

1 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

2 STATE OF LOUISIANA

3

4

5

6 IN RE:

7 REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON

8 PROPOSED INITIAL PART 70

9 AIR OPERATING PERMIT,

10 INITIAL ACID RAIN PERMIT,

11 PSD PERMIT AND THE ASSOCIATED

12 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STATEMENT (EAS)

13 CLECO POWER, L.L.C./RODEMACHER BROWNFIELD

14 UNIT 3 PROJECT

15

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17 * * * * *

18

19 TRANSCRIPT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD IN

20 THE ABOVE NUMBERED AND CAPTIONED MATTER ON

21 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2005, AT NORTH WOOD HIGH

22 SCHOOL, 8830 HIGHWAY 1 NORTH, LENA, LOUISIANA,

23 BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

24

25

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

2

1 A P P E A R A N C E S :

2

3 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

4 (BY: ROGER WARD, HEARING OFFICER)

5 OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

6 602 NORTH 5TH STREET

7 POST OFFICE BOX 4303

8 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802

9

10 BILL FONTENOT, CLECO

11 SENATOR JOE MCPHERSON

12 DONALD WELCH, PRINCIPAL NORTH WOOD SCHOOL

13 JULIUS PATRICK, MAYOR OF BOYCE, LOUISIANA

14 CHARLES DEWITT, STATE REPRESENTATIVE

15 ELTON PODY, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

16 HERMAN BELGUARD, RED RIVER WATERWAY

17

18

19

20 REPORTED BY:

21 SANDRA L. SONNIER

22 CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

23

24

25

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I N D E X	
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2 SPEAKER	
3 MR. BILL FONTENOT	10
4 SENATOR JOE MCPHERSON	17
5 MR. DONALD WELCH	23
6 MAYOR JULIUS PATRICK	25
7 REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES DEWITT	29
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10

11

12 E X H I B I T S

13 (EXHIBITS RETAINED BY HEARING OFFICER)

14

15 EXHIBIT NUMBER A 17

16 (STATEMENT OF BILL FONTENOT)

17

18 EXHIBIT NUMBER B 17

19 (LETTER FROM DALE SITTIG)

20

21 EXHIBIT NUMBER C 34

22 (STATEMENT OF CHARLES DEWITT)

23

24

25

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1 MR. WARD:

2 GOOD EVENING. CAN EVERYONE HEAR ME?

3 THE TIME IS NOW 6:02 P.M. MY NAME IS ROGER

4 WARD AND I'M EMPLOYED WITH THE LOUISIANA

5 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. I WILL BE

6 SERVING AS HEARING OFFICER THIS EVENING,

7 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2005.

8 THIS HEARING IS SCHEDULED TO ACCEPT PUBLIC

9 COMMENT CONCERNING THE PROPOSED INITIAL PART 70

10 AIR OPERATING PERMIT, INITIAL ACID RAIN PERMIT,

11 PSD PERMIT, AND THE ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL

12 ASSESSMENT STATEMENT (EAS) FOR THE CLECO POWER,

13 L.L.C./RODEMACHER BROWNFIELD UNIT 3 PROJECT,

14 BOYCE, RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA. THE AGENCY

15 INTEREST NUMBER 2922 AND ACTIVITY TRACKING

16 NUMBER IS PER2005003, PER20050010, AND

17 PER20050002.

18 THE SITE IS LOCATED AT 275 RODEMACHER ROAD

19 WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY TWO POINT FIVE MILES

20 WEST OF BOYCE. IT IS SITUATED ON THE NORTH

21 SIDE OF LAKE RODEMACHER AND IS BORDERED ON THE

22 NORTHEAST BY INTERSTATE 49, ON THE NORTH BY
23 HIGHWAY 8, ON THE SOUTH BY HIGHWAY 121 IN
24 RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA.
25 CLECO POWER, L.L.C. PROPOSES TO INSTALL AND

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1 OPERATE A NEW CIRCULATING FLUIDIZED BED (CFB)
2 UNIT. THE PROPOSED PROJECT KNOWN AS THE
3 RODEMACHER BROWNFIELD SOLID FUEL UNIT 3 PROJECT
4 (RODEMACHER BROWNFIELD UNIT 3 PROJECT) CONSISTS
5 OF THE TWO CFB BOILERS THAT WILL DRIVE A STEAM
6 TURBINE, A GENERATOR, ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE
7 EQUIPMENT, ASSOCIATED MATERIAL HANDLING
8 OPERATIONS OF THE SOLID FUELS, PRIMARILY
9 PETROLEUM COKE AND COAL, AND LIMESTONE, AND A
10 COOLING TOWER.

11 THE EAS SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT
12 ADDRESSES AVOIDANCES OF A POTENTIAL AND REAL
13 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS, BALANCING SOCIAL AND
14 ECONOMIC BENEFITS AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
15 COSTS, AND ALTERNATE SITES, PROJECTS, AND
16 MITIGATIVE MEASURES.

17 THIS HEARING IS NOT BEING CONDUCTED IN A
18 QUESTION AND ANSWER FORMAT. PLEASE REMEMBER
19 THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC HEARING IS FOR

20 THE DEQ TO RECEIVE YOUR COMMENTS CONCERNING THE
21 PROPOSED INITIAL PART 70 AIR OPERATING PERMIT,
22 INITIAL ACID RAIN PERMIT, PSD PERMIT, AND THE
23 ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
24 STATEMENT.

25 THIS HEARING IS TO PROVIDE ALL INDIVIDUALS

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1 A CHANCE TO BE HEARD REGARDLESS OF THEIR
2 POSITION ON THESE PROPOSED PERMITS AND THE
3 ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
4 STATEMENT.

5 COURTEOUS BEHAVIOR IS EXPECTED OF EVERYONE
6 AT ALL TIMES. YOU MAY SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF THE
7 PROPOSED PERMITS AND THE ASSOCIATED EAS, IN
8 OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED PERMITS, OR SIMPLY
9 PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. ALL INTERESTED
10 PERSONS WILL BE GIVEN A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY
11 TO COMMENT UNLESS TESTIMONY IS NOT RELATED TO
12 THE PURPOSE OF THE HEARING. YOUR COMMENTS WILL
13 BE EVALUATED AND ADDRESSED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S
14 WRITTEN RESPONSE.

15 A PUBLIC NOTICE ADVERTISING THIS PUBLIC
16 HEARING AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE
17 PROPOSED PERMITS AND ASSOCIATED EAS WAS

18 PUBLISHED IN THE ADVOCATE, THE TOWN TALK, AND
19 THE CHRONICLE, NEWSPAPERS, ON THURSDAY,
20 NOVEMBER 3RD, 2005, AND ALSO ON THURSDAY,
21 NOVEMBER 10TH, 2005.

22 A COPY OF THE MATERIAL ASSOCIATED WITH
23 PROPOSED PERMITS AND EAS IS AVAILABLE FOR
24 INSPECTION AND TO VIEW AT THE LDEQ PUBLIC
25 RECORDS CENTER, ROOM 127, 602 NORTH FIFTH

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1 STREET, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. VIEWING HOURS
2 ARE EIGHT A.M. TO 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH
3 FRIDAY, EXCEPT HOLIDAYS.

4 ADDITIONAL COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR
5 REVIEW AT THE RAPIDES PARISH LIBRARY, BOYCE
6 BRANCH, LOCATED AT 500 A ULSTER, BOYCE,
7 LOUISIANA 71409.

8 IN ADDITION, COPIES OF THE PUBLIC NOTICE
9 WERE MAILED TO THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD
10 REQUESTED TO BE PLACED ON THE MAILING LIST
11 MAINTAINED BY THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
12 SERVICES ON NOVEMBER 2ND, 2005, AND NOVEMBER
13 8TH, 2005.

