. But would you be  
25 amenable to undertaking, after June 29th and before

1 closing argument, coming back to this Board with an  
2 indication of what the restructured proposal is from  
3 TransCanada for tolls in the 2013 calender year?

4 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes. Just to be  
5 clear, it will be tolls for the 2013 calender year,  
6 assuming the restructuring proposal is implemented but  
7 taking into account the updated throughput study and  
8 related assumptions.

9 MR. BOB PETERS: That would be  
10 acceptable. And if you could also provide the status  
11 quo number that the TCPL is using as perhaps the other  
12 end of the calculation.

13 MS. LORI STEWART: I'm trying to  
14 recall, Mr. Peters, because clearly TransCanada will  
15 not be updating all of its schedules. There is almost  
16 -- there are almost ten thousand (10,000) pages of  
17 evidence already on the record with this proceeding.

18 So my only caution is that to the extent  
19 that that information is provided by TransCanada, then  
20 certainly I will ensure that this Board receives it  
21 prior to closing submissions for this proceeding. I  
22 just cannot recall at this moment whether or not they  
23 will be updating for status quo as well.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. We'll --  
25 maybe you can indicate that in your undertaking

1 response then, Ms. Stewart.

2 MS. LORI STEWART: I will.

3

4 --- UNDERTAKING NO. 3: Centra to indicate what the  
5 restructured proposal is  
6 from TransCanada for tolls  
7 in the 2013 calender year,  
8 assuming the restructuring  
9 proposal is implemented but  
10 taking into account the  
11 updated throughput study  
12 and related assumptions,  
13 and provide the status quo  
14 number that the TCPL is  
15 using as the other end of  
16 the calculation

17

18 CONTINUED BY MR. BOB PETERS:

19 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you. Ms.  
20 Stewart, while we're still on Tab 12 of the book of  
21 documents, the calender year 2012 toll for Manitoba  
22 you've quantified at approximately sixty-nine (69) or  
23 sixty-eight (68) cents?

24 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And, in fact, that's -

1 - that's called an interim toll, would that be correct,  
2 by TCPL?

3 MS. LORI STEWART: That's correct.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: Is it also correct  
5 that TCP -- I'm sorry, that the National Energy Board  
6 does not establish rate riders for its -- for its  
7 tolling? Ms. Stewart, I'll rephrase that.

8 I was suggesting to you that the  
9 National Energy Board does not establish a rate rider  
10 relative to this interim toll but would take any  
11 revenue deficiency or sufficiency into consideration in  
12 setting the next year's toll?

13 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And so while Centra is  
15 currently paying sixty-nine (69) cents a gigajoule to  
16 get gas from Empress on the TransCanada mainline under  
17 firm transportation, that's by way of an interim toll.

18 And if it's under-recovering the costs  
19 that are approved by the National Energy Board, Centra  
20 would expect that toll to increase for 2013?

21 MS. LORI STEWART: Well, the toll  
22 proposal is to fix tolls for the 2012 and 2013 time  
23 frames. So the proposal -- and this is the awkwardness  
24 of it, is of course we're well into 2012. But the  
25 proposal at the time that it was filed by TransCanada

1 in September of 2011 was to fix the tolls for the  
2 2012/2013 time frame such that there was toll certainty  
3 over that two (2) year horizon.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. So what  
5 you're telling the Board is that the 2012 toll looks to  
6 be sixty-eight (68), sixty-nine (69) cents a gigajoule,  
7 and any revenue deficiency or sufficiency would be  
8 reflected in the 2013 rates that would be charged by  
9 TCPL?

10 MS. LORI STEWART: My understanding is  
11 that any revenue deficiency associated with --  
12 associated with the proposal will move into something  
13 referred to as a short-term adjustment account which  
14 will de -- be depreciated over a five (5) year window.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. Thank you.  
16 Thank you for that. The indication in your direct  
17 evidence this morning, Ms. Stewart, was that if the  
18 toll for calendar 2012 has been set as an interim toll  
19 based on the 2011 toll, that number is likely to be 30  
20 percent lower than what TCPL will be proposing under  
21 its restructured application?

22 MS. LORI STEWART: I -- I suggested the  
23 opposite in my direct evidence, that as a result of  
24 TransCanada's advice that it would be restating its  
25 throughput and related assumptions, that the toll that

1 it has communicated to the National Energy Board and  
2 stakeholders as a result of the restructuring proposal  
3 would be moving up by at least 30 percent.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: I apologize, Ms.  
5 Stewart. I intended to perhaps put that same  
6 proposition to you, is that the tolls that you're now  
7 telling the Board are set for 2012 are too low by  
8 approximately 30 percent, according to the latest  
9 information from TCPL.

10 MS. LORI STEWART: You're trying to  
11 reference the 30 percent to the current tolls, but  
12 that's not what they're advising will be changing.  
13 They're advising that the tolls that could be achieved  
14 if the restructuring proposal is implemented, and that  
15 were conveyed in its application, now are not  
16 achievable and will be increasing as a result by 30  
17 percent. So those two (2) are not the same thing.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. Thank you  
19 for that -- for that correction. And so mindful of  
20 these TCPL tolling issues and if we flip ahead in the  
21 book to Tab 22, we see that Ms. Foulkes has been in  
22 communication with TCPL and that, going forward,  
23 looking at the bottom row in the chart or the table,  
24 Centra plans on reducing its current contract demand of  
25 110 gigajoules a day down to 90,000 gigajoules a day,



1 correct?

2 MS. LORI STEWART: It is correct that  
3 we have, at this point in time in our planning horizon  
4 in advance of November the 1st, 2012, reduced our  
5 contract demand to the Manitoba delivery area by 20,000  
6 GJs per day.

