

1 YUKON UTILITIES BOARD

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7 YUKON ENERGY BOARD

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9 2025-2027 GENERAL RATE APPLICATION

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17 P R O C E E D I N G S

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23 Volume 1

24 October 21, 2025

25 Whitehorse, Yukon

Proceedings taken at the Yukon Utilities Board, at
Sternwheeler Hotel and Conference Centre, 201 Wood Street,
Whitehorse, Yukon.

Volume 1

October 21, 2025

Lesley McCullough

Chair

Mel Johnson

Vice Chair

Connie King

Board Member

Richard Hancock

Board Member

Aaron Woroniuk

Board Member

Giuseppa Bentivegna

Board Counsel

Dwayne Ward

Technical Staff

Lorrie Mullen

Jay Halls

Sharon Kerr

Hearing Clerk

Colleen Henry

Executive Secretary

Briana Battersby

Jason Herbert

For Yukon Energy Corporation

Nathaniel Yee

In his own Stead

Leanne Kowalyk, RCR, CSR(A)

Official Court Reporters

Sonja Petryshyn, CSR(A)

1 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 9:35 A.M.)

2 THE CLERK: Order. Please be seated.

3 THE CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. My name
4 is Lesley McCullough and I am the Chair of the Yukon
5 Utilities Board, so I'd like to call this hearing to
6 order now.

7 I want to begin by acknowledging on behalf of the
8 Utilities Board, its members, its staff that this
9 hearing is taking place in the traditional territory of
10 the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än
11 Council and that all of us who are living and working
12 here are doing so in the traditional territory of one
13 of more Yukon First Nations and Transboundary First
14 Nations. It's important that we acknowledge, honour
15 and respect the stewardship of these lands by the
16 citizens of Yukon and Transboundary First Nations and
17 their ancestors over untold generations and into the
18 present day.

19 It's a privilege, although also a pleasure to live
20 in the Yukon, work in the Yukon, and have the
21 opportunity to reaffirm and honour our many
22 relationships with one another, giving effect to
23 reconciliation on an ongoing basis.

24 The Utility Board comprises five members, each of
25 whom is appointed for a three-year term and all of whom

1 are taking part in today's hearing.

2 In addition to myself as Chair, I'd like to
3 introduce to my immediate left the Vice Chair of the
4 Board Mel Johnson, to his left Richard Hancock, to my
5 immediate right Bonnie King and to her right Aaron
6 Woroniuk.

7 I'd also like to introduce the Board's support
8 team assisting with this hearing, and perhaps when I
9 mention your name, you could just raise a hand, so
10 people can identify you.

11 So I'd like to begin with the Board's executive
12 secretary, Colleen Henry. If you have any logistical
13 questions or anything related to the hearing, Colleen
14 is the person to go to with these questions, and beside
15 her is Briana, and I'm sorry I don't know your last
16 name, Briana.

17 MS. BATTERSBY: Battersby.

18 THE CHAIR: Thank you. And she'll be helping
19 in respect of document negotiation.

20 Sharon Kerr is our registrar for this hearing.

21 In addition, assisting the Board throughout this
22 hearing are the members of our support team, legal
23 counsel for the Board, Giuseppa Bentivegna. Dwayne
24 Ward, Lorrie Mullen and Jay Halls.

25 In addition, in terms of our support team we have

1 our court reporters representing Veritext Legal
2 Solutions, and they will be here transcribing these
3 proceedings, and I'm very sorry, I don't know your
4 names, individually, looking at the wrong direction.
5 Thank you.

6 Practice or logistical matters relating to the
7 hearing were laid out in a procedural letter dated
8 October 14th, which can be found on the YUB website
9 under the section entitled "Proceedings Before the
10 Board", referencing YEC 2025-2027 General Rate
11 Application and under the heading "Correspondence and
12 Other Information".

13 However, if you're undoubtedly close parsing of
14 that letter still leaves you with some questions, as
15 mentioned, you can reach out to Colleen by phone or
16 text at area code 867-335-2839 or by email at the
17 Board's email, which is YUB@UtilitiesBoard.YKCA.

18 Please mindful that the court reporters are
19 recording the proceedings and preparing transcripts of
20 the hearing. When the transcripts have been completed,
21 they will be posted to the public record on the GRA
22 website.

23 Parties wishing to access the realtime feed should
24 contact the court reporters to gain that contact
25 information through the realtime entry. The IT support

1 for this hearing is being provided by Upstream Events,
2 who will be managing both the on-the-ground logistics
3 and the communications arrangements. So.

4 Today is the start of the public oral hearing of
5 the YEC, Yukon Energy Corporation, 2025 General Rate
6 Application.

7 The hearing is scheduled for three days with the
8 announced conclusion to be at the end of day on
9 Thursday, October 23rd, 2025. However, I would be
10 remiss if I was not to mention that there is a very
11 real possibility that the hearing could end earlier,
12 perhaps even concluding within two days rather than
13 three, depending upon the manner in which the hearing
14 progresses.

15 The hearing is conducted in person and is also
16 available versus the Zoom video conferencing platform.
17 The hearing will start at 9:30 a.m. Yukon time each day
18 and run until approximately 4:30 in the afternoon.

19 There will be a midmorning break for about 20
20 minutes around 11 o'clock. A lunch break from noon to
21 1:30 and a 20-minute afternoon break at 3:00 p.m. each
22 day, approximate times and will be adjusted depending
23 upon the flow of the hearing, and depending upon
24 witness testimony. We're not going to break things up
25 unnecessarily.

1 There are various hearing courtesies that are both
2 pragmatic and customary. We remind everyone to ensure
3 that the sound notifications on your cellphones and
4 other electric devices are turned off during the
5 hearing. For those that are attending virtually,
6 please reduce distracting background noise and please
7 ensure that your computer microphone and microphones on
8 other devices are switched off at all times unless
9 you're called upon to speak.

10 We would remind everyone who speaks to identify
11 themselves for the benefit of the court reporters and
12 to speak as clearly as possible. We all want what we
13 say to be recorded properly.

14 We are -- we'll also remind people that YUB
15 hearings typically involve a lot of people, maybe less
16 today than at some other times. The time of everyone
17 here is very valuable, sometimes expensive in that it
18 can be charged to the utilities revenue requirement,
19 but whether that's the case or not, everyone's time is
20 valuable. Therefore the Board expects all participants
21 to use time well and minimize delays by observing the
22 following courtesies.

23 One. Be prepared including being technologically
24 prepared. Secondly, be on time, next ensure that your
25 presentations are relevant to the issues that are in

1 play for this application and the subject matter and
2 that they're efficiently presented. Also, please
3 ensure that all submissions are supported by relevant
4 and up-to-date evidence on the record.

5 Further to that point, I will also state that
6 we're a statutory Board with a statutory mandate and we
7 should stay within the mandate of the Board and the
8 scope of the application, no matter how great the
9 temptation to sometimes range beyond it. When
10 questions are asked, we expect them to be within scope
11 and we expect responses to speak to the actual question
12 and not be used as a platform.

13 Participants should be aware that the authority --
14 that the Board has the authority to sanction conduct
15 resulting in unnecessary delays by means of adverse
16 cost awards. I will admit that as Chair I'm adverse to
17 wasting time. I can speak a little quickly, and I can
18 be very quick to move parties along, but I will curb
19 that tendency today as we all want this hearing to
20 proceed efficiently but we don't want that to happen at
21 the expense of due process. As well I better confess
22 that I'm dealing with a wonky eye, so if I'm looking at
23 you and seem to be winking, I am not. That is just the
24 wonkiness I'm dealing with.

25 The subject matter of this proceeding is YEC's

1 2025-2027 General Rate Application, which we will refer
2 to going forward as simply as the GRA. In this
3 proceeding, YEC is requesting approval of its 2025
4 revenue requirements as identified by them. YEC filed
5 its GRA application on May 12th, 2025, and it requested
6 from the Board an order approving its revenue
7 requirements in the amount of 107.392 million for 2025,
8 122.406 million for 2026 and 134.850 million for 2027.

9 However, in its letter dated August 26, 2025, YEC
10 identified certain corrections that have impacted that
11 requested revenue requirement. This information was
12 also summarized in YEC's letter to the Board
13 September 19th, 2025, also found on the Board's
14 website.

15 In terms of timing, YEC seeks approval for final
16 rates for 2025 and 2026 effective April 1st, 2026, and
17 approval of final rates for 2027 effective January 1st,
18 2027.

19 The Board previously made determinations on
20 interim refundable rate Rider J via Board Order 2025-12
21 issued on June 16th, 2025.

22 I'm not going to take the time here to detail or
23 set out the further elements of the GRA, as the Board
24 assumes participants to the hearing and interested
25 observers are already reasonably familiar with the

1 scope. However, as said before, all this information,
2 the application, et cetera, are available on the
3 Board's website under "Proceedings before the Board."

4 To save time, the Board is dispensing with oral
5 opening statements. Instead any opening statements
6 received from the parties have been or will be posted
7 on the website.

8 I understand that YEC plans to seat a panel, and
9 separately sit expert witness or witnesses on net
10 salvage for the hearing. Is that correct?

11 MR. HERBERT: Yes, that's correct.

12 THE CHAIR: Thank you. For the witness panel,
13 the Board will first hear from the witnesses for YEC
14 following which interveners may cross-examine the YEC
15 witnesses. The order of the interveners is
16 alphabetical with ATCO Electric Yukon first and then
17 Mr. Nathaniel Yee. The Board's legal counsel staff and
18 the Board members will then have the opportunities to
19 ask questions of the YEC witness panel.

20 Then YEC will have an opportunity to ask further
21 questions of the witness panel by way of redirect to
22 clarify or elaborate on the answers that were given
23 during questions from intervenors Board staff and Board
24 members. The same process will be followed for the
25 expert witnesses.

1 The Board's practice in these hearings is to have
2 witnesses sworn in or to give their solemn affirmations
3 and that will be administered by the court reporter.

4 As noted in the October 14th letter, undertakings
5 that may arise from this proceeding are due to be
6 submitted no later than Tuesday, October 28th, 2025.

7 To ensure that all parties and the Board are able
8 to locate the evidence a party is referring to during
9 the hearing, the parties should provide the exhibit
10 number and the PDF page as well.

11 When referring to the information responses filed
12 by YEC, please refer to PDF page of the YEC
13 consolidated IR responses dated October 26, 2025, or
14 the subsequent revised YEC IR responses which are not
15 in that consolidated response.

16 A few comments about aids to cross. The purpose
17 of aids to cross is to assist the parties questioning a
18 witness about the evidence of that witness. An aid to
19 cross should only be used if it is actually necessary
20 and if it assists in the questioning of the witness.

21 Questions that you can put to a witness directly
22 should just be asked without the use of that, the aid.
23 The party planning to question the witness should
24 submit a copy of the aid to cross to counsel for the
25 witness and to Board counsel at least 24 hours before

1 the aid to cross is intended to be used. This is
2 necessary to avoid surprise and to ensure that the
3 witnesses has the opportunity to give a complete
4 response.

5 The aid to cross should not be submitted to the
6 Board at the time it's sent counsel to the witness and
7 counsel for the Board. Failure to abide by these
8 directions may result in the Board disallowing the aid
9 to cross.

10 After questioning the witnesses, a party may then
11 ask the Board to give the aid to cross an exhibit
12 number. The Board will decide whether the aid will be
13 received, and if so, it will be given an exhibit
14 number. If an exhibit number is granted, a copy of the
15 aid to cross is also to be provided to the executive
16 secretary, Colleen Henry, in electronic format at that
17 time. To facilitate efficient marking of the exhibits,
18 a list of exhibits has been circulated setting out and
19 numbering the exhibits received to date and the exhibit
20 list will be updated daily and it will be sent out by
21 mail as it's updated.

22 Just in respect of motions and objections during
23 the hearing, any party wishing to register an objection
24 or make a motion may do so by alerting the Chair either
25 by raising their hand or standing so that you catch my

1 attention. Interveners proceeding by Zoom should seek
2 acknowledgment by raising the hand icon on the Zoom
3 tool bar.

4 At this point I would now ask Board counsel,
5 Ms. Bentivegna, to proceed to register the parties to
6 this proceeding.

7 MS. BENTIVEGNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. First
8 we'll start with the applicant, YEC.

9 MR. HERBERT: Thank you, Madam Chair, and
10 Ms. Bentivegna. My name is Jason Herbert. I'm here as
11 legal counsel representing Yukon Energy on this
12 application. I will introduce the president and CEO of
13 Yukon Energy Chris Milner at this table and shortly
14 Mr. Milner will be chairing Yukon Energy's witness
15 panel and I will be calling on him shortly to introduce
16 the other members of our witness panel.

17 As requested by the Board in its procedural memo
18 and as you noted, Madam Chair, we have filed our
19 opening statement in writing, and we ask that it be
20 given an exhibit number as well, and once our panel
21 members are affirmed, and after Mr. Milner has provided
22 his introductions to the other panel members, he will
23 have a few further brief opening remarks, before the
24 panel will be open for questioning by interveners and
25 by the Board. Mr. Milner.

1 MS. BENTIVEGNA: Thank you, Mr. Herbert. Next, who
2 is appearing for ATCO Electric Yukon?

3 THE CHAIR: Yes, is ATCO Electric Yukon here
4 today or not in person but perhaps remotely? It does
5 not seem to be the case.

6 MS. BENTIVEGNA: And next, Mr. Nathaniel Yee, is he
7 present?

8 MR. YEE: Yes, I am here. My video isn't
9 always working, but I am present.

10 MS. BENTIVEGNA: Thank you. Those are the parties
11 who will be participating in the hearing. As you know,
12 Madam Chair, the UCG sent in a letter saying that they
13 will not be participating in the hearing, but however,
14 they will be submitting argument and reply argument.

15 THE CHAIR: Okay. So can we ask for the panel
16 for YEC to be introduced, please.

17 MR. HERBERT: Yes, thank you. So Mr. Milner
18 will proceed with the introductions.

19 A. MR. MILNER: Good morning. Thank you, Madam
20 Chair, members of the Board. So before we start with
21 our brief opening remarks, I would like to take the
22 opportunity to introduce the panel.

23 Paul Murchison, VP of engineering capital
24 projects. Stephanie Cunha, VP of partnerships and
25 business services. Jason Epp, VP of finance and

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1 myself, Chris Milner.

2 We have a strong support from staff throughout
3 Yukon Energy and key people are here today to help you
4 get the information you need. Thank you to Megan,
5 Hamid, Mona, Cam, and Jason Herbert, legal counsel.
6 Patrick Bowman consultants as you mentioned earlier
7 joining us as per the Board's request to the nets --
8 speak to the net salvage study later in the hearing.

9 So on behalf of the panel and our staff I'd like
10 to thank the Utilities Board and support team for
11 moving this GRA process forward. The process has been
12 timely and efficient.

13 We appreciate your effort the team has put in to
14 making this happen. The scale of the rate application
15 before the Board is significant because significant --

16 THE CHAIR: So --

17 MR. HERBERT: Perhaps we should have the panel
18 affirmed.

19 THE CHAIR: Sworn first please? Thank you.

20 A. MR. MILNER: Oh, yes, thank you.

21

22 C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON (For Yukon Energy
23 Corporation), affirmed.

24 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Milner. If you
25 want to proceed with your brief opening marks.

1 A. MR. MILNER: Thank you, Madam Chair. As I was
2 saying, the scale of the rate application before the
3 Board is significant because significant investment in
4 the electrical system is urgently needed. We talked
5 about this last time we were here and since then the
6 situation has only increased in intensity. The way
7 people use electricity is shifting quickly with
8 population growth in our territory along with more
9 homes installing electric heating and more EVs. Our
10 winter peak demand is rising sharply.

11 Under current conditions on a typical winter day,
12 homes and businesses connected to the grid already use
13 about 80 percent of what we can generate at any given
14 moment. Given the growing pressure on the system,
15 ensuring a reliable electricity system during the
16 coldest days of the year is more critical than ever to
17 protect public safety, support the wellbeing and growth
18 of our communities.

19 Our strategy paints a clear picture -- a clear
20 vision for the future. It shows where we need to be
21 step-by-step and outlines the chapters that will guide
22 us along the way. Each chapter represents a
23 significant step forward and highlights unprecedented
24 levels of investment to move us to the next stage and
25 build the electricity city system the Yukon needs.

1 Chapter 1 will bring us from 2025 to 2030 is about
2 strengthening our system, firming our foundation and
3 creating the conditions for long-term success. This
4 means that our capital budget and the rate application
5 before you focus on essential projects and investment,
6 not optional ones.

7 As we shared in our application and will discuss
8 in the coming days, these projects are critical to
9 ensuring reliable electricity and electricity is a
10 vital public service, keeps our hospitals running, our
11 schools open, our businesses thriving and Yukoners warm
12 and safe throughout the winter.

13 The Yukon we've been extremely fortunate, the
14 majority of our electricity comes from our legacy hydro
15 facilities, Aishihik, Mayo and Whitehorse and for
16 decades this provided relatively low cost energy and
17 firm renewable capacity.

18 Today, these facilities are showing their age and
19 require significant structural upgrades and
20 maintenance. The work happening at the Mayo generating
21 station is an example of the scaled investment these
22 hydro facilities require to continue to generate
23 renewable electricity.

24 These facilities also require ongoing permitting
25 under licensing across Canada and here in the Yukon

1 hydro dams were built during a time when First Nations
2 did not have input into development. Today there is a
3 commitment and obligation for both collaboration and
4 consultation and we're actively working together with
5 First Nations and governments in multiparty processes.

6 20, 30 years ago when these permits were last
7 issued used to involve 20-page applications and a
8 couple hundred thousand dollars to complete. Today is
9 it is much more intensive and complex requiring
10 applications totalling thousands of pages, years of
11 planning, engagement and collaboration and many, many
12 millions to complete and deliver on increasing
13 expectations outlined in decision documents and permits
14 and regulators.

15 The work happening at our hydro facilities both
16 from a maintenance and capital, as well as permitting
17 perspective, demonstrates clearly that meeting future
18 demand will require investment in the generation we
19 have, as well as the new generation, regulatory process
20 and system infrastructure.

21 Our hydro assets are not the only part of the grid
22 that requires investment. We're also investing in a
23 series of other critically important projects that will
24 strengthen the reliability and resilience of the power
25 system and support future growth. This includes

1 transmission line upgrades across the territory,
2 voltage conversions and new grid scale battery energy
3 storage systems.

4 At the same time, we must increase the supply of
5 dependable winter capacity as electricity demand
6 continues to rise, especially during the Yukon's cold,
7 dark winters. So does the need for firm, reliable
8 capacity that can be counted on when Yukoners need it
9 most.

10 We refer to this as capacity because it is
11 electricity we can call on when we need it and not all
12 electricity sources do this in the same way. As many
13 of you are aware last year we temporary lost our
14 largest generation source, the Aishihik station. When
15 we lose Aishihik or any other generating asset, we need
16 to be able to respond to the territory's electricity
17 needs for days, not just hours and repairs can be
18 lengthy.

19 This is why we are proposing to add capacity
20 throughout the system through projects like the
21 Whitehorse power centres and why we've been replacing
22 generators in Faro and Whitehorse. We must also
23 continue to reduce winter demand. The electricity
24 needed to meet peak demand is the most difficult energy
25 to generate and this is also the highest emission

1 generation. We want to reduce the amount of
2 electricity we need to generate during peak times,
3 through demand site management programs.

4 To deliver these projects, I have mentioned takes
5 resources and investment while Yukon Energy has as
6 strong team that works hard to keep the lights on every
7 day, the system is under pressure and needs a robust
8 work force to support it. Additional resources are
9 necessary to build projects needed to keep up with
10 growing demand as well as to meet greater regulatory
11 requirements and stakeholder expectations in the way
12 our work is being done.

13 We are experiencing in realtime the evolution and
14 intensity of the regulatory processes and
15 collaboration, commitment and robust monitoring and
16 mitigation measures are now expected and required to
17 maintain existing authorizations as well as seek new
18 ones.

19 As we move forward, we must coordinate with all
20 levels of government to ensure we can continue to
21 deliver reliable service while navigating the
22 challenges of a rapidly changing energy landscape.

23 We are here today to address any further questions
24 or clarifications about our general rate application
25 and the extensive material on the record for this

1 proceeding. We have reviewed your recommendations of
2 the past and have worked to provide the additional
3 detail in this application and through the information
4 request process that you will need to make decisions
5 that will support the necessary investments in Yukon's
6 energy system.

7 At the last public hearing for the GRA, the past
8 Chair of the Utilities Board closed the session with a
9 question. He asked who is going to pay for all this?
10 My answer then and it still holds true today is that we
11 need a coordinated approach. The reality facing the
12 Yukon and Yukon Energy is that we must make substantial
13 investments just to maintain the system and meet winter
14 peak demands. Even with rate increases in recent
15 years, Yukon's electricity rates remain lowest across
16 the north and comparable to some provinces.