14 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA
15 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, TITLE 33, PART III,

16 SECTION 509.Q AND 531.A, COMMENTS RECEIVED BY
17 12:30 P.M., MONDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, 2005, WILL
18 BE CONSIDERED PRIOR TO A FINAL DECISION. ALL
19 COMMENTS RECEIVED BY 12:30 P.M., DECEMBER 19TH,
20 2005, SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND
21 CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO ISSUE OR
22 DENY THE PROPOSED PERMITS AND THE ASSOCIATED
23 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STATEMENT.
24 WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THESE PROPOSED PERMITS
25 AND THE ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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1 STATEMENT MAY BE SUBMITTED TO MS. SOUMAYA
2 GHOSN, LDEQ-OES, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE
3 DIVISION, P. O. BOX 4313, BATON ROUGE,
4 LOUISIANA 70821-4313.
5 UNDER LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTE 30:2017, AS
6 REVISED BY THE LEGISLATURE IN THE 2004 SESSION,
7 THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THE
8 FOLLOWING ORDER WITH THE PROVISION THAT THE
9 PRESIDING OFFICER MAY GIVE PREFERENCE TO A
10 PUBLIC OFFICIAL TO SPEAK AT ANY TIME DURING THE
11 HEARING. HOWEVER, ANY TIME WE ACCEPT FOR
12 CITIZEN TESTIMONY SHALL APPLY TO PUBLIC
13 OFFICIALS.

14 THE DEPARTMENT MUST PROVIDE UP TO THIRTY
15 MINUTES TO THE PERMIT APPLICANT FOR
16 INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION. THEREAFTER,
17 PREFERENCE FOR SPEAKING UP TO ONE HOUR IS GIVEN
18 AS FOLLOWS:

19 FOR THE FIRST HOUR, TO THOSE CITIZENS WHO
20 LIVE WITHIN A TWO MILE RADIUS OF THE LOCATION
21 OR FACILITY;

22 FOR THE SECOND HOUR, TO THOSE CITIZENS WHO
23 WORK WITHIN A TWO MILE RADIUS OF THE LOCATION
24 OR FACILITY;

25 AND THE THIRD HOUR, TO THOSE CITIZENS WHO

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9

1 LIVE WITHIN THE PARISH OF THE LOCATION OF THE
2 FACILITY.

3 THEREAFTER EACH HOUR OF THE HEARING SHALL
4 ALTERNATE BETWEEN THOSE WHO ARE IN SUPPORT OF
5 THE PROPOSED PERMITS AND THE ASSOCIATED
6 ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT AND THOSE WHO ARE
7 OPPOSED TO THE PROPOSED PERMIT AND ASSOCIATED
8 EAS.

9 THE ORDER OF TONIGHT'S HEARING WILL BE
10 BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE SPEAKERS
11 ON A REGISTRATION FORM. ANYONE WHO REGISTERED

12 TO SPEAK BUT DID NOT PROVIDE THE NECESSARY
13 INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO
14 SPEAK, HOWEVER, THEY WILL BE CALLED LAST IN THE
15 ORDER OF REGISTRATION.

16 THIS HEARING IS BEING TRANSCRIBED,
17 THEREFORE I WILL ASK THAT EACH SPEAKER BEGIN BY
18 STATING FOR THE RECORD THEIR NAME, ADDRESS, AND
19 ANY ORGANIZATION HE OR SHE MAY REPRESENT. I
20 WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU TO ALSO PLEASE TURN
21 OFF YOUR CELL PHONES. THANK YOU.

22 AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PERMIT
23 APPLICANT'S REPRESENTATIVE TO COME FORWARD AND
24 MAKE THEIR INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION.

25 MR. FONTENOT:

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

10

1 GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS BILL FONTENOT
2 AND I'M THE VICE PRESIDENT OF REGULATED
3 GENERATION DEVELOPMENT AT CLECO. THANK YOU FOR
4 BEING HERE. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE
5 LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
6 FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT.
7 WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF THIS
8 PROJECT FOR OUR CUSTOMERS AND FOR OUR STATE.
9 FOR SEVENTY YEARS CLECO HAS PROVIDED POWER TO

10 THE PEOPLE OF LOUISIANA. WE STARTED OUT AS A
11 LIGHT COMPANY IN BUNKIE AND TODAY WE'RE SERVING
12 APPROXIMATELY TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE
13 THOUSAND CUSTOMERS IN TWENTY-FIVE PARISHES.

14 I HAVE WORKED FOR CLECO FOR ALMOST TWENTY
15 YEARS AND MY FATHER RETIRED FROM THE COMPANY
16 WITH OVER THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE. FOR NEARLY
17 TWO GENERATIONS I HAVE SEEN FIRSTHAND HOW THIS
18 COMPANY STRIVES TO DO WHAT IS BEST FOR ITS
19 CUSTOMERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT. THIS PROJECT,
20 OUR RODEMACHER 3 UNIT, CONTINUES THAT
21 TRADITION.

22 THIS PROJECT WILL HELP PROTECT OUR
23 CUSTOMERS FROM VOLATILE NATURAL GAS PRICES.
24 HISTORICALLY, THE PRICE OF NATURAL GAS HAS BEEN
25 LOW, TYPICALLY TRADING FOR AROUND TWO (\$2.00)

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1 DOLLARS PREMIUM BTUS. OVER THE PAST FIVE
2 YEARS, PRICES HAVE INCREASED NEARLY THREE
3 HUNDRED PERCENT AND THEN FLUCTUATED, SWINGING
4 FROM NINE (\$9.00) DOLLARS FOR PREMIUM BTU
5 BEFORE HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA, TO OVER
6 FIFTEEN (\$15.00) DOLLARS FOR PREMIUM BTU AFTER
7 THE STORMS DAMAGED PRODUCTION FACILITIES.

8 EXPERTS PREDICT THAT PRICES WILL REMAIN
9 HIGH AS THE NATION'S SUPPLIES STRUGGLE TO KEEP
10 PACE WITH THE DEMAND.

11 CURRENTLY APPROXIMATELY SEVENTY PERCENT OF
12 THE ELECTRICITY WE PROVIDE TO CUSTOMERS IS TIED
13 TO NATURAL GAS AND THE OTHER THIRTY PERCENT IS
14 TIED TO SOLID FUEL. IN THE PAST OUR NATION HAS
15 EXPERIENCED AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY AND ECONOMICAL
16 PRICING OF NATURAL GAS.

17 AS WE JUST DISCUSSED, THE NATURAL GAS
18 MARKET HAS CHANGED AND CLECO IS PREPARED TO
19 CHANGE ALSO. TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR CHANGE,
20 CLECO IMPLEMENTED A STUDY CALLED AN INTEGRATED
21 RESOURCE PLAN. WE ANALYZED PROJECTED CUSTOMER
22 DEMAND AND SUPPLY RESOURCES OVER A THIRTY YEAR
23 PERIOD TO FIND THE LOWEST COST, MOST VIABLE
24 OPTIONS, FOR PROVIDING A LOT OF THE POWER TO
25 OUR CUSTOMERS. THE PLAN IDENTIFIED THAT CLECO

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12

1 NEEDED TO DIVERSIFY ITS FUEL MIX. IT ALSO
2 OUTLINED TRANSMISSION CONSTRAINTS THAT
3 ADVERSELY AFFECT THE COMPANY'S ABILITY TO
4 RELIABLY AND ECONOMICALLY IMPORT POWER FROM
5 OUTSIDE CLECO SERVICE TERRITORY.

6 TO ADDRESS THESE NEEDS, CLECO FOLLOWED A
7 THOROUGH AND LENGTHY PROCESS ESTABLISHED BY THE
8 LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION. THE
9 PROCESS REVEALED THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF
10 CLECO'S RODEMACHER UNIT 3 PROJECT AND TWO POWER
11 PURCHASE AGREEMENTS WERE THE BEST AND MOST
12 ECONOMICAL MEANS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL POWER TO
13 OUR CUSTOMERS.

14 THE RODEMACHER UNIT 3 PROJECT AS PLANNED
15 HAS A SIX HUNDRED MEGAWATT SOLID FUEL UNIT. IT
16 WILL USE CFB FOR CIRCULATING FLUIDIZED BED
17 TECHNOLOGY, MAKING IT ONE OF THE CLEANEST OF
18 ITS KIND IN THE NATION. THIS TECHNOLOGY WAS
19 DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNITED STATES
20 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY
21 PROGRAM AND AS A PROVEN TECHNOLOGY FOR
22 ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION.

