

1	CHRISTIAN COUNTY
2	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
3	SEPTEMBER 22, 2020
4	6:00 P.M.
5	
6	ZONING BOARD:
7	Steven Sipes, Chairman
8	Glen Goodrich
9	Mark Dozier
10	Jon Rosenthal
11	Joe Dorr
12	Joann Howard
13	Vince Harris, Zoning Administrator
14	
15	
16	COUNSEL PRESENT:
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22	BY: MR. KYLE C. BARRY Appearing on behalf of
23	Swift Current Energy
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            BY: MR. H. ALLEN YOW
                 Appearing on behalf of Dale Eggimann,
 5
                 Julie Eggimann, Carolyn Eggimann, and
 6
                 Gary Conner
7
8
       PRESENT:
9
             Mr. Jeff Durbin, CTI
             Mr. Daniel Sheehan, Swift Current Energy
10
11
             Mr. Dale Eggimann
12
             Ms. Julie Eggimann
13
             Ms. Carolyn Eggimann
             Mr. Jeff Scott
14
             Mr. Mark Elmore
15
16
             Ms. Kenna Bertoldo
17
             Mr. Jerry Thomas
18
             Ms. Terri Thomas
             Mr. Brian Wilbur
19
20
             Mr. David Loomis
21
             Ms. Meredith Rodrigues
22
             Mr. Michael Marous
23
             Mr. Steve Battaglia
24
             Ms. Sandra Haines, CSR
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      MEREDITH RODRIGUEZ
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1 CHAIRMAN SIPES: It is 6 o'clock the 2 22nd of September, 2020. It is our regular Zoning Board of Appeals meeting night. We will 3 do roll-call. 4 MR. HARRIS: Glen Goodrich. 5 6 MR. GOODRICH: Here. MR. HARRIS: Jon Rosenthal. 7 MR. ROSENTHAL: Here. 8 9 MR. HARRIS: Mark Dozier. MR. DOZIER: Here. 10 11 MR. HARRIS: David Copenbarger. He is 12 excused. JoAnn Howard and Joe Dorr. 13 MR. DORR: Here. 14 CHAIRMAN SIPES: And Steve Sipes. 15 MR. HARRIS: And Steve Sipes. The 16 roll-call simulates a quorum. 17 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. Is there a 18 motion on the floor to open the meeting? MR. GOODRICH: Glen Goodrich, ZBA, I 19 20 make the motion we open the meeting. CHAIRMAN SIPES: I would like to make 21 22 note that JoAnn Howard is now present, one of 23 the other Board Members. 24 Is there a second?

1	MR. ROSENTHAL: I will second it, Jon
2	Rosenthal.
3	CHAIRMAN SIPES: Roll-call.
4	MR. HARRIS: Joe Dorr.
5	MR. DORR: Here, yes.
6	MR. HARRIS: JoAnn Howard.
7	MS. HOWARD: Here.
8	MR. HARRIS: Mark Dozier.
9	MR. DOZIER: Yes.
10	MR. HARRIS: Jon Rosenthal.
11	MR. ROSENTHAL: Yes.
12	MR. HARRIS: Glen Goodrich.
13	MR. GOODRICH: Yes.
14	MR. HARRIS: Steven Sipes.
15	CHAIRMAN SIPES: Yes. Okay. On our
16	agenda this evening is a variance for a grain
17	bin.
18	Mr. Harris, were all fees paid, and are
19	there any written objections or objectors
20	present to this?
21	MR. HARRIS: No, no, Mr. Chairman,
22	there are not. Every fee has been covered down
23	on by the applicant.
24	CHAIRMAN SIPES: This is a variance for

1 a grain bin to be built five feet from the east 2 property line address of 369 North 1900 East Road, Pana. Is the petitioner here? 3 4 MR. HARRIS: Yes, he is. 5 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Would you like to say 6 anything? I am sorry, what's your name? 7 MR. JEFF SCOTT: Jeff Scott. CHAIRMAN SIPES: Jeff Scott, okay. 8 9 Please proceed. MR. JEFF SCOTT: It might just be a 10 11 misprint, but the address is 362 North 1900 East 12 Road. CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. 13 14 MR. JEFF SCOTT: That might make a 15 little difference. We would just like to move 16 the grain bin within five feet of the property 17 line. We have been farming the ground around it 18 for 30 some years, and give me more room on my building site to better fill it and empty it. 19 20 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. Mr. Harris, 21 have all notices been put in the paper and 22 notices sent to adjacent property owners? 23 MR. HARRIS: Yes, sir, they were. 24 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Is there any

1 discussion on this issue? Is there a motion to 2 approve the variance? MR. DORR: I will make a motion to 3 4 approve the variance. CHAIRMAN SIPES: Now, I need --5 6 MR. DORR: Joe Dorr. 7 CHAIRMAN SIPES: -- to ask you a question. Joe, you have been here almost -- you 8 9 have been around for a minute. Is it variances that don't have to go back to the County Board? 10 11 MR. DORR: Right. 12 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. So, you may 13 want to double-check that, but I am pretty sure 14 it is a variance that doesn't have to go back to the County Board. So, you will have to work 15 16 that out with Vince, okay. 17 Is there a -- I am sorry, did I get a 18 motion to approve? 19 MR. DORR: Yes. 20 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Is there a second? 21 MR. ROSENTHAL: I will second it. 22 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. Roll-call. 23 MR. HARRIS: Mr. Sipes. 24 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Yes.