17 But these investments required to build and
18 safeguard the system we need for the future are
19 enormous. I'm talking about a more reliable, modern
20 system that safely integrates more renewable energy,
21 leverages with technologies for optimization and
22 control and gives customers more choice in how they use
23 electricity.

24 So I'll be more clear about what coordination
25 means. To keep electricity affordable all levels of

1 government and utilities will need to come together on
2 planning to direct their limited resources toward
3 critical infrastructure, the foundation of the system,
4 and towards partnerships that earn social licence and
5 permissions that help bring new projects online.

6 This kind of coordination will allow a small
7 utility serving a vast territory with a small customer
8 base to smooth out rate increases over time, before new
9 subdivisions are built, before communities can expand
10 and before new homes and businesses can be powered up,
11 we must ensure the system has a generation capacity to
12 meet winter demands and that our existing assets are
13 modernized and running efficiently so we can ensure the
14 conditions for successful integration of new renewables
15 and emerging technologies. A roadmap sets the stage
16 for this and Yukon Energy is ready to do its part.

17 This public hearing is an opportunity to test our
18 application and discuss the challenges facing Yukon
19 Energy and Yukoners more broadly. The application
20 includes a huge number of projects and many of those
21 projects are both costly and complex. We've assembled
22 a panel that is committed to answering your questions.
23 We also have a strong team supporting us, and when
24 needed, we'll rely on that team to get you the best
25 answer possible.

1 Thank you for your patience, in advance, if we
2 need to consult our team and we thank you for your
3 time.

4 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you for those expansive comments.
5 I think I'll now call Mr. Yee. Are you ready with
6 questions for the panel?

7 MR. YEE: Yes, I am ready. I've been trying
8 to work on video. It keeps cutting out, so I'm going
9 to have to do this just on audio, if that's okay.

10 THE CHAIR: Okay.

11 MR. YEE CROSS-EXAMINES THE PANEL:

12 MR. YEE: There seems to be a delay from the
13 video, so I should go ahead?

14 THE CHAIR: Yes, please go ahead.

15 Q. MR. YEE: Okay. My first question is
16 concerning something that was brought up at the last
17 GRA hearing. That is in Dawson, DB2 and DB5 were going
18 to be retired according to the last GRA and they have
19 reappeared in the list of resources.

20 Are those two generators in Dawson still active or
21 have they been retired?

22 A. MR. MURCHISON: Paul Murchison. Both DB2 and DB5
23 are active.

24 Q. Okay. Can you explain why these are no longer
25 end-of-life and are there any costs or repairs or

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Cross-examined by Mr. Yee

1 maintenance associated with bringing them from
2 end-of-life status to dependable status?

3 A. MR. MURCHISON: Paul Murchison. The units still
4 are, you know, approaching and nearing end-of-life, but
5 as a utility with the low growth that we're seeing,
6 we're not in a position where we can decommission these
7 units at this time.

8 So when you look at DB2 and DB5 and the
9 reliability of the Dawson plant, it's important to
10 consider at all units as part of that plant. We now
11 have a full-time mechanic in Dawson that will help in
12 maintaining reliability of those units. We did invest
13 in DD5 this year, roughly \$100,000 in parts for
14 radiator and exhaust manifold. For both units we have
15 done general maintenance and repair. And with low
16 growth we continue to plan on maintaining those units
17 as operational on our system.

18 Q. Okay. Just one quick followup, is there a new
19 end-of-life date or are they in use indefinitely at
20 this time?

21 A. MR. MURCHISON: We don't have new end-of-life
22 forecasts for those units, but we do continue to plan
23 on operating them.

24 Q. Okay. Thank you.

25 The next question is on stacking order, which is

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Cross-examined by Mr. Yee

1 in one of my IRs. In past years, it was explained that
2 the rentals were higher in the stacking order than the
3 quieter installed diesels. This is we're talking in
4 Faro right now because the rentals for tier 2 and the
5 old diesels FD1 and FD7 were pre-tier.

6 The permits state that: (as read)

7 "Except for maintenance or test
8 purposes, the permittee shall run the
9 sources at each site in the order of
10 highest possible efficiency under the
11 circumstances."

12 The stacking order that was provided shows the rentals
13 being much higher in the stacking order than the new and
14 more efficient tier 4. Wondering how that works and what
15 is going on there?

16 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
17 So our air emissions permit outline that we are to use
18 the most efficient units based on the circumstances,
19 and those circumstances can range, based on
20 temperatures, and one of the reasons why the rentals do
21 get used or at least started in advance of permanent
22 assets at times is that we have found that in order for
23 them to be the most reliable during the coldest
24 temperatures being minus 30, minus 35, et cetera, that
25 we must start them early.

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Cross-examined by Mr. Yee

1 So it is now operational practice to increase the
2 reliability of the rental units for us to start them
3 when temperatures start to get to the minus 20 range,
4 and that allows us to depend on them more reliably in
5 those really cold temperatures.

6 Q. Okay. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Sorry, Mr. Yee, could I interrupt
8 for just a second and could I ask you if you're going
9 to be referring to specific questions or documents that
10 you've been asked before and IRs, if you could identify
11 the IR and the PDF number, just to speed us on as we
12 are -- as we're looking at them as well. That would be
13 appreciated. Thank you.

14 MR. YEE: Okay. Yes, I will do that in a
15 number of cases here there aren't actual references,
16 but I will do that for the ones where there are.

17 Q. MR. YEE: Next question, Yukon Energy has
18 always indicated a need for spare rental diesels
19 because the diesels were said to be unreliable and
20 sometimes wouldn't start. It was said that one or more
21 spares were needed at each location.

22 It appears there are no longer spares on the
23 system, and if this is the case, how is reliability
24 affected?

25 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy,

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1 so we no longer have spare units, spare rental diesel
2 units, on the system because they are now required to
3 meet our N-1 planning criteria which requires us to
4 have enough back-up generation installed locally here
5 in the Yukon, in case the power generated at our
6 largest power plant, that being the Aishihik power
7 plant, is no longer available because either the plant
8 itself goes down like an engine fails or there is a
9 fault on the transmission line that connects the
10 facility to the grid.

11 Q. Okay. Thank you. I noticed in the GRA there isn't any
12 mention of pursuing any renewable projects greater than
13 2 megawatts and these I know take many, many years to
14 plan. I also noticed that the road map to 2050 is up
15 on the Yukon Energy webpage and 2020's 10-year renewal
16 plan has disappeared. That one listed, you know, of
17 course Atlin and Moon Lake, and a number of other
18 projects, Primrose, Drury, Wolf River and all of that,
19 since the 10-year renewable plan has disappeared,
20 should we consider that everything in there has either
21 been cancelled or is on indefinite hold?

22 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
23 Mr. Yee, I'll go back and confirm the status of the
24 10-year renewable electricity plan on our website. The
25 last time I checked that plan was still accessible and

1 available, so I'm happy to take that as an undertaking
2 to confirm whether or not it's still there.

3 In terms of the projects that were outlined in the
4 10-year renewable electricity plan, one of them was the
5 Atlin expansion project which is being led by the Taku
6 River Tlingit First Nation. We have received an update
7 that that progress -- the project is proceeding. The
8 Taku River Tlingit First Nation representatives have
9 let us know that they have citizen support, that they
10 continue to progress by seeking federal funding and
11 that they have received construction permits.

12 So to the question of are these projects that were
13 in the 10-year renewable electricity plan advancing, we
14 have received notice that the Atlin expansion project
15 is indeed seeing progress being made from the First
16 Nation's perspective.

17 UNDERTAKING - TO CONFIRM THE STATUS OF
18 THE 10-YEAR RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY PLAN
19 ON THE YEC WEBSITE

20 Q. MR. YEE: Okay. That's good news. Thank
21 you. A couple questions on Faro diesel. According to
22 the decision document for YESAB 2024-0145 on expanding
23 diesel capacity in Faro says: (as read)

24 "The proponent shall design and install
25 an effective noise barrier or other

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Cross-examined by Mr. Yee

1 equivalent noise control associated with
2 generators onsite through its use of the
3 current noise levels."

4 What is the status of this project and has Yukon Energy
5 designed this noise barrier and what are the expected
6 costs and completion and all of that?

7 **A. MR. MURCHISON:** Paul Murchison. So we have
8 undertaken work to mitigate noise at the Faro site and
9 that includes repositioning the rental units in a way
10 that we use the existing infrastructure to block sound,
11 so that's the existing buildings.

12 Additionally, we took a second look at the sound
13 barrier and installing a sound barrier at FD -- at the
14 FD7 unit radiators and what we found was there was not
15 certainty that that would actually provide noise
16 mitigation.

17 So yes, we have committed to install noise
18 mitigation. At this time we do have a decision
19 document, but we don't have a permit, but where there
20 is an opportunity to mitigate noise we certainly have
21 committed to and will install appropriate noise
22 mitigation measures.

23 **Q.** Okay. My next question is a followup on what is on the
24 screen, NY YEC 1-24. At the end of the answer to
25 letter 'A' there, it says: (as read)

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1 "Permissible sound levels do not apply
2 in emergency situations, and looking at
3 the actual noise levels, running more
4 than a few rentals, particularly at
5 night, will require an emergency
6 declaration."

7 How often will this emergency situation, if this is
8 expected to occur, and how will these emergencies,
9 emergency situations be communicated to the Town of Faro.

10 **A. MS. CUNHA:** **Stephanie Cunha, Yukon Energy. So**
11 **as noted in our response, there is no noise legislation**
12 **here in the Yukon that's applicable to the Yukon Energy**
13 **operations, so therefore we follow the British Columbia**
14 **Noise Control Best Practices Guideline and in there it**
15 **does say that permissible sound levels do not apply in**
16 **emergency situations where public is at risk.**

17 **So what we would say is that any time that we are**
18 **running thermal, there is it is necessary to meet the**
19 **demand that is being required of electricity. So if we**
20 **are running any of our fleet, it is to match the needs**
21 **of Yukoners.**

22 **So in those circumstances we would be running the**
23 **necessary units as needed.**

24 **Q. Okay. So they will just be run regardless, not**
25 **necessarily just in emergency situations. They will**

1 just be running anyway, is what you're saying?

2 A. MS. CUNHA: Madam Chair, can I just ask for
3 clarification when the intervener is referring
4 to "they." I'm not really sure what "they" is being
5 referred to.

6 THE CHAIR: Mr. Yee, can you clarify for the
7 benefit of the panel?

8 Q. MR. YEE: Okay. I guess I'm concerned that
9 the generators will be run and exceeding permissible
10 sound levels in nonemergency situations, also just
11 whenever there is a need for power is my understanding
12 of the answer; is that correct?

13 A. MS. CUNHA: Madam Chair, this is Stephanie
14 Cunha with Yukon Energy. What I would say is we run
15 diesel generators across the territory that are
16 necessary to meet the demand of Yukoners and as
17 mentioned the stacking order in which we do run those
18 generators depends on a number of factors including the
19 demand that's required, the availability of other units
20 across the territory, whether or not the temperature,
21 so for example, as I mentioned earlier, if it is around
22 minus 20, we might be running those rental diesels
23 ahead of permanent assets because we have found through
24 experience that that increases the reliability.

25 So to say exactly what units would be running at

1 any specific time is difficult and it really is based
2 on the circumstances and the needs and the availability
3 of generation and other units at the time.

4 Q. Okay. Thank you. Moving on to Whitehorse thermal and
5 rental diesel exit plan. The reference, Exhibit 1-A,
6 the GRA, PDF page 441. Let's see here.

7 My question is, will the 15-megawatt south of
8 Whitehorse diesel plan be populated with rental diesel
9 or will it displace rental diesel.

10 In the GRA there on page 441 it says Rental
11 diesels -- let's see. Yeah, the number 1 diesel
12 rentals will be added to meet load growth until the
13 larger site north of Whitehorse is brought into
14 service.

15 Looking at the IR responses, Exhibit 4, I don't
16 have a page number on there, YUB YEC 1-8 (a)/(b) --
17 sorry about that. YEC-1-8 (a)/(b), a couple pages in
18 with the power centre service in the answer there
19 there's a -- like a report. The next page. Keep
20 going. It says with the power centre in service with
21 15-megawatt capacity -- sorry, a couple paragraphs down
22 starting with "with this power centre in service
23 15-megawatt capacity." I believe it's the next page.
24 Yes. There we go.

25 The text reads: (as read)

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1 "Yukon Energy would avoid renting an
2 additional 5 diesel units to address the
3 incremental capacity shortfall of 8
4 megawatts."

5 And then it says:

6 "Yukon Energy will be -- would be able
7 to reduce the number of rental units
8 from 22 to 18 considering the
9 15-megawatt total capacity for the south
10 centre."

11 So I'm wondering, is it populated with rentals or is it
12 reducing rentals? Because the GRA says it will be
13 populated with rentals, and this IR response there on the
14 screen says it will be reducing the number of rentals.

15 I'm wondering which is actually expected to be the
16 case.

17 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
18 I'll start and I'll ask any panel members to jump in as
19 they see fit to add additional context. But first
20 maybe I'll explain the difference between the timing of
21 the original application, which was in May and our IR
22 response, which was later that summer I believe in
23 August.

24 So in between those months, Yukon Energy finalized
25 an update to our load forecast system, and through that

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1 what we found was that there was an increase in the
2 load that we would expect in the coming years, and as a
3 result we identified that we needed to accelerate and
4 move forward with the Whitehorse Power Centre.

5 At present time, the timing of the IR, it is
6 contemplated that we would be looking to secure
7 permanent -- whenever we say permanent, I mean modular
8 units, not rentals, but modular diesel units that could
9 be installed at the Whitehorse power centre south
10 location.

11 So as outlined in YUB-YEC 1-A in our response
12 based on the installation of those modular units at 15
13 megawatts, we do anticipate that we would be able to
14 reduce the number of diesel rentals which was at 22 in
15 '27/'28 to 18 in '27/'28 following the installation of
16 15 megawatts at the Whitehorse Power Centre.

17 Q. Okay. Thank you. I noticed in the GRA, I mean often
18 the idea -- my understanding of these hearings was to
19 evaluate options and that sort of thing and look at
20 costs of different options.

21 Are there any alternatives to the new Whitehorse
22 thermal plants or any other options to be evaluated, or
23 is it being presented as the only feasible option?

24 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
25 I'll start and then I'll invite Mr. Murchison to jump

1 in, as well as the vice president of capital.
2 Certainly when we were contemplating the Whitehorse
3 Power Centre we did look at a number of alternatives,
4 the first being is, you know, what could we at Yukon
5 Energy do to increase the amount of electricity with
6 resources that we already have, so as Mr. Murchison
7 mentioned, we have done maintenance on our hydro and
8 thermal fleet.

9 It also included upgrades to our transmission and
10 substation systems. We also looked at alternatives of
11 reducing peak demands through DSM. And so as mentioned
12 what we -- through the updated forecast what we
13 expected was needing an additional 8 megawatts of
14 dependable capacity within two years.

15 So we found that looking to gain 8 megawatts of
16 dependable capacity through DSM was just not a
17 realistic target given that our plans are for 7
18 megawatts of dependable capacity through DSM by 2030.
19 So it just wasn't feasible to rely on DSM to garner
20 that extra 8 megawatts.

21 We have and also contemplated whether or not we
22 could fill that gap through mutual aid, so working with
23 the Yukon government, City of Whitehorse, to see if
24 there were commercial buildings or industrial -- when I
25 say institutional buildings, pardon me, so government

1 buildings that had back-up diesel generators onsite
2 that might be able to -- that we could call on on peak
3 demand to disconnect from the grid and instead use
4 their onsite diesel, so that would be through mutual
5 aid.

6 We've had those conversations with the Yukon
7 government and the city and at present time, we've only
8 been able to look at the possibility of 2 megawatts of
9 being available through mutual aid.

10 Then we looked at the option of, you know, could
11 we rent more diesels and install them in the Callison
12 area, which we have just recently commissioned, and
13 that was deemed unsuitable for a couple of reasons.
14 One is that to export more than 6 and a half megawatts
15 of electricity south, a transmission line upgrade from
16 Dawson to Stewart would be required and couldn't
17 feasibly be done by the time that we needed the
18 additional capacity.

19 It's important to note that as load grows, we find
20 that about 75 percent of all the electricity that
21 Yukoners need happens in the Whitehorse area. That is
22 why the Whitehorse power centres are being located in
23 and around the Whitehorse region.

24 So another consideration for us is, you know,
25 if -- I think it's more than 500 kilometres between

1 Dawson and Whitehorse, and so in order to rely on
2 thermal units or dependable capacity 500 kilometres
3 away, A, it wasn't technically feasible because we
4 would need transmission line upgrade, but it was also
5 just too far away for it to be reliable for Whitehorse.

6 And then we contemplated whether or not, you know,
7 we could add more diesels to Whitehorse, and really
8 what we found is that we need a new site for rentals.
9 We have 10 rentals currently at the Whitehorse facility
10 and we have no additional physical space to put any
11 more.

12 So even if we were to add and to rent additional
13 diesels we would need another site. We would need to
14 go through that process to construct another site. So
15 for all of those reasons that we contemplated building
16 that south Whitehorse Power Centre before December 1st,
17 2027, when that additional capacity was needed was felt
18 and believed to be the most prudent responsible and
19 rigorous way to get the capacity that we needed online
20 by the time that we needed it.

21 Sorry --

22 Q. Thank you.

23 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, sorry, can I add
24 something, so it's Jason Epp. The other thing, a
25 couple of other options we looked at to reduce our

1 reliance on diesel rentals was the use of thermal
2 generation at other sites that connected to the grid,
3 so we did is -- we had discussions with both Victoria
4 Gold at the Eagle Gold site as well as the Minto Mine
5 at their site, so those are the other two alternatives,
6 and those are mentioned on the application PDF page 74.

7 Q. Okay. Thank you. My next question is -- involves
8 Exhibit 4, page 24. In this page, Yukon Energy has
9 provided a sample of -- or preliminary format of, I
10 guess how actual rates might be displayed at some point
11 to customers. Are there any plans of -- or any
12 schedule of that actually happening with rates changing
13 so quickly right now, a way for customers to see actual
14 rates inclusive of riders.

15 Are there any plans to do that?

16 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, so yes, this example
17 that Mr. Yee mentioned here in the PDF page 24 is
18 something that we are working on with ATCO actually,
19 and we've been going back and forth and trying to
20 figure out the best display of the rate schedules on
21 our websites, and we expect that it will be -- this
22 information should be available soon on the website.

23 Q. Any dates of soon or is that it?

24 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, no dates to confirm.

25 Q. Okay. Thank you. And my last question, looking

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1 through the GRA, the only mention of how something
2 would affect low income or fixed income Yukoners is
3 mentioned in conjunction with DSM.

4 Has any analysis been done on how the permanent
5 large rate increases affect low income or fixed income
6 Yukoners?

7 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.

8 The topic of rate mitigation is a topic that is being
9 led by the Yukon government. What I can say is that
10 the Yukon government just recently changed their format
11 of their internal legible rebate which used to be
12 applied to all nongovernment residential bills
13 throughout the year. That has since changed at the
14 direction of Yukon government, that now it is a winter
15 electrical rebate, which focuses on providing a higher
16 level of rate mitigation between the months of October
17 and April.

18 Additional information about that is on the Yukon
19 government website, as it is a Yukon government
20 program.

21 MR. YEE: Okay. I guess that's it for my
22 questions. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Yee. And so I'll
24 ask the Board's counsel, are you ready to proceed now?

25 MS. BENTIVEGNA: Yes, Madam Chair, but before I

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1 start my questions, maybe we can give an exhibit number
2 to the opening statement, and that would be YEC's
3 opening statement, that would be Exhibit 8.

4 THE CHAIR: That's correct. And thank you for
5 reminding me of that, so YEC's opening statement is
6 Exhibit 8.

7 **EXHIBIT 8 - OPENING STATEMENT OF YEC**

8 **MS. BENTIVEGNA QUESTIONS THE PANEL:**

9 Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA: Good morning, panel.

10 Now, I'll first if you can look at Exhibit 4, it's
11 the YUB-YEC-1-1 at PDF pages -- the response is at 105
12 to 108. Now, the first quote is on page 106, the
13 second bullet, that starts with "Protect Electrical
14 Equipment, Workers and the Public". Let me know if you
15 see that.

16 And then does this bullet describe in general the
17 responsibility of the utility and therefore is not
18 specific to IPPs or micro generators? If you want me
19 to read the whole quote I can, but ...

20 A. MS. CUNHA: Sorry, Madam Chair, this is
21 Stephanie with Yukon Energy. Could we ask the question
22 just be repeated. We were just trying to find the
23 bullet that was being referred to.

24 Q. Certainly. So in looking at that second bullet, does
25 the text in that bullet describe in general the

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 responsibility of the utility, and therefore is not
2 specific to IPPs or micro generators?

3 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.