23 CFB TECHNOLOGY WILL GIVE CLECO THE ABILITY
24 TO USE A RANGE OF SOLID FUELS, DECREASING THE
25 USE FOR NATURAL GAS WHILE PRODUCING POWER USING

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13

1 AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TECHNOLOGY. THIS
2 FLEXIBILITY GIVES CLECO FUEL OPTIONS TO
3 MAXIMIZE PRICE SAVINGS FOR ITS CUSTOMERS. THE

4 COMPANY'S INTENTION IS TO USE PETROLEUM COKE, A
5 BYPRODUCT OF THE OIL REFINING INDUSTRY, AS ITS
6 PRIMARY FUEL. WE FAVOR PET COKE BECAUSE IT IS
7 AVAILABLE ECONOMICALLY AND COULD EASILY BE
8 DELIVERED TO THE SITE. PRODUCTION OF THE PET
9 COKE SHOULD CONTINUE TO INCREASE AS THE NEED TO
10 FIND OIL CONTINUES TO GROW. ONE OTHER BENEFIT
11 IS THAT PET COKE IS A LOUISIANA PRODUCT
12 PRODUCED AT REFINERIES RIGHT HERE IN
13 LOUISIANA.

14 RODEMACHER 3 WILL BE BUILT AT AN EXISTING
15 CLECO PLANT SITE. THE AREA WE CALL RODEMACHER
16 POWER STATION CURRENTLY HAS TWO POWER
17 GENERATING UNITS, HAS APPROXIMATELY THREE
18 THOUSAND ACRES OF LAND, AND A THREE THOUSAND
19 ACRE LAKE. THE SITE HAS BEEN USED BY PRIOR
20 GENERATIONS FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS AND ALREADY
21 CONTAINS MOST OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED FOR
22 THE NEW UNIT.

23 HAVING THE PROPERTY AVAILABLE AND
24 INFRASTRUCTURE IN PLACE SAVES TIME AND MONEY
25 DURING CONSTRUCTION AND IS ENVIRONMENTALLY

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1 BENEFICIAL. NEW EMPLOYEES WILL ALSO BENEFIT

2 FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF THE EXISTING WORKERS OF
3 RODEMACHER WHO HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AS LEADERS
4 IN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SOLID FUEL
5 POWER PLANTS FOR DECADES.

6 AN ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE OF THIS LOCATION IS
7 THE AVAILABILITY OF THE RED RIVER FOR
8 TRANSPORTING FUEL AND LIMESTONE. THE RED RIVER
9 WATERWAY COMMISSION MADE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE
10 1980S TO HELP ENHANCE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
11 BY MAKING THE RIVER MORE NAVIGABLE. THESE
12 IMPROVEMENTS HAVE MADE THE RIVER AN ECONOMICAL
13 METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION, ADDING SAVINGS TO OUR
14 CUSTOMERS. USING THE RED RIVER ALSO REDUCES
15 THE NUMBER OF TRUCKS ON LOCAL ROADWAYS.
16 CLECO IS PROUD TO USE INFRASTRUCTURE AND WE
17 BELIEVE OTHER BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES IN THE
18 AREA WILL FOLLOW.

19 FIVE OTHER ALTERNATIVE SITES WERE CAREFULLY
20 CONSIDERED FOR THIS PROJECT AND RODEMACHER
21 PROVED TO BE THE BEST LOCATION. NO OTHER SITE
22 HAD A BETTER COMBINATION OF POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES
23 FOR POWER GENERATION AND MINIMUM ENVIRONMENTAL
24 IMPACTS.

25 RODEMACHER 3 WILL STABILIZE CLECO'S FUEL

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1 COSTS AND GIVE OUR CUSTOMERS A SUBSTANTIAL
2 SAVINGS OVER THE LIFE OF THIS PROJECT. BASED
3 ON THE CURRENT PREDICTIONS OF FUTURE NATURAL
4 GAS PRICES AND OUR TWO POWER PURCHASING UNITS,
5 OUR CUSTOMERS WILL SAVE APPROXIMATELY FOUR
6 BILLION (\$4,000,000,000.00) DOLLARS OVER THE
7 NEXT THIRTY YEARS.

8 IF NATURAL GAS PRICES REMAIN AT TODAY'S
9 LEVELS, WE CAN -- OUR CUSTOMERS CAN EXPECT EVEN
10 MORE SAVINGS. THESE SAVINGS MEAN MORE MONEY IN
11 THE POCKETS OF LOUISIANA FAMILIES AS WE ALL
12 WORK TO FIND OUR FOOTING AFTER THIS SUMMER'S
13 HURRICANES.

14 BY BUILDING THIS PROJECT, CLECO IS
15 INVESTING IN OUR STATE AND IN OUR COMMUNITY
16 BEGINNING WITH TWELVE HUNDRED CONSTRUCTION
17 JOBS. AFTER CONSTRUCTION, OUR UTILITY WILL
18 HAVE ITS LARGEST PERMANENT JOB CREATION IN OVER
19 TWENTY YEARS WHEN WE ADD EIGHTY POSITIONS TO
20 OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE UNIT. WE ARE PLEASED
21 TO BRING MORE GOOD PAYING JOBS TO THIS AREA.
22 RODEMACHER 3 WILL INCREASE THE STATE'S BUSINESS
23 ACTIVITY BY ONE MILLION (\$1,000,000.00) DOLLARS
24 DURING -- IN ITS FORTY-TWO MONTH CONSTRUCTION
25 PHASE. DURING OPERATION, PROPERTY TAXES SHOULD

SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

16

1 INCREASE BY A HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SEVEN MILLION
2 OVER THIRTY YEARS.

3 THE PROJECT WILL ALLOW CLECO TO ADD JOBS
4 AND INCREASE BUSINESS ACTIVITY AT A TIME WHEN
5 OUR STATE NEEDS IT THE MOST. AS WE KNOW, NOW
6 MORE THAN EVER, A RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE SUPPLY
7 OF POWER IS CRITICAL FOR OUR STATE TO GROW AND
8 TO PROSPER. AS A LOUISIANA COMPANY, WE ARE
9 PROUD TO MAKE THAT GROWTH POSSIBLE USING A
10 BYPRODUCT OF LOUISIANA'S OIL REFINERY INDUSTRY
11 FOR FUEL AND LOUISIANA'S WATERWAYS FOR
12 TRANSPORTATION AND STABLE ECONOMICAL POWER FOR
13 OUR CUSTOMERS.

14 OUR REGULATORS' RIGOROUS PROCESSES ENSURE
15 THAT THIS IS THE BEST PRODUCT AVAILABLE TO OUR
16 CUSTOMERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT AS WE STRIVE TO
17 INSULATE CUSTOMERS FROM VOLATILE GAS
18 PRICES.

19 THE CHOSEN TECHNOLOGY WITH THE ADDED
20 CONTROL WE PLAN TO INSTALL ALLOWS US TO KEEP
21 THE BALANCE OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND
22 ECONOMICALLY MEETING OUR CUSTOMERS DEMANDS. WE
23 TAKE THAT BALANCE SERIOUSLY AND HAVE WORKED
24 VERY HARD TO ACHIEVE IT.

25 I WATCHED MY FATHER SEEK THAT SAME BALANCE.

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1 I'M PROUD TO HELP CLECO CONTINUE THAT SAME
2 LEGACY BY PROPOSING A PROJECT THAT WILL USE
3 PROVEN TECHNOLOGY AND THAT WILL BE GOOD FOR OUR
4 CUSTOMERS AND FOR OUR STATE FOR MANY YEARS TO
5 COME. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

6 MR. WARD:

7 THANK YOU, MR. FONTENOT. I'D ALSO LIKE
8 THE RECORD TO REFLECT THAT I'M PUTTING IN AS
9 EXHIBITS THE WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MR.
10 FONTENOT'S REMARKS AND ALSO A LETTER FROM
11 COMMISSIONER DALE SITTIG OF LOUISIANA PUBLIC
12 SERVICE COMMISSION, DISTRICT IV. MR.
13 FONTENOT'S REMARKS ARE EXHIBIT "A" AND MR.
14 SITTIG'S LETTER IS EXHIBIT "B."