1 MR. HARRIS: Mr. Goodrich. 2 MR. GOODRICH: Yes. MR. HARRIS: Mr. Rosenthal. 3 MR. ROSENTHAL: Yes. 4 MR. HARRIS: Mr. Dozier. 5 6 MR. DOZIER: Yes. 7 MR. HARRIS: Miss Howard. 8 MS. HOWARD: Yes. 9 MR. HARRIS: Mr. Dorr. MR. DORR: Yes. 10 11 MR. HARRIS: The ayes have it. 12 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. 13 MR. JEFF SCOTT: Thank you. 14 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Next on the agenda is 15 a special use permit by Black Diamond Solar 16 Project. The company is actually called Swift 17 Current. 18 MR. BARRY: Good evening. Thank you Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board. My name is 19 20 Kyle Barry. I am a lawyer in Springfield. I 21 have been doing permitting hearings like this 22 one on renewable energy and solar projects for 23 about a dozen years now, mostly in Central 24 Illinois.

Most recently I helped a company obtain a
 permit for a 70 megawatt Solar Project in Logan
 County. It is just south of Lincoln.

Tonight though I am here representing the 4 5 applicant, which is Black Diamond Solar, LLC. 6 And the applicant seeking a special use permit to construct a 299 megawatt solar project here 7 in Christian County. In a minute I am going to 8 9 turn things over to my colleague, Daniel Sheehan. He is going to take us through an 10 11 overview of the project through a set of slides.

Before I do that though I want to kind of give you a road map for how our presentation will proceed this evening. We will begin with Daniel again providing an overview, and then I am going to present four expert witnesses who will be on the phone only.

18 So, I ask you for your patience for that. 19 I have done this a couple times now, and I have 20 to say it never goes perfectly so when it is on 21 the phone, but we will -- hopefully won't have 22 any big problems.

23 So, the experts are going to talk about 24 things like a wildlife study that was done for

the project, engineering issues, economic impact study, and a property value study. Again they will be testifying over the phone.

4 So, overall we intend to demonstrate that 5 the application meets all of the standards in 6 Christian County's solar siting ordinance as 7 well as the zoning code.

8 With that I am going to turn it over to 9 Mr. Sheehan, who is going to take us through a 10 set of slides.

MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you, Kyle. Again I am Daniel Sheehan, Project Manager for Swift Current Energy, and we are developing like Kyle said this 299 megawatt solar project on the west side of Tovey.

I wanted to start with just a little background on the project, give you an overview of what we are working on here. The second page of your handout and the second slide gives you -- I realize it is hard to see with the lights.

22 MR. HARRIS: You want me to try to turn 23 that off?

MR. SHEEHAN: It might be a little

1 better if you can. Thank you. 2 MR. DORR: While he is doing that can I 3 ask a question? 4 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Absolutely. 5 MR. DORR: Is it a typo where it says 6 permit the Black Diamond Wind Farm? 7 MR. SHEEHAN: It is a typo, apologies for that. 8 9 CHAIRMAN SIPES: I thought it was a nice touch, the front cover is a picture of a 10 11 wind turbine. 12 MR. SHEEHAN: We like that picture. We 13 like the flag on there. Apologies for that typo 14 there. 15 So, the map depicts the proposed layout for 16 the project. You can see it extends up the peninsula around Sangchris Lake, and then to the 17 18 south this area right here is not within the project. It is a little hard to tell with the 19 20 way the map is, but that's the Eggimann parcel, and then the 80 to the south there is not inside 21 22 the project poster, but it is within the project 23 area.

A little background on Swift Current

24

1 Energy. We are a company based in Boston, 2 Massachusetts. We are a small firm, around 15 or so people. We are comprised of -- our 3 directors are comprised of individuals that have 4 a lot of experience in wind and solar renewable 5 6 energy development throughout the United States, and they formed their own team to come together 7 to form their own company. So, as you can see 8 on the slide and in your packet the track record 9 of power development and operations, having 10 11 developed, financed, constructed, and operated 12 over 60 power projects in 26 states throughout 13 the careers of the folks involved in Swift 14 Current Energy.

15 There is a brief view of our team members 16 and some of the companies they have worked with 17 in the past, and some of their experience is 18 listed there below.

Moving on to some facts about the proposed Solar Project, Black Diamond. Obviously located in Christian County, about eight miles from Taylorville in the Township of South Fork, the project area comprises just over 2,300 acres total. We are in the queue, in the PJM queue

for up to 299 megawatts of output. The project will consist of photovoltaic panels on single-axis trackers, internal access roads, underground collection lines, electrical inverters, a collection substation, and a perimeter fence around the project area for security purposes.

8 We will go through all this other 9 information in detail as our other consultants 10 go through their various aspects of their 11 specialties. This is just an overview.

Project life is estimated at 50 years plus or minus, but we expect the project will be re-powered as new technology becomes available, and with the existing substation there and the interconnection that it will be a viable project for the foreseeable future.

We anticipate starting construction in the fourth quarter of 2021. Per the Christian County ordinance we've -- this ordinance establishes setbacks of 100 feet from residences or churches that are occupied.

For security as I mentioned beforeperimeter security fence with a minimum of six

feet in height will be installed at the project.
The equipment -- that's the minimum height.
That's not necessarily what our proposed height
will be.

The collector cables will be installed 5 6 underground. We will not have any overhead transmission lines with the exception of the 7 connection into the ComEd Switchyard into the 8 existing power lines that are there. 9 All of that will take place within the substation 10 11 footprint, which will be on the north side of 12 Route 104, on the north side of that. I can 13 pull this up. I have more detailed maps if 14 anyone would like to look at them at all, and 15 there is more detailed maps as we get further 16 along in the presentation as well. But just for your benefit for right now the substation will 17 18 be located where the power lines cross this field right off of this private access road 19 20 right in this neighborhood here on the north 21 side of the highway.