4 I would say that protecting electrical equipment,
5 workers and public is a core responsibility and value
6 of a utility. However, when I look at the context of
7 the IR, it was specific to speaking to IPP and micro
8 generation and the effects of that on the electricity
9 system, and what we've noticed is that through the
10 increased penetration and use of IPPs and micro gen, we
11 are seeing greater instability on the electrical system
12 and as a result we are finding that we are having to
13 keep in mind that we are having to add spinning
14 reserve, so that way we can ensure that there is
15 sufficient inertia on the system that would allow us to
16 fulfill these commitments of protecting electrical
17 equipment, workers and public safety.

18 At this point I will ask Mr. Murchison if there's
19 anything he'd like to add on that.

20 A. MR. MURCHISON: Madam Chair, Paul Murchison.

21 There has been a pause in our IPP program. We have
22 noted instability on our grid linked to the sort of the
23 penetration of intermittent renewals, especially in the
24 summer months, and we have linked that to some outages
25 costs by instability of that.

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1 So I think per Ms. Cunha's point, I guess, the
2 bullet that was referenced is part of our core
3 business, relating it specifically to the intermittent
4 renewables on our grid right now.

5 THE CHAIR: Sorry, Mr. Murchison, could you
6 repeat that. You were speaking softly, so maybe you
7 can just repeat what you just said because I didn't
8 catch it.

9 A. MR. MURCHISON: Yeah, Madam Chair, so we have a
10 pause in our IPP program that, that pause is linked to
11 instability that we've seen on our grid, and so I think
12 when -- what I was -- the point that I was just
13 reenforcing that the statement in here is related to
14 the amount of intermittent renewables that we have on
15 our grid and protecting our grid, but it is a core
16 element of our business.

17 Q. Thank you.

18 A. MS. CUNHA: Madam Chair, this is Stephanie
19 Cunha with Yukon Energy. Maybe just one matter of
20 clarification on Mr. Murchison's point. The IPP and
21 the micro gen policies and programs are Yukon
22 government programs which the utilities have just been
23 enacted and asked to implement.

24 Q. Thank you for that clarification. Now, going to the --
25 still on -- yes, still on page 106, starting at line

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1 29, you'll see that it says: (as read)

2 "The micro generation program managed by
3 the Government of Yukon has been
4 extremely successful in terms of
5 subscriptions."

6 And there's a sentence after that. So my question is, is
7 the micro generation program still paused?

8 **A. MS. CUNHA:** Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
9 Yes, Yukon's micro generation program is still paused
10 for all communities that are connected to the Yukon's
11 main grid.

12 **Q.** And there's -- is there any information on whether it
13 will be reinstated, changed or when?

14 **A. MS. CUNHA:** Yukon Energy, Stephanie Cunha,
15 Yukon Energy. At present time, the micro gen program
16 has been paused until mid January of 2026 at which time
17 it will be re-evaluated.

18 It has currently been paused because the utilities
19 and Yukon government have come to recognize that
20 through the penetration of micro generation and IPP
21 programs and the instability that the solar power is
22 causing is that there is instability in summer power
23 outages that are occurring.

24 There is more solar power right now than we can
25 accept. The system is saturated with solar power, and

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1 so for that reason, the program has been paused until
2 such time that the Yukon government and the utilities
3 can work together to identify what system upgrades are
4 required to the Yukon grid to allow for the safe
5 connection of more solar and wind resources.

6 Perhaps just to provide it into context about
7 success. As part of Yukon's government, Our Clean
8 Future Strategy, they had a target of having 7
9 megawatts of micro generation solar power on the grid
10 by 2030. That target of 7 megawatts was achieved seven
11 years early.

12 Q. Thank you. Now, in relation to IPPs, new IPPs, is
13 there any pause in place or are there still new IPPs
14 being negotiated?

15 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
16 The IPP program has also been paused for the same
17 reasons.

18 Q. And again, is there any information on how long it's
19 paused or when it might be reinstated?

20 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
21 At present time that would also depend on the outcomes
22 of the study and the work that is being done for the
23 micro generation pause.

24 Q. Thank you. Now, there's -- I'd like to direct your
25 attention to then on page 107, starting at line 14, in

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 that same response. It states:

2 "If there's too many sources of
3 intermittent power on the electricity
4 system, it puts our job of delivering
5 reliable electricity at risk."

6 And it goes on. And then there's another statement on
7 page, PDF page 107, starting at line 32 that talks about,
8 and you just mentioned that:

9 "By its nature, solar and wind power
10 are variable sources of energy."

11 And it goes on:

12 "The amount of solar power available
13 quickly drops ..."

14 And so on. Just let me know when you've found the two
15 quotes. They're long.

16 **A. MS. CUNHA:** **Yes, we have found them. Thank**
17 **you.**

18 **Q.** All right. So although not firm, what is the total
19 current capacity of micro generators on the integrated
20 system, on the Yukon integrated system, and out of that
21 total capacity, how much is exported to the integrated
22 system that is exported after own use?

23 So I'm not asking for an exact number, just an
24 order of magnitude?

25 **A. MS. CUNHA:** **Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.**

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 So based on a public document that was published by the
2 Yukon Bureau of Statistics, I will just read it, it
3 says:

4 "In 2023 there were 804 solar electric
5 systems operating in the Yukon under
6 the micro generation program with a
7 peak generating capacity of 8.82
8 megawatts.

9 Although the actual total generation
10 from these solar energy systems is
11 unavailable, the systems added 3.667
12 megawatt hours of surplus energy to
13 Yukon's electrical grid in 2023."

14 I state that, that it is a Yukon government document from
15 Yukon Energy's perspective, I can't confirm that to be
16 true or not.

17 Q. So then you don't -- like, Yukon Energy doesn't have
18 breakout or, you know, what the total current capacity
19 for micro generators on the grid is?

20 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
21 No, Yukon Energy would not have that information as it
22 is -- the micro generation program is a Yukon
23 government program.

24 Therefore, I just wanted to quote the Yukon
25 government source of data.

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 Q. Thank you. Now, to cover this intermittent part of the
2 power supply, is it a matter of providing enough
3 spinning reserves, you mention spinning reserves in
4 your previous answer, to cover the micro generation
5 supply or a portion of it?

6 A. MR. MURCHISON: Yes, Madam Chair, we have added
7 additional spinning reserve to provide stability to
8 deal with the high penetration of intermittent
9 renewables on the grid.

10 Q. So do the spinning reserves cover the micro generation
11 supply or just a portion of that?

12 A. MR. MURCHISON: Madam Chair, Paul Murchison. Just
13 is -- sorry, could you ask that question a different
14 way, so we can understand. I'm not sure exactly what
15 the point is you're trying to get to.

16 Q. Well, basically is the spinning reserves, are they
17 meant to cover all of the micro generation coming in to
18 the system or only a part of it?

19 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
20 I'll provide an initial response and ask others to
21 comment for anything that I might have missed.

22 Since the micro generation and the IPP program
23 have come online and seen the success that they have,
24 we have as the main generator and main transmitter of
25 electricity in the Yukon found that there is greater

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1 instability on the grid.

2 As a result, Yukon Energy has increased the amount
3 of spinning reserve that we make available on the Yukon
4 grid specifically during those spring, summer, fall
5 months in order to create additional stability and
6 inertia on the system to prevent outages caused by the
7 variability of micro generation and wind power.

8 Q. Sorry, was there anyone else on the panel who wanted to
9 add anything? I just wanted to make sure.

10 A. MR. MILNER: Chris Milner, Yukon Energy. I'll
11 just provide some high level context. Because the
12 reason we're struggling to answer your question is it
13 depends on so many different factors. One of them
14 being that the greatest amount of spinning reserve can
15 often be required when the loads are the lowest in
16 order to catch the highest amount of intermittence on
17 the system at any given time.

18 So that's really what we're defending against, is
19 how do we catch those rapid variations and that's
20 really what the spinning reserve does. That gets less
21 and less as the load on the overall system increases
22 and I suspect it's not much of an issue in the middle
23 of winter when loads are high and percentages are
24 relatively low of intermittence.

25 Q. All right. So then my next question, and again, it

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 ties into that, but -- and if you can clarify, could
2 the spinning reserve be provided by a single nonrental
3 thermal unit or by hydro for this purpose?

4 **A. MR. MURCHISON:** Madam Chair, Paul Murchison. No,
5 it's good to have multiple units distributed and units
6 that are able to respond quickly as well because the
7 drops -- the changes can occur very quickly.

8 **Q.** Thank you. Now, still on the spinning reserves, is the
9 spinning reserve mainly in place for unexpected loss of
10 generation, that's YEC owned?

11 **A. MS. CUNHA:** Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
12 So general spinning reserve is that cushion of
13 additional power that you have in the background to
14 respond to either a sudden increase in demand or a drop
15 in supply, so that could be, you know, in the winter
16 months that could be in response to Yukon Energy's
17 generation.

18 However, in terms of the context that we are just
19 speaking about, when it comes to IPP and micro
20 generation, so the IPPs are generation that is not
21 owned by Yukon Energy. It is owned by independent
22 power producers, and the micro gen is the solar panels
23 on homes and businesses, so the spinning reserve added
24 by Yukon Energy to the system is to respond to
25 fluctuations in those independently owned generating

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 **systems.**

2 Q. All right. Thank you. Now, as you just mentioned,
3 that the spinning reserve is being used for micro
4 generators and IPP production fluctuations.

5 Now, can you provide an order -- again, if you
6 can -- of magnitude of the spinning reserve required to
7 cover micro generators and IPP fluctuations, either in
8 terms of percentage or megawatts?

9 A. **MR. MURCHISON:** Madam Chair, Paul Murchison. So
10 we have increased spinning reserve to 3.7 megawatts at
11 an increased cost of \$2 million in 2023, and then in
12 2024 increased to 4 megawatts at a cost of \$2.2
13 million.

14 Q. Thank you. Now, can the different micro generation,
15 the different micro generation supplies, offset the
16 sudden impact of the supply? That is, if there's --
17 sorry, maybe giving you a little bit of context for
18 that question.

19 That is, if there's a mix of solar and wind
20 generation, if clouds roll in and reduces solar supply,
21 not all micro generation is lost as wind generation is
22 likely to continue, so I'm wondering, if you have
23 different supply, a different method of supply for the
24 micro generation, would that offset a sudden impact to
25 the supply?

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1 Or is there -- maybe if you can explain whether
2 micro generation is mainly solar or if there's wind,
3 more wind or less wind, that's the context of my
4 question?

5 **A. MR. MILNER:** Chris Milner, Yukon Energy. It's
6 a broader question, so I'll provide a broader context,
7 but I think the question is do dispersed generation
8 sources sort of balance each other out, and yes, and
9 yes, we see that helping. It really depends on so many
10 factors at any given time, but dispersing assets will
11 help smooth out the system.

12 But I think the broader question there is what
13 people in the control tower are trying to do is
14 maintain a frequency, so there's so many different
15 variables that they're dealing with in terms of
16 maintaining that overall frequency and the fluctuations
17 attached to that frequency so that things don't sort of
18 drop off the system without being able to get caught
19 with other generating assets.

20 So again, that happens when the biggest risk to
21 the system right now is when loads are extremely low,
22 and we're seeing sort of system-wide, you know, 30, 40
23 percent sort of wind and solar against a 35-megawatt
24 load. So that's really the biggest challenge right
25 now.

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1 It becomes less of a challenge as loads increase
2 on the system and there's a greater balance on the
3 overall system. That's the high level explanation.
4 Now, someone will correct me with technical terms if
5 you'd like to get more technical.

6 A. MR. MURCHISON: Madam Chair, Paul Murchison. In
7 looking at the micro gen and IPP programs, there's -- I
8 think there's some key information. The micro gen
9 programs are installed solar residentially, so that's
10 entirely a solar program that the utility does not have
11 visibility or control over.

12 The IPP programs installed a mix of wind and
13 solar, we have the ability to turn those systems off,
14 and so we have some control of those systems. So
15 that's just a bit of additional information on those
16 systems.

17 The inability to see or control micro gen and not
18 understanding of when, you know, say when fluctuations
19 can occur and not control that, it does create more
20 problems for us.

21 Q. Thank you. Now, does micro generation supply allow YEC
22 to store more water for winter supply in your
23 experience?

24 A. MR. MURCHISON: Madam Chair, Paul Murchison. We
25 do not.

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1 Q. Can you elaborate a bit or explain a bit how that
2 works?

3 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
4 At present time, Yukon Energy does not have a resource
5 like pump storage that would allow us to store surplus
6 solar or wind or even hydropower that is available in
7 the summer and to store it for winter months.

8 To Mr. Yee's point earlier in our conversation,
9 pump storage is a resource that would be really great
10 here in the Yukon to allow us to do that, since we do
11 have a surplus of hydropower in the summer. It was a
12 resource that was identified in our 10-year renewable
13 electricity plan, however, did not have the social
14 licence to proceed. So at present time we do not have
15 a mechanism to store surplus electricity generated in
16 the summer for use in the winter.

17 Q. So -- thank you for that answer. But I guess what I'm
18 looking at is the water supply or water storage in your
19 hydro facility. If you have micro generation coming
20 in, does that allow you or YEC to basically not use as
21 much water since there's less water in the winter? Or
22 are the two not related?

23 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
24 I'll answer and then maybe ask others to add to it, if
25 they have anything else, but right now as we have it,

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1 there is a surplus of hydropower on its own in the
2 summer. So we already have more hydropower than is
3 needed to meet electricity needs. So adding solar on
4 top of already a surplus of hydro means that we're
5 spilling more hydro.

6 Q. Right. I'm talking about the situation in winter.

7 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha, Yukon Energy.

8 Right now we don't have a way to store solar power for
9 more than -- at all. Right now, at all, because our
10 battery isn't even commissioned. When the battery does
11 get commissioned, it would only allow for hours of
12 solar -- surplus solar energy to be stored.

13 What I understand is whether or not that would
14 help with the winter, and at present time it doesn't.
15 We don't have that ability. There's also very little
16 solar that is generated in the winter.

17 Q. Thank you. And just going back to what you said about
18 the summer, does that -- does micro generation allow
19 that there's less water spilled in the summer because
20 there's the additional power through micro generation
21 or not?

22 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
23 As -- we're actually finding that it's the opposite, is
24 that we're having to spill more water because of the
25 increase in solar. So in order to have the stability

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1 on the system, we are not -- we are having to spill
2 water through Aishihik in order to stabilize the grid
3 because the variability in solar where we would
4 otherwise be storing that water in Aishihik.

5 Alternatively what we are also finding is that
6 there are times that we are having to run diesel
7 engines in the summer in order to provide the grid
8 stability it needed because of the solar penetration
9 and the solar energy that is coming. So with the
10 surplus of solar energy on top of a surplus of hydro,
11 we are finding that we are in a situation that there
12 are times when we are running diesel in order to
13 stabilize the grid in the summer, and there are times
14 when we having to run Aishihik, our winter battery, in
15 order to stabilize the grid and therefore losing winter
16 renewable electricity that Aishihik would otherwise
17 provide.

18 THE CHAIR: Excuse me, Ms. Bentivegna. Would
19 now be a good time to take our mid-morning break.

20 MS. BENTIVEGNA: Yes, Madam Chair.

21 THE CHAIR: Okay. We will take that break
22 now. We are in stasis for 20 minutes.

23 THE CLERK: Order. The hearing will stand
24 adjourned for 20 minutes.

25 (ADJOURNMENT)

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1 THE CLERK: Order. This hearing is

2 reconvened. Please be seated.

3 THE CHAIR: Ms. Bentivegna, if you're ready to
4 continue.

5 MS. BENTIVEGNA: Yes, Madam Chair. Thank you.

6 Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA: Now, these next questions will
7 deal with your response, Exhibit 4, YUB-YEC-1-2, B to
8 D, and those are on PDF page 117 and 118.

9 So in response to parts B and C of the question,
10 YEC provided advantages and disadvantages of amortizing
11 costs related to obtaining permits.

12 In the response to part D, YEC stated: (as read)
13 "Given the benefits and disadvantages
14 listed in part C, there's no reasonable
15 basis to expense the cost as incurred."

16 Now, if a permit is not granted, should the cost of the
17 permitting process be expensed or not in light of those
18 responses?

19 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, it's Jason Epp.
20 Sorry, I'm trying to think of a situation, and if this
21 question here was regarding our water licences, and I
22 can't see them not being permitted at some point. So
23 that's kind of a hypothetical question that I hope we
24 never have to deal with.

25 Q. But if -- for example, when you started in the '23/'24,

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1 there was the 25-year water licence and then that got
2 changed. Correct me if I'm wrong, to the 5 years, so
3 then, unless I'm misremembering, the costs were
4 shifted. Is that what you're referring to or some
5 other -- or you're saying it's a hypothetical situation
6 because you would always pursue some kind of water
7 licence?

8 A. MR. EPP: Yeah, my understanding is, for
9 example, for the Aishihik licence that you're referring
10 to, we could not have it not be permitted, so
11 therefore, I wouldn't -- don't have an answer to how it
12 would be accounted for, because we would do the steps
13 necessary to ensure that it was permitted at some
14 point, which is what was done.

15 Q. Thank you. Now, same exhibit, at PDF page 121, and
16 that's YUB-YEC-1-4-A, A and B. Now, the quote there
17 that I have a question on is:

18 "Yukon Energy is committed to fostering
19 strong partnerships at every level of
20 its business and sourcing locally when
21 economical to ensure shared growth and
22 success."

23 When the quote I've just read refers to economical, what
24 does YEC mean, like, in terms -- how does it assess
25 economical?

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1 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, Yukon Energy will for
2 the most part as far -- will have transactions that are
3 in the best interest of the ratepayers as far as cost
4 is concerned. If there is a market quotes that are
5 higher or less than each other, I mean, we can take
6 into account other considerations, but generally
7 speaking, we would take the lower cost alternative
8 depending on the other factors.

9 With regard to our procurement policy, we
10 specifically say that we offer First Nations the
11 opportunity to get involved in the business, however,
12 if they are not market comparable, they do not get the
13 work.

14 Q. But when you say, sir, Mr. Epp, when you say "market
15 comparable," can you just elaborate on that just a
16 little bit?

17 A. MR. EPP: If all else being equal, the price
18 that the First Nation is offering is greater than the
19 other market prices, we will consider that with all
20 other options, but if it's too high, we will not accept
21 their business, their proposal.

22 Q. So just to followup on that, how does then YEC
23 determine whether sourcing locally is economical? Is
24 it what you've just told me or is there a different --

25 A. MR. EPP: So our procurement policy says

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1 that we want the business, the vender that's located in
2 that community, to get the business, so we give them
3 the opportunity.

4 If they aren't marketable, they don't get the
5 business, but they are invited, and we make sure that
6 we go out of our way to make sure that they're invited.
7 Yeah.

8 Q. Now, still the same exhibit, and I'm at PDF page 125,
9 your response there. And I'm looking at the quote:

10 "Consistent with this industry
11 standard, Yukon Energy determines the
12 weighted average FOR for each Yukon
13 Energy owned diesel and liquefied
14 natural gas generating station based on
15 force outage data from the past five
16 years."

17 And my question to you is how were the weightings and the
18 weighted average determined?

19 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha, Yukon Energy.
20 Those weighted averages are based on the size of the
21 engine, so the name plate capacity of the engine.

22 Q. And could YEC use a simple average for this calculation
23 or not?

24 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha, Yukon Energy.
25 When I think of it, I think that are -- I use the

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1 example of a facility that might have a 5-megawatt
2 engine, a 2-and-a-half-megawatt engine, a 10-megawatt
3 engine, certainly the weighted averages reflects that
4 if the 10-megawatt engine is more reliable than the
5 2-and-a-half, then that plant as a whole is more
6 reliable, that you'd get a greater dependable capacity
7 from it, so that's why there's that weighted average.

8 Q. And could FOR apply to hydro facilities?

9 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha, Yukon Energy.

10 Yes, the forced outage rate could apply to hydro
11 facilities and is actually reflected in what we call
12 the effective load carrying capacity of that hydro
13 facility.

14 Q. So it just changes in terminology, but it's the same
15 type of calculation?

16 A. MS. CUNHA: Correct. Sorry, Stephanie Cunha
17 with Yukon Energy. Yes, the basis is the same. It is
18 based on actual output and reliability of the hydro in
19 the same way that we consider the actual reliability of
20 thermal units.

21 Q. Thank you. Now, if in that same Exhibit 4 you want to
22 go to page 142 and 143, PDF pages, and your response to
23 1-10 (c)and (i), so the two quotes I'm going to refer
24 you to is ones that says:

25 "On August 6, 2025, Yukon Energy was

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1 notified that the SREP utilities stream
2 deployment sub-stream funding request
3 of \$25.442 was not selected for
4 approval."

5 And then:

6 "As part of the application guide
7 Natural Resources Canada service
8 standards are that a decision on funding
9 will be made within 105 days of receipt
10 of the application.