7 However, our evidence at our response to  
8 PUB/CENTRA-5 is that we will and are continuing to  
9 evaluate our contract demand for TransCanada firm  
10 service to the MDA and the SSDA for the 2012/13 gas  
11 year.

12 So I -- I would like to put more weight  
13 on our response into the Information Request, which is  
14 basically we're in the midst of a planning horizon  
15 here. If indeed we require or it is economic for us to  
16 go and get more firm service, we're all aware that  
17 there is a lot of available capacity on the TransCanada  
18 mainline. And we have the opportunity to go and -- and  
19 contract for that demand in advance of November the  
20 1st.

21 MR. BOB PETERS: That would be by way  
22 of a separate contract?

23 MS. LORI STEWART: It would be by way  
24 of a separate contract, but then they blend them for  
25 nomination purposes such that our schedulers only have

1 to nominate one (1) -- one (1) number.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: But for renewal  
3 purposes, they would be treated as two (2) contracts?

4 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes, that's correct.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: And you have up until  
6 the night before to subscribe for additional volumes if  
7 that's what Centra determines?

8 MS. LORI STEWART: I'm not sure I have  
9 quite up to the night before, but I certainly have a  
10 number of months ahead of us in order to make that  
11 determination and -- and contractually put it into  
12 place.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: So you expect, Ms.  
14 Stewart, that Centra will make that final determination  
15 well in advance of October 31 of 2012?

16 MS. LORI STEWART: Yes.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 MR. BOB PETERS: In terms of the  
21 consideration of the storage options as opposed to the  
22 TCPL-only option, the evidence that the Board heard  
23 today was that last summer, Centra advised the Board  
24 and stakeholders of various options it had been  
25 exploring. Is that correct?

1 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's correct.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: And, Mr. Kostick, some  
3 of those storage options included storage in Western  
4 Canada. There was an eastern option. There was a  
5 Manitoba storage option talked about. There was an  
6 upper midwest storage option, and even a virtual  
7 storage option.

8 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Correct.

9 MR. BOB PETERS: And when -- and all --  
10 all of those options were presented to the Board and  
11 stakeholders at the technical conference a year ago?

12 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And following that  
14 technical conference, Centra eliminated some of those  
15 options from further consideration?

16 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's correct.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: And would it be fair  
18 to say, Mr. Kostick and Mr. Barnlund, that the  
19 elimination of those options wasn't the subject of a  
20 consultation process with the stakeholders?

21 That was something that Centra  
22 determined based on the recognizance it had done?

23 MR. GREG BARNLUND: That's correct.

24 MR. BOB PETERS: And so when Centra  
25 eliminated some of the options -- for example the upper

1 midwest and North Dakota options I understand were  
2 eliminated partly because some of those pipeline  
3 capacities were already sold out?

4 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: In some cases they  
5 were sold out, or in other cases the transportation  
6 path for stor -- withdrawals would be very expensive  
7 and very cumbersome, and it would clearly be uneconomic  
8 and potentially unreliable in comparison to the options  
9 that we had not, at that point, eliminated.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Kostick. Could I just ask you to -- if you could move  
12 that mic a little closer, just to assist me?

13 The last part of your answer was not  
14 only were they not available, but there was another  
15 reason?

16 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Either pipeline  
17 capacity was sold out; or the pipeline capacity would  
18 be very expensive; or in the case of the North Dakota  
19 option, the deliverability from that storage facility  
20 was not sufficient to meet our swing requirements.

21 So it was a combination of being  
22 potentially unreliable as well as being a high cost  
23 with respect to the cost of transportation from those  
24 storage facilities to Manitoba.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you, sir. The

1 Western Canadian storage options included storage  
2 upstream of Manitoba, meaning between Manitoba and the  
3 wellhead, or Empress?

4 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: In Alberta, the  
5 storage is generally located around AECO, and there are  
6 also upstream options in Saskatchewan.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: And in both of those  
8 instances, if Centra did buy storage, they would still  
9 need to have transportation to get it to Winnipeg?

10 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's correct.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: And that brings up the  
12 TransCanada pipeline tolling situation again?

13 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: And that was one (1)  
15 of the reasons that upstream, or Western Canadian,  
16 storage was removed from the short list.

17 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, due to  
18 prohibitively costly transportation costs for storage  
19 withdrawals.

20 MR. BOB PETERS: I suppose in an ideal  
21 world, Mr. Kostick, you'd have storage right here in  
22 Manitoba. That would be the best of all worlds you  
23 could envision.

24 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: If it were economic,  
25 then absolutely.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And not only is it not  
2   economic, but we don't have it.

3                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   We don't have it,  
4   and depending on market circumstances, I don't think we  
5   can quite prejudge at this point that it wouldn't be  
6   economic in the future.

7                   MR. BOB PETERS:   We don't have it now,  
8   sir, and you're not aware of anybody developing storage  
9   fields.   Would that be fair?

10                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   That's correct.

11                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And Centra can't make  
12   a business case to develop storage fields on its own?

13                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Centra can  
14   ultimately make a business case for it, which would  
15   either support moving forward with it or not, and that  
16   would likely include the assistance of parties or  
17   consultants that have previously been involved in  
18   storage development.

19                  MR. BOB PETERS:   Thank you for that.   I  
20   -- I meant by my question, sir, that presently there's  
21   no business case that can be made to develop storage in  
22   Manitoba, whether Centra makes the business case or  
23   some third party.   It's just not available because it  
24   doesn't appear to be economic.

25                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Given the economic

1 terms agreed to for ANR storage, Manitoba storage would  
2 appear to be a higher-cost option at this time.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: When physically they -  
4 - you -- you think of Manitoba storage, Mr. Kostick,  
5 are you thinking of underground storage in the western  
6 part of the province, or in oil and gas fields, or --  
7 or what does it physically look like?