The applicant will prepare a decommissioning plan and the associated financial security prior to the issuance of the

building permit. So, we will have a decommissioning plan in place with full intending for funds to be posted to accommodate for whatever might be required with that respect.

6 The Christian County ordinance requests that the project be completed within two years 7 of the SUP issuance, and we are requesting a 8 9 variance to that that would extend the timeline to four years within the permit conditions in 10 order to allow for unforeseeable schedule 11 12 changes associated with the interconnection 13 process, the construction planning, and the 14 procurement of project materials. As all of us 15 are experiencing the pain of COVID there is a 16 lot of unknowns with regards to the supply, availability, as well as timeliness for 17 18 construction purposes.

19 So, that's a request that we are presenting 20 here tonight as well. The next page is a more 21 detailed map of the proposed layout for the 22 solar panels. Again it is a little hard to see, 23 and I apologize for the small print there, but 24 that will give you the layout of the panels as

1 proposed for the project area.

2 Give you an idea of the project cost, we 3 are estimating project cost in the neighborhood of 425 million dollars to completely construct 4 the project from start to finish. Our estimated 5 6 building permit fees payable to Christian County would be \$307,000.00, and over the life of the 7 project Black Diamond will generate a little 8 9 over 48.5 million dollars worth of property taxes for the district for the life of the 10 11 project.

We anticipate creating up to four on site long term employees through operations, and we estimate approximately 1,200 construction jobs would be created during the construction process for the project.

We are working with the Village of Tovey on 17 a community benefit package. We have been in 18 talks with the mayor and a few other key 19 20 individuals in the Village of Tovey to see what 21 they need, and where our interest can intersect, 22 and where we can help them out with what they 23 are trying to work on, what is on their list of 24 things they would like to get done, that type of

1 thing. So, we are in current talks with them to 2 come up with a good package that can benefit the Village as well. We fully intend to execute on 3 that by the time if we would get to a County 4 Board vote next month. 5 6 My contact information is there along with my counterpart Stephanie Fowler who is a 7 development associate, and with that I will turn 8 9 it back over to Kyle to introduce our next 10 presenter. 11 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Daniel. 12 Okay, first off we are going to have Steve 13 Battaglia. I don't know if you can find him on 14 line there. By the way, here is a list of the 15 folks we are going to want to unmute. Let me 16 know when he is ready if you would, please. 17 MR. JEFF DURBIN: Can you hear me, 18 Steve? MR. BARRY: Steve, can you hear? 19 20 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: Can you hear me? 21 MR. JEFF DURBIN: There you go. 22 MR. BARRY: Yes, loud and clear. 23 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Is he speaking as an 24 expert?

1 MR. BARRY: Yes. We would like to 2 swear him in, yes, please. CHAIRMAN SIPES: I missed the name, I 3 am sorry. Steve, what was the name? 4 5 MR. BARRY: Battaglia. 6 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Battaglia, do you 7 swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? 8 9 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: Yes, I do. 10 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Thank you. 11 12 STEVE BATTAGLIA called as a witness herein, at the instance 13 14 of the Applicant, Swift Current Energy, having been first duly sworn/affirmed on his oath, was 15 16 examined and testified as follows, to-wit: 17 DIRECT EXAMINATION 18 BY MR. BARRY: Good evening, Mr. Battaglia. Could you 19 Ο. 20 please state your name for the record. 21 Α. Steven John Battaglia. 22 Can you tell us a little bit about your Q. 23 background. 24 A. I am a civil engineer by trade. I work

1 for Westwood Professional Services based out of 2 Minneapolis, Minnesota, and we are consulting engineers for Swift Current Energy. 3 4 Q. Could you spell your name, Steve. Yes, B as in boy, A-T-T-A-G-L-I-A. 5 Α. 6 Thank you. Mr. Battaglia, have you Ο. 7 performed any reviews for solar energy projects 8 in the past? 9 Α. Yes. And have you done any in Illinois? 10 Q. 11 Α. Yes. 12 How many, if you recall? Q. 13 Oh, I can't recall. I would probably Α. 14 say two or three. Thanks. Did you prepare a drainage and 15 Q. 16 erosion control plan for the Black Diamond Solar Project? 17 18 Α. Yes. 19 And is that plan Exhibit B to the Q. 20 permit application? Yes, it is. 21 Α. 22 And I know we haven't talked about Q. 23 this, but I would like to enter Exhibit 4, I 24 think. Did I say Exhibit 4? I am sorry, I

1 meant Exhibit 4. Is that Exhibit 4? 2 Α. Yes. MR. BARRY: I would like to enter 3 Exhibit 4, which is the erosion control plan 4 into the record. 5 MR. HARRIS: Which book is that? 6 7 MR. SHEEHAN: The Westwood book, the civil site plan. 8 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Sheehan, you may 9 have to point it out. 10 11 MR. HARRIS: This one. 12 MR. SHEEHAN: It would have been one of 13 the stapled copies, I believe. MR. HARRIS: Oh, this. It is one of 14 these, or is it that? 15 16 MR. SHEEHAN: This one. 17 MR. HARRIS: Okay. It is this one. 18 MR. YOW: Is that the site plan? 19 MR. HARRIS: Yes, preliminary site 20 plan. MR. YOW: I wonder if it is better 21 22 after each witness we have an opportunity to 23 cross-examine. 24 MR. HARRIS: The way we have done it in