11 However, as per Yukon Energy's response
12 to part C, the deadline for its utility
13 stream application was not adhered to."

14 Now, a question on these two parts of the response is
15 regarding this SREP decision, is there any type of appeal
16 process, and if so, has YEC appealed or have the ability
17 to appeal that decision?

18 **A. MR. EPP:** Madam Chair, there is no appeal
19 process. We have had interactions with SREP since that
20 time trying to learn why we didn't get approval, and
21 we've been given reasons, and the reasons being
22 basically that there were so many applicants across
23 Canada, and we just weren't considered the highest
24 need.

25 **Q.** And is there any update on the YDC SREP application?

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1 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, the application was
2 submitted by YDC on August 15th, so the deadline for
3 SREP according to their written rules for the response
4 is November 28th. We have not heard anything back yet.

5 Q. So, sorry, just so that I'm clear, this is the YDC
6 application, not the YEC one, am I correct?

7 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, my understanding was
8 that the previous question was regarding the reference
9 I think point C and that was YEC's 25 million.

10 My understanding was you were now referring to G
11 and H, which was the YDC SREP application of 176
12 million, so my response was regarding the YDC
13 application.

14 Q. So, sorry, Mr. Epp, I'm still trying to understand, is
15 there a difference between the second YEC you referred
16 to and what's referred to as the YDC application?

17 A. MR. EPP: Okay. Madam Chair, so I think I
18 get what you're asking now. So there was initial \$25
19 million application by Yukon Energy. That was not
20 approved. There -- we have been told by SREP that
21 there were -- will be another opportunity for an
22 application for projects that are more feasibility
23 related, which should apply more to the projects Yukon
24 Energy actually has, and that they expect will be ready
25 for submission later this year. There has been no

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1 submission up to that for that, but that submission can
2 be up to \$50 million. And that would be a Yukon Energy
3 application.

4 The third application, what Yukon Development
5 Corporation made for the 76 million and that was with
6 one that was submitted August 15th. I hope that
7 clarifies it.

8 Q. Yes, it does. Because I was getting confused when you
9 kept talking about YEC, but not the Yukon Development
10 Corporation, so thank you for that clarification.

11 Now, still Exhibit 4, the consolidated responses,
12 and this is in reference to the response to 1-12, PDF
13 pages -- sorry, page 147, and the quote I'm looking at
14 is about Chapter 22. That starts: (as read)

15 "Chapter 22 of the umbrella agreement
16 and Yukon First Nation final agreement
17 outlines provisions for Yukon First
18 Nations to be provided with
19 opportunities to maximize specific
20 economic measures, e.g, training,
21 employment, business and contracting
22 opportunities, energy planning, and so
23 on."

24 So I just want to draw your attention to that.

25 And my question is, does Chapter 22 of the umbrella

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1 final agreement enable YEC to use fair market value as a
2 co-determinant for the -- of the services it requires?

3 So when that reference to Chapter 22, does it
4 encompass an assessment such as a fair market value for
5 any bids?

6 Earlier we mentioned economic, but maybe if in
7 terms of this response you can reiterate how you would --
8 YEC would assess such bids or proposals.

9 **A. MS. CUNHA:** Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.

10 Madam Chair, yes, through the discussions and
11 agreements that we have been negotiating with First
12 Nation governments as related to our capital programs,
13 most recently we have included a fair criteria into
14 those agreements that allows us to reflect procurement
15 based on a number of factors.

16 One is the cost competitiveness of that bid as it
17 relates to Yukon Energy's project cost estimate, the
18 quality that could be provided by that gooder service,
19 the ability of that contractor to meet technical
20 specifications, qualifications, experience related to
21 the required services, the ability of that contractor
22 to supply and deliver the services that are in question
23 or being requested, the timeliness of that delivery or
24 completion of those required services, the health,
25 safety and environment certifications and records of

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1 that contractor, and any other types of factors and
2 criteria that we might come into agreement with the
3 First Nation, for example, training opportunities.

4 Q. Now, Ms. Cunha, you mentioned fairness. Is that -- and
5 earlier Mr. Epp had mentioned the marketability or your
6 procurement policy, economic standard.

7 Now, how does that relate to what is referred to
8 as fair market value when you're assessing? I
9 understand all the different criteria, but is the
10 concept -- when you talk about fairness, is that fair
11 market value?

12 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
13 Madam Chair, I would say that that's fair market value
14 based on a number of criteria which is in addition to
15 cost or in addition to price.

16 So for example, timeliness of services and all of
17 those other items that I spoke to.

18 Q. Thank you. Now, your response, again, it's Exhibit 4
19 at 17(d), PDF page 157, and I'm referring to the part
20 of the response that talks about: (as read)

21 "Therefore Yukon Energy understands
22 that the sales to Minto under care and
23 maintenance will continue during the
24 test years."

25 And then it goes on.

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1 Now, if maybe can you -- unless you can answer this
2 question, can you provide an update regarding sales to
3 Minto to the end of September 2025? Otherwise an
4 undertaking would be fine.

5 **A. MR. EPP:** **Madam Chair, sales to Minto to the**
6 **end of September 2025 are less than what we had in the**
7 **application.**

8 **Q.** Maybe if you can specify how much less, if you know,
9 otherwise if you can undertake to give us that
10 information?

11 **A. MR. EPP:** **Yeah, we could -- Madam Chair, we**
12 **could provide that probably at the lunch, after lunch**
13 **then. No problem.**

14 **UNDERTAKING - TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE**
15 **REGARDING SALES TO MINTO TO THE END OF**
16 **SEPTEMBER 2025**

17 **Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA:** **Thank you. Now, if, as you just**
18 **mentioned the sales are lower, and we'll see how much**
19 **lower than forecast, could you please update your sales**
20 **forecast for each of the test years to reflect the**
21 **current trend of sales to Minto, as part of that**
22 **undertaking?**

23 **A. MR. EPP:** **Madam Chair, yes.**

24 **UNDERTAKING - TO UPDATE THE SALES**
25 **FORECAST FOR EACH OF THE TEST YEARS TO**

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1 REFLECT THE CURRENT TREND OF SALES TO

2 MINTO

3 Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA: Thank you.

4 Now, your response, and I'm still in Exhibit 4,
5 your response to 20C -- sorry, 20E, PDF page 161, and
6 it's on IPPs, and the quote I'm looking at starts with:
7 (as read)

8 "As shown in Table 2.2 of tab 2, the IPP
9 deliveries for 2025, 2026 and 2027 are
10 forecast at 17.717 gigawatt hours per
11 year, which reflects the contract
12 volumes based on energy purchase
13 agreements signed with IPPs."

14 And it goes on to give more detail.

15 Now, what's the impact to YEC and rates including
16 Rider F, if the actual IPP generation is greater than
17 forecast?

18 A. MR. EPP: Sure, Madam Chair, in the essence
19 of time, we can give a detailed response in an
20 undertaking.

21 Q. Thank you. And also then if you can look at if it's
22 greater and if it's less than forecast. Is that
23 possible, Mr. Epp?

24 A. MR. EPP: Yes, we can clarify what the
25 impact is.

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1 **UNDERTAKING - TO PROVIDE THE IMPACT TO**
2 **YEC AND RATES INCLUDING RIDER F, IF THE**
3 **ACTUAL IPP GENERATION IS GREATER THAN**
4 **FORECAST**

5 Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA: All right. Thank you. Now, going
6 to your response at 21B, PDF page 162 the quote that
7 starts: (as read)

8 "The forecasts provided by AEY were
9 reviewed by Yukon Energy and were found
10 to be reasonable considering the
11 preliminary actual sales for 2024 at
12 the time of review, the population
13 growth and so on."

14 Now, what were the final actual, not the preliminary, but
15 the final actual 2024 wholesale sales?

16 A. MR. EPP: So, Madam Chair, I believe the
17 response is in YUB-YEC-1-16, so on page 153, and if
18 the -- the actual 2024 wholesales was 374,831 megawatt
19 hours.

20 Q. And so the response there was the final actual
21 wholesale sales?

22 A. MR. EPP: Yes.

23 Q. Thank you. And can YEC confirm whether the seven large
24 general service customers were connected by AEY by late
25 2024? There was mention of AEY having seven large

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1 general service customers that were going to be
2 connected.

3 **A. MR. EPP:** **Sorry, where -- can you provide**
4 **the reference to that quote again, sorry?**

5 **Q.** It's -- so if you look at that same quote, so it goes:
6 (as read)

7 "Growth productions for the City of
8 Whitehorse and AEY's evidence in the AEY
9 '23/'24 GRA regarding expected
10 connection of seven large general
11 service customers by late 2024."

12 And my question is, were those customers connected as far
13 as you know by AEY?

14 **A. MR. EPP:** **I don't know the specifics of**
15 **whether those were connected, those seven customers**
16 **were connected or not. I have not -- we can go to AEY**
17 **if you would like.**

18 **Q.** That would be helpful if you could. So whether they
19 were connected by end of 2024 or if they've been
20 connected in 2025, so basically if any or all have been
21 connected to date.

22 Yes, then of course that's an undertaking, if
23 you're in agreement.

24 **A. MR. EPP:** **Yes.**

25 **UNDERTAKING - TO ADVISE WHETHER THE**

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

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1 SEVEN LARGE GENERAL SERVICE CUSTOMERS

2 OF AEY HAVE BEEN CONNECTED

3 Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA: Thank you. Now, going to, again,
4 still in Exhibit 4, question -- response to 23A and B
5 on PDF pages 165 to 167, and I'm looking at the quote:
6 (as read)

7 "As reviewed in response to B below,
8 the growth rate of 2 percent per year
9 was applied over the 2024 results,
10 which is consistent with the population
11 growth projections by the Yukon Bureau
12 of Statistics which shows a population
13 growth projection for 2025 to 2027 at
14 around 2 percent. The number of
15 customers was also assumed to increase
16 by 2 percent per year."

17 Now, does the Yukon Bureau of Statistics provide
18 population growth projections by community or is it for
19 the territory as a whole?

20 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, we can take an
21 undertaking to find out the details of that.

22 UNDERTAKING - TO ADVISE WHETHER THE
23 YUKON BUREAU OF STATISTICS PROVIDE
24 POPULATION GROWTH PROJECTIONS BY
25 COMMUNITY OR IS IT FOR THE TERRITORY AS

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 **A WHOLE**

2 Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA: That's fine. If you could include
3 in that if it's not provided by communities, then if
4 you could look at in the undertaking what the forecast,
5 if there's a forecast residential growth rate, what
6 that would be with Whitehorse removed from the other
7 communities, if it's just an overall territorial growth
8 number that's provided.

9 And if in looking at those numbers, if you could
10 look at if whether Whitehorse is expected to have a
11 residential growth rate higher than other Yukon
12 communities, so again, this all depends on the
13 information that the Bureau of Statistics provides.

14 Now, in looking at the response to part B, YEC
15 stated that the average increase for residential
16 customer sales in 2024 was 9.6 percent, mostly due to a
17 change in usage per customer.

18 Now, has YEC investigated why there was -- why
19 there was an increase in usage per customer for 2024
20 for residential customers?

21 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, the reason why we are
22 seeing increased use per customer is the electric heat
23 now that people are using.

24 Q. So if I understand you correctly, then it's an increase
25 in the use per customer of their electric heating?

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, new builds in the
2 Yukon are electric heat. Therefore, the overall
3 electric heat consumption is increasing as a percentage
4 of the customer base.

5 Q. Thank you. Now, at your response to 23A, still at
6 Exhibit 4, at PDF 165, and looking at the quote:
7 (as read)

8 "The growth rate of 1 percent was
9 applied to general service sales
10 excluding Minto and Faro remediation
11 project related loads, then the
12 separate forecast was prepared for
13 those two large general service
14 customers and then the forecasts were
15 combined to get the total general
16 service sales forecast.
17 Therefore the total annual growth rate
18 of 0.7 percent noted above is lower
19 than the 1 percent growth rate applied
20 to general service class excluding
21 Minto and Faro."

22 Now, did YEC have any discussions with members of the
23 community it serves -- communities it serves regarding
24 potential new general service customers connecting during
25 the forecast period, the 2025 to '27 period.

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha, Yukon Energy.
2 Madam Chair, yes, throughout the recent years we have
3 had conversations with customers in Mayo and Dawson,
4 specifically where we have, through those
5 conversations, learned of new buildings, new home --
6 like, multiunit residential buildings or in new
7 government buildings such as, like, new rec centres,
8 et cetera, that would increase both the demand for
9 electricity in that community as well as energy usage.

10 One of those -- just to kind of bring it back,
11 that was one of the big reasons why the Callison
12 substation -- pardon me, not -- the Callison facility
13 was built at 6.5 megawatts but was permitted at 15 and
14 a half because through those conversations we
15 anticipated load in those -- in Dawson to grow at an
16 expedited rate, based on those conversations.

17 Q. Thank you. Now, moving on to 25A and C at PDF page
18 173, still in Exhibit 4. They're -- quote there
19 starting, and I won't read the whole thing: (as read)

20 "No, using the average of 2023 and 2024
21 actual line losses (both at 8.7
22 percent) would not provide a better
23 predictor for line losses in the
24 2025-2027 test years than the currently
25 forecast 8.8 percent."

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 And you go on to explain the -- what 8.7 reflects.

2 Now, YEC went on to further describe operationally
3 constrained conditions such as low water impact on
4 Aishihik and Takhini 8NVAR reactor being offline and the
5 Mayo penstock failure. That reduced line losses in 2023
6 and 2024 that are not expected to exist in the forecast
7 period.

8 Now, given the YEC expects the BESS to be
9 operational in 2026, how has YEC incorporated the
10 operation of this asset into its line loss forecast or
11 has it at all?

12 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, the addition of
13 BESS -- well, first of all, I'll say the BESS is
14 expected to be online late 2025, and we will be, as a
15 new asset, testing that pretty much for a year to try
16 and figure out the best way to use it, but it would be
17 one factor of what is considered with all the other
18 factors of transmission losses as mentioned in this
19 detailed information request response, and -- I guess,
20 I won't get into my -- details.

21 But this is kind of one of my favourite
22 information request responses because it was given to
23 one of our engineers who went -- took considerable
24 time, thought about in detail, and he basically
25 explained exactly how we come up with the calculation,

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 and the 8.8 percent was the result of his analysis and
2 the team's analysis considering all factors.

3 Q. And did that analysis consider BESS coming -- becoming
4 operational?

5 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, I'll refer you to
6 page 172. At line 1, it talks about the impact of BESS
7 and the reduction of the long distance power transfers
8 and its assistance so it's being considered there, yes.

9 Q. And you mentioned that -- and if you can explain --
10 it's going to -- well, the difference between what you
11 said about late 2025, I hesitate to use operational
12 because then you said that it's going to be tested for
13 a year on how you're going to use it, so when is, in
14 utility terms, is it going to be in service? Is it
15 late 2025 or is it after this testing and sometime in
16 2026?

17 A. MR. EPP: Our application has BESS in
18 service in 2026.

19 Q. So you've just confirmed -- just so that I'm clear,
20 that it will be in service in 2026, so it's not in
21 service in late 2025?

22 It may be operational, but you're still testing,
23 and so you don't consider it in service. Am I
24 understanding you correctly?

25 A. MR. EPP: No, and thank you for the question

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 on clarification. So we're trying to be consistent
2 with IFRS and accounting rules, and an asset can be
3 operational but it is not in service until it is
4 operational in the use intended by management, so we
5 have to -- it will be operational later this year, but
6 we have to take the time to learn how to use it, and
7 then in 2026 it will be ready for how we want to use
8 it.

9 Q. So just to followup on that, so you're -- does YEC
10 consider it commissioned in 2025, or only after it
11 knows how it's going to use it in 2026 after its
12 finished all its testing, and therefore -- I guess I'm
13 trying to pin down what you consider the in-service
14 date for this asset.

15 A. MR. EPP: When it's ready for use in the way
16 that management intended it to be.

17 Q. Okay. And can you just elaborate on that a little bit
18 for the BESS project? Like, isn't a battery storage
19 facility, and so I know there's a change in the
20 outgoing line to 17.5 megawatts from the 20, but I
21 guess what would management consider it to be in use?
22 So that we can all have the same understanding of when
23 BESS is in utility, in service use.

24 A. MR. MURCHISON: Madam Chair, Paul Murchison. So
25 maybe if I -- I'll step back a little bit and describe

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 the scenario that we're in when we look to in service
2 versus sort of used and reliable as we intend it to be.

3 So we're still on track to finish construction of
4 the BESS in 2025, but being a new piece of technology,
5 we don't have the ability to dependably rely on it.
6 And the use case scenarios have also adjusted slightly
7 since the project was originally procured.

8 We now have, as we talked about earlier, the use
9 of the battery playing -- the battery playing a larger
10 role to stabilize our system, especially in the summer,
11 in addition to peak shaving and black start.

12 So part of what we're doing is because we're not
13 certain that we can fully rely on it immediately after
14 construction is completed, is we're not bringing it
15 sort in service to -- or asking for it to come -- until
16 we know that we can dependably rely on it.

17 That work with will happen through 2026 as we
18 operate it through the different scenarios and develop
19 a better understanding of how that system operates so
20 we can dependably rely on it. And there also may be a
21 number of glitches that we have to work through -- work
22 out as well when we take over the operation of the
23 battery system.

24 Q. So I mean, this is a little bit of an aside, but can
25 you -- since we're talking about the BESS, can you

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 confirm that the completed costs will be 34,957,900?

2 We're rounding it off to 34,958,000.

3 **A. MR. MURCHISON:** Madam Chair, Paul Murchison. I
4 can confirm that we are continuing to forecast the
5 completion of the project on budget as of the end of Q3
6 this year.

7 **Q.** Thank you.

8 But I know I'm belabouring it, and I understand
9 what you -- what the panel has said. When will -- if
10 you can just give me a clear answer about when will the
11 BESS be in service? Is it 2026? So I understand it
12 won't be 2025 when it's completed because you have to
13 test it and figure out how it works since it's a new
14 piece of technology, so will you -- is it the intention
15 of YEC to have it in service in 2026? If I can put it
16 that way. At this point.

17 **A. MR. EPP:** Madam Chair, the intention of YEC
18 is to have BESS in service in 2026, and I can refer you
19 to NY-YEC-1-1, Attachment 1, where we will see the
20 benefits that we have allocated to the BESS in the
21 reduction of diesel rentals and BESS online.

22 **Q.** Thank you.

23 **THE CHAIR:** Okay. Would it make sense,
24 Ms. Bentivegna, to take our lunch recess now?

25 **MS. BENTIVEGNA:** Certainly, Madam Chair.

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 THE CHAIR: Very well.

2 THE CLERK: Order. This hearing will stand
3 adjourned for one hour.

4 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 12:08 P.M.)

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6 PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO 1:08 P.M.

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Undertaking Responses

1 Volume 1

2 October 21, 2025

3 P.M. Session

4

5 (PROCEEDINGS RECOMMENCED AT 1:30 P.M.)

6 THE CLERK: Order. This hearing will
7 reconvene. Please be seated.

8 MR. HERBERT: Madam Chair, we have I believe a
9 brief undertaking response.

10 THE CHAIR: I'm sorry, Mr. Herbert. I
11 couldn't hear you.

12 MR. HERBERT: Sorry, Madam Chair. It's Jason
13 Herbert speaking. Our panel has a brief response to
14 one of the undertakings given this morning.

15 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.

16 **UNDERTAKING RESPONSES:**

17 A. MS. CUNHA: Madam Chair, it's Stephanie Cunha
18 with Yukon Energy. I actually have responses to three
19 undertakings from this morning and one additional,
20 perhaps a clarifying comment.

21 So in one of the undertakings, Mr. Yee asked
22 whether we had the 10-year renewable electricity plan
23 on Yukon Energy's website. The answer is yes. We can
24 confirm that the document is available on our website
25 under business documents.

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Undertaking Responses

1 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

2 A. MS. CUNHA: The second undertaking is that the
3 Board asked about the impact of lower or higher IPP
4 sales compared to forecast. We note that a response
5 has been provided to this question in YUB-YEC-1-26B.
6 If upon reading that response, the Board has further
7 questions or require an additional undertaking, we're
8 happy to do that.

9 The third one was that there was an undertaking
10 about the Yukon Bureau of Statistics and their
11 population projections by community. So the Yukon
12 Bureau of Statistics does provide projections for
13 population growth in communities such as Whitehorse,
14 the Whitehorse area, Dawson city, Watson Lake and
15 Haines Junction.

16 The population projection shows that the following
17 growth rates: so A, that the total Yukon population
18 projection at 2 percent for 2025, 1.9 percent for 2026
19 and 1.9 percent for 2027.

20 B. A Whitehorse area population projection at 2.1
21 percent for 2025, 2.2 percent for 2026 and 2 percent
22 for 2027. Therefore, the calculated population
23 projection excluding Whitehorse are then would be 1.6
24 for 2025, 1.0 for 2026 and 1.2 for 2020.