8 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: It would most likely  
9 be located in the southwest corner of the province. So  
10 it would be in the vicinity of existing oil -- oil  
11 production.

12 MR. BOB PETERS: One (1) of the  
13 proposals I recall reading that Centra had on its list  
14 but crossed off was virtual storage. Is that correct?

15 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, that's correct.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: And virtual storage is  
17 in fact no storage, but it's relying on a third party  
18 to deliver the volumes if and when Centra needs them?

19 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

20 MR. BOB PETERS: And would this be  
21 somewhat equivalent to engaging a company that's in the  
22 market to make sure Centra has gas on a certain day  
23 regardless of how that company aligns the storage or  
24 where it gets it from?

25 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: It would basically

1 involve engaging with a gas marketer to essentially  
2 provide a storage service at a point where there may  
3 not be actual physical storage and for the service to  
4 essentially mimic a storage service.

5 So it would be, indeed, a service where  
6 another party would agree to provide volumes of gas  
7 similar to deliveries from storage.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: Is it your  
9 understanding, Mr. Kostick, that Mr. Staft, in his  
10 evidence, has been generally supportive in an agreement  
11 with Centra to eliminate those storage options that  
12 we've just talked about?

13 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's what I  
14 understand from his evidence, yes.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. We'll hear  
16 from him. But then you were still left to consider  
17 some eastern options, correct?

18 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

19 MR. BOB PETERS: And eastern options  
20 mean not only Eastern Canada; it means Eastern United  
21 States?

22 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: And would I also be  
24 correct that Centra is not inclined to disclose how  
25 many of these eastern options are situated in Canada



1 and how many are situated in the States?

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: As indicated in one  
6 (1) of IR responses, one (1) of the parties did present  
7 the option of being able to provide the storage service  
8 in either Canadian units or US units. And I think  
9 we'll stick with that amount of information, with all  
10 due respect.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: I -- I was just  
12 asking, Mr. Kostick. And from what you've told the  
13 Board here and also at your technical conference, it's  
14 possible one can conclude that that -- that may have  
15 been a Canadian party, as -- as far as you want to go?

16 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: It -- it could be a  
17 Canadian party.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. What you  
19 did identify was that there were eastern options that  
20 had the most promise, and you found five (5) of them.  
21 Is that right?

22 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's correct.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: And you sent out  
24 requests for proposal to all five (5)?

25 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: We did not utilize a

1 request for a proposal process.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: You picked up the  
3 phone?

4 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Essentially, yes.  
5 The storage operators within various regions are fairly  
6 well known. And Centra's confident that it  
7 communicated with all potential storage operators that  
8 could provide the required service for Centra in that  
9 region.

10 MR. BOB PETERS: And from those, I'll  
11 call them, introductory inquiries, your list of five  
12 (5) was narrowed to a list of four (4)?

13 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Ultimately, yes.

14 MR. BOB PETERS: Was it li -- limited  
15 to four (4) because one (1) of the parties had no  
16 interest, or was it that Centra had no interest in that  
17 party?

18 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: It was more a case  
19 of that storage operator indicating that due to a lack  
20 of sufficient capacity availability and also challenges  
21 in connecting that storage capacity to regional  
22 pipelines that could move the gas back to Manitoba, it  
23 was acknowledged through our discussion with that party  
24 that it wasn't really a viable option at this time.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And when you entered

1 into those discussions -- and I accept that it's not a  
2 request for a proposal, but those direct discussions  
3 with the four (4) or five (5) eastern storage operators  
4 -- Centra would have requested some specific  
5 confidential information from each of those storage  
6 providers?

7 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, you could  
8 characterize a lot of the information communicated to  
9 us by those storage operators as being commercially  
10 sensitive. A number of the storage operators offer  
11 market-based rates which are not -- which are not  
12 provided under a FERC tariff. So any rates they would  
13 have provided to Centra would have been commercially  
14 sensitive that they would not want shared in a public  
15 forum.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: Just so the Board is  
17 clear, Mr. Kostick and Ms. Stewart, under -- under  
18 National Energy Board regulation of TransCanada  
19 pipeline, the toll is the toll is the toll, as I  
20 understand it, whereas, in the States, FERC sets a  
21 maximum and maybe even a minimum toll and there's some  
22 room for movement by the storage provider in between  
23 those numbers.

24 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's correct.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And when Centra

1 determined that there were four (4) parties that  
2 appeared most viable of the five (5) eastern options  
3 that it had explored, that information wasn't shared  
4 with any of the stakeholders, in terms of who the  
5 parties were or how Centra had got it down to the four  
6 (4) of them?

7 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's correct.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: And once Centra got it  
9 down to four (4) of them, they started looking at the  
10 dollars and cents of it more closely, and Centra was  
11 able to eliminate what we'll call option C and option  
12 D.

13 Would that be fair?

14 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, that's fair.

15 MR. BOB PETERS: Both of those were  
16 more expensive than option B?

17 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: And what, I think, the  
19 Board has been told today is that option B was just  
20 about the same price as option A?

21 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: On a model basis,  
22 yes. They were very close.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: And option A, the  
24 company has disclosed, that's the preferred option, ANR  
25 and Great Lakes Gas distribution?

1 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: The transmission.

3 And, in addition to eliminating those options C and  
4 'D', Centra leased software called SENDOUT to run model  
5 runs of that?

6 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's correct.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: And does Centra  
8 currently lease that? Is that an annual lease, or is  
9 that a -- is that something you purchased, or how --  
10 how was that understood by the Board?