15 I WILL NOW BEGIN BY ALLOWING ALL PERSONS
16 WHO HAVE SIGNED UP FIVE MINUTES IN WHICH TO
17 PRESENT THEIR COMMENTS. ANYONE WHO NEEDS MORE
18 THAN FIVE MINUTES WILL BE ALLOWED TO FINISH HIS
19 OR HER COMMENTS AFTER ALL THE REGISTERED
20 SPEAKERS HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK.

21 AND I'M GOING TO START -- THE LAW
22 AUTHORIZES ME TO GIVE PREFERENCE TO PUBLIC
23 OFFICIALS, THEREFORE I'M GOING TO ASK SENATOR

24 JOE MCPHERSON TO PLEASE COME FORWARD.

25 SENATOR MCPHERSON:

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18

1 THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BEING HERE
2 TONIGHT HOLDING THIS VERY IMPORTANT PUBLIC
3 HEARING. IT'S ONE OF THE FIRST STEPS THAT THE
4 PUBLIC TO HAVE INPUT INTO THIS PROJECT AND TO
5 ALLOW US TO HAVE A VOICE IN.
6 OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES, I'VE HAD THE
7 OBLIGATION AND OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND SEVERAL OF
8 THESE PUBLIC HEARINGS. IN EVERY INSTANCE, I'VE
9 COME FORWARD TO OPPOSE THE PROJECTS THAT WERE
10 BEING PRESENTED AT THESE PUBLIC HEARINGS.
11 TONIGHT I'M VERY PLEASED TO BE IN A DIFFERENT
12 POSITION AND I THINK THAT REFLECTS UPON ALL
13 HERE TONIGHT AND WE'VE HAD STANDING ROOM ONLY
14 CROWDS ON SOME OF THOSE OTHER PROJECTS AND
15 WE'VE HAD SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION, BECAUSE NO
16 MATTER WHAT THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF THE PROJECT
17 WAS, NO MATTER HOW IMPORTANT THEY WERE TO
18 CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY, NO MATTER
19 WHAT SERVICES THEY WERE PROVIDING, WE
20 RECOGNIZED THAT ENVIRONMENTALLY THAT WE'RE
21 NEGATIVE IN THE COMMUNITY AND DIDN'T BELONG IN

22 OUR COMMUNITY IN THE FASHION THEY WERE BEING
23 PRESENTED.

24 THIS PROJECT HERE IS PRESENTED BY CLECO HAS
25 PROVEN THEMSELVES TO BE NOT ONLY A GOOD

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19

1 CORPORATE NEIGHBOR, BUT A GOOD COMMUNITY
2 NEIGHBOR IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD. THEIR
3 STEWARDSHIP HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY. MANY OTHERS
4 HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO NOT ONLY LIVE
5 UNDERNEATH THIS SMOKESTACK, BUT ENJOY THE
6 OUTDOORS.

7 THE COMMISSIONER THAT YOU REFERRED TO, IF
8 WE WERE LOOKING FARTHER SOUTH, THE NAME WOULD
9 HAVE BEEN PRONOUNCED SITTIG, AND HE ALSO HAS
10 THE OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT JUST A FEW MILES FROM
11 HERE. AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT'S RECOGNIZED,
12 YOU ALL HAVE THE SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUNDS TO BE
13 ABLE TO JUDGE THESE PROJECTS ON THEIR
14 ENVIRONMENTAL BASIS.

15 THOSE OF US WHO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS AND
16 CONSIDER OURSELVES AMATEUR NATURALISTS AND
17 CONSERVATIONISTS, WE RECOGNIZE THAT -- THAT
18 RIGHT HERE IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THESE
19 TWO PLANTS, WELL, IF THE AMOUNT OF WILDLIFE AND

20 VEGETATIVE SIGNIFICANCE MEANS ANYTHING, IT'S
21 THE FACT THAT WE HAVE MORE DEER, WE HAVE MORE
22 TURKEY, WE HAVE A THREE THOUSAND ACRE IMPOUND
23 THAT'S ALMOST CONSIDERED A PUBLIC WATERWAY, BUT
24 IT'S ACTUALLY KNOWN BY CLECO FOR THE WATER
25 PURPOSES WHICH IS A QUALITY LAKE THAT'S UNDER

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

20

1 ACTIVE MANAGEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
2 AND FISHERIES, THAT IS PROBABLY THE HIGHEST
3 USED NATURAL RESERVOIR IN THE AREA.

4 SO WE RECOGNIZE THAT THEY HAVE MADE A
5 CONCERTED EFFORT NOT TO ONLY WATCH THEIR BOTTOM
6 LINE AND THEIR OBLIGATION FROM THEIR FIDUCIARY
7 RESPONSIBILITY, BUT TO RECOGNIZE THEIR MORAL
8 AND ETHICAL REQUIREMENT TO TRY TO CONTRIBUTE TO
9 THE COMMUNITY.

10 THE PRESIDENT, THE MANAGEMENT, THE OFFICERS
11 AT THIS CORPORATION, THE MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS,
12 MOST OF THEIR EMPLOYEES ARE MEMBERS OF THIS
13 COMMUNITY. THEY BREATHE THE SAME AIR AS WE DO.
14 THEY ENJOY THE SAME OUTDOORS AS WE ENJOY. SO
15 THEY RECOGNIZE THAT WHAT THEY DO WILL NOT ONLY
16 IMPACT THE COMMUNITY, BUT WILL ACTUALLY IMPACT
17 THEM.

18 THIS SCHOOL IS RIGHT HERE UNDERNEATH THE
19 SMOKESTACK. THEY DO A TREMENDOUS JOB OF
20 HELPING WITH IT, WITH OTHER THINGS IN THE
21 COMMUNITY.

22 BUT WE RECOGNIZE THAT WHEN WE STOOD WITH
23 THE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE, DEWITT, AND MANY
24 OTHERS IN THE ROOM HERE THIS EVENING AND YOU'VE
25 HEARD THE NEGATIVE BILLION DOLLARS WAS TALKED

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

21

1 ABOUT SO OFTEN IN THIS BUDGET HEARING SO OFTEN
2 IN ORDER TO HAVE A POSITIVE BILLION DOLLARS BE
3 ANNOUNCED AS A TREMENDOUS PLUS FOR THE STATE OF
4 LOUISIANA, THAT A RECURRING ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF
5 SEVENTY-SEVEN MILLION (\$77,000,000.00) DOLLARS
6 IN OUR ECONOMY IS JUST TREMENDOUS FOR A
7 COMMUNITY THE SIZE OF OURS. WE WOULD LIKE TO
8 THINK THAT CLECO IS PUTTING THIS PLANT HERE
9 BECAUSE OF THE WINDSHIELD EFFECT AND TO THE
10 FACT THEY CAN DRIVE BY AND SEE THEIR NEW JEWEL
11 AND RECOGNIZE THAT AS THEY GO PAST. BUT THEY
12 ARE GOOD BUSINESS PEOPLE. THEY'RE DOING IT
13 BECAUSE IT MAKES FINANCIAL SENSE, BUT ALSO WHAT
14 WAS MENTIONED, THE FACT THAT IT MAKES GOOD
15 ENVIRONMENTAL SENSE.

16 SO I'M HERE HAPPILY IN SUPPORT OF THIS
17 PROJECT. AND THIS IS, FORTUNATELY, NOT AN
18 NIMBI SITUATION. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS HAS
19 ALL THE UPSIDE AND VERY LITTLE IF ANY NEGATIVE
20 OR DOWNSIDE. SO WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY, AT LEAST I
21 DO IN THE SENSE OF REPRESENTING MY COMMUNITY
22 SUPPORT THIS PROJECT. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT
23 GO FORWARD. WE HOPE THAT YOU ALL LOOK AT IT
24 THROUGH THE PERMITTING PROCESS AND HAVE ALL DUE
25 DILIGENCE TO TRY TO EXPEDITE THE PROJECT IN ANY

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

22

1 WAY WE CAN.

2 ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS THAT WAS
3 MENTIONED IS THE FACT THAT WHEN I WAS FIRST
4 ELECTED AS STATE SENATOR, CLECO WAS OPERATING
5 WITH TWO (\$2.00) DOLLAR NATURAL GAS, AND WE
6 HERALDED THE FACT THAT THEY WERE PRODUCING THE
7 CHEAPEST ELECTRICITY IN THE REGION.