1 the past is save the questions until the end. Do you have this? 2 It was 3 MR. GOODRICH: I have got one. 4 covered up. And Mr. Battaglia, did you prepare a 5 Ο. 6 vegetative maintenance and screening plan for 7 the Black Diamond Solar Project? 8 Α. Yes, we did. 9 Is that plan Exhibit 5 to the permit Ο. application? 10 11 Α. Yes, it is. 12 MR. BARRY: I would like to enter the 13 vegetative maintenance and screening plan into 14 the record. 15 MR. SHEEHAN: It is in the same book. 16 MR. BARRY: In the same book, okay. 17 Okay, Mr. Battaglia, could you at this Ο. 18 time provide an overview of the project's components and discuss the details of the plans 19 20 you developed. 21 Α. Yes, and I see slides are up, okay. 22 Starting off just with the basic project 23 components of the solar facility starting with 24 the PV solar panels, which collect the energy,

1 they sit atop driven steel piles which will hold the solar panels up slightly above ground, and 2 energy is collected with medium voltage 3 collection cables, which are then routed to 4 central inverter skids. From those inverter 5 6 skids the cable runs directly to substation/switchyard where the energy is stuck 7 up and put onto the grid. To access the 8 9 inverter skids we have various gravel access roads to navigate the site. Surrounding the 10 11 site there is a perimeter fence for security 12 purposes, and at this facility we will have a 13 temporary laydown yard, which will be decommissioned following construction. 14

15 Next slide, please. Going through the 16 structure heights, anticipated structure heights for the project, the solar panel heights would 17 18 be at a maximum of 15 feet above grade when they are at full tilt. That is a maximum. 19 Thev will 20 likely be more in the 10 to 11 foot range above 21 grade when they are at full tilt, and they will 22 be at six to seven feet above grade when they 23 are in a still position, which is flat, parallel 24 to the ground.

1 The perimeter fencing around the project is 2 a seven foot chain link fence with one foot 3 barbed wire on top for a total of eight feet. 4 Proposed microwave towers near the 5 substation are a maximum 160 foot height, and 6 the substation poles are a maximum 100 foot 7 height.

8 Next slide, please. Solar panel setbacks, 9 currently we are setback a minimum of 50 feet 10 from public road right-of-ways, and also 50 feet 11 from non-participating property lines. Setbacks 12 from the existing residences that will be 13 remaining within the project area and the 14 surrounding area is a minimum of 100 feet.

15 Next slide, please. Surface drainage for 16 the project is proposed to remain unchanged. It 17 is a fairly flat site. So, we don't anticipate 18 a lot of grading within this site, maybe just 19 some general smoothing of the ground in various 20 locations. No significant grading is proposed.

21 Surface water run-off will likely be 22 reduced, and that is due to the change in land 23 cover. Currently it is an agricultural land, 24 and we will be replacing it with a native mix

grass following restoration, and what that does is it reduces the run-off of water, the rate of run-off.

There are a number of delineated wetlands on site, but all wetlands are proposed to be avoided with construction activities right now.

Next slide, please. There is a variety of drain tile within these parcels. Swift Current Energy is taking the approach of having key priorities be that the drain tile repair will be in accordance with the AIMA first and foremost.

12 Secondly, we will be maintaining the tile 13 mains that convey the water to or from other 14 properties surrounding the project.

15 One of the main goals is to avoid adversely 16 impacting surface water drainage for adjacent 17 properties, and we will also propose to relocate 18 impacted tile mains to provide drainage 19 continuity across the project.

20 Next slide, please. We are proposing a 21 proactive approach to tile repair. Step by step 22 process of what we are going to do is first we 23 will field locate the tile mains within the 24 project boundary, and that will be done via

1 landowner tile maps and probing into the ground to find those mains. Next we will determine 2 3 where the proposed project infrastructure impacts those tilings, so figuring out where our 4 5 project intersects the tilings. That's 6 primarily due to driven piles for the solar racking, and also if the medium voltage cables 7 are underground, that will also cause an impact. 8

Next we work on relocating those impacted 9 tile mains to avoid our proposed pile and cable 10 11 locations. If there are impacts that occur 12 during construction or post construction that 13 are found, Swift Current will maintain a close 14 relationship with the landowners within the 15 project boundaries, and they will -- they will 16 be working closely with them to get those repaired within the time frame. 17

18 Next slide, please.

19 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mister -- I am going 20 to mess this up -- Battaglia, on the sheet it 21 says SCE will maintain a fund following 22 construction dedicated to providing financial 23 assistance for landowners with drainage issues 24 caused by the project. You didn't touch on 1 that.

2 So, this will be more of an internal Α. process for Swift Current Energy. They will be 3 working directly with the landowners to 4 determine the best course of action for 5 6 repairing those tiles. 7 MR. SHEEHAN: I can speak a little more closely to that if you would like. 8 9 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Sheehan, I probably need to swear you in also. Do you --10 11 Dan, Daniel or Dan. State your name please and 12 spell it. MR. SHEEHAN: Daniel Sheehan, 13 D-A-N-I-E-L, S-H-E-E-H-A-N. 14 15 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Do you swear to tell 16 the truth, the whole truth? 17 MR. SHEEHAN: Yes, I do. 18 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Thank you. Please continue. 19 20 MR. SHEEHAN: So, for the landowners 21 within the project itself, the ones that are 22 having panels installed on the parcels, we will 23 maintain a fund that will support repair and 24 maintenance of drain tile for those landowners.

1 The idea is that if the project is 2 decommissioned, that we will have money set 3 aside to restore the mains and laterals to a 4 functional capacity if they are damaged at some 5 point.