11 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: It's an annual  
12 lease.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And I recall somewhere  
14 in the materials, it's about twenty-eight thousand  
15 dollars (\$28,000) a year, plus there was five (5) or  
16 six thousand dollars (\$6,000) of training costs?

17 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: Is it Centra's  
19 intention to hang on to the SENDOUT model long term?

20 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

21 MR. BOB PETERS: At least for the next  
22 seven (7) years?

23 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: We think it will be  
24 useful going forward, and we don't have a particular  
25 time frame on the number of years that we would

1 necessarily employ it in the event there are any other  
2 better tools out there ultimately.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. This is  
4 another tool for Mr. Sanderson's tool box? Would you -  
5 - would you agree with me, Mr. Kostick, that the  
6 results from your SENDOUT computer model are taken by  
7 Centra to be directional only, as opposed to  
8 dispositive or absolutely providing certainty?

9 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's correct. We  
10 view the model results as supporting the decision-  
11 making process.

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 MR. BOB PETERS: Would it be fair to  
16 say, Mr. Kostick, that the results from SENDOUT are  
17 such that Centra doesn't know that they are absolutely  
18 correct, but they are supportive of the decisions that  
19 the Corporation is able to make through other  
20 considerations?

21 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: I think the best way  
22 to characterize it is that the SENDOUT model results  
23 are input into the decision-making process as opposed  
24 to, for example, running the model after the fact just  
25 to see if it supports a decision that was made. It is

1 part of the information that is used in the decision-  
2 making process.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: And the other  
4 considerations in that decision-making process include  
5 what the -- your panel-mates have testified today, in  
6 terms of things like reliability, flexibility, those  
7 considerations?

8 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

9 MR. BOB PETERS: Did any independent  
10 party also run the SENDOUT model for Centra?

11 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: No.

12 MR. BOB PETERS: Centra didn't ask the  
13 vendor of the software or the landlord of the software,  
14 before they leased it, whether they could run model out  
15 -- outputs for Centra?

16 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: We worked with the  
17 vendor on model setup and to ensure that the model was  
18 working appropriately. But once we were confident that  
19 the model was functional, there was not a further need  
20 to involve the vendor when it was a matter of adjusting  
21 variables within the model.

22 So the -- the vendor supported the setup  
23 and functionalization of the model but did not, in  
24 effect, run it for us.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: We heard this morning

1 that a consulting firm called ICF also was engaged by  
2 Centra?

3 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, that's correct.

4 MR. BOB PETERS: And from the  
5 Information Requests we know that ICF was approximately  
6 a quarter of a million dollars, in terms of their  
7 assignment?

8 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, that's correct.

9  
10 MR. BOB PETERS: And their assignment  
11 was to provide Centra with some background information  
12 about the natural gas market and also to come forward  
13 with their own recommendations for an optimal  
14 portfolio.

15 Would that be correct?

16 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: They indeed provided  
17 natural gas market information, and they conducted an  
18 analysis of their own related to the short-listed  
19 parties in order to provide a -- a second independent  
20 check, if you will, on the modelling that Centra  
21 performed.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: And their -- their  
23 market information is found at Tab 4 of the book of  
24 document -- sorry, of the application. It's a hundred  
25 and seventeen (117) pages in length and mercifully



1 wasn't included in the book of documents.

2 But that -- that was the summon -- that  
3 was the bulk of the report provided, correct?

4 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That was the largest  
5 report out of the engagement.

6 MR. BOB PETERS: And when ICF was  
7 engaged, Mr. Kostick, would it be correct to say that  
8 Centra, at that point in time, hadn't planned on using  
9 the SENDOUT model?

10 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: We had anticipated  
11 using the SENDOUT model at that time.

12 MR. BOB PETERS: You -- so Centra knew  
13 before it engaged ICF that it was going to use the  
14 SENDOUT model?

15 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: We anticipated using  
16 it, subject to ensuring that we were able to get the  
17 model to the level of functionality that we needed,  
18 that we felt very confident in the model results.

19 So that included the activities that  
20 we've already discussed, where Centra worked with the  
21 vendor and ensured that the model was working  
22 appropriately at such time we had full confidence that  
23 use of the SENDOUT model for our own modelling purposes  
24 for portfolio decision-making would be appropriate.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: ICF did not run the

1 SENDOUT model, did they?

2 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: No.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: Only Centra ran the  
4 SENDOUT model?

5 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's correct.

6 MR. BOB PETERS: ICF has proprietary  
7 models, I suppose, of their own that they would use?

8 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, they do.

9 MR. BOB PETERS: And one (1) of the  
10 terms of this optional portfolio that we'll talk about  
11 is the -- the seven (7) year duration, correct?

12 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And that seven (7)  
14 year duration didn't you -- or, the model that gave  
15 rise to -- to Centra's determination didn't use seven  
16 (7) year data, did it, price data?

17 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: With respect to gas  
18 market price curves, it used a five (5) year series of  
19 futures prices and a five (5) year series provided by  
20 ICF.

21 MR. BOB PETERS: It also used a one (1)  
22 year series provided by both?

23 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes. I guess to  
24 clarify, a five (5) year series of futures and a five  
25 (5) year series of ICF price forecasts were -- were

1 obtained. And it was determined that the use of years  
2 1 and year 5 of those price curves would be sufficient  
3 in looking at the nature of the variability between  
4 years 1 to 5.

5                   They essentially appeared to represent  
6 appropriate bookends within the five (5) year price  
7 series whereby years 1 and year 5 would provide  
8 sufficient variability to test the -- the -- the  
9 portfolio under those different price scenarios.

10                   MR. BOB PETERS:   Mr. Kostick, not  
11 having used the SENDOUT model, would it be reasonable  
12 to understand that if two (2) different parties used  
13 the model seeking to come up with the same answer, that  
14 they may -- that they may come up with different  
15 answers?