8 FOR THOSE OF US THAT HAVE TO WORK WITH THEM
9 ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WE'VE GOT SEVERAL OF
10 OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS AND
11 PLANNERS IN THE AUDIENCE. WELL, THEY KNOW THAT
12 IF WE LIST OUR RESOURCES, WE DON'T TALK ABOUT
13 OUR ENERGY COST THE WAY WE DO WHEN NATURAL GAS

14 WAS TWO (\$2.00) DOLLARS. SO EVEN THOUGH IT'S
15 GOING TO TAKE A FEW MONTHS TO GET THERE, ONCE
16 AGAIN, WE'LL HAVE SOMETHING WHERE WE'LL HAVE
17 CHEAP, RELIABLE SOURCE AS WE GO ABOUT OUR
18 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT THINGS.

19 WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT, I'M
20 TALKING ABOUT THE OUTDOORS AND THE SOIL AND
21 WILDLIFE AND WATER QUALITY AND AIR QUALITY, BUT
22 THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT IS SUFFERING.
23 WHEN YOU HAVE A CHILD OR AN ELDERLY PERSON THAT
24 THEY CAN'T BE COOL IN THE SUMMERTIME AND THEY
25 CAN'T BE WARM IN THE WINTER, THERE'S A

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

23

1 TREMENDOUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT THERE. AND SO
2 THIS PLAN IS IMPORTANT FOR THAT AS WELL. SO
3 FOR ALL THESE REASONS, WE SUPPORT IT. THANK
4 YOU.

5 MR. WARD:

6 THANK YOU, SENATOR MCPHERSON. LIONEL
7 WELCH?

8 MR. WELCH:

9 WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT TO SPEAK
10 AFTER THE SENATOR, BUT THAT'S --

11 LIONEL WELCH, PRINCIPAL OF NORTH WOOD HIGH

12 SCHOOL. ALSO ALDERMAN, TOWN OF BOYCE. I LIVE
13 WITHIN A TWO MILE RADIUS OF THE PLANT, WORK
14 HERE AND HAVE BEEN FOR ROUGHLY TWENTY-NINE
15 YEARS.

16 I COME TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF THE PROJECT,
17 AND I JUST WANTED TO MENTION THAT WE FEEL VERY
18 FORTUNATE TO HAVE CLECO IN OUR AREA AND IN OUR
19 DISTRICT. AS FAR AS OUR SCHOOL IS CONCERNED
20 AND AS FAR AS OUR TOWN IS CONCERNED, WE ARE
21 VERY CONFIDENT THAT CLECO HAS DONE ALL THAT
22 THEY CAN DO TO PREPARE A VERY ENVIRONMENTALLY
23 FRIENDLY PLANT AND THAT THERE WILL BE VERY FEW
24 NEGATIVE, IF ANY, OPPORTUNITIES, YOU KNOW, AS
25 FAR AS THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IS CONCERNED,

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

24

1 ON THE QUALITY SIDE.

2 WE KNOW CLECO, CLECO THE COMPANY, TO BE A
3 TREMENDOUS COMMUNITY SUPPORTER OF OUR SCHOOL.
4 OVER THE TWENTY PLUS YEARS THAT WE'VE BEEN
5 HERE, THEY'VE HELPED US, YOU KNOW, YEARLY AND
6 CONTINUE TO DO THAT. SO WE KNOW THAT THEY HAVE
7 THE COMMUNITY AT HEART. WE KNOW THAT THEY HAVE
8 STUDENTS HERE AND THE PUBLIC AT HEART. SO WE
9 HOPE THAT THEY WILL OR YOU WILL ALLOW THESE

10 PERMITS AND GET ON WITH THE PROJECTS.
11 ECONOMICALLY IT WILL BE A TREMENDOUS GODSEND TO
12 US AND OUR COMMUNITY AND IN THE TOWN OF
13 BOYCE.

14 THIRTY YEARS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IS A LOT OF
15 GROWTH AND MANY OF US WON'T SEE A WHOLE LOT OF
16 THAT LATER ON, BUT WE HAVE TO LOOK AT THE
17 FUTURE AND THAT'S WHAT CLECO IS DOING AND
18 PREPARING THE FUTURE FOR THOSE STUDENTS THAT I
19 HAVE HERE IN THE SCHOOL, THOSE PRE-K AND K
20 STUDENTS THAT I HAVE WILL HAVE BENEFITS OF WHAT
21 WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TODAY AND REALLY ISN'T THAT
22 WHAT WE'RE ABOUT.

23 AND SO I JUST SUPPORT, TOTALLY SUPPORT AS A
24 CITIZEN AND ALSO AS PRINCIPAL HERE AS WELL, AND
25 AS WELL AS ALDERMAN, TOWN OF BOYCE. THANK

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

25

1 YOU.

2 MR. WARD:

3 THANK YOU, MR. WELCH. JULIUS PATRICK?

4 MR. PATRICK:

5 GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS JULIUS
6 PATRICK. I AM THE MAYOR OF BOYCE, LOUISIANA.
7 I LIVE IN BOYCE, LOUISIANA. MATTER OF FACT,

8 I'VE BEEN A RESIDENT FOR AROUND SIXTY YEARS
9 GIVE OR TAKE A FEW YEARS. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO
10 HAVE CALCULATING MINDS, I WILL QUICKLY CONTINUE
11 BEFORE YOU START CALCULATING THINGS THAT MIGHT
12 NOT BE PERTAINING TO THIS.

13 I WANT TO SAY THAT THE RODEMACHER PLANT
14 SINCE 1975 HAS PLAYED A TREMENDOUS AND VITAL
15 PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN OF BOYCE
16 AND OF COURSE RAPIDES PARISH. IT HAS BEEN A
17 TREMENDOUSLY GOOD CORPORATE NEIGHBOR AND ALSO A
18 GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD OF THE NATURAL
19 RESOURCES IN LOUISIANA.

20 FOR THE LAST THIRTY YEARS THE RODEMACHER
21 PLANT HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL SAFETY AWARDS,
22 SEVERAL AWARDS IN GOOD BUSINESS, AND SOME OF
23 THIS I CAN ATTEST TO PERSONALLY, SOME OF THIS I
24 CAN ATTEST TO VICARIOUSLY. AND OVER THE LAST
25 THIRTY YEARS, LET ME SAY THIS, THAT THIS

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

26

1 COMMUNITY HAS PROSPERED WITH THE ADVENT OF THE
2 RODEMACHER PLANT BEING HERE.

3 I WANT -- I WANT TO MAYBE DIGRESS A LITTLE
4 BIT AND TALK ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS
5 SPECIFICALLY THAT -- THAT THE -- THIS PLANT HAS

6 PROVIDED FOR FOR THIS COMMUNITY. I CAN NAME
7 NAMES, PEOPLE LIKE THE PHILLIPS, DONALD
8 KLEINPETERSON. I HATE TO START NAMING NAMES,
9 BECAUSE, "WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU MENTION MY
10 NAME," BUT THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE HIRED FROM
11 BOYCE AND OTHERS AND THEY HAVE -- I CAN -- I
12 DARE SAY THAT THEY HAVE BEEN A TREMENDOUS ASSET
13 TO CLECO. I KNOW THEY HAVE BEEN A TREMENDOUS
14 ASSET TO THE TOWN OF BOYCE IN TERMS OF THESE
15 GIVING BACK TO THE TOWN IN TERMS OF
16 VOLUNTEERING WORK. SEVERAL OF THEM HAVE --
17 HAVE BROUGHT OUR RECREATION PROGRAM TO A HIGHER
18 LEVEL.