6 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay, thank you. Next slide, please. We have various 7 Α. locations for visual screening on the project 8 9 for residences that are within close proximity to the project location. Number one, we have 10 11 perimeter fencing. We have fabric screening, 12 and that is in select location, one select 13 location fabric screening on the west side of 14 Tovey between the panels and the Town of Tovey.

15 There also will be landscaping shrubs in 16 two locations, one on the west side of Tovey in the same spot as the fabric screening fence, and 17 18 the second spot is on the east side of the project near the North 500 East Road. There are 19 20 three residences that are immediately east of 21 the project area within close proximity, and 22 those landscaping shrubs when fully grown are 23 proposed to be between eight and 20 feet in 24 height. That will be dependent upon the

1 species.

2 Next slide, please. Here I am showing examples of those proposed landscaping shrub 3 species. There are four of them that are 4 5 currently proposed. They are between eight and 6 20 feet in height when fully grown, and it is probably a little bit small for you guys to see 7 8 on that screen, but on the bottom it shows the 9 typical spacing for those shrubs.

Next slide, please. Vegetative cover 10 11 within the project area is going to be broke 12 into three separate categorizations. First is 13 within the solar array area where we are 14 actually going to have panels. We are proposing 15 a low growing native seed mix with an estimating 16 maximum height of 30 inches. That's to keep 17 maintenance to a minimum, that it doesn't shade 18 panels.

19 Next is the perimeter of the solar array, 20 which is essentially outside of the panel area, 21 but it is still within the fence area. We are 22 proposing a pollinator seed mix, which will grow 23 taller than 30 inches.

And the third location are farmed through

1 wetlands that are currently on the project area. We will be seeding those with a wetland 2 pollinator seed mix. Five foot, those will 3 be -- those will be seeded so there is no impact 4 5 to those wetlands. And currently the project is 6 targeting pollinator friendly status through this seeding regimen. 7

8 With that I will turn it back over to the 9 Swift Current team.

MR. BARRY: All right. Thank you, 10 11 Mr. Battaglia. That will do for right now. I 12 have no further questions, but will ask you to 13 stay on the line in case members of the Board or 14 anyone from the audience has questions. Thank 15 you.

16 Next up we are going to have Meredith Rodriguez. Meredith, can you hear us? 17 18 MS. MEREDITH RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Can you hear me? 19 20 MR. BARRY: Yes. First off we are 21 going to ask the Chairman to swear you in. 22 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Miss Rodriguez, will 23

24

MS. MEREDITH RODRIGUEZ: Meredith

you state your name and spell it, please.

1 Rodriguez, M-E-R-E-D-I-T-H, Rodriguez, 2 R-O-D-R-I-G-U-E-Z. 3 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Do you swear to tell 4 the truth, and the whole truth, nothing but the truth? 5 6 MS. MEREDITH RODRIGUEZ: I do. 7 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Thank you. Please 8 proceed. 9 MR. BARRY: Thank you. 10 MEREDITH RODRIGUEZ 11 12 called as a witness herein, at the instance of the Applicant, Swift Current Energy, having 13 14 been first duly sworn/affirmed on her oath, was examined and testified as follows, to-wit: 15 16 DIRECT EXAMINATION 17 BY MR. BARRY: 18 Q. Good evening, Miss Rodriguez. Could you tell us a little bit about your background, 19 20 please. 21 Α. Yes. I have a Bachelor's Degree in 22 biology as well as a Master's Degree in biology, 23 and over ten years of experience in wildlife 24 biology. My experience includes surveys for

1 birds, bats, amphibians, and reptiles. 2 Q. Have you previously evaluated wildlife issues at solar energy projects? 3 Yes. I have reviewed ten solar 4 Α. 5 projects overall, and worked on ten solar 6 projects, and three solar projects in Illinois. 7 And are you familiar with the wildlife Q. and environmental studies performed for the 8 9 Black Diamond Solar Project? Yes. We performed breeding bird 10 Α. 11 surveys, eagle and raptor nest surveys, 12 Kirtland's snake habitat assessment, and wetland 13 delineations. 14 Q. And did you participate in those studies? 15 16 Α. Yes. I was the project manager. And are the wildlife studies and 17 Ο. 18 reports annexed number one in the permit application? 19 20 Α. Yes. MR. BARRY: I would like to enter annex 21 22 number one into the record, please. 23 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. 24 Q. All right, Miss Rodriguez, could you

please discuss the results of the wildlife
 studies.

Yes. We conducted breeding bird 3 Α. surveys the summer of 2019. We conducted three 4 5 rounds of surveys at the site at 13 points. 6 Overall we recorded 641 birds and 60 species. We recorded two upland sandpipers, two bald 7 eagles, four black-billed cuckoos. Overall the 8 project lacks grassland habitat suitable for our 9 nesting of upland sandpiper. There is some 10 11 potential for the black-billed cuckoos, and 12 that's on the margins of the project.

13 We also conducted eagle and raptor nest 14 surveys within a half a mile of the project by 15 boat and with driving surveys. We did not 16 record any raptor nests within the project. Likewise we did not record any bald eagle nests 17 18 within the project or a half mile of the project. We did record 14 raptor nests. 19 20 Majority of these were red-tailed hawks, which 21 are common in agricultural species.

22 Next slide. Finally we conducted 23 Kirtland's snake habitat assessment looking for 24 areas with open grasslands, close to permanent

water sources and crayfish burrows or other
potential retreats. The majority of the habitat
that we mapped as suitable habitat was located
around the edge of Lake Sangchris. That
suitable habitat will be avoided through siting
in upland habitat.

Q. Thank you, Miss Rodriguez. Are you
familiar with the EcoCAT application filed by
the project with the Illinois Department of
Natural Resources?