16                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   The model results  
17 are subject to whatever inputs are put into the model.  
18 But assuming the same inputs are used, the model should  
19 produce the same output.

20                   MR. BOB PETERS:   And in terms of the  
21 inputs, that was something that Centra had to consider  
22 as to what should be included, and you worked with the  
23 vendor of the software to -- to figure out how to get  
24 that information into the model?

25                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Yes.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:    Did the vendor of the  
2 model tell you what inputs should be used?

3                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK:    No.

4

5                                       (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7                   MR. BOB PETERS:    And just a point on  
8 clarification. We -- we also will talk about the 15  
9 1/2 petajoules of storage that's being proposed by  
10 Centra, and that incidentally is exactly the same as  
11 the storage currently held, correct?

12                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK:    That is correct.

13                   MR. BOB PETERS:    Would you agree that  
14 that's coincidental?

15                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK:    It's coincidental  
16 that in the year 1 and year 5 of the futures curves,  
17 that year 1 of the futures curves produce -- produced a  
18 best-fit storage capacity of 15.6 petajoules, and year  
19 5 of the futures curves produced a best-fit storage  
20 capacity of 15.4 petajoules.

21                                       So clearly the average between fifteen  
22 point six (15.6) and fifteen point four (15.4) is  
23 fifteen point five (15.5), recognizing that those two  
24 (2) numbers, fifteen point six (15.6) and fifteen point  
25 four (15.4), were both derived from twenty (20) years

1 of weather.

2                   So twenty (20) years of weather, using  
3 year 1 of the futures curves, produced 15.6 petajoules  
4 as optimal, and twenty (20) years of weather over year  
5 5 of the futures curve produced 15.4 petajoules as the  
6 best-fit capacity over the twenty (20) years of  
7 weather. And obviously the average of those two (2)  
8 results is 15.5 petajoules.

9                   Using the ICF price forecasts, years 1  
10 and years 5 produced, on average, slightly higher  
11 storage capacity as an optimal result.

12                   MR. BOB PETERS: Did the SENDOUT model  
13 take into account the cyclability that the witnesses  
14 have told the Board about?

15                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, it did.

16                   MR. BOB PETERS: And by that, there's  
17 an extra 3.1 petajoules of capacity gained because the  
18 storage contract was broken between annual and seasonal  
19 storage?

20                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK: It's not gained in  
21 the sense that you have an additional 3.1 petajoules in  
22 addition to the fifteen point five (15.5). You have to  
23 first withdraw 3.1 petajoules in order to reinject  
24 anoth -- another three point one (3.1), and then you  
25 would be limited to ultimately withdrawing in the

1 course of any one (1) gas year a total of approximately  
2 18.6 petajoules.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: So Centra effectively  
4 has 18.6 petajoules of storage even though its contract  
5 says it has fifteen point five (15.5) that its paying  
6 for.

7 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: In effect.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: So was that -- and  
9 that cyclability was built into the -- into the SENDOUT  
10 model?

11 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's correct.

12 MR. BOB PETERS: And so when the  
13 SENDOUT model gives the fifteen point six (15.6) and  
14 fifteen point four (15.4) numbers that you put on the  
15 record a few minutes ago, Mr. Kostick, is that meaning  
16 before or after considering the cyclability?

17 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That would be after  
18 adding the cyclability feature into the SENDOUT model.  
19 So the model results that you're referring to that are  
20 reported in Tab 7 of the application take into account  
21 the annual storage that was negotiated with ANR at the  
22 negotiated rates.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: Well, you don't  
24 necessarily have to turn back to Tab 7 of the book of  
25 documents, but you'll remember that chart with the --

1 the EKG of Mr. Meronek, the red lines, the green lines,  
2 and the blue lines.

3 Nowhere on that chart is it shown that  
4 you need 18.6 petajoules, is there?

5 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: No. Under the way  
6 that the current portfolio is operated, that particular  
7 ten (10) year of time frame does not indicate that 18.6  
8 petajoules of storage is required, bearing in mind that  
9 it is a different portfolio with a different set of  
10 assumptions, as far as how it would be operated.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: The existing  
12 arrangement that Centra has with ANR and Great Lakes  
13 has no cyclability. Is that also correct?

14 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: You could say that's  
15 correct, or you could say it has a cyclability of one  
16 point zero (1.0), which means you can inject 15.5  
17 petajoules and withdraw -- withdraw 15.5 petajoules.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: Okay. So the ratio of  
19 one point zero (1.0), or I guess a hundred percent, of  
20 15.5 is the maximum amount currently?

21 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: And when Ms. Stewart  
23 told the Board earlier today about the ratchet problems  
24 that she would have if she drew down -- if Ma -- if  
25 Centra drew down storage below 20 percent, were those

1 ratchets also built into the SENDOUT model?

2 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, they were.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. BOB PETERS: Now, Mr. Kostick,  
7 let's move quickly to Tab 15 of the book of documents.  
8 And what we show on Tab 15 is a chart dealing with  
9 Centra's seasonal average forecast of commodity unit  
10 costs. That's another way of saying this is the  
11 forward price curves that Centra uses.

12 Is that correct?

13 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, these were the  
14 forward price curves that were derived from futures  
15 prices.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: And what this chart  
17 shows is that the gas in different locations is  
18 forecast to be at different prices?

19 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, that's correct.

20 MR. BOB PETERS: And while this price  
21 curve is for a five (5) year period, you say that  
22 Centra used year 1 and year 5 as the bookends for the  
23 prices in the -- in the model?

24 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, that's correct.

25 MR. BOB PETERS: And you ran those



1 against twenty (20) different weather scenarios?