25 I should also note that is if it is of interest to

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1 the Board that this Bureau of Statistics also shows the
2 population growth for Dawson city, which is a community
3 which Yukon Energy directly serves and we are the
4 distribution company there. For Dawson City it
5 projects a 2 percent population growth in 2025, a 2
6 percent population growth in 2026 and 2.4 percent in
7 2027.

8 My last point is related to a discussion that we
9 had earlier this morning about what I understood the
10 question being, does the solar produced by micro
11 generation allow Yukon Energy to save water? Or use
12 less water in the summer and save it for the winter.
13 The simple answer is no, and it's because without micro
14 gen, without IPPs, we already store as much water as we
15 possibly can, and the reason we do that or how we do
16 that is by running minimum flows downstream of
17 Aishihik. So the addition of solar and IPPs doesn't
18 change that. We can still store that amount.

19 As we discussed, you know, the interesting part of
20 that is that sometimes Yukon Energy is in the position
21 where we actually have to run Aishihik, so run water,
22 or use water, that we would otherwise be storing for
23 winter to stabilize the infrequency caused by solar and
24 wind and prevent summer outages.

25 So those are the four points, Madam Chair.

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 THE CHAIR: Thank you. I'll just ask that
2 we've got responses on three of the undertakings.

3 Does that leave two undertakings that we will
4 still be well within time but in the course of this.

5 MR. HERBERT: Yes, I believe there's three
6 undertakings left.

7 THE CHAIR: Three undertakings. Okay. Thank
8 you.

9 Sorry, Ms. Bentivegna, if you would like to
10 commence now.

11 **MS. BENTIVEGNA QUESTIONS THE PANEL:**

12 Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just
13 had an additional question, we were talking before the
14 lunch break about BESS, BESS project, and you mentioned
15 about testing cost and that once it was completed, then
16 there would be testing, and I'm just wondering, if the
17 testing costs appear in the 2026 CWIP, so if they do
18 appear, where are those costs shown? This is for the
19 BESS testing, and is there an estimate for those costs
20 in this GRA?

21 A. MR. EPP: So, Madam Chair, we are
22 forecasting the cost of the BESS project to be
23 approximately \$34 million. And that was the amount
24 that we gave in the application. When we did the
25 application, we had I think most of that money spent by

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1 the end of 2025 and a little if any in 2026.

2 Our -- based on the way things have changed since,
3 the application preparation, we now still forecast the
4 total costs to be that \$34 million, however, it is more
5 likely that we will be spending less to the end of 2025
6 and therefore a little bit more in 2026 to get the
7 final stages of the work done.

8 Q. So then if I understand you then, they would -- would
9 these testing costs appear in the 2026 CWIP and any
10 compliance filing?

11 A. MR. EPP: There will be -- in this
12 application, the work in progress as of December 31st,
13 2026, is zero. The project will be completed and in
14 service prior to that with no planned spending
15 capitalized after that.

16 Q. Okay. So then it would be reflected, though, the work
17 in progress in 2025 for these -- what I call testing
18 costs or for getting the system up and running?

19 A. MR. EPP: Yes, there's WIP at December 31st,
20 2025, zero as of 2026 December 31st.

21 Q. All right. Thank you. And so one last question, so
22 what -- do you have an estimate what those costs would
23 be, the phase of this testing phase or you don't?

24 A. MR. MURCHISON: Paul Murchison, Madam Chair. We
25 do not have an estimate for those costs yet, but we

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 still are forecasting that the work will be completed
2 within the budget, so that \$34.9 million budget that we
3 have.

4 Q. Thank you. Now, returning to Exhibit 4, and this is
5 your response to YUB 27 at PDF page 179, and the quote
6 I'm looking at is: (as read)

7 "There was insufficient time and
8 available resources for Yukon Energy
9 staff to update the water years to
10 include 2022-2024 water records to be
11 used in the modelling. Considering the
12 low water conditions experienced in
13 '23/'24 and '24/'25 --."

14 Well, for 2023/'24 and 2024/'25:

15 " -- the potential impact of including
16 2022-2024 water years would increase
17 the long-term average thermal
18 generation."

19 Now, does the low water reserve fund term sheet have
20 provisions for not including years that would increase
21 the long-term average for thermal generation?

22 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, I'd have to actually
23 take a look at the term sheet to provide a response to
24 that, so we can do that as part of an undertaking.

25 UNDERTAKING - TO ADVISE WHETHER THE LOW

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

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1 WATER RESERVE FUND TERM SHEET HAVE
2 PROVISIONS FOR NOT INCLUDING YEARS THAT
3 WOULD INCREASE THE LONG-TERM AVERAGE
4 FOR THERMAL GENERATION

5 Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA: Certainly. Now, what regulatory
6 principles did YEC employ to support the decision not
7 to include the water years 2022 to 2024?

8 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, Yukon Energy prepares
9 its estimates based on the information it has at the
10 time of the preparation. Since the completion of the
11 prior GRA and the preparation and finalization and
12 submission of this GRA, we have one person in the
13 company that is responsible for this work, and they
14 simply did not have time to prepare -- so add these
15 forecasts, these water years, into the model due to all
16 the other priorities.

17 That being said, if they had added these three
18 water years in the model, it would have changed the
19 results by approximately an increase in revenue
20 requirement of \$200,000.

21 So in the end, what that means is we prepared our
22 forecast based on our best information at the time and
23 the actual results afterwards support the
24 reasonableness of that forecast.

25 Q. And can you explain what the process of including these

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 water years in the model, what that would entail? Why
2 was it, I guess, so complicated to get done or not
3 done?

4 A. MR. EPP: So, Madam Chair, I definitely
5 cannot get into the details of what -- how the model is
6 actually updated, and that's because we have a person
7 in a position responsible for that and lots of other
8 things. They are the modeler. They are the expert.
9 So I simply cannot provide the details of that.

10 I can tell you that this person also does such
11 important tasks as working with our operations
12 department on a daily basis to let them know which
13 engines, which units, should be run to maximize our use
14 of water now and in the future for the upcoming season
15 to make sure we have enough water for the winter, so
16 priorities such as that take place over the updated
17 model that likely has minimal impact on the
18 application.

19 We do recognize that this is important, however,
20 one of our positions we requested be added in our
21 application is to support this person, so you'll see
22 that in FTE additions, and hopefully we will be able to
23 provide you with the exact number of years next time.

24 Q. And if you can't give me the process, are you aware,
25 like, how much time would be required to input this

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1 into the model and get a result? Or maybe it's not
2 that simple.

3 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, it's not that simple.
4 I would guess it would probably take months and
5 contractor time based on updating the model to do that.

6 Q. And previously for the '23/'24, was it a contractor who
7 had the resources to provide the update to the water
8 years or was it an YEC employee, the YEC employee
9 you're talking about?

10 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, the -- we use a model
11 from a contractor, and in the past we have probably
12 relied more upon the contractor and their model
13 experts. We are transitioning with this person to take
14 over more of those responsibilities, and those have
15 been listed in one of the IR responses, and so we are
16 transitioning that work from more of the contractor to
17 internal YEC time.

18 Q. Thank you. Now, going to -- this is still Exhibit 4,
19 to YUB 28A and B, that's PDF pages 180 and 181. Now,
20 the quote or quotes I want to refer you to are the one
21 that starts:

22 "3.3-1 in Appendix 3.3 of the
23 application provides the historical
24 fuel mix (2016-2024), with the average
25 of 70 percent LNG and 30 percent

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1 diesel. This average only reflects the
2 Yukon integrated system load and water
3 availability conditions in these nine
4 years. It does not reflect any
5 assessment of LTA fuel mix based on GRA
6 forecast loads and available LTA water
7 availability over 41 years of current
8 information."

9 And then it goes on the next paragraph, goes on about
10 Table 3.3-2. So I'll give you a chance to read that.

11 Now, my question if you had a chance to read that
12 is, how valid is the argument that using the nine-year
13 average for fuel mix does not reflect available LTA
14 evidence on the low average water availability, given
15 YEC's decision to not include water years 2022-'24 in its
16 GRA submissions.

17 **A. MR. EPP:** Madam Chair, the point we are
18 making is that we have nine years of record of actuals,
19 and they can fluctuate for various reasons. When we're
20 saying that we -- it does not reflect the assessment
21 over a long-term average, which is 41 years, it's as
22 simple as there's a lot of other years that need to be
23 taken into account to consider the -- everything that
24 can happen in those water years, so 9 years is not the
25 41 years that we would be more comfortable with.

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 Q. I guess just to followup on that, however, I mean,
2 you're relying on the 9 years, even though it may not
3 be as comfortable as you put it, just to use your word,
4 to rely on it?

5 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, in the last GRA the
6 Board asked us to take a look at our fuel mix. There
7 was a directive for us to do that. We went away and
8 looked at the history, and we are -- we are showing the
9 actual 9 years.

10 We still don't have a full 41 years of data. We
11 did what we could -- we did what the Board had asked
12 and we tried to respond. That has given us a forecast.

13 Now, we could have kept it at 90/10, but there are
14 indicators that it could be a different percentage, and
15 so we have used our judgment to adjust it to the
16 80 percent/20 percent, and we were hoping that would
17 satisfy the directions of the Board to put that work
18 into that.

19 Q. Thank you. Now, prior to that 9-year period, where YEC
20 provided us a thermal fuel mix, was the thermal fuel
21 cost 100 percent diesel?

22 A. MR. EPP: Sorry, can you repeat the
23 question?

24 Q. Sure. So prior to the 9-year period, where YEC -- this
25 is before the 9 years that we've just talked about --

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

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1 where YEC has provided a thermal fuel mix, was thermal
2 fuel 100 percent diesel?

3 **A. MR. EPP:** Yes, with the exception of 2015
4 was the -- there was a transition year as that was the
5 first year of partial LNG, but prior to that it was
6 100 percent diesel, yeah.

7 **Q.** Thank you. Now, given that YEC plans to continue to
8 use diesel rentals, how does the employment or using of
9 the diesel rental affect the fuel mix calculations?

10 **A. MR. EPP:** Madam Chair, I wouldn't say that
11 the type of assets we have in service reflects these
12 percentages. We look more at normal weather conditions
13 and come up with the results from that. Whether an
14 asset is rented or not is not in our -- my opinion,
15 part of the process.

16 **Q.** So then would there be any impact that from the fact
17 that rented diesels are contractually obligated to run
18 for different reasons such as maintenance, capacity and
19 energy supply, at -- because might that imply a higher
20 amount of diesel in the fuel mix versus normal
21 operations?

22 **A. MR. EPP:** The amount of hours that are
23 contracted out by the diesel rental, in a diesel rental
24 agreement is very minimal, so no, it would not make us
25 use more diesel in the long run.

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 Q. Thank you. Now, if you want to have a look at Exhibit
2 4, question YUB 30B the response at PDF pages 183 to
3 185, and I'm looking at the quotes: (as read)

4 "Given the recent higher growth seen in
5 population and electricity sales, the
6 eco -- econometric model was updated by
7 Itron in July of 2025 after the current
8 GRA was filed. The updated forecast
9 non-industrial peak on the YIS for
10 winter 2025/'26 is 1.3 megawatts
11 higher, 2026/'27 winter peak 4.4
12 megawatts higher, and 2027/'28 winter
13 peak is 6.7 megawatts higher than
14 forecast included in the application."

15 Now, in the table provided in the response to that IR, if
16 you look at row B, it shows that dependable capacity
17 under N-1 conditions does not materially change after the
18 2026/2027 season. It only changes by 0.2 megawatts.

19 And then there's a quote on those pages talking
20 about: (as read)

21 "The updated forecasts now show a 1.9
22 megawatt incremental capacity shortfall
23 in 2026/'27 and an 8.1 megawatt
24 capacity shortfall in 2027/'28, even
25 after the 22 rentals. The key changes

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1 were predominantly related to the
2 electrification of heating
3 improvements, improvements in building
4 energy and an envelope efficiency.
5 Electrical vehicle uptake as well as
6 the change in the design temperature
7 from 39 degrees Celsius to minus 40
8 degrees Celsius."

9 And it goes on. This is at PDF 185, just to be clear.

10 So once you've had a look at those two quotes, I
11 can proceed with my question.

12 Now, how does YEC plan to apply this updated
13 information in terms of its revenue requirement? And I'm
14 referring to the updated information in the quotes I just
15 referred to -- you to.

16 **A. MR. EPP:** Madam Chair, we are providing
17 updated information regarding the timing of two major
18 projects in this application. With this one question
19 specific to one of those, and we recognize the
20 importance of the clarity of this.

21 So we are recommending for those projects, this
22 project, that is now expected to be completed within
23 the test years, that it be included in the rates, and
24 are intended to not selectively apply forecast updates
25 but rather distinguish between different types of

1 changes based on their materiality and relevance to the
2 test years.

3 So to clarify, I'm specifically referring to now
4 the Whitehorse Power Centre project that is expected to
5 be completed within the test years.

6 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha, Yukon Energy,
7 Madam Chair, just for clarity, that is the construction
8 of the South Whitehorse Power Centre only.

9 Q. My question goes more to load forecasts and how this
10 information would impact in terms -- have an impact in
11 terms of the revenue requirements.

12 So I understand what you said, but does it have an
13 impact in terms of the load forecasts and revenue
14 requirement?

15 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair -- Madam Chair, thank
16 you for the clarification, and so yes, the
17 implementation of adding the Whitehorse Power Centre
18 project to rates in 2020 -- in this application also
19 has other factors related to the peak load.

20 So when we do add the Whitehorse Power Centres,
21 the impact it has is it actually reduces the number of
22 then rentals required, and that is also -- would be --
23 would -- should be considered in the rate calculation
24 as well.

25 Q. So then can you tell me what the impact actually is of

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 the updated forecast on YEC's forecast revenue
2 requirement and rates, if there is less, as you've just
3 said if there's less need for rented diesels and with
4 this new asset coming into service as forecast?

5 **A. MR. EPP:** **Madam Chair, I'll refer you to the**
6 **screen which is Exhibit 5.**

7 **Sorry, it took me a long time to get there. So**
8 **yes, in this response -- or in this letter, we specify**
9 **what the impact is, which is net impact on rates of an**
10 **increase of 1.435 million.**

11 **Q.** I'm still not clear on the impact of this updated
12 forecast on load requirements, and its impact then on
13 forecast revenue requirements. The exhibit we have,
14 the Exhibit 5, doesn't speak to load forecast and the
15 impact on rates.

16 **A. MS. CUNHA:** **Stephanie Cunha, Yukon Energy.**
17 **Madam Chair, maybe I'll just take this a step higher**
18 **that outside of rates and financials, but in essence,**
19 **the updated load forecast shows that we anticipate a**
20 **higher peak demand for power that Yukon homes and**
21 **businesses connected to the grid will need on this**
22 **winter -- the winter of '27/'28. As a result, because**
23 **of the increase peak demand, we need to have additional**
24 **sources of dependable capacity available before**
25 **December 1st of 2027 to meet that forecasted load.**

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1 So from that perspective, higher demand means that
2 we need to have more resources and dependable capacity
3 available to meet it. What has been -- what we've
4 discussed is the Whitehorse Power Centre, the South
5 Whitehorse Power Centre, is the most prudent and in our
6 opinion the best way to meet that additional
7 incremental load growth that we expect in the '27/'28
8 winter season and as a result of constructing that
9 15-megawatt Whitehorse Power Centre South we are also
10 able then to reduce the number of diesel rental
11 generators that would be used to kind of fill the gap
12 between Yukon Energy-owned resources, you know, mutual
13 aid, DSM, ATCO resources and the projected peak load.

14 Q. So just to follow up, how is the additional or the
15 growth in load reflected in your revenue requirement
16 and the impact it will have on rates that YEC is asking
17 for?

18 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, so and again taking a
19 step back, not talking about Whitehorse Power Centre at
20 the beginning, with this increased load we would be
21 required to -- we need more generation.

22 So first option would be to increase the number of
23 diesel rental units. That's the easy one to do. So
24 that would increase the revenue requirement. However,
25 we are planning on a different solution, which is this

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 Whitehorse Power Centre, which when built, it would
2 then help us to reduce the number of rentals and lower
3 the cost of the revenue -- the cost of the rentals, but
4 we also have to take into account the consideration of
5 the actual Whitehorse Power Centre project.

6 Q. So can you confirm that that response in IR 30, which
7 we've been talking about, just checking to see I'm
8 giving you the right reference, yes, in IR 30, is
9 implied but it's not specifically identified in the
10 Exhibit 5, what the implications are, that it's not
11 laid out. Am I correct in my understanding?

12 A. MR. EPP: So the peak load shortfall of 8.1
13 megawatts in YUB-YEC-1-30 would be met by the cost of
14 additional rentals if we went that route. But our plan
15 is to build the Whitehorse Power Centre's project, and
16 that has the full package of, therefore, showing the
17 costs of adding to rate base of the Whitehorse Power
18 Centre project and the change in the diesel rental
19 cost.

20 Q. Thank you. Now, does YEC have any other updates to YEC
21 sales forecast, customer's energy demand that YEC can
22 provide to the Board or does the Board -- have you
23 provided all updates to the sales forecast to date?

24 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, we have not provided
25 any overall change in sales forecasts. I think there's

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 been a few responses throughout the IRs and the hearing
2 today where we've given you some indications such as
3 Minto was less than forecast in 2025.

4 We do have our own internal forecasts that we have
5 shared with you across -- we haven't shared with you
6 overall for sales, and our forecast sales that we have
7 are in the application were 478 megawatts. We're
8 currently -- or sorry, gigawatts. And we're looking at
9 465 right now, gigawatt hours for 2025.

10 So when I made the point earlier about us
11 providing information about changing in forecasts and
12 whether or not to include in our opinion in rates,
13 sales does not have a significant impact on -- changes
14 in sales does not have a significant impact on rates,
15 because changes in sales are offset almost entirely by
16 changes in fuel costs, so that's one reason why we have
17 not suggested updating the application for changes in
18 sales.

19 Q. And does -- you gave me 2025. Do you have any changes
20 for the other two years?

21 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, no, we do not.

22 Q. Thank you. Now, if there were further updates between
23 now and your compliance filing to your sales forecast,
24 how does YEC plan to apply the updated information, or
25 does it plan to apply that information, based on that

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1 you've said there's an offset?

2 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, based on what I said
3 earlier about updating of forecasts based on their
4 materiality and relevance, I do not foresee us updating
5 the application for changes in sales forecasts.

6 Q. Thank you. Now, going back to this IR response, it
7 mentions the forecast update and incorporated heat
8 pumps and electric vehicles. Now, given the cold
9 climate in the Yukon, is there a significant amount of
10 EVs present in Yukon to impact the load forecast?

11 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha with Yukon Energy.
12 So perhaps I can say that certainly the uptake in
13 electrification is a contributing factor to the
14 increase in peak demand that we're expecting and the
15 updated forecast.

16 Maybe I'll just highlight the changes, so
17 certainly we have updated the forecast to recognize a
18 coldest day in the last 10 years, which has changed
19 from minus 39 to minus 40. The average population
20 growth of 2 percent, which is 0.3 percent higher than
21 what we had originally had in the forecast.

22 The new model also indicates an increase of the
23 assumption that all new homes built are electrically
24 heated. This is an increase from what was originally
25 assumed of 70 percent of new homes being electrically

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1 heated.

2 As mentioned, our new forecast also takes into
3 account updates to building codes here in the Yukon
4 that require homes to be more energy efficient, so
5 trying to use less energy, and the assumption in our
6 forecast has been it actually reflects a decrease from
7 what was originally projected to be 6,000 electric
8 vehicles by 2030 to 4,800 electric vehicles by 2030.
9 So it accounts for the progression of that over time.

10 Q. So am I correct in understanding your answer that
11 there's forecast to be a reduction in electric vehicles
12 by 2030 than what had originally been predicted?

13 A. MS. CUNHA: Madam Chair, that is correct.

14 Q. And has YEC considered that there may be further
15 reductions in government incentives for EVs and has it
16 incorporated that factor into the forecast update?

17 A. MS. CUNHA: Madam Chair, what it -- what the
18 forecast identifies is that electrification, whether
19 that's the electrification of heat or the choice of
20 consumers to use electric vehicles does have some
21 influence by climate policy, but especially here in the
22 north, people are using electric heat because insurance
23 companies no longer are, you know, insuring fossil fuel
24 heat here. It's cheaper to build those types of
25 things.

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 It also accounts for the fact that even without
2 incentives that there would be those early adopters
3 that would buy electric vehicles despite there not
4 being any rebates.

5 Q. Thank you. Now, you just mentioned about energy
6 efficiency in buildings, and so does in YEC's view the
7 improvement in building energy and envelope efficiency
8 reduce demand and energy, and is that reflected in the
9 forecast update?

10 A. MS. CUNHA: Madam Chair, yes, improvements in
11 end-use efficiency and building codes is reflected in
12 the load forecast.