A. Yes. I helped prepare the application.
Q. Did you engage in a consultation
process with the Illinois Department of Natural
Resources?

A. Yes. We attended meetings with IDNR on
September 11th, 2019 and April 6th, 2020.

Q. What was the outcome of thatconsultation process?

19 A. IDNR concluded under the EcoCAT letter 20 dated September 4th, 2020 that given the 21 voluntary of where the minimization measures the 22 project has adopted adverse, adverse impacts the 23 State listed state protected natural resources 24 are unlikely.

Q. Did you also participate in
 consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
 Service?

A. Yes. We had a meeting with Fish and
5 Wildlife Service on September 26th, 2019.

Q. Has the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
advised that it concurs with the wildlife study
plans and approach taken by the Black Diamond
Solar Project?

10 A. Yes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife 11 Service has been supportive of the studies and 12 minimization measures. We have discussed, and 13 based on the project avoidance potential habitat 14 including potential roosting habitat for bats 15 they did not recommend further pre-construction 16 surveys.

Q. And how about the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, did the Department of Natural Resources advise that it concurs with the wildlife approach taken by the Black Diamond Solar Project?

A. Yes. Black Diamond has worked closely
with IDNR and completed current list habitat
assessments at IDNR's request. IDNR was

1 supportive of the project proposed avoidance and 2 minimization measures, and concurred that the 3 risk of adverse impacts was low. 4 Q. Thank you. Miss Rodriguez, did you 5 perform a wetland study for the project? 6 Α. Yes. 7 Is that study annexed 04 in the permit Q. 8 application? 9 Α. Yes. MR. BARRY: I would like to submit 10 11 annex number 4 into the record, please. 12 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Yes, thank you. 13 Could you tell us a little bit about Ο. 14 the results of the wetland study. The wetland delineation documented 15 Α. 16 eight wetlands and one stream that are likely jurisdictional waters of the U.S. wetlands were 17 18 avoided through siting to the extent possible. Less than .1 acres of jurisdictional waters will 19 20 be impacted. So, the project will use a 21 nationwide permit, which is essentially an 22 automatic permit. 23 MR. BARRY: All right. Thank you, Miss 24 Rodriguez. That's all of the questions that I

1 have for you right now. If you could please 2 hang on the line though because members of the Board or members of the public may have 3 questions for you in a bit. Thank you. 4 Next up we have David Loomis. 5 6 MR. DAVID LOOMIS: Hi, can you hear me? 7 MR. BARRY: Yes, we can hear you, Dave. MR. DAVID LOOMIS: Great. 8 9 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Loomis, this is Steve Sipes, Chairman of the ZBA. We need to --10 11 if you would, state your name and spell it for 12 us, please. 13 MR. DAVID LOOMIS: My name is David, D-A-V-I-D, Loomis, L-O-O-M-I-S. 14 15 CHAIRMAN SIPES: I need to swear you in 16 also. You swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? 17 18 MR. DAVID LOOMIS: I do. 19 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Thank you. 20 21 22 23 24

1	DAVID LOOMIS
2	called as a witness herein, at the instance
3	of the Applicant, Swift Current Energy, having
4	been first duly sworn/affirmed on his oath, was
5	examined and testified as follows, to-wit:
6	DIRECT EXAMINATION
7	BY MR. BARRY:
8	Q. Good evening, Dr. Loomis. Could you
9	tell us a little bit about your background,
10	please.
11	A. Sure, I am David Loomis. I am a
12	Professor of Economics at Illinois State
13	University, and I am also president of Strategic
14	Economic Research, LLC, an economic research and
15	consulting firm, and I have been at Illinois
16	State since 1996 teaching classes in economics
17	and energy economics in particular.
18	Q. Have you examined economic impacts for
19	other solar projects?
20	A. Yes. I have. I have done a number of
21	economic impacts for solar projects.
22	Q. Have you done any economic impact
23	studies for projects in Illinois?
24	A. Yes. I think I have done six or seven

1 for projects here in Illinois. 2 Thank you. Dr. Loomis, did you perform Ο. an economic impact and land use study in 3 connection with the Black Diamond Solar Project? 4 Yes, I did. 5 Α. 6 Is that annex 06 to the permit Ο. 7 application? 8 Yes, it is. Α. 9 MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter annex number 6 into the record. 10 11 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Yes. 12 MR. BARRY: Thank you. 13 Dr. Loomis, could you please discuss Q. 14 the economic impacts or the projected economic 15 impacts of the Black Diamond Solar Project. 16 Α. Sure, I think I have some slides there. We can pull up the slides. 17 We have a slide that's titled 18 Ο. methodology currently. 19 20 Okay, great. So, in doing this study I Α. 21 relied upon the jobs and economic development 22 impacts model. This is a model that's developed 23 by the National Renewable Energy Labs. It is 24 one of the U.S. Department of Energy Labs that

1 develop this model. It should say solar energy 2 model. It is a PV12.13.16, but this model has been reviewed in the academic literature, peer 3 reviewed literature, and it is based on an 4 industry standard called the IMPLAN model that's 5 6 used by economic development professionals around the country to look at the economic 7 8 impacts of construction and operations of 9 various projects, not just renewable energy or energy projects, but it would be the economic 10 11 impacts of building a new hospital, for example, 12 or new arena.

Next slide. So, when we are looking at economic impacts, we start with the initial capital expenditures, and then the expected ongoing operations and maintenance expenditures, and then we separate those out into three different buckets that you will see there in the middle of the screen.