2 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: That was twenty (20)  
4 years of the past -- the past twenty (20) years of  
5 actual weather?

6 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

7 MR. BOB PETERS: And at Tab 16 we see  
8 the ICF price curves. This was also an input into the  
9 model for -- for ICF's five (5) year forecast, correct?

10 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, that's correct.

11 MR. BOB PETERS: This isn't ba -- this  
12 isn't a run of the futures prices. This is ICF's  
13 proprietary forecast to Centra?

14 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That's correct.  
15 This is ICF's own forecast of natural gas prices.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: And what both of these  
17 price curves do, Mr. Kostick, is they put into the  
18 computer model the expected prices at the different  
19 hubs at different times of the year?

20 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Essentially, yes,  
21 that's correct.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: One (1) of the -- and  
23 one (1) of the clarifications that Centra had to make  
24 was so that the computer didn't know with precision  
25 what the price tomorrow was going to be with these

1 price curves, Centra put in some seasonal average  
2 pricing?

3 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, that is  
4 correct.

5 MR. BOB PETERS: And that takes away  
6 what -- what, in computer modelling, is called "perfect  
7 foresight"?

8 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: It doesn't  
9 completely deal with the issue of perfect foresight,  
10 but it avoids having the model make unique month-to-  
11 month decisions based on its perfect foresight of pri -  
12 - different prices month to month. It made more sense,  
13 to produce seasonal averages, to take away that -- that  
14 element of the perfect foresight.

15 It, nonetheless, has perfect foresight  
16 of weather, which of course, and LDC in reality does  
17 not have.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: Correct me, Ms.  
19 Stewart, if I'm wrong, but TransCanada doesn't use  
20 forward market prices in its corporate gas price  
21 forecast, does it?

22 MS. LORI STEWART: No, it does not.

23 MR. BOB PETERS: So why does Centra  
24 feel it's appropriate to rely on forward market prices  
25 in SENDOUT marketing when other forecasters are using

1 different measures?

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Maybe I'll just  
6 jump in here and respond to that. It's a matter of  
7 opinion. I guess there is certain parties in the  
8 marketplace that will insist that they can generate a  
9 product that's superior to the prices reflected in  
10 futures markets. And those parties are typically  
11 parties with a product to sell, that being the price  
12 forecast itself.

13 History shows that, by far, the most  
14 stable and most accurate forecast over time most  
15 consistently is the futures market price, given that  
16 circumstances change and the information available to  
17 the market change. The forecasts are dynamic and  
18 change on a day-by-day basis.

19 As it relates to TransCanada's use of  
20 its own proprietary price forecast, given what Ms.  
21 Stewart just told us about where it's left them in --  
22 in terms of their rate case, it's -- it's clear that it  
23 wasn't -- it was less than correct. And they're in the  
24 position of having to continually update their  
25 assumptions. And their assumptions are converging with

1 what future markets were telling us months or years  
2 ago.

3 MR. BOB PETERS: And does Centra think  
4 its price forecast is any better than the one (1) that  
5 ICF provides as well, by way of an opinion?

6 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: Not wanting to  
7 take anything away from ICF, but they -- they sell a  
8 product that purports to forecast prices on a daily  
9 basis out a number of years. Given our experiences in  
10 the marketplace over the past ten (10) years, that's  
11 quite a hurdle to try and clear with any consistency.  
12 And there's no evidence in the marketplace that anyone  
13 has been successful in doing that over time.

14 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Mr. Peters, I might  
15 just add, we have to be somewhat cautious with this  
16 because Manitoba Hydro does rely on price forecasts  
17 obtained from independent forecasters for purposes of  
18 planning its future generation/transmission  
19 requirements.

20 I know this is a gas hearing, but I -- I  
21 don't want to suggest in any way that we don't use  
22 those external forecasters for purp -- for many  
23 purposes in our business. And a lot of big decisions  
24 are made based on consensus foreca -- forecasts from  
25 those independent forecasters.

1                   So, yes, the forward price is -- is a  
2   good indicator and one (1) that's appropriate for us to  
3   use for certain circumstances. It's not the only one  
4   (1) we use.

5                   MR. BOB PETERS:   Mr. Warden, would it  
6   also be correct that even with those forecasts of  
7   various prices that you talked about that are used in  
8   Centra's planning proce -- or, sorry, in Manitoba  
9   Hydro's planning processes, that there's also an  
10   overlay of, I'll call it "corporate judgment"?

11                  MR. VINCE WARDEN:   No. No, there isn't  
12   actually. We -- we -- for purposes of -- of  
13   forecasting future electricity and natural gas prices,  
14   we maintain our independence. That is, we respect the  
15   consensus forecast of five (5) independent forecasters  
16   that we engage for that very purpose, ICF being one (1)  
17   of them.

18                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And then Centra -- or,  
19   sorry, then Manitoba Hydro averages the five (5), Mr.  
20   Warden? Or does it truncate them?

21                  MR. VINCE WARDEN:   It -- it averages  
22   the five (5), yes.

23                  MR. BOB PETERS:   Maybe we can talk  
24   about that another day.

25                  MR. VINCE WARDEN:   Probably a good

1 idea.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: Okay. Let's turn to  
3 Tab 18 of the book of documents and look at the  
4 results, Mr. Kostick and Ms. Stewart. Does Tab 17 of  
5 the book of documents found on page 61 -- it represents  
6 the numerical output of the SENDOUT model?

7 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: That would be Tab  
8 18? Yes, those are the SENDOUT model results.

9 MR. BOB PETERS: Yes, thank you for  
10 correcting me. Tab 18, sorry. Page 61 of the book of  
11 documents, it will contain a chart with numbers?