19 SO IF THIS -- THIS -- I WANT TO SAY ALSO IN
20 REFERENCE TO CLECO AND -- AND THE FACT THAT IT
21 IS A GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL NEIGHBOR, I WAS LOOKING
22 AT SOME OF THE THINGS THAT TO ME WAS VERY
23 CREATIVE, BUT TO YOU, CLECO, PROBABLY NOT SO
24 CREATIVE BECAUSE YOU DO THIS ALL THE TIME. BUT
25 MY BACKGROUND IS IN CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS AND I

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

27

1 LOOK AT ONE OF THE INCIDENTS, AND I'M JUST
2 GOING TO MENTION ONE, WHERE THEY TOOK THE
3 OPPORTUNITY TO PLANT A HUNDRED AND TWELVE ACRES

4 OF SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND SEEDLINGS TO RAISE TREES
5 AROUND THIS ENTITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAKING IN
6 THE OXYGEN THAT MIGHT -- TAKING IN THE CARBON
7 DIOXIDE THAT MIGHT BE GIVEN OFF BY THIS PLANT.
8 AND HAVING TREES CONVERT THAT TO OXYGEN THAT
9 YOU AND I USE. IT IS A TREMENDOUS CREATIVE
10 THEME TO ME, AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY IS THAT
11 IT SHOWS THE PROACTIVE SPIRIT OF CLECO IN GOING
12 ABOUT AND THE LENGTH THAT THEY WERE GOING IN
13 ORDER TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND ALSO GIVE
14 BACK TO, POSITIVELY, TO THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN
15 THIS COMMUNITY.

16 IN 1978 I WAS ELECTED MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF
17 BOYCE AND I DARE SAY I'D HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT
18 I HAVE TWO MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES. NUMBER ONE
19 IS TO -- IS FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TOWN,
20 AND NUMBER -- AND TO GET EVERYTHING THAT I CAN
21 TO MAKE THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE AND THE
22 INHABITANTS OF BOYCE AND SURROUNDING
23 COMMUNITIES -- GIVE IT MORE QUALITY.

24 CLECO HAS BEEN A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND THEY
25 HAVE GIVEN BACK TO THE TOWN OF BOYCE. I WANT

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

2 I HOPE THAT -- FIRST OF ALL LET ME SAY THAT I
3 THINK YOU CAN SEE THAT I -- I AGREE AND I'M
4 SUPPORTING WHOLEHEARTEDLY THIS -- THIS PROCESS,
5 THIS PLANT BECAUSE IT IS GOING TO BE A
6 TREMENDOUS ASPECT -- A TREMENDOUS ASSET TO THE
7 TOWN OF BOYCE, NOT ONLY TO THE TOWN OF BOYCE,
8 BUT TO SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES AND THE STATE AS
9 A WHOLE. IT'S GOING TO CREATE, I THINK IT'S
10 ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY
11 MILLION (\$760,000,000.00) DOLLARS IN TERMS OF
12 BUSINESS SPIN OFFS.

13 WE'RE WORKING WITH TWO UNIVERSITIES RIGHT
14 NOW TO CREATE THE KINDS OF APPLICANTS THAT,
15 WELL, HOPEFULLY CLECO WILL SEE FIT TO INCLUDE
16 IN ITS -- IN ITS ADVANCEMENT OR INCREASE IN
17 EMPLOYMENT.

18 LIKE I SAID A HUNDRED AND TWELVE JOBS TO
19 HELP BUILD SOME OF THESE, EIGHTY-EIGHT JOBS,
20 EIGHTY, EIGHTY-EIGHT JOBS PERMANENT. WE EXPECT
21 THAT THIS IS GOING TO BE A TREMENDOUS ASPECT --
22 TREMENDOUS HELP TO THE TOWN OF BOYCE AND ITS
23 CITIZENS.

24 I WANT TO SAY THIS IN MY CLOSING, THAT
25 ENVIRONMENTALLY THIS PLANT, I KNOW, LET ME SAY

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

1 ALSO THAT MY LONGEVITY HERE I THINK GIVES ME, I
2 BELIEVE, SOME CREDENCE IN TERMS OF WHAT I'VE
3 SAID AND WHATEVER ELSE I MIGHT SAY. THAT IS
4 THIS: THAT THIS PLANT ACTUALLY, I KNOW FROM MY
5 EXPERIENCE, THAT CLECO HAS DONE DUE DILIGENCE
6 OR WILL DO DUE DILIGENCE POTENTIALLY TO DO
7 WHATEVER IS NEEDED TO MAKE THE PLANT, THE
8 ENVIRONMENT, AND ALSO THE PEOPLE, THE
9 INHABITANTS, OF THIS COMMUNITY PROUD.

10 AND THE LAST THING, LET ME SAY THAT I
11 SUPPORT THIS WITH ALL MY HEART BECAUSE I SEE
12 PERSONALLY FOR MY PEOPLE, THE PEOPLE IN THIS
13 COMMUNITY, THE TOWN OF BOYCE, THE BENEFITS THAT
14 IT'S GOING TO BRING NOT ONLY FOR THE TOWN OF
15 BOYCE AND THE COMMUNITIES OF RAPIDES PARISH,
16 BUT ALSO THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THANK YOU VERY
17 MUCH.

18 MR. WARD:

19 THANK YOU, MR. PATRICK. CHARLIE
20 DEWITT?

21 MR. DEWITT:

22 THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR COMING HERE
23 TONIGHT AND I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU THAT WE
24 HAVE A GREAT FACILITY HERE. I HAD TO KIND OF
25 BACK UP. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN IN

SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

30

1 HERE AND IT'S REALLY NICE. YOU ALL PICKED A
2 GOOD NIGHT, TOO. I FILLED OUT THE LITTLE
3 QUESTIONNAIRE AND PUT WEDNESDAY NIGHT. THERE'S
4 A LOT OF BAPTISTS HERE AND THEY WOULD HAVE ALL
5 BEEN GONE. THEY WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE CHANCE
6 TO BE HERE. THEY'D BE AT THE CHURCH TONIGHT.
7 BUT I JUST WANT TO LET YOU KNOW I'M A STATE
8 LEGISLATOR IN THIS AREA, IN DISTRICT 25 WHICH
9 COVERS CLECO. I'VE BEEN ELECTED SO FAR FOR
10 TWENTY-FOUR YEARS. SO I CAN TELL YOU WHENEVER
11 IT COMES TO ENVIRONMENTAL, I THINK I'M A GOOD
12 SOUNDING OF WHAT HAPPENS AND WHAT DOESN'T
13 HAPPEN, AND WHAT PEOPLE THINK ABOUT A FACILITY
14 AND DOESN'T THINK ABOUT A FACILITY.
15 I WAS SITTING THERE THINKING, AND BELIEVE
16 IT OR NOT I WAS A POLICE JUROR WHENEVER THIS
17 PLANT WAS STARTED AND WHENEVER IT WAS FIRST
18 OPENED. SO I CAN TAKE IT FROM THE FRONT TO THE
19 END -- WELL, NOT THE END, BUT WHERE THEY ARE
20 NOW, AND THEN CAN TELL YOU THAT THEY HAVE BEEN
21 A GREAT, NOT ONLY ENVIRONMENTAL, BUT JUST A
22 GOOD COMPANY TO HAVE IN THIS DISTRICT. AND AS
23 THEY HAVE BRANCHED OUT OVER THE YEARS WITH THIS
24 PLANT TURNING INTO THE -- TO THE WAY THEY'RE
25 REMODELING THIS PLANT, IT'S NOT ONLY GOING TO

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

31

1 MEAN A LOT TO THE CITIZENS HERE, BUT TO
2 CITIZENS ALL OVER THIS PARISH AND ALL OVER THE
3 AREA THAT THEY FURNISH ALL THE WAY TO OPELOUSAS
4 AND BELOW. SO IT'S JUST NOT A MATTER OF JUST
5 RIGHT HERE IN BOYCE. IT'S ALL OVER.

6 I CAN SAY ENVIRONMENTALLY, AS THE SENATOR
7 SAID, YOU CAN LOOK AT THE LAKE. EVERYBODY IS
8 WHERE YOU CAN'T GET IN THERE. IT'S -- IT'S
9 BEEN ONE OF THE MAINSTAYS HERE AS JOE SAID.
10 IT'S ONE THAT'S USED MORE THAN ANY. A
11 REPRESENTATIVE -- I USED TO CALL HIM
12 REPRESENTATIVE SITTIG, NOW PUBLIC SERVICE
13 COMMISSIONER SITTIG, HE GETS INVITED TO THE
14 DEER HUNTS, BUT I DON'T. BUT HE'S MOST
15 PROBABLY OUT THERE EATING A BISCUIT RIGHT NOW,
16 BUT WE'LL TRY TO GET HIM BACK IN HERE TO SAY
17 SOMETHING LATER ON.