13 Q. Now, the change which again you've mentioned is in the
14 application, changing in design the temperature to
15 minus 39 degrees Celsius to minus 40 degrees Celsius,
16 now, can you explain the validity of this change in
17 light of global warming and its effect on your demand
18 forecast?

19 A. MS. CUNHA: Madam Chair, when it is typical in
20 forecasting peak demand that a 1 in 10 model is used
21 that you use the coldest day in the last 10 years or
22 the second coldest day in the last 20 years, so that
23 temperature is the -- how we -- that temperature was
24 the input into the forecast, was the historical coldest
25 day.

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 Q. Thank you. Now, from your knowledge, are heat pumps or
2 anyone on the panel, are heat pumps a more efficient
3 form of heating vis-a-vis or rather than baseboard
4 heating?

5 A. MS. CUNHA: Madam Chair, Stephanie Cunha with
6 Yukon Energy. What we find is that heat pumps may have
7 greater levels of efficiency, but that becomes
8 irrelevant when it becomes like minus 20. At that
9 point it's like they're the same and requiring very
10 similar demand to electric baseboard heats.

11 So on the coldest day in the Yukon, this -- any
12 sort of efficiency that might have been gained by heat
13 pumps at warmer temperatures is not being gained and
14 they are acting pretty much as like an electric
15 baseboard and the demand that is coming from there.

16 Q. Thank you. Now, turning to IR response to YUB-34A and
17 B in Exhibit 4 at PDF pages 192 and 193, and then
18 Exhibit 1-A, which is the application, PDF pages 597 to
19 599, and I refer you to the quote: (as read)

20 "Yukon Energy understands that
21 OIC-2021-16 now requires the use of LTA
22 for any renewable generation forecast
23 in a Yukon Energy GRA, and that this
24 requirement includes the use of Fish
25 Lake hydro forecast used to forecast

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 AEY power purchases from Yukon Energy
2 that directly impact the forecast of
3 Yukon Energy forecast generation and
4 related forecast thermal generation for
5 test-year revenue requirements."

6 Now, can you tell me -- I'm not asking for an
7 interpretation, but if you could tell me, is there
8 specific reference in the OIC-2021-16 which is now
9 incorporated in the 1995 directive that requires Fish
10 Lake hydro forecasts to be included in the LTA? I'm
11 looking for a specific reference.

12 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, we would have to take
13 that away and provide an undertaking.

14 **UNDERTAKING - TO ADVISE WHETHER THERE**
15 **IS SPECIFIC REFERENCE IN THE**
16 **OIC-2021-16 WHICH IS NOW INCORPORATED**
17 **IN THE 1995 DIRECTIVE THAT REQUIRES**
18 **FISH LAKE HYDRO FORECASTS TO BE**
19 **INCLUDED IN THE LTA**

20 Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA: Thank you. And when looking at
21 that, would it be fair, and you can again address it in
22 your undertaking or answer now, that YEC's concern and
23 focus stemming from the OIC-2021-16 is AEY's net
24 wholesale purchases from YEC?

25 As I said, you can take that, once you have looked

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 at the provisions and address that in your undertaking,
2 if you so wish?

3 A. MR. EPP: Sorry, I didn't actually catch the
4 question there, is all.

5 Q. Sure. That is it fair to say that YEC's concern as to
6 whether the Fish Lake hydro forecasts are used in the
7 Yukon Energy forecasts generation and related
8 forecasts, thermal generation, for the test year
9 revenue requirement, is it YEC's concern and focus,
10 does it stem from, excuse me, AEY's net wholesale
11 purchases from YEC that the YEC's understanding relates
12 to YEC's net wholesale -- AEY's, sorry, AEY's net
13 wholesale purchases?

14 A. MR. EPP: We'll respond with an undertaking.

15 UNDERTAKING - TO ADVISE WHETHER YEC'S
16 CONCERN AS TO WHETHER THE FISH LAKE
17 HYDRO FORECASTS ARE USED IN THE YUKON
18 ENERGY FORECASTS GENERATION AND RELATED
19 FORECASTS, THERMAL GENERATION, FOR THE
20 TEST YEAR REVENUE REQUIREMENT STEMS
21 FROM AEY'S NET WHOLESALE PURCHASES FROM
22 YEC, THAT THE YEC'S UNDERSTANDING
23 RELATES TO AEY'S NET WHOLESALE
24 PURCHASES

25 Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA: Thank you. Now, further, this

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 relates, though, to the IPPs. Should IPPs that are
2 directly connected to AEY be included and treated as
3 part of AEY's net wholesale purchases from YEC?

4 Again, you may want to address it in your
5 undertaking or you may want to respond now, and I'm
6 referring to the IPPs that are connected to AEY?

7 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, I'll refer you to
8 YUB-YEC-1-87 I believe it is, and I think we've
9 responded to those questions there.

10 And I guess, Madam Chair, I'm not sure where this
11 is going, but just at a high level when we're talking
12 about the low water reserve fund, I think is what
13 you're getting at here in the calculation of that is
14 we're trying to get at the long-term average thermal
15 requirement, and so yes, we take into account all hydro
16 or renewable resources, which does consider hydro,
17 IPPs, Fish Lake hydro, so I guess that's the high level
18 response. That's all considered.

19 Q. All right. So yes, we've looked at your response to
20 87, and it does respond to some of these questions,
21 however, if you still wanted to -- the first
22 undertaking about whether there's specific mention in
23 the OIC-2021 regarding the Fish Lake hydro forecast or
24 Fish Lake hydro.

25 I understand what you've just said, but if you

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 wanted to, as you said, you'd have a look at that?

2 **A. MR. EPP:** **Yes, we will.**

3 **Q.** Thank you. Now, going to YUB-YEC-54A in Exhibit 4 at
4 PDF page 327, and as well as 56, IR 56 response, at PDF
5 331 and 332, and if you look at the quote in that
6 response about the debt from the lender CAFN arose
7 pursuant to a provision in Chapter 22 of the CAFN final
8 agreement and that was honoured as part of the AGS
9 project agreement signed July 21st, 2022, and that's in
10 response to 54.

11 And then in 56A it talks about as indicated in the
12 preamble during the BESS project -- sorry, the BESS
13 part 3 hearing, Yukon Energy proposed that investment
14 opportunities to be provided to the First Nations by
15 structuring the debentures arrangements as a benefit
16 where Yukon Energy pays the interest on debentures
17 based on the actual rate of return on equity, however,
18 for rate-setting purposes, Yukon Energy will use a cost
19 of debt to remove the impact on ratepayers, and it goes
20 on a little bit.

21 Now, can you briefly describe the AGS project
22 agreement?

23 **A. MS. CUNHA:** **Madam Chair, Stephanie Cunha,**
24 **Yukon Energy. The AGS project agreement came to be**
25 **during the relicensing project that we undertook to**

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 relicence the Aishihik facility. Negotiating and
2 entering into conversations with First Nation
3 governments about new capital projects that are built
4 on their traditional territory is common, as well as
5 these projects like the relicensing, which allow for
6 the ongoing operation of such critical assets.

7 The key point in which this debenture comes from
8 is a clause in the final agreement about strategic
9 investments where it notes that the proponent has --
10 sorry, that the Nation shall have an option to acquire
11 up to 25 percent of an interest of the proponent in a
12 project and that was specifically to the installation
13 of the third turbine at Aishihik, which was installed
14 after the signing of the Champagne-Aishihik First
15 Nation final agreement.

16 So this part of the project is Yukon Energy
17 fulfilling its commitment under Chapter 22 to the First
18 Nation.

19 Q. Now -- thank you. So does the CAFN debt, which I've
20 referred to in your response to Question 54, follow the
21 same principles as those described in the response
22 regarding the BESS project?

23 A. MR. EPP: The principles of the two -- of
24 the CAFN debt agreement and any future agreement
25 with -- related to the BESS, which is there no

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1 agreement yet, the principles would be the same.

2 And if you're -- I'm guessing where you're going
3 at is how are they treated for ratemaking purposes.

4 Q. That would be a good guess.

5 A. MR. EPP: Let's see if we can go to the
6 application schedules -- tab 7, schedule 11 I think it
7 is. That's a guess.

8 Sorry, just waiting for it to come on the screen.

9 Madam Chair, so from this you can actually see any
10 interest rates prescribed here, but the \$1 million CAFN
11 debt, my understanding is that debt or that's the
12 interest expense here which is including our revenue
13 requirement is that the interest rate of the agreement,
14 which is assuming an ROE of 9.15 percent, because that
15 is existing debt, so that's why we've got it in the
16 history as that.

17 When it comes to the new debt that would be part
18 of the BESS agreement, for example, we are -- the
19 policy that the Board that has been determined through
20 the YUB process in the past is that we use the
21 Government of Canada long-term bond benchmark plus 120
22 basis points for the new debt.

23 Q. Thank you. Now we're turning to O&M, labour and the
24 responses to organization and to organizational chart
25 and labour. So if you look at Exhibit 4, YUB-53 and

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 attachment, this is PDF page 259 to 326. So there's a
2 chart about the different departments and what's
3 proposed for the different test years.

4 Now, I have some questions about YEC's
5 organizational chart. Now, was this IR response, and
6 I'm talking about 53, updated for charts related to
7 engineering services category in attachment 1.6 in
8 Exhibit 4?

9 **A. MR. EPP:** Madam Chair, we provided a revised
10 **engineering services department org chart in Exhibit 5.**

11 **Q.** So then if I can take you back, these questions relate,
12 not to the update provided on September 19th, 2025, but
13 to the original IR response in Exhibit 4. So that's
14 what I'll be referring to. I just wanted to make clear
15 what we were talking about.

16 So can you confirm that the charts provided --
17 this is in the consolidated package, Exhibit 4, that
18 all FTEs or employees of YEC as forecast whether
19 in-scope or out-of-scope a representative within the
20 organizational charts for each test year?

21 **A. MR. EPP:** Confirmed.

22 **Q.** Thank you. Now, I have some questions on specific --
23 that I'll refer you to specific PDF pages. So at PDF
24 284, following the operations area under VP of
25 operations, there are four reports, so four people

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1 reporting.

2 Then on PDF page 290 we start with one of those
3 reports being the director of mechanical operations,
4 and then at -- I'm just referring you to these and then
5 I'll get to my question. Then at PDF page 291 under
6 "Director" is the supervisor of mechanical maintenance,
7 and this person has 10 reports. Some are also
8 identified as supervisors or mechanics or millwrights
9 and then there is a single manager, so that's figure
10 E12.2.1 for 2025. That's what I'm referring to.

11 And then at PDF page 293, the single manager is
12 the manager of property and projects and has two
13 reports, both summer labourers totalling .20 FTEs.

14 Now, if you've had a chance to see the different
15 charts that I've referred to. Now given the
16 organizational arrangement that I've just gone through,
17 can you give me a general idea about the differing
18 roles and position titles in relation to the YEC
19 corporate hierarchy.

20 So for example, how would a director be different
21 from a supervisor or manager? So basically if you can
22 explain what these different titles entail or why would
23 someone be a manager as opposed to a supervisor or a
24 director at YEC?

25 **A. MS. CUNHA:** **Stephanie Cunha, Yukon Energy. I**

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 would say at the highest level the difference between
2 the different, whether you're a supervisor, manager,
3 director, vice-president really, at a high level is
4 about your level of accountability on, you know,
5 ensuring that the strategic objectives and the core
6 business goals of the corporation are met, that you are
7 ensuring and have the decision-making authority of, you
8 know, what new projects, what resources are needed.

9 It's about, you know, more than just the number of
10 people that you lead but your authority on the
11 strategic direction, making the plans, delivering on
12 the plans, reporting to the board, creating
13 partnerships. All of the things that you -- managing
14 budgets of greater scale, more accountability, more
15 responsibility, more authority to make those types of
16 decisions within your organizational section.

17 Is there anything you would like to add?

18 Q. Well, can you take us through some of these charts that
19 I've just mentioned and -- because it's hard for me
20 outside of the organization, I understand you talked
21 about accountability and responsibility, but why in
22 some areas there's a director and a supervisor directly
23 underneath, and then, you know, in other areas there's
24 just supervisors, but then, you know, there's also a
25 manager of a particular area.

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1 So if you wouldn't mind explaining in more detail.
2 So, for example, if I were to work at YEC, what would
3 be a progression in the responsibility or
4 accountability in what my work would be and what title
5 I can move to or I am in, and if it doesn't matter how
6 many people report to me, then what -- doesn't that go
7 to responsibility that I have and accountability if I
8 have more people than less people?

9 So if you can address those questions. I know
10 it's a lot of questions, so I can break it down as you
11 go.

12 **A. Sure. That would be great. And if I miss anything,**
13 **please.**

14 So one consideration that we haven't spoken about
15 but I think is important and will help explain some of
16 the nuances as to why a supervisor might report to a
17 director at the same time that a manager reports to a
18 director is that it's based on our collective agreement
19 with the union. So they're -- supervisors are still
20 in-scope employees and managers are not. And that
21 determination happens when a job was created all those
22 years ago.

23 So there is that level of accountability that we
24 have on the union perspective. So that might -- from
25 that highest level explain some of the differences.

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1 One thing I would note, that if a vice-president
2 has four reports and a manager has 10 and the manager
3 reports to the vice-president, the vice-president has
4 14 reports. They're accountable for 14 people.

5 They might have, you know, the direct reports
6 might be less just because that helps them organize,
7 streamline strategic priorities and goals for each of
8 the sections, but as a vice-president you are
9 responsible and accountable for all the people that
10 report to you time whether that be through your
11 supervisor, manager, director or directly to you. So
12 just from that, you know, you would have more people
13 under your responsibility and your purview.

14 From a career progression, it could take many
15 forms, and I'm really happy that we work in an
16 organization that sometimes it's a lateral progression
17 into different areas of the business. So certainly,
18 you know, you could be a powerline technician and then
19 you could be the senior powerline technician, and so
20 now you might be responsible for scheduling work and
21 now you have a crew of powerline technicians that are
22 under your immediate purview and your responsibility
23 and you're looking after them. Right.

24 Then you could be -- turn into the supervisor of T
25 and D and now you're responsible for the planned and

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1 the budgeting of that whole department when it comes to
2 distribution and transmission part of it. You could
3 then so that supervisor is the most senior union
4 position.

5 After that if you so choose to stay in that line
6 of work, you could be, you know, a manager of T and D.
7 You could be the director of electrical operations,
8 vice-president. All depends. You know, you kind of go
9 from building powerlines to now building powerlines and
10 also be in charge of the electrical department and
11 other more broad aspects of the transition and
12 distribution business.

13 So that's how your responsibilities and your
14 direct purview changes as you progress by the company,
15 you now become responsible for not just one lane of the
16 business, but more breadth of the organization.

17 So that would be a way that it would happen in
18 just that one example, but there are many more.

19 A. MR. MURCHISON: Paul -- Madam Chair, Paul
20 Murchison, and I think just to build on the way an
21 individual can progress within Yukon Energy. If you
22 look at the organization chart provided for the
23 engineering and capital projects team and I think
24 it's -- I think it might be Exhibit 5 on page 13.

25 So we have -- within this team as an example,

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 there's a -- as you know directors with more
2 responsibilities, so director of capital projects has a
3 significant oversight as it relates to delivery of the
4 capital program. We have a director of engineering
5 that oversees the engineering disciplines and the
6 engineering support for projects as well as for
7 operations, and then a manager -- there's a manager of
8 asset managements as well, which oversees the asset
9 management processes as well as our capital plan
10 development.

11 But as you dive into -- for example, both of the
12 capital projects team under the director of capital
13 projects as well as the engineering team under the
14 director of engineering, and I'll go with engineering
15 first.

16 We have managers of the engineering disciplines
17 within our organization, so a manager of civil
18 engineering, mechanical engineering, transmission
19 distribution and electrical engineering, and you'll see
20 in the additions to FTEs, is for example the addition
21 of a T and D transmission distribution EIT, so the idea
22 of starting with engineers in training and having
23 engineers in training that can move into engineering
24 roles and then eventually progress to a management role
25 within the engineering disciplines and eventually have

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1 the opportunity to move into a director role.

2 You also see under the director of capital
3 projects, junior project managers which can move into
4 then project management as well as senior project
5 management roles to eventually if interested progress
6 into director of capital projects.

7 So I just wanted to provide a little bit more
8 about the potential opportunities on how you can
9 progress not just within operations but also in other
10 parts of the organization.

11 A. MS. CUNHA: Sorry, if there's maybe just one
12 more I think important context piece to add here, and I
13 can just speak of the area in which I work and the team
14 I work with directly, there are -- and now Mr. Epp as
15 well. There are situations in our organization where
16 you might have managers who report to a VP, and it's
17 because we have been very prudent and mindful of not
18 just adding positions, and so you'll see that in this
19 request that, for example, in 2027, we are asking for
20 the addition of a director of business services because
21 right now those two managers are reporting to myself,
22 which means that in addition to my broad
23 responsibilities, I am also helping manage the
24 day-to-day of those IT and human resource positions.

25 So I just wanted to point it out is if there seems

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1 to an obvious gap where a manager might be reporting to
2 a VP, it's just because at this present time we haven't
3 created that position or because we have been very
4 mindful and prudent that the FTEs right now at this
5 present time are needed in the operations department to
6 keep the lights on, and that through time we might be
7 able to add those positions, and what that means in the
8 interim is that it's not that the work isn't needed or
9 it isn't getting done. It just means it's getting done
10 by the VP.

11 So I just wanted to explain that there are also
12 these gaps, not because there's not a need, just
13 because we're trying to be mindful and prudent of FTEs
14 as well.

15 Q. So would -- just to follow up, would generally a
16 supervisory position be paid at a level higher than a
17 manager level position because of the responsibility or
18 reports or am I not catching the nuances of your
19 answer?

20 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, we have to take into
21 account more than simply that. We look at the
22 different -- could compare what trades these positions
23 are in compared to the -- the job description,
24 basically the work that's being performed, so it does
25 not necessarily mean they're going to be in the same

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1 **pay scale.**

2 Q. So then if I understand you correctly, Mr. Epp, like,
3 it doesn't mean that a supervisor will have a higher
4 pay or a manager will have a higher pay than the other,
5 but does the level of responsibility or the people that
6 report to them, the number of people that report to
7 them, will that have an impact on what -- who is paid
8 more, despite what titles they may hold?

9 A. **MS. CUNHA:** **Madam Chair, this is Stephanie**
10 **Cunha with Yukon Energy. I think another important**
11 **consideration here is that in terms of the job**
12 **descriptions that we do have, we send that out to a**
13 **third party assessor who, based on all of the questions**
14 **that are very valid and being presented here today,**
15 **make the determination of which pay grade or pay scale**
16 **that position is most appropriately fitted on.**

17 So that is done through a third party that ensures
18 that that's done, you know, with a global perspective
19 of not just the work at Yukon Energy but how that
20 relates to other peers across the country, et cetera.

21 So I just wanted to maybe point that out, that
22 those types of question are accounted for when a
23 position is created, and it's done by a third party.

24 Q. Again just to followup trying to understand how these
25 positions are -- what -- how their responsibility is

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1 determined and their accountability, so is there any
2 rule of thumb about the number of people who report or
3 the level of responsibility related to a supervisory
4 level position?

5 **A. MR. EPP:** **Madam Chair, there is no general**
6 **rule of thumb, no.**

7 **Q.** All right. And what about a managerial level position?

8 **A. MR. EPP:** **Same answer.**

9 **Q.** Thank you. Now, is there -- or can you give me an
10 explanation how YEC justifies that a managerial
11 position, when there is only summer employees adding up
12 to a 0.20 FTEs in the organizational chart? Basically,
13 what's the explanation for being a manager if you only
14 have two part-time employees?

15 **A. MR. EPP:** **Madam Chair, that position that is**
16 **being referred to, the manager of property, is one**
17 **person, for the most part, who looks after all the**
18 **assets of Yukon Energy, whereas in other departments**
19 **you can actually -- you have other people helping you,**
20 **he deals with everything.**

21 So he actually has -- I think the single largest
22 budget out of anybody in Yukon Energy, subject to
23 check. So his role is not supervising people. It's
24 getting work done, and supervising contractors is
25 actually probably -- he probably has one of the most --

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1 contractors. So he has that level of supervision, I
2 guess, not employee, but contractor supervision.

3 Q. Thank you for the explanation. Now, another example on
4 PDF page 270. It's that same IR response. Under
5 "Partnerships and Business Services", there's a single
6 communication advisor reporting to a single manager,
7 community relations who then reports to a single
8 director partnerships, who reports to VP partnerships
9 and business services.

10 Can you again just explain and help me understand
11 the need for a manager, a director and a VP, who each
12 only have one person reporting to them?

13 A. MS. CUNHA: This is Stephanie Cunha with Yukon
14 Energy. I would say that this is a very similar kind
15 of situation as the one that explained -- our senior
16 communications officer is responsible for all internal
17 and external communications of our utility.