12 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, it does.

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And the left-hand part  
14 of the chart deals with the future curves that compare  
15 the fir -- the one (1) and the five (5) year of ANR,  
16 which is your option A, to option B? Correct?

17 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, that's correct.

18 MR. BOB PETERS: And the right-hand  
19 side uses the price curves that come from ICF that  
20 Centra ran through the SENDOUT model?

21 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, that's correct.

22 MR. BOB PETERS: These ICF curves give  
23 results that are different from what ICF results were  
24 when they ran their proprietary models. Is that  
25 correct?

1 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes.

2 MR. BOB PETERS: All right. And I just  
3 want the Board to be aware that if we go down to  
4 approximately the middle of the chart under "Storage" -  
5 - well, first of all, this -- this -- all the numbers  
6 on here are what SENDOUT says is the optimum portfolio  
7 in terms of supply and storage and transportation,  
8 correct?

9 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, it's the best  
10 fit portfolio over twenty (20) weather scenarios for a  
11 particular price curve.

12 MR. BOB PETERS: And will it tell you  
13 where the supply should come from, for example?

14 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, that would be  
15 in the lower third section of that chart.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: And what the lower  
17 third section is doing is really just coming up with  
18 information that'll support what's on the top part of  
19 the -- of the chart that's quantified in dollars and  
20 cents?

21 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, it ultimately  
22 drives out the costs reflected in the top third of the  
23 chart and it reflects also the -- the storage and --  
24 the storage capacity and deliverability results in the  
25 middle third of the chart as well.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:   All right.  Let's  
2   focus on the middle third then, Mr. Kostick, just to  
3   come back to the answers you put on the record about  
4   five (5) minutes ago.  The capacity and petajoules when  
5   Cent -- when Centra ran SENDOUT using case 1, which was  
6   Centra's five (5) year -- sorry, which was Centra's one  
7   (1) year futures price, it yielded a storage capacity  
8   that would be optimum of 15.6 petajoules.  Am I reading  
9   that correctly?

10                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Yes, you are.

11                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And likewise, when  
12   Centra ran SENDOUT using the five (5) year futures  
13   prices, the SENDOUT model came back with an optimal  
14   storage capacity of 15.4 petajoules?

15                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Yes, using the fifth  
16   year of that price curve, the optimal storage capacity  
17   over twenty (20) weather scenarios was 15.4 petajoules.

18                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And running it through  
19   the information provided to Centra by proponent number  
20   B -- or letter 'B', it came up with slightly different  
21   optimum storage values, correct?

22                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Yes, that is  
23   correct.

24                  MR. BOB PETERS:   And then on the right-  
25   hand side of the page Centra ran its SENDOUT model



1 using the ICF assumed prices. And in fact was --  
2 didn't ICF have -- I'm sorry, these are just their  
3 price curves, right, that's --

4 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: These are just their  
5 price curves that we utilized in the SENDOUT model.

6 MR. BOB PETERS: Correct.

7 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: And then for storage  
8 capacity they came up with different answers based --  
9 or SENDOUT gives out different optimum capacities  
10 ranging from 5.2 to 19.4 petajoules, depending on  
11 whether you want to put weight on the year 1 futures  
12 price or the year 5?

13 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: It gave -- for ANR  
14 it gave 15.2 petajoules and 19.9 petajoules as the  
15 optimum capacity over twenty (20) years of weather for  
16 the particular price curve.

17 MR. BOB PETERS: Thank you. I believe  
18 I misspoke on that number. And then lastly, if we  
19 follow that capacity line over to the far right-hand  
20 side, again, using the ICF price curves and running it  
21 through the information provided by proponent B -- or  
22 option B, the capacity came back at 13.9 petajoules  
23 with the one (1) year data, and 16.5 petajoules for the  
24 five (5) year price data?

25 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: Yes, that's correct.

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:   All right.   And now  
2   that we can interpret that level, Mr. Kostick, one (1)  
3   of the other things that we see directly underneath  
4   that is the deliverability line?

5                   MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Yes, that's right.

6                   MR. BOB PETERS:   Deliverability, as I  
7   understood from Ms. Stewart's evidence is the amount or  
8   the capacity that can be taken out of storage on any  
9   particular day, at least up to -- for the top 80  
10   percent of the storage capacity?

11                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Yes, as long as you  
12   have at least -- in the case of ANR, as long as you  
13   have at least 20 percent inventory relative to the  
14   total storage capacity you can take your contract  
15   deliverability.

16                  MR. BOB PETERS:   Just on that point,  
17   can you tell the Board whether proponent B also used  
18   ratchets when their -- when -- when the volume of  
19   storage was reduced?

20                  MR. NEIL KOSTICK:   Yes, vol -- option B  
21   also had storage ratchets.

22

23                                       (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25                  MR. BOB PETERS:   When we look at this

1 deliverability, Mr. Kostick, does it not appear to the  
2 Board that the deliverability that is recommended for  
3 an optimum portfolio is less than the deliverability  
4 that's being embedded into the proposal by Centra?

5 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: With respect to the  
6 ANR results, the deliverability produced by the model  
7 results appears to be slightly less in the -- by in  
8 some cases 1 or 2 or 3 terajoules per day, or say 1 to  
9 3,000 gigajoules per day.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 MR. BOB PETERS: And based on the  
14 deliverability, Mr. Kostick, that's really a function  
15 of deciding how many days Centra will draw down on it's  
16 storage? Or put another way, how many days does Centra  
17 want to be able to withdraw before it depletes its  
18 storage.

19 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: It's really a  
20 function of how big is Centra's winter swing  
21 requirement. Storage deliverability is the primary  
22 means by which Centra responds to weather-driven load  
23 volatility, and the storage deliverability accounts for  
24 a very large portion of being able to serve that.