The first is the local expenditures. So, we want to know how much is going to be spent in the local economy. In this case we looked at Christian County, and then we also looked at how much would be spent in the State, in the State

1 of Illinois, and then finally the non-regional expenditures. Those in economics they are 2 3 called economic leakages. Those are money that's going to flow outside of the State. 4 The first two categories are subject to what we call 5 6 the multiplier effect. And so we took specific economic multipliers from IMPLAN that's just for 7 Christian County, and then multipliers that are 8 9 just specific to the State of Illinois to look at what those capital expenditures and 10 11 operations and maintenance expenditures would do 12 in the local economy through that multiplier 13 effect.

14 Next slide. One of the economic impacts 15 that we looked at in particular are the property 16 tax impacts. In this project has a 425 million dollar investment into, for the total of the 17 project. Illinois has a standardized assessment 18 law that -- so, the value of the project is 19 20 based on a megawatt basis, the size of the 21 project. So, we take the 299 megawatts, and 22 then that gives us the taxable value of the 23 projects, and then based on the local tax rates 24 we assumed in the analysis that the tax rates

don't change. So, these are constant at what they are currently, and we project those out for the expected 30 year life of the project. I know Daniel said that it's expected at 50 years. I only did the analysis out for the first 30 years.

In total you can see there 29.5 million 7 dollars would flow to school districts. 6.4 8 9 million dollars would flow to townships and road districts. 4.8 million dollars would come to 10 11 the County. And when we add up all of the 12 different taxing districts, it totals over 45.8 13 million dollars over the life of the project, 14 and again that's an expected 30 year life of the 15 project.

16 Next slide. So, when we look at the job impacts, we are expecting approximately 1,200 17 new jobs during construction for the State of 18 Illinois. That would include the direct labor, 19 20 so the on site labor. It would also include 21 supply chain impacts that would come. So, 22 typically aggregate rebar, other construction 23 materials would be purchased locally because the 24 transportation costs are considerable relative

1 to the cost of those materials. So, they 2 typically get purchased locally. Then it would include four long term operations and 3 maintenance jobs. Those would be the solar 4 5 technicians and supervisor that's on site. Ιf 6 we included those supply chain jobs, and the induced jobs, that would total 13 jobs for 7 8 Christian County. Then we expect over 103 9 million dollars in new local earnings during construction for the State of Illinois. 10 11 Q. Thank you, Dr. Loomis. Just to 12 summarize then does your study show that the

Black Diamond Solar Project will deliver significant economic benefits to Christian County and other local communities near the project's footprint?

17 A. Yes.

MR. BARRY: All right. That's all that I have for you right now, Dr. Loomis. If you could stick around and stay on the line, please. Some of the Board Members or members of the public may have questions of you later. Thank you.

A. Very well.

1 MR. BARRY: Next up we have got Michael 2 Marous. Hello, Mr. Marous, can you hear me? 3 Mike, can you hear us? 4 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: Can you hear me? 5 MR. BARRY: We can hear you now, yes. 6 Can you hear me? 7 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: Yes, I can hear 8 you. MR. BARRY: Okay, great, are you on a 9 10 phone? 11 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: Well, I was on the 12 web, and then I went on the phone to make sure. 13 It sounds like I am reverbing. Maybe I should 14 get off the screen. 15 MR. BARRY: Yes, you should probably 16 drop one of them. 17 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: Okay. 18 MR. BARRY: We can hear you. 19 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Marous, this is 20 Steve Sipes, Chairman of the Zoning Board of 21 Appeals. We need if you would, state your name 22 and spell it, please. 23 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: Michael S. Marous, 24 M-A-R-O-U-S.

1 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay, Mr. Marous, I 2 would ask being as we don't have you on screen, 3 we have a court reporter here, to please speak 4 clearly and slowly. I need to swear you in also. Do you swear 5 6 to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing 7 but the truth? MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: I do. 8 9 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Thank you. 10 11 MICHAEL MAROUS 12 called as a witness herein, at the instance 13 of the Applicant, Swift Current Energy, having 14 been first duly sworn/affirmed on his oath, was examined and testified as follows, to-wit: 15 16 DIRECT EXAMINATION 17 BY MR. BARRY: 18 Good evening, Mr. Marous. Can you tell Ο. us a little bit about your background, please. 19 20 Sure. I am President of Marous & Α. 21 Company, which I founded about four years ago. 22 It is a real estate appraisal and consulting 23 firm located in Park Ridge, Illinois. Ι 24 attended and graduated from the University of

Illinois Champaign in the school of finance and
 the specialization in land, urban land
 economics.

I have been a full time appraiser and consultant since that time, and have appraised 15 plus million dollars of real estate primarily in the State of Illinois, many Conquest Projects including the State Farm Headquarters and probably millions of acres of agricultural land.

During that time period I have prepared 10 11 over 200 value impact studies for various 12 projects including solar, wind, power plants, 13 gravel developments, waste transfer stations, 14 mixed use developments, shopping centers, 15 schools, industrial parks to name a few. I have 16 done, probably have 40 plus public body clients throughout the State of Illinois that I consult 17 18 with frequently in regard to valuation and land use issues. I have prepared value impacts for 19 20 approximately ten solar farms throughout the 21 Midwest, and this is the second in Christian 22 County. I did a study for Hickory Point Solar 23 Energy Center, and I have a general certified 24 license in the State of Illinois and about four

1 other states. I have held the MAI designation 2 since 1980. I have published. I have spoken, and I have sat on the National Board of 3 Directors, and I am past president of the 4 Chicago Chapter of the Appraisal Institute. 5 Okay. Thank you, Mr. Marous. Did you 6 Ο. perform a property values market impact study in 7 8 connection with the Black Diamond Solar Project? 9 I did. It was a 64 page study with Α. approximately 25 plus pages in the addenda. 10 11 Q. Is that study annex number seven to the 12 permit application? 13 Α. It is. 14 MR. BARRY: I would like to go ahead 15 and enter annex seven into the record, please. 16 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Yes. 17 Mr. Marous, can you tell us about the Ο. 18 conclusions that you drew from your study. 19 Yes, as a result of the study and my Α. 20 expertise on value itself and value impacts it 21 is my opinion that there is no market data 22 indicating the project will have a negative 23 impact on either rural residential, or 24 agriculture property values in the surrounding

1 area. Further market data from Illinois
2 supports the conclusion that the project will
3 not have a negative impact on the rural
4 residential aggregate property values in the
5 surrounding area.