18 THIS, NOT ONLY THE COST, BUT THE
19 ENVIRONMENTAL THAT I KNOW YOU ALL WILL BE
20 CHECKING OUT IN THE PERMITS AND STUFF, I DON'T
21 THINK -- I DON'T THINK YOU'LL FIND ANYTHING
22 THAT RAISES A RED FLAG WITH THIS COMPANY THAT
23 WOULD MAKE YOU EVEN LOOK BACK. I HOPE WE CAN
24 DO IT VERY EXPEDIENT AND I HOPE WE CAN BRING IT

25 TO A CLOSE BECAUSE I'VE TERM LIMITED AND I'D

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

32

1 LIKE TO SEE IT HAPPEN.

2 ONE OF THE MAIN THINGS THAT WAS SAID HERE
3 THAT I THOUGHT WAS GOOD WITH MR. FONTENOT WAS
4 THE RED RIVER. THAT'S MOST PROBABLY ONE OF OUR
5 MOST VALUABLE ASSETS THAT WE HAVE IN THIS AREA
6 AND IT ALSO HELPS THE CORPS AND EVERYONE ELSE
7 OF THE USE THAT'S COMING ON THIS RIVER TO MAKE
8 IT THE MAINSTAY TO KEEP THE RIVER TRAFFIC
9 GOING. I KNOW THAT THEY'RE JUST LIKE THE
10 STATE, STRAPPED WITH MONEY AND THE FEDERAL
11 GOVERNMENT AND I'M SURE THEY'RE GOING TO BE
12 LOOKING TO CUT BACK, BUT I THINK THIS PUTS A
13 PLUS TO THE RED RIVER NAVIGATION AND ALSO BEING
14 ABLE TO USE AN ASSET THAT WE HAVE HERE.

15 THE OTHER GOOD THING IS THERE'S A PRINCIPAL
16 HERE AND ALSO THAT THE MAYOR SAID, WE'RE GOING
17 TO BE -- THE EMPLOYMENT OF EIGHTY TO A HUNDRED
18 PEOPLE THAT WILL BE EMPLOYED AT THIS PLANT NOT
19 COUNTING THE CONSTRUCTION. YOU ALWAYS HAVE
20 JUST AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT. BUT JUST FOR THE
21 PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION, WE'LL BE -- THEY WILL
22 BE HIRING PEOPLE FROM HERE IN NORTH WOOD AND

23 BOYCE, SIMPLY HIRING PEOPLE FROM RAPIDES
24 PARISH. WE'VE GOT A COLLEGE WE JUST MADE A
25 FOUR YEAR SCHOOL, LSU-A. WE'VE GOT LOUISIANA

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

33

1 COLLEGE ALSO THAT'S ON THE PINEVILLE SIDE.
2 THEY WILL BE USING THOSE ASSETS AND THOSE
3 PEOPLE THAT WE HAVE HERE. THAT'S THE WAY CLECO
4 DOES. THEY'RE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, A GOOD HOME
5 TOWN COMPANY THAT REALLY WORKS AND BRINGS IT
6 ALL TOGETHER.

7 I WANT TO AGAIN SAY THAT I SUPPORT THIS
8 PROJECT. AGAIN, IF YOU ALL NEED ANY HELP FROM
9 ME, I KNOW THAT THE GOVERNOR IN A PRESS
10 CONFERENCE WE HAD GAVE HER FULL SUPPORT BEHIND
11 IT. BUT IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO, SOME LEG
12 WORK OR SOMETHING THAT'S CLOGGED UP OR NOT
13 WORKING RIGHT, YOU ALL FEEL FREE TO CALL ON ME
14 AS I SAY THAT TO CLECO ALSO.

15 AND LIKE I SAID, I CAN'T STRESS, THIS
16 COMPANY HAS BEEN HERE FOR THIRTY YEARS. IT
17 STARTED WHENEVER I WAS ON THE POLICE JURY AND
18 IT'S GONE ON AND BROADENED ITS BASE. AS I GO
19 OUT OF BEING A LEGISLATOR AND I COULD TELL YOU
20 THAT THE END OF THE THIRTY YEARS RIGHT NOW,

21 I'VE NEVER HAD A COMPLAINT ABOUT ANYTHING
22 ENVIRONMENTALLY OR ANY PROBLEM THAT WASN'T GOOD
23 WITH CLECO. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

24 MR. WARD:

25 THANK YOU, SIR. ELTON PODY? MR.

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

34

1 DEWITT GAVE ME A WRITTEN COPY OF HIS STATEMENT.

2 I'M MARKING IT AS EXHIBIT "C."

3 MR. PODY:

4 IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE. MY NAME
5 IS ELTON PODY. I'M THE EXECUTIVE VICE
6 PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF
7 COMMERCE AND WE ARE HERE TO VERY MUCH SUPPORT
8 WHAT IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE AS BEING A
9 TREMENDOUS ASSET FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF
10 THE FUTURE OF CENTRAL LOUISIANA.

11 THE MISSION OF THE CHAMBER IS THAT WE ARE
12 TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROWTH IN
13 CENTRAL LOUISIANA FOR ALL THE CITIZENS HERE.
14 AND WE'RE SERVE AS THE BUSINESS ADVOCATES FOR
15 OUR MEMBERS AND FOSTER A BUSINESS CLIMATE THAT
16 SUPPORTS BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.

17 CLECO HAS BEEN HELPING LOUISIANA GROW AND
18 PROSPER SINCE 1934. THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

19 TEAM WORKS WITH LOCAL, REGIONAL AND STATE
20 ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS ORGANIZATIONS ON A REGULAR
21 BASIS TO RETAIN THEIR EXISTING CUSTOMERS AND
22 BRING NEW BUSINESSES AND JOBS TO THESE
23 COMMUNITIES THAT THEY REPRESENT.
24 TOGETHER WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL
25 OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS AND BROUGHT SOME MAJOR

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

35

1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO LOUISIANA.
2 AND I SAY THIS AGAIN BECAUSE THESE PROJECTS
3 HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD TO THE ENTIRE STATE, NOT
4 JUST CENTRAL LOUISIANA. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT
5 I RECALL IN 1991 WHEN WE HAD THE BASE CLOSING,
6 CLECO WAS A LEADER IN RESTORING THAT TWENTY-TWO
7 HUNDRED ACRE FACILITY TO WHAT IT IS NOW, IT'S A
8 DYNAMIC FORCE TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPING IN CENTRAL
9 LOUISIANA. THANK YOU, CLECO, FOR DOING
10 THOSE.

11 CLECO PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE
12 DEVELOPMENT OF PLASTER PIPE WHICH IS ONE OF THE
13 SATELLITE INDUSTRIES THAT CAME HERE BECAUSE
14 PROCTOR AND GAMBLE, WHICH HAS BEEN WITH US FOR
15 ABOUT THIRTY YEARS, DECIDED THAT THEY WOULD
16 MANUFACTURE HERE LIQUID DETERGENT. AND PLASTER

17 PIPE IS SPENDING FORTY-FIVE MILLION
18 (\$45,000,000.00) DOLLARS AND CLECO WAS THE LEAD
19 AGENCY TO MAKE SURE THAT THAT FIRM CAME HERE TO
20 CENTRAL LOUISIANA SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE THESE
21 FIRST JOBS, OVER A HUNDRED TWENTY JOBS THAT
22 WOULD BE IN OUR AREA. THEY WERE A CATALYST FOR
23 THIS EXPANSION THAT CAME HERE FROM PROCTOR AND
24 GAMBLE.
25 CLECO HAS ALSO HELPED BRING A HUNDRED