25 It's -- it's really a function of -- of

1 serving the load in a cost-effective way and also  
2 making sure that you can actually successfully nominate  
3 gas at, for example, the intra-day two (2) cycle or the  
4 late night nomination cycle for the last four (4) hours  
5 of the gas day. So there are a couple of aspects to,  
6 in Centra's case, determining the optimal storage  
7 deliverability.

8 MR. BOB PETERS: Am I correct that ICF  
9 was suggesting that a -- a shorter withdrawal window  
10 would provide a cheaper arrangement to Centra? That  
11 is, maybe a fifty-one (51) day withdrawal ability as  
12 opposed to seventy (70) or seventy-one (71) days?

13 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: I believe their  
14 report identified that "lower days of service," as its  
15 referred to -- when you take the storage capacity  
16 divided by the daily deliverability, that there was a  
17 small price advantage in their model results for a  
18 fifty (50) day service relative to a seventy (70) day  
19 service.

20 MR. BOB PETERS: But Centra disagrees  
21 with that because it's going to be saving balancing  
22 fees?

23 MR. NEIL KOSTICK: It's not necessarily  
24 a matter of disagreeing, it's taking into account the  
25 different modelling approaches taken by Centra versus

1 ICF.

2 ICF's modelling approach took into  
3 account daily price volatility, and the ability under -  
4 - under a storage service that has the greater ability  
5 to more quickly deplete storage than that storage facil  
6 -- or that storage option could take greater advantage  
7 of day-to-day volatility and gas prices by depleting  
8 storage quickly and filling it back up again.

9 So a higher deliverability relative to  
10 the total storage capacity was found to have a very  
11 slight advantage in the ICF model, taking into account  
12 the model's perfect foresight, which Centra sought to  
13 invoid -- avoid in the SENDOUT model results, as we've  
14 talked about, to minimize the impact of the models  
15 perfect foresight.

16 MR. BOB PETERS: Mr. Chairman, I'm  
17 proposing to move to a different topic that would take  
18 more than five (5) minutes to conclude. And I wondered  
19 in light of the hour whether this would be an  
20 appropriate time to adjourn for the day and reconvene  
21 tomorrow morning at 9:30?

22 MR. RAYMOND LAFOND: If I can ask a  
23 question maybe before. Or -- or a couple. One (1) of  
24 the things that has never been discussed in -- in the  
25 materials that I have read, at least, and -- and

1 hearing today is a forecast and demand we're allowing --  
2 always looking at the weather patterns of the past and  
3 past consumption, et cetera.

4 But with lower gas prices are we not  
5 also considering the potential of customers using more,  
6 or more customers coming -- changing their -- their  
7 source of energy and moving to natural gas?

8 MR. BRENT SANDERSON: I'd like to  
9 respond to that if I may. While we always would design  
10 a portfolio that would allow us to accommodate  
11 additional unexpected demand in our system, we're what  
12 would be characterized, from a forecasting perspective,  
13 as a mature market here in Manitoba, such that any  
14 likely increases in demand are likely to be equally if  
15 not more than offset with increases in the efficiency  
16 in the way in which natural gas is used in Manitoba.

17 So our -- all things being equal, our  
18 planning assumption is for very slightly declining load  
19 over time, a very small marginal net decline. We're --  
20 we plan to be adding customers each and every year in  
21 all the various classes. That's all part of our  
22 assumptions in our forecast. There's some econometric  
23 modelling involved. Our larger volume industrial and  
24 commercial customers, we look at each one (1) of those  
25 customers' business situation individually, and their

1 plans, for example, for adding shifts served, doubling  
2 their production capacity.

3 But for -- the expectation would be is  
4 that we have a quite stable market demand here. And  
5 the -- the single biggest factor affecting the load  
6 that we have to serve would be weather and spacing  
7 requirements.

8 MR. RAYMOND LAFOND: Thank you. When -  
9 - sorry. My next question was in regards to a comment  
10 made by Mr. Warden this morning in terms of the  
11 returned earnings moving from \$34 million to a negative  
12 position based on IFRS.

13 What would be the one (1) or two (2) or  
14 three (3) main factors why this would occur? What  
15 would be so different under one (1) scenario or the  
16 other?

17 MR. VINCE WARDEN: Yes, under the --  
18 the current environment we do have, within both Centra  
19 Gas and Manitoba Hydro, what we call "regulated assets"  
20 and "regulated li -- liabilities." Under IFRS,  
21 regulated assets and -- and liabilities are not  
22 recognized at this time. We recently got a one (1)  
23 year deferral in terms of implementing IFRS. And this  
24 issue is still under review by the International  
25 Standards Board. We are hopeful that they'll

1 ultimately recognize regulated assets and liabilities,  
2 but it may very well be in a different form from what  
3 it is today.

4                   The -- the largest single cost, or at  
5 least regulated asset, that we have today that would  
6 put our retained earnings into a negative position on  
7 the gas side of the business is our Power Smart  
8 programs. So we've been capitalizing our Power Smart  
9 programs and amortizing those over ten (10) years.  
10 Under IFRS, those Power Smart programs are not eligible  
11 for capitalization. We would have to write those off  
12 to retained earnings.

13                   MR. RAYMOND LAFOND:    Thank you.

14                   THE CHAIRPERSON:    Appropriate time to  
15 adjourn. So let's adjourn immediately and resume the  
16 proceedings tomorrow morning at 9:30. Thank you all.

17

18                                   (PANEL RETIRES)

19

20 --- Upon adjourning at 4:32 p.m.

21

22 Certified Correct,

23

24 \_\_\_\_\_

25 Ms. Cheryl Lavigne



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