18 So in terms of breadth of responsibility,
19 reputation, government relations, that individual is
20 responsible for pretty much the bare end and all the
21 work that is done, the manager of community relations
22 is the one and single individual who is responsible for
23 meeting with all -- you know, the government officials
24 in the different communities that we go to and doing
25 the project communications on the massive amount of

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1 project communications that we do.

2 So when you think that we used to have a capital
3 program of what, \$40 million a number of years ago, and
4 now it's, you know, 100 million plus every single year,
5 the level of responsibility and accountability to
6 stakeholders, one-on-one meetings with communities is
7 enormous.

8 Same with the director of partnerships. That
9 individual is responsible for working with First Nation
10 governments on new and existing projects to ensure that
11 we're fulfilling our commitments as well as ensuring
12 that we move forward with healthy and improved
13 relationships with all the First Nations that we serve.

14 Myself as VP, broader, same supporting all of the
15 staff as well as moving forward and developing the
16 strategic plan for the organization responsible for not
17 just the external relations but as you can see a number
18 of other different departments including, you know,
19 corporate planning, et cetera.

20 The reason why that was also done this way is to
21 allow for a career progression in the organization so
22 that way we don't have, perhaps, you know, when I first
23 started, there was one communications role and a VP,
24 and so from a career progressive perspective and
25 ensuring that we retain top talent, we want to make

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1 sure that there are these talent pipelines where our
2 people that are value added to our organization have a
3 place to grow and keep that corporate knowledge within
4 our organization.

5 A. MR. MILNER: Perhaps I can add just a little
6 bit of context here. Chris Milner, Yukon Energy. I
7 think what you are uncovering in your line of
8 questioning is that a lot of these roles have large
9 scale, large responsibility, but we're not big enough
10 to build out these multitiered kind of position
11 structures, so you're really ending up with investments
12 in positions that have huge areas of responsibility.

13 I think that, like, for example, just one example
14 the volume of work that's happening around the senior
15 communication analyst is responding to greater than --
16 like one -- like several media requests per week on an
17 ongoing basis.

18 Interactions with Yukon government on a weekly
19 basis. Working with larger communication departments
20 inside government that would almost equal half of our
21 total FTE count.

22 So what we're dealing with is a small team with a
23 big mandate and there's some optimization inside this
24 org chart that needs to be made for sure with the
25 addition of the -- not the addition, but the new VP of

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1 operations.

2 I know a large part of the corporate goals there
3 is to optimize operations and not only that, but in
4 it's interaction with engineering and you'll see new
5 FTEs proposed to bridge that gap more on the ground to
6 be get work done and to be able to work plan better, so
7 a lot of emphasis on overall looking at operational
8 structure.

9 You've seen evidence of that, sort of the outcome
10 of that, in sort of the cleanliness of the engineering
11 org chart. It's a little bit cleaner, a little bit
12 sharper than what we're seeing in operations right now,
13 but certainly that's the emphasis going forward here is
14 to really look at how do you resource a massive amount
15 of work with, you know, just north of 120 employees
16 responsible for keeping lights on in the Yukon in --
17 across a massive geographic area.

18 There's a lot of positions here that have some
19 pretty significant scale, so I think you're kind of
20 uncovering a little -- legacy positions that had very
21 broad mandates, more modern versions of the org chart
22 in certain areas of the company and a vision to kind of
23 optimize that going forward.

24 Hopefully that helps just with the broader context
25 of things, and it's not a -- it's definitely not a

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1 traditional corporate structure where there's like --
2 you know, it's tiered and laddered that you would see a
3 larger company because we're just not that large.

4 A. MS. CUNHA: Madam Chair, if I can just add as
5 an example and maybe to kind of bring the point that
6 Mr. Milner is bringing home is, you know, as the main
7 electrical utility that is responsible for 90, 95
8 percent of all the generation in the Yukon, we're a
9 small utility with "big challenges" very, you know,
10 unlike perhaps BC Hydro that is a big utility that is
11 responsible for big challenges as well.

12 However, I only make the point of -- BC Hydro has
13 140 people in their communications department. So they
14 have 140 -- they have more people in their
15 communications department than we do in our entire
16 organization and I only say that to Mr. Milner's point
17 of we have single resources who are doing a massive
18 amount of work with the same level of responsibilities
19 of entire departments of other utilities, so that is a
20 reason -- one of the reasons why you would see this
21 level of difference.

22 THE CHAIR: Ms. Bentivegna, can I ask do you
23 have more questions along this line or would it be
24 opportune to take a break right now.

25 MS. BENTIVEGNA: We can take a break right now,

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1 Madam Chair.

2 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

3 THE CLERK: Order. The hearing is adjourned
4 for 20 minutes.

5 (ADJOURNMENT)

6 THE CLERK: Order. This hearing is
7 reconvened. Please be seated.

8 THE CHAIR: Ms. Bentivegna, are you ready to
9 proceed now?

10 MS. BENTIVEGNA: Yes, I am, Madam Chair.

11 Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA: Just a couple questions arising
12 from our previous discussion. One was, Ms. Cunha, you
13 mentioned about a third party who sets salaries and
14 after -- you know, sets salaries and I'm not sure if
15 you said the responsibilities and -- basically the job
16 description, shall we call it that and the pay and
17 that, and who would that third party be, if you can
18 tell us that?

19 A. MS. CUNHA: Yeah, for sure. The third party
20 is Korn Ferry, and what they do is we provide the job
21 description and they assess it and provide a -- tell us
22 what pay scale is the one that we would be most
23 appropriate for that position.

24 Q. And who would that be, who do you use?

25 A. It's Korn Ferry.

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1 Q. Okay. Thank you.

2 And going back to the position of manager, the one
3 we were discussing that had the managerial position
4 that had the two-some employees, the 0.2, and you
5 mentioned that that position had -- was -- and correct
6 me if I'm misremembering it or mischaracterizing it,
7 was responsible for contracts and responsible for
8 assets.

9 Can you just give me a bit more explanation of
10 what type of contracts, what type of assets that this
11 position, this managerial position is responsible for?

12 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, the manager of
13 property looks after -- I shall start off on -- first
14 of all, all the capital-related projects regarding
15 property, but on the day-to-day basis, it's all O&M
16 work looks after management of all vehicles, all our
17 fleet, looks after all our of office buildings, looks
18 after maintenance of all our generation buildings, our
19 staff housing. Those are some examples.

20 Q. Thank you. Now, even -- just one follow-up on the
21 in-scope and out-of-scope. So just to be clear, the
22 in-scope are the unionized positions and those, if you
23 can confirm, supervisory level, up to supervisory
24 level, they're in-scope or union positions and covered
25 by the collective agreement. Is that correct?

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1 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha, Yukon Energy,
2 that is correct.

3 Q. Thank you. Now, I understand your explanations for all
4 the different positions, but in looking at the
5 organization of YEC, how it's organized, and even with
6 those explanations, would you agree that it's somewhat
7 top-heavy organizationally or not?

8 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, not. For example,
9 yes, we have a lot of positions that are titled
10 "manager" -- I'll -- I mean, we can all get into
11 examples here, but let's take a look at the manager of
12 regulatory under my department.

13 So you're -- the way -- the impression I get is
14 that this person has no employees, therefore, there's
15 not much responsibility here. Take a look at all the
16 material you have today, all the IRs, the 400 pages of
17 application, the 500 pages of IRs, that's the -- all
18 the filings, other fillings during the year,
19 Section 25, Section 84, no water reserve fund, all
20 those filings are one person.

21 So he's a manager, title-wise, he's also the
22 worker. So we don't have the luxury of being a
23 BC Hydro and having a department of 20 people
24 underneath him. He has to do all the work himself, so
25 top-heavy, I would say no.

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1 Q. All right. Now, even though I understand you don't
2 agree with the top heavy characterization, but in
3 looking at the organization, such as it is, what's the
4 likelihood in your view of inefficiencies occurring due
5 to slower decision-making, given that decisions have to
6 be made and communicated through a longer chain of
7 command where there are reports and different
8 positions?

9 A. MR. MURCHISON: Madam Chair, Paul Murchison. I
10 think that I would argue the opposite. The idea of
11 creating the additional layers and delegating
12 responsibility allows for in many cases quicker
13 decisions.

14 Now if you think specifically to the execution of
15 the capital projects and decisions being delegated to a
16 director and then a director being able to delegate
17 decisions to managers or senior project managers within
18 their teams, I think in many cases it allows for more
19 efficient decision-making with an understanding of
20 responsibility and accountabilities, and I think on top
21 of that, allowing VPs when you look at the roles that
22 VPs would play be more strategic and have more time.

23 So I can speak specifically to my team in that the
24 addition of directors and being able to offload some of
25 the project-related work that I had when I initially

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1 started with the organization has certainly helped from
2 a -- from my workload perspective, but also seeing
3 those decisions made within the teams underneath me.

4 So I think we're seeing -- if we're using that as
5 an example, some increased efficiency as it relates to
6 decision-making by having the layers and having
7 accountabilities within those layers with individuals.

8 A. MR. MILNER: I'll just add some additional
9 context to that because I think what's maybe
10 misunderstood, looking at the organization chart versus
11 looking at the work and the output that happens on a
12 daily basis is that there's no one really in that
13 organization chart that's not also doing work on the
14 ground in some cases, even supervisors are in the field
15 regularly. They're not sitting in an office somewhere
16 doing office things, they're doing like work things.
17 Managers, directors, all working, writing their own
18 materials, delivering on things, all the way up to VPs,
19 producing outputs, work.

20 So I think it's an interesting interpretation, but
21 I would say arguably we're fairly flat in how we
22 operate in terms of work and decision-making is
23 delegated down through different layers to make things
24 move quicker because people are in the field doing
25 work, so it -- but I take your observation. It's

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1 interesting to hear it characterized that way.

2 Q. Still just to follow up, in your views, are employees
3 more inclined to be more satisfied or less satisfied
4 with the type of organizational arrangement that you
5 have?

6 If I understand what Mr. Murchison said that, yes,
7 delegating responsibilities, but given that there's
8 more layers or more delegation, layers of supervisors
9 and managers overseeing their work, my question is, are
10 your employees more satisfied or less satisfied with
11 the current structure, seeing that some of them do have
12 to go through different layers and different managers
13 and supervisors, managers, directors?

14 A. MS. CUNHA: Stephanie Cunha, Yukon Energy.
15 Maybe provide a couple general thoughts here. While we
16 didn't ask that specific question in our last employee
17 survey, our last employee survey highlighted that 75
18 percent of our employees were satisfied with the
19 organization and the culture there, and one of the key
20 feedbacks from that survey was that they wanted career
21 progression, that they felt that they wanted more
22 decision-making, and so I think this structure of, you
23 know, having different levels of authority and
24 accountability and career progression in the
25 organization is in response to feedback and comments

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1 we've received from staff that they want to be and like
2 to be very engaged in the organization and want to make
3 the decisions, and like Mr. Murchison said, not all the
4 decisions happen at the VP level. They're delegated
5 appropriately based on the decision that needs to be
6 made at the different level. And I would say based on
7 anecdotal feedback, I think that's something that our
8 employees enjoy.

9 A. MR. MILNER: I think perhaps another piece of
10 context because your line of questioning is broadening
11 is around the skill set required in an organization
12 like Yukon Energy, and what we're largely a company of
13 there's many professionals inside the company, many
14 with accreditation whether it be planning or
15 engineering.

16 There's many trades people with certifications
17 that are required. All of this plays into how the
18 structure is built out. There's no question that
19 there's always room for improvement in optimization
20 across departments, certainly the link between
21 planning, engineering and operations is a theme that
22 we're building on, as we bring on new positions.

23 We've been actively trying to bring on new
24 positions that support those on the front lines,
25 delivering work, getting through work, delivering on

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1 work planning, so you'll see that theme as we move
2 forward in terms of -- certainly in terms of on the
3 operation side.

4 That's what we're hearing from employees right
5 now, so not so much adding layers in the organization
6 but really building out teams and building out
7 structures for teams to work together. So we're keenly
8 aware of that, and that's what we've been -- been
9 working on, but it's important to identify that the
10 engineering department is a department of engineers;
11 right? So that's why it's built out that way.

12 The operation department is largely is a
13 department of trades people in different trades, so
14 it's with predominantly union in-scope members, so
15 that's why it's built out that way.

16 So these changes around optimization are happening
17 within the org chart and I've highlighted a few areas
18 of interest, but certainly what's missing is there's no
19 layer that can just sit in the office and do
20 management-type stuff. They're out busy doing work at
21 the same time as being managers of either assets or
22 people.

23 Q. Thank you for that response. So in your view then --
24 sorry, so I was saying thank you for that response.

25 So in your view then, your response, your previous

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1 response then, would it align with YEC's strategic
2 priority of investing in people and technology?

3 A. MR. MILNER: Madam Chair, yes, it does align in
4 that. And that's really the effort we've been focussed
5 on, and when you talk about how we built out that
6 strategic plan, we started at the town hall level,
7 identified priorities, identified pain points inside
8 individual departments, because we are hearing loud and
9 clear that people are busy and they're under pressure
10 and they have more work than they have time in the day,
11 and building out those teams and investing in people
12 and allowing for some progression through the
13 organization is what we're focused on.

14 And we're seeing results in terms of new hires,
15 new postings, new development opportunities being grown
16 from within the company, which was another core value
17 that we heard from people is they want to see a path, a
18 career path, and we have got a very impressive stat of
19 building out and hiring people from within the company.

20 Q. Now, just in -- you mentioned surveys about staff
21 satisfaction, but does -- is YEC aware of -- or does it
22 have any available statistics related to the average
23 length of time it's able to retain staff such as
24 staff -- a staff turnover statistic that's relevant to
25 the various positions or divisions or more generally

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1 simply as a YEC -- someone who is simply a YEC
2 employee, just overall statistics?

3 A. MR. MILNER: Yeah, we have turnover rates by
4 position, by year. In general, the statistic is solid
5 in comparison, even through COVID we maintained a
6 strong turnover rate when the rest of the country was
7 experiencing really strong turnover. We did see that,
8 but it was comparably favourable in terms if you were
9 to compare across companies, but yeah, we're seeing --
10 -- we're including those stats in our thinking and
11 moving forward with some optimism around the current
12 state of relatively low turnover.

13 Stephanie can provide more context to that around
14 numbers.

15 A. MR. EPP: I'll just add an example that
16 there's been no turnover in the finance department in
17 probably five years. I -- so its turnover is low.

18 Q. So that's what I -- what I'd like you to find out is
19 what's the turnover rate in different departments or
20 overall.

21 Can you provide that for the last, let's say, few
22 years?

23 A. MS. CUNHA: Absolutely, we'd be happy to take
24 that as an undertaking. Do you mind just specifying
25 the years that you would like and the departments,

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1 because we just want to make sure that we're providing
2 the information that's most useful.

3 Q. I would suggest the last five years would be useful, if
4 that's easily ascertained.

5 A. MS. CUNHA: Annually by department.

6 Q. Yes, if you have that?

7 A. MS. CUNHA: Yes, we will look into that for
8 sure. We'll take that as an undertaking.

9 UNDERTAKING - TO PROVIDE THE YEC'S

10 TURNOVER RATE ANNUALLY BY DEPARTMENT

11 FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

12 Q. BENTIVEGNA: Thank you. Now, for this question
13 it's regarding overtime, and I provided your counsel
14 with an aid to questioning, and which related to the
15 YEC 2023/'24 application, PDF pages 57 and 58 that have
16 the footnote number 2, and the issues being referred to
17 on line 6 and the reasons to have more FTEs.

18 So if we can, Madam Chair, circulate that aid to
19 cross, and did the panel receive that aid to cross? I
20 just want to confirm. And probably be useful to save
21 some time that we'd also distribute number 2 as well,
22 the Aid to Cross Number 2.

23 So to start off, we can look at that aid to
24 cross -- Aid to Questioning Number 1, so if you have
25 it, it's the 2023/'24 GRA application, PDF pages 57 and

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Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 58, and I'm looking at the quotes that state, that's

2 line 6 to 11 first starting at: (as read)

3 "Historic staff levels. It has been

4 Yukon Energy's experience that

5 employees found it difficult to keep

6 pace with increased demand and that

7 this is becoming an increasing problem

8 as additional assets are added an

9 increasing -- with increasing resulting

10 burden on staff for planning and

11 executing capital works."

12 And it goes on. And then the next page where at line 6

13 it starts: (as read)

14 "To combat the above issues YEC is

15 forecasting an increase -- increase

16 employee complement -- the increase in

17 employee complement has resulted in a

18 significant decrease in forecast

19 overtime costs as a percentage of total

20 labour costs for 2023 and 2024 as

21 compared to the overtime for 2021 and

22 '22 actual years."

23 And it goes on until line 11, and then you have a note 2,

24 which talks about the overtime as a percentage of the

25 total salaries and wages has reduced from 6.14 percent

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1 actual in '21 to 5.09 percent actual in '22 and forecast
2 to reduce to 4.69 in '23 and 3.93 in '24.

3 Now, if then you look at Exhibit 4, YUB-37C at the
4 top of the page, and the top of the page table and the
5 bottom of the page tables, they show significant overtime
6 per employee in 2024 actuals, so if you look at those
7 tables, it shows that -- and I'm looking at the tables
8 that start in 2023 approved, 18,362 and then the actual
9 and it goes across.

10 And the statement that: (as read)

11 "The most significant factor that
12 stands out in the data is the variance
13 between 2024 actual labour costs and
14 2024 approved costs. The variance is
15 primarily due to the amount of overtime
16 as shown below."

17 And then the overtime is shown. So comparing the
18 information provided in that Aid to Questioning Number 1,
19 particularly the statistics in footnote 2 with the
20 information in 37C, those tables at PDF page 201 top and
21 bottom tables, I wanted to look at a few things.

22 So first of all, as shown on those tables in
23 Exhibit 4, on an actual FTE basis, did YEC have
24 approximately four more FTEs than approved? If it's at
25 all helpful, I'm looking at 1. -- 123.46 and then

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1 subtracting 119.81, giving me 3.65.

2 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, I'll assume your math
3 is correct.

4 Q. Thank you. Now, but when you look at the bottom table
5 on page 201, the overtime costs did not decrease as
6 intended and as articulated in 2024 application, and in
7 fact, reached higher levels; is that correct?

8 A. MR. EPP: As a -- overtime as a percent of
9 labour cost, that's correct.

10 Q. Thank you. Now, can you explain why the '23/'24 hires
11 did not achieve, in terms of overtime costs, what YEC
12 intended?

13 A. MR. EPP: So, Madam Chair, in the '23/'24
14 general rate application, we set high targets in order
15 to minimize the impact on rates, and we achieved that.
16 However, yes, we did in reality experience higher
17 overtime than anticipated. However, that overtime that
18 we incurred does not -- did not impact ratepayers. The
19 overtime that was higher than the approved amount is
20 paid for by our shareholder, so I'll start there.

21 Now, if you want to look at our 2023 actuals and
22 what you have to consider with all of this is you can't
23 just look at one line item in isolation. You can't
24 just say oh, overtime is higher, so something is not
25 working.

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 So for 2023, one of the main factors affecting
2 overtime was the vacancy factor, and I'll refer you to
3 YUB-YEC-1-38, and what I can tell you here is that we
4 had an approved vacancy factor of 9, however, for 2023
5 the actual vacancy factor was 12.32, a difference of
6 3.3, which represents more than 6,000 employee hours
7 since those positions were vacant and the work still
8 needed to be done, the result is overtime.

9 For 2024, the main factor affecting the high
10 overtime was water conditions. As water conditions
11 were unexpectedly low, we had to use more thermal.
12 This is shown in Table 2.2 of the application, where
13 our 2024 approved thermal percent was 11 percent,
14 whereas our actuals were 18 percent.

15 For the winter, we had planned on using around
16 10,000 hours of thermal. In reality we used 35,000
17 hours of thermal. Using thermal requires more employee
18 time to supervise the units as they are running and we
19 have to do significantly more maintenance, we have to
20 do more oil changes and that all takes labour hours, so
21 that is why the actual overtime exceeded the approved
22 overtime as a percent of labour costs in 2023 and '24.

23 Q. Thank you for that. Now, can I just confirm that I
24 understood you to say that the overtime was not -- was
25 charged to shareholders as opposed to ratepayers? Did

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 I understand that correctly or if you want to
2 elaborate?

3 A. MR. EPP: The revenue requirement is based
4 on what was approved by the YUB. Any variances from
5 that are the responsibility of the shareholder, so yes.

6 Q. Thank you. Now, if you can turn to the Aid to
7 Questioning Number 2. Now, in looking at that Aid to
8 Questioning Number 2, which again refers to a footnote
9 number 2 in the 2023/'24 application, and sets out some
10 equivalent calculations for '23/'24 actuals, and then
11 if you look at the '25 to '27 forecast from information
12 found in Exhibit 4, 37C, PDF page 201, top and bottom
13 tables that we've been looking at, can you accept that
14 the calculations performed therein in the Aid to
15 Questioning Number 2 as being correct and comparable to
16 the information that was provided in footnote 2 of
17 YEC's 2023/'24 application?