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

36

1 MILLION (\$100,000,000.00) DOLLAR UNION TANK CAR
2 PROJECT TO CENTRAL LOUISIANA. THEY MANUFACTURE
3 RAILROAD CARS AND TANK CARS THAT YOU SEE
4 RUNNING UP AND DOWN THE ROAD. UNION TANK CAR
5 WILL CREATE OVER EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY JOBS.
6 NOW, AT THE CURRENT TIME THERE ARE PROBABLY
7 HALF A HANDFUL OF THOSE JOBS ALREADY BEEN
8 FILLED, BUT IN '06 WE'LL SEE A MAJOR HIRING OF
9 EMPLOYEES FROM ALL OVER LOUISIANA. I THINK
10 WE'LL FIND THAT THIS WILL HELP CREATE ALONG
11 WITH OTHER PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY, AND I'M
12 SPEAKING OF CLECO, THEY WILL -- THIS IS A
13 PROJECT THAT LEADS THE NATION IN ONE OF THE TOP
14 TWO OR THREE MANUFACTURING DEVELOPMENTS THAT'S

15 TAKEN PLACE OVER THE LAST TWO OR THREE YEARS OF
16 NEW JOBS IN THE MANUFACTURING AREA.

17 THESE SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLES ARE VERY
18 IMPORTANT AS IT IS FOR THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
19 SECTOR TO WORK TOGETHER. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT
20 REST ON OUR LAURELS. HIGH NATURAL GAS PRICES
21 ARE HURTING OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES. CLECO IS
22 RESPONDING BY PROPOSING TO BUILD A NEW
23 GENERATION UNIT THAT WILL USE FUEL OTHER THAN
24 NATURAL GAS AND LOWER ELECTRIC BILLS. LOWER
25 BILLS WILL HELP US ATTRACT NEW BUSINESSES AND

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

37

1 RETAIN THE EXISTING BUSINESSES THAT WE
2 HAVE.
3 CLECO'S PRIMARY FUEL OF CHOICE FOR THE NEW
4 UNIT IS PET COKE. IT'S PRODUCED BY LOUISIANA
5 OIL REFINERIES AND INDUSTRY. SO IT'S
6 HOMEGROWN, WHICH IS ANOTHER ECONOMIC BOOST.
7 THE TECHNOLOGY SELECTED WAS DEVELOPED UNDER THE
8 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND CLEAN
9 COAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM. IT WILL MEET AND
10 EXCEED ALL FEDERAL AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS
11 AND REGULATORY PERMITS THAT'S REQUIRED AND IT'S
12 DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC. AND IT GOES

13 WITHOUT SAYING THAT A GOOD PAYING JOB WILL PUT
14 MORE RESIDENTS TO WORK AND ENABLE THEM TO
15 SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES.

16 THE CHAMBER WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTS THIS
17 PROJECT AND THIS LONG TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
18 INVESTMENT IN LOUISIANA. WE ENCOURAGE THE
19 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TO MOVE
20 THIS PROJECT FORWARD IN A POSITIVE MANNER IN AN
21 EXPEDIENT WAY BECAUSE IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO
22 THE FUTURE OF ALL OF LOUISIANA, NOT JUST
23 CENTRAL LOUISIANA BECAUSE OF THE IMPACT THAT
24 WE'RE GOING TO HAVE WITH THE JOBS THAT ARE
25 COMING TO OUR AREA. AND THE FUTURE THAT LIES

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

38

1 AHEAD OF US IS BECAUSE OF THIS TYPE OF
2 DEVELOPMENT THAT'S TAKING PLACE WITH CLECO'S
3 EXPANSION OF THEIR PRIOR SOURCES, THE
4 INNOVATIVE WAY IN WHICH THEY'RE GOING ABOUT IT.
5 WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO PROCEED QUICKLY ON THIS
6 PROJECT. THANK YOU.

7 MR. WARD:

8 THANK YOU, MR. PODY. HERMAN BELGUARD?

9 MR. BELGUARD:

10 THANK YOU, SIR. HERMAN BELGUARD, METRO

11 WATERWAY COMMISSION. I'M HERE TONIGHT WITH MY
12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND MY FELLOW BOARD MEMBER,
13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEN GUIDRY AND MR. ALVIN
14 OWENS, A FELLOW BOARD MEMBER, AND WHOLEHEARTED
15 SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT. THE METRO WATERWAY
16 COMMISSION IS ONE HUNDRED PERCENT IN SUPPORT.
17 THE RED RIVER PROJECT WAS DESIGNED ORIGINALLY
18 TO SUPPORT THIS TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT ON THE RED
19 RIVER. WE FEEL THAT THIS IS GOOD FOR NOT ONLY
20 CENTRAL LOUISIANA, BUT IT WILL ALSO BE GREAT
21 FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE ALSO FEEL
22 THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT WILL BE MINIMUM
23 AND WE'D LIKE TO ENCOURAGE YOU, SIR, AND YOUR
24 OFFICE. WE GREATLY SUPPORT THIS PROJECT AND
25 MOVE FORWARD AS FAST AS YOU CAN. THANKS.

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

39

1 MR. WARD:
2 THANK YOU. IS THERE ANYBODY ELSE WHO
3 WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK? NOBODY ELSE WANTS TO
4 SPEAK? THAT'S ALL THE REGISTERED SPEAKERS I
5 HAVE. OKAY. IF THERE ARE NO OTHER COMMENTS, I
6 WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT THE PUBLIC
7 COMMENT PERIOD FOR THIS PROPOSED PERMIT -- FOR
8 THESE PROPOSED PERMITS AND ASSOCIATED

9 ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT FOR CLECO
10 POWER, L.L.C./ RODEMACHER BROWNFIELD UNIT 3
11 PROJECT ENDS AT 12:30 P.M., MONDAY, DECEMBER
12 19TH, 2005. I HAVE RECEIVED A TOTAL OF THREE
13 EXHIBITS DURING THIS HEARING. THEY WILL BE
14 ATTACHED TO THE TRANSCRIPT.

15 IF THERE ARE NO OTHER COMMENTS, I WOULD
16 LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND
17 PARTICIPATION IN THIS HEARING. THE DEQ WILL
18 STAY HERE UNTIL SEVEN O'CLOCK, BUT RIGHT NOW
19 IT'S 6:46, BUT FOR NOW THE HEARING IS CLOSED.
20 THANK YOU.

21 (WHEREUPON THE HEARING
22 CONCLUDED AT 6:46 P.M.)

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

40

1 R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E
2 I, SANDRA L. SONNIER, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND
3 REPORTER IN AND FOR THE STATE OF LOUISIANA,
4 BEFORE WHOM THIS SWORN TESTIMONY WAS TAKEN, DO
5 HEREBY STATE ON THE RECORD:
6 THAT DUE TO THE INTERACTION IN THE

7 SPONTANEOUS DISCOURSE OF THIS PROCEEDING,
8 DASHES (--) HAVE BEEN USED TO INDICATE PAUSES,
9 CHANGES IN THOUGHT, AND/OR TALKOVERS;
10 THAT SAME IS THE PROPER METHOD FOR A COURT
11 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPTION OF PROCEEDINGS, AND
12 THAT THE DASHES (--) DO NOT INDICATE THAT WORDS
13 OR PHRASES HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT OF THIS
14 TRANSCRIPT;
15 THAT ANY WORDS AND/OR NAMES WHICH COULD NOT
16 BE VERIFIED THROUGH REFERENCE MATERIAL HAVE
17 BEEN DENOTED WITH THE PHRASE: "(SPELLED
18 PHONETICALLY)."

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SANDRA L. SONNIER
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

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SUGGESTED LINE FOR RUNNING HEADER

41

1 C E R T I F I C A T E
2 I, SANDRA L. SONNIER, CERTIFIED COURT
3 REPORTER IN AND FOR THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, AS
4 THE OFFICER BEFORE WHOM THIS HEARING WAS TAKEN,

5 DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING 38 PAGES
6 WAS REPORTED BY ME IN MACHINE SHORTHAND AND
7 TRANSCRIBED BY ME OR UNDER MY PERSONAL
8 DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION, AND IS A TRUE AND
9 CORRECT RECORD OF THE HEARING, TO THE BEST OF
10 MY ABILITY AND UNDERSTANDING;

11 THAT I AM NOT OF COUNSEL, NOT RELATED TO
12 COUNSEL OR THE PARTIES HEREIN, NOR AM I
13 OTHERWISE INTERESTED IN THE OUTCOME OF THIS
14 MATTER.

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SANDRA L. SONNIER
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
LOUISIANA C.S.R. NUMBER 75008

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