18 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, since I'm an
19 accountant, I'll point out that actually I would not
20 agree with those percentage calculations being exactly
21 correct based on the numbers.

22 For example, 2023 where you've got 4.8, the actual
23 calculation -- the actual -- the answer is 4.7. For
24 2024, it's not 4.0; it's 3.9. For 2025, it's not 5.6;
25 it's 5.5. And for 2026, it's not 4.9; it's 4.8.

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 Q. Thank you for that clarification. Now, similar to my
2 last question, and with the corrections you made, can
3 you explain that if YEC has a full complement of FTEs
4 or more in 2023/'24, yet still incurs overtime in its
5 efforts to get work completed, so again, can you
6 explain to us that? Was there a full complement of
7 FTEs or more were hired and why there is still overtime
8 incurred to get the work completed?

9 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, I think I -- in my
10 response earlier for 2023, I said there was a vacancy
11 factor of 12 rather than the approved amount of 9. So
12 that means there's not a full employee complement, and
13 there's never a full employee complement because we
14 always have a vacancy factor.

15 Q. Now, in looking at the table in the Aid to Questioning
16 Number 2, forecast overtime costs divided by labour
17 cost still result in percents for 2025 to '27 that are
18 higher than the level approved for '21, '23 and '24; is
19 that correct?

20 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair --

21 Q. These are overtime costs?

22 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, that is correct.

23 Q. Thank you. Now, if having the complement that you do
24 of FTEs, if that doesn't achieve the results intended,
25 does this in turn imply that there's higher overtime

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 costs and consultants' costs that remain unavoidable,
2 given that both the last GRA and the current GRA, YEC
3 contends that more FTEs will result in less overtime
4 and consultants' costs, notwithstanding it has not been
5 found to happen historically?

6 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, when preparing for
7 the application, the 2025 application, similar to the
8 '23/'24 application, we set high targets in order to
9 minimize the impact on rates.

10 The work has to get done, and there's an
11 increasingly -- an increasingly high level of work
12 load. What we are actually seeing in 2025 as we
13 indicated in our response to YUB-YEC-1-37C, we now
14 expect our 2025 and 2026 labour costs to be higher than
15 what we have in the application, and the explanation
16 for that is due to the low water conditions that we now
17 expect to continue, at least into this winter with
18 perhaps an impact into the following year.

19 So the reason -- we are still trying to do our
20 best to reduce overtime for rate-making purposes. In
21 reality we are being challenged to achieve that just
22 because of the amount of the workload.

23 A. MR. MILNER: I'll touch on it as well,
24 Madam Chair. Chris Milner, Yukon Energy. Just because
25 you mentioned the contractor time as well as the

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 employee overtime. And I think that there's two bars
2 to this graph and one is the work and the other is the
3 hours in order to get the work done, and just by the
4 nature of the kind of work that is being asked of our
5 team, involving travel to communities, involving
6 periods of time where overtime is required to get
7 critical maintenance done, there's always going to be a
8 certain amount of overtime baked into just the nature
9 of the work.

10 When we're not able to get that work done with our
11 teams through scheduled work planning, there's always
12 going to be a certain amount of time that's dedicated
13 to contractors that can respond on short demand without
14 impacting planned and scheduled work, because really at
15 the base we're trying to get -- maintain the integrity
16 of our planned and scheduled work, at the same time as
17 responding to emergency work, so that balance is very
18 tricky, but the direction that we've been working on as
19 a team is finding that sweet spot between -- if we're
20 able to reduce contractor hour and we're able to
21 replace that with employee hours, then we're able to
22 get more of the planned and scheduled work done and
23 have less of the emergency work to respond to, then
24 that's better for everyone.

25 So that's the formula that we're asking people to

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 look at, and that's the business cases that we're
2 developing around adding new employee complements as it
3 relates to planned and emergency work, but there's no
4 perfect answer to your question in that the work that
5 we're managing is both planned and emergency in nature,
6 and oftentimes it happens at inopportune times. That's
7 going to drive overtime, and it's going to drive
8 contractor response.

9 That's why our systems that we're investing in
10 such as the AM work planning and the system planners
11 and the various positions to really clean up workload,
12 automate certain things so that people don't have to
13 travel to move a valve or to flick a switch, they can
14 do it from the control centre, thereby reducing control
15 hours, those are all the things that are baked into our
16 current strategy around Chapter 1, and I just wanted to
17 provide that context overall, because you can't look at
18 that graph just with hours without looking at the hours
19 of work as well, and a small example of that is that
20 10,000 hours of thermal burn to 35 ,000 hours, and
21 there was not a proportional increase in the number of
22 hours of employee time, so there was some efficiencies
23 baked into that, responding to that.

24 A. MR. MURCHISON: Madam Chair, Paul Murchison. To
25 support Mr. Milner's statements, I think when you look

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 at, he mentioned emergency work, and in 2024 and then
2 into 2025, we dealt with three unplanned events. We
3 dealt with a failure of one of our Aishihik units, we
4 dealt with a failure of the penstock in Mayo, and we
5 dealt with the failure of a reactor at the Takhini
6 substation. All of that being unplanned work resulting
7 in hours that were not planned, so I think that idea
8 about unplanned work, it's certainly comes up, and
9 that's something that we have to deal with, and those
10 are all hours that were not forecast.

11 A. MR. EPP: And I'm not sure, Ms. Bentivegna,
12 if you were inferring that we were not successful in
13 the reduction of contractor time. I'm not sure if
14 that's still a concern for you.

15 Q. It's always a concern where costs are involved. So
16 yes, part of it is the idea that you get if you get
17 more FTEs, there will be less overtime and less
18 consultants' costs, so you've addressed the overtime
19 and some of the contractor costs with the emergency
20 work and that, but if there's other consultant's work
21 that even though you have more employees are asking for
22 additional FTEs that are being incurred?

23 A. MR. EPP: You're totally right, and if there
24 was no change in workload, that's exactly what should
25 happen. But what I will point out is that I'll give

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 you several examples of how new additions or increase
2 in employee complement has resulted in reduction of
3 contractor costs. I'm not saying overall, but costs
4 that would have otherwise been paid to contractors.

5 So in the application on page 72 and we sort of
6 already talked about this, but the manager of
7 regulatory. That work was previously outsourced to a
8 consultant. That work is primarily done in-house now.

9 In 2023 as part of that general rate application,
10 we focused on the engineering department, we added a
11 senior project manager, capital projects, a junior
12 project manager, EIT civil and a project manager. The
13 department had previously relied heavily on
14 contractors, but much of the work has now been brought
15 in-house.

16 In the people in culture department, most
17 recruitment activities were outsourced to a third
18 party. Bringing recruitment in-house with the addition
19 of a second P&C employee has saved the organization
20 approximately \$85,000 annually that we used to get done
21 outsourced.

22 New staff in operations completed tasks centred
23 around our LNG facility that we previously did not have
24 the internal capacity for. We would have spent \$95,000
25 on two projects in two months had we not had this

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 person, this internal person, new operations employee
2 perform that work, so saving \$95,000 in two months.

3 In the summer of 2024, we hired a mechanic in the
4 north, and this was timely as we ran over 12,000 hours
5 just in Dawson alone, units that year, compared to
6 4,000 the year earlier. Benefits from this position
7 included, we were able to perform routine maintenance
8 which likely wouldn't have occurred otherwise, and in
9 two instances during the routine maintenance, found
10 issues that could have led to catastrophic failures, if
11 left without repair, and we estimated the savings from
12 that by being proactive rather than being reactive was
13 in the range of 250,000 to 300,000 savings.

14 Finally, that's two more. So having the capacity
15 to inject experienced personnel into projects, capital
16 projects at certain stages also has provided
17 significant cost savings. A recent example was when
18 our load planner and T and D supervisor were brought
19 into the Wareham slope stabilization project and
20 provided comments on the new line design from AOA,
21 which estimated savings were \$1 million from that
22 review.

23 And it goes both ways, though, because when we --
24 even when we do have FTEs or employees, at times we do
25 lose them, and then we have to spend the money on

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 contractors because the work has to be done.

2 We lost one employee for about six months last
3 year, and this required us to hire a contractor to
4 support those tasks in completing capital projects and
5 we spent close to over \$150,000 just in those six
6 months, so it -- we do try to -- it's economical for us
7 to get the work internal, and so we try our best.

8 Q. Thank you. Now, [indiscernible] -- my apologies, my
9 microphone wasn't on. Now, looking still at that
10 response in 37C and the top on page 201, the top table
11 and the bottom table, so can you just clarify that the
12 top table shows total YEC labour costs comprise both of
13 in-scope and out-of-scope employees?

14 A. MR. EPP: Total labour cost includes -- is
15 total labour cost. It includes in-scope, out-of-scope,
16 work that is done for O&M purposes and work that is
17 done for capital purposes.

18 Q. Thank you. Now, but in looking at that same response,
19 and now looking at the bottom table, is the overtime
20 cost, are they attributable only to in-scope employees
21 or is it both in-scope and out-of-scope when we're
22 talking overtime?

23 A. MR. EPP: The overtime listed there -- well,
24 the overtime is only for in-scope employees, so you are
25 correct. In reality we have a lot more overtime that

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 is unpaid because it is at the manager level or above.

2 But the one thing I'll say is, so we could have
3 divided that by the actual in-scope employees, but it
4 was the same comparison from year to year, so it's the
5 apples to apples.

6 Q. Thank you. Now, you said that you're trying for the
7 apples to apples, but if you were to remove the
8 out-of-scope labour costs from the total labour costs,
9 what would be the overtime costs per in-scope employee?

10 A. MR. EPP: So just to confirm, you would like
11 us to divide the overtime by the labour cost of
12 in-scope employees.

13 Q. Well, effective, yes, if you were to -- in the labour
14 costs, remove the out-of-scope and from the total
15 labour costs and then look at what the overtime costs
16 would be per in-scope employee. Is that -- am I being
17 clear or are you still not --

18 A. MR. EPP: Yeah, I think it's the same thing,
19 and we would have to take an undertaking to get those
20 numbers and perform the calculation.

21 UNDERTAKING - TO REMOVE THE
22 OUT-OF-SCOPE LABOUR COSTS FROM THE
23 TOTAL LABOUR COSTS TO PROVIDE THE
24 OVERTIME COSTS PER IN-SCOPE EMPLOYEE

25 Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA: Certainly. Now, still on those

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 same tables on page 201, and I was just reminded maybe
2 we can give those aids to questioning exhibit numbers,
3 so Madam Chair, if they could be 9 and 10, that would
4 be appreciated. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

6 EXHIBIT 9 - AID TO QUESTIONING NUMBER 1

7 EXHIBIT 10 - AID TO QUESTIONING NUMBER

8 2

9 Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA: Now, looking at the same exhibit
10 number 4, PDF page 202. First we were looking at 201.
11 YEC shows an updated labour forecast, so if you see
12 that. So going from the top of page 201, top and
13 bottom tables, and then the next page, which shows the
14 updated labour forecast.

15 Now, in response to Exhibit 4, question -- YUB
16 question 37 at PDF page 201, the explanation provided
17 for the higher actual 2024 labour costs then forecast
18 is that employees had to work overtime hours that
19 weren't budgeted for; correct? I mean, we've just had
20 that discussion.

21 A. MR. EPP: Correct.

22 Q. Thank you. Now, as YEC is forecasting a reduction of
23 the amount of overtime over the test period, can you
24 confirm that the reduction in overtime costs is due to
25 the additional FTE hires which are forecast in the

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 amount of 8 FTEs in '25 -- 8 FTEs in '26 and 5 FTEs in
2 '27?

3 A. MR. EPP: So, Madam Chair, and
4 Ms. Bentivegna, you had me look at -- had us look at
5 page 202, but I think you're referring to the original
6 forecast numbers for '25 through '27.

7 Q. Let me just look. All right. Now, looking at the
8 original numbers, and then maybe you can look at the
9 updated forecast as well, but looking at the increase
10 in FTEs that YEC is requesting, if you can confirm that
11 there's a reduction in the overtime costs that results
12 from those additional FTEs?

13 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, there are many
14 benefits to increasing employee complement, and it
15 depends on the actual positions added, and we provided
16 I think quite a detailed list of benefits that each
17 position would have in our appendix in the application
18 and commented where there would be a potential
19 reduction in contractors, for example.

20 But overall, and an addition of FTEs does have
21 some impact on reduction of overtime, yes, but it's not
22 the -- reduction in overtime is not solely due to
23 increased employees. It depends on the type of work
24 expected as well.

25 Q. So then just to follow up, there's still, during the

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 test period forecast overtime costs remain at around
2 1.2 million each year, and so are you saying that
3 there's no reduction proportional to the number of
4 additional FTEs, proportional overtime reduction, to
5 the FTEs?

6 You're saying it's attributed that these overtime
7 hours that are still forecast are due to other factors?
8 Am I understanding you correctly?

9 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, our labour
10 forecasting is not done on sort of a statistical basis,
11 that I think you're referring to and proportional
12 basis. We actually go into much more detail in that,
13 so when we're budgeting for labour costs, each of the
14 budget owners has a template with all their employees
15 on it, and they are asked to provide their estimate of
16 workload and overtime for each position.

17 We add all those numbers up and get the results
18 that you see here, so there's no direct calculation
19 that would say if we add 10 employees, we're going to
20 reduce overtime by 10 percent.

21 Q. So then if I understand you correctly, that even though
22 you might be adding FTEs, that the goal is still not to
23 get down to very limited overtime or no overtime costs?

24 A. MR. EPP: With adding FTEs, we try to reduce
25 the overtime that otherwise would have occurred, if we

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 **did not add those FTEs.**

2 Q. But if I understand you correctly, there still will be
3 overtime costs?

4 A. MR. EPP: **There absolutely will still be**
5 **overtime costs.**

6 Q. And along those same lines, would the additional FTEs
7 projected, would they reduce YEC's reliance or use of
8 consultants?

9 A. MR. EPP: **Madam Chair, we'd have to take a**
10 **look and go through each example specifically that**
11 **we're providing the application employee by employee**
12 **basis, but we did provide that in the application and**
13 **it lists which employees do reduce the reliance on**
14 **employees, so there is some reduction.**

15 **It's not every position, although you could say**
16 **that if the work needs to get done, if you don't have**
17 **an employee for it, you do have to go outside the**
18 **company.**

19 Q. So then would you say that the benefits of additional
20 FTEs can be viewed in financial terms as resulting in
21 less overtime costs and less consultants' costs, or are
22 you not saying that?

23 A. MR. EPP: **Yes, we can say that, given the**
24 **same amount of workload if you had employees, you would**
25 **have less overtime and less consulting costs.**

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 Q. Thank you.

2 A. MR. MILNER: And the inverse is almost
3 certainly 100 percent true in that if you do not add
4 employees you will have increased overtime and
5 increased consultant costs.

6 Q. Thank you. Now, going back to that 37C, Exhibit 4, at
7 page 201 and the top table there, can you explain why,
8 even though the average cost per employee is somewhat
9 static over the test period at around \$177,282, it
10 continues to remain at or near 2024 levels of 178,000,
11 even though the 2024 included significant amount of
12 overtime on a per employee basis, roughly 14,000 per
13 employee is shown in the bottom table on PDF page 201
14 as well?

15 A. MR. EPP: Sure. So thank you. When you
16 look at 2024 actual, we've talked about the increased
17 overtime that was required due to the increased amount
18 of thermal. So when setting this budget for the
19 application last year or earlier this year, remember
20 that we assumed normal water conditions. So we assumed
21 we would have less overtime, so that's one factor.

22 The other factor is, though, the base rates from
23 2024 to '25 have increased, so you have to take in both
24 those factors to get at our updated 2025 forecast.

25 Q. And when you say base rates, are we talking employee

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 costs or what do you mean?

2 A. MR. EPP: Sure. So what I mean by that is
3 each year, subject to our collective bargaining
4 agreement with the union, we have mandatory wage
5 increases, basically if you make \$20 per hour, the
6 contract, the collective bargaining agreement says it
7 goes up by 3 percent, so next year it's \$20 an hour and
8 60 cents or whatever. That's what I meant.

9 Q. Thank you. Now, looking at the updated labour
10 forecast, still on the top table, PDF page 201, and
11 comparing it to YEC's table on PDF page 202, which
12 provides an updated labour forecast for the test
13 period, I'd like to understand what the updated labour
14 forecast represents.

15 So can you tell me why the original application
16 forecast line on PDF page 202 does not agree to the
17 labour cost line shown on top of table -- on the top
18 table of PDF page 201?

19 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, the difference
20 represents the impacts on revenue requirements. So
21 what you see in the updated forecast, this chart that
22 says "Updated Forecast of 18,904," that's expensed
23 labour. In the application forecast, the expensed
24 labour was 18,005, but when you add in capitalized
25 labour, you would get back to the number that is in the

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 chart up above.

2 So the difference we're showing is \$899,000 in
3 expense.

4 Q. Are we talking then 899,000 in O&M?

5 A. MR. EPP: Yes, O&M expense, labour expense,
6 as opposed to labour cost, which also includes
7 capitalized labour.

8 Q. Could you undertake to provide an updated table, and
9 I'm talking the one that reflects the labour costs,
10 number of FTEs and average costs per employee? That's
11 the PDF table at the top.

12 Sorry, PDF page 201, the top and bottom tables.
13 Since you've just mentioned that difference between O&M
14 costs and expenses.

15 A. MR. EPP: Madam Chair, I believe we
16 previously had an undertaking to split that up between
17 union and nonunion, and in addition or now do you want
18 that also to only include nonunion -- no, sorry, union
19 expense, labour expense?

20 Q. And if it's not there, the costs as well if those are
21 changed. So you mentioned the in labour costs
22 there's -- includes the capitalized cost and then
23 there's the expense, the labour expense costs, so if
24 those -- if the tables can be updated with the
25 information that we've just been discussing.

C. MILNER, J. EPP, S. CUNHA, P. MURCHISON

Questioned by Ms. Bentivegna

1 And, yes, it can be in that same undertaking. It
2 doesn't have to be a separate document.

3 **A. MR. EPP:** So just for clarification, I think
4 you're still asking for the O&M portion of labour.

5 **Q.** Yes.

6 **A. MR. EPP:** And is it just for union as per
7 the previous undertaking.

8 **Q.** Both. Union -- in-scope and out-of-scope, as you would
9 say.

10 **A. MR. EPP:** Okay. Thank you.

11 **UNDERTAKING - TO PROVIDE AN UPDATED**
12 **VERSION OF THE TABLES AT PDF PAGES 201**
13 **AND 202 IN EXHIBIT 4**

14 **Q. MS. BENTIVEGNA:** Now, in looking at the updated
15 labour forecast on PDF page 202 for the test period,
16 YEC is seeking an additional 1.4 million in labour
17 costs. That is supported by a single paragraph that
18 doesn't reference FTEs or provide any further detail.

19 Now, can you explain how this limited information
20 provides -- or substantiates an increase in costs of
21 over 1 million?

22 **A. MR. EPP:** Madam Chair, yes, I would like to
23 first of all correct in that we are not seeking an
24 increase in rates for the 2025 difference of 899 and
25 the 2026 difference of 646. That information was just

1 provided as informational purposes.

2 The -- we did not include -- I think in our
3 October 15th letter we said we were -- the only changes
4 to what we considered the application itself would be
5 the inclusion of the Whitehorse Power Centre and the --
6 reduction of the Wareham Spillway Tunnel project.

7 We did not ask for these labour costs, we just
8 thought it was important to provide more information
9 about our situation.

10 Q. Okay. So just to confirm, you're not requesting these
11 additional labour costs, that your October 15th letter
12 confirms that you're not seeking those costs in revenue
13 requirement?

14 A. MR. EPP: Confirmed. We are basing our
15 application on our original forecasts.

16 MS. BENTIVEGNA: Madam Chair, I think this would be
17 a good place to stop for today and we can continue
18 tomorrow, if that's agreeable.

19 THE CHAIR: Certainly.

20 THE CLERK: Order. This hearing will stand
21 adjourned until 9:30 on October 22nd, 2025.

22 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 4:35 P.M.)

23

24 PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO 9:30 A.M. ON OCTOBER 22, 2025

25

1 Certificate of Transcript

2

3 We, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing
4 pages 1 to 159 are a complete and accurate transcript of
5 the proceedings taken down by us in shorthand and
6 transcribed from our shorthand notes to the best of our
7 skill and ability.

8 Dated at the City of Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, on
9 October 21, 2025.

10

11

12

"Leanne Kowalyk"_____

13

Leanne Kowalyk, RCR, CSR(A)

14

Official Court Reporter

15

16

"Sonja Petryshyn"_____

17

Sonja Petryshyn, CSR(A)

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Official Court Reporter

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- I N D E X -

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