6 And finally for the agricultural properties 7 that host the panels the additional income from 8 the solar lease may increase the value and 9 marketability of those properties and have a 10 positive impact issue heard from Dr. Loomis on 11 the townships and the County.

12 Q. Mr. Marous, can you tell us about the 13 factors that you look at that tend to affect 14 property values in your study.

15 Α. Sure. When looking at any property, we 16 look at initial appearance, environment sustainability, trend of development, noise and 17 18 odor, traffic including heavy truck traffic and obviously rail traffic, hazardous materials, and 19 20 the availability of public services, 21 infrastructure, schools, public safety. This

23 small towns nearby including Tovey. There is a 24 coal plant immediately to the west, which is a

area is generally rural agriculture with some

22

dominant factor in the area. But as an
 appraiser we look at economics. We look at
 values. We look at demographics.

4 One of the main analysis is looking at a 5 matched pair study, which is simply looking to 6 find sales of comparable property proximate to the proposed use, which in this situation would 7 be a solar farm, and then comparable properties 8 9 having similar characteristics, age, that are in a safe area, but are not proximate to the solar 10 11 panels.

12 Q. So, you looked at actual sales data, is 13 that correct?

14 Α. That is correct, and in the report I 15 provide probably over a dozen examples of these 16 matched pairs. And in the power point I provided a brief summary of three matched pairs 17 including a sale and resale of a house outside 18 the North Star Solar Plant north of Minneapolis. 19 20 That was the same house that sold before the 21 solar facility was developed, and then resold 22 after the facility was completed.

Q. Mike, we have the North Branch
Minnesota matched pair on the screen right now.

1 Α. Yes. Actually that is the sale, resale, and the first page just provides the 2 3 general information as to the address, and the last sale of it, which was in March of 2018. 4 That's 165 feet from the nearest solar array. 5 6 Again this is about a 1,500 acre or maybe a little less than that, but 100 megawatt major 7 solar facility. The house was built in 2000, it 8 is just under 2,800 feet on ten acres, newer two 9 story, four bedroom, three bath, and I think a 10 11 picture will come up soon that sold in March of 12 2018 for \$302,500.00. That was after the solar 13 facility was constructed, and it had sold in May 14 of 2010 before the solar facility was made public for \$219,900.00. So, it was almost a 40 15 percent increase over that time period, and 16 17 probably the first three years of that time 18 period was what we would call the real estate recession. So, as part of this I had tracked an 19 20 article, a study done by the local County 21 Assessor, and then further confirmed with a 22 phone call with him as to the impact of the 23 solar farm, and he said in their tracking of 24 sales and re-sales that they had seen no

1 negative impact in value impact. The whole area 2 of the County was indicating increases. Now, 3 part of it is just Minnesota economy in general, 4 but there was no negative impact that he 5 assessed the properties in proximity to the 6 solar, I mean the farm and single family 7 development no differently than he did 8 comparable property in similar areas of this 9 township and County. Okay, thank you. 10 Ο. 11 Α. There is a picture, there is a picture 12 after that. 13 And I think you had a couple other Ο. 14 examples, the first one was from Illinois, 15 correct? 16 Α. Correct. So, this is actually matched pair in LaSalle County in Streator, Illinois. 17 18 LaSalle County has actually had significant wind development, but it has also had solar. 19 This is 20 in more detail starting on Page 17 of my report, 21 but basically the property that was proximate 22 was 485 feet away. It sold for \$186,000.00, a 23 little bit bigger than the house that was not 24 proximate, a little larger lot size, both one

1 story ranch style residences, all three bedroom 2 houses, and the one proximate to the solar panel sold for 186,000 compared to the one that was 3 farther away, but it is a smaller house sold for 4 \$151,000.00. But I looked at both the houses 5 6 and researched the market, and found no negative impact based on the proximity to the solar 7 8 panels.

9 Q. Thanks, and I think you had a matched 10 pair analysis for some properties in Indiana as 11 well.

12 Α. Again these are just a Sure. 13 representative sample. I think I have multiple 14 matched pairs in Indiana, but these are found on 15 Page 19 of my report, but again showing two 16 sales in Franklin, Indiana both relatively modest ranch houses, and these are average 17 18 quality construction. The first one proximate to the solar panels is prefab or factory built 19 20 construction. They are both a little over 1,400 21 feet, and the one proximate to the solar panel 22 sold for \$112,000.00. The one that was not 23 proximate farther away sold for approximately 24 \$75,000.00.

Again touring the neighborhood, looking at the houses I found no indication of any negative impact from the existence of the solar development.

Q. All right. Thank you, Mr. Marous. You
have a number of other slides that occur after
the matched pair analysis. Do you want to walk
us through those, and if so, just let us know
what page we should go to.

Well, what I did here was simply 10 Α. 11 provide some sales information called summary of 12 residential sales nearest to the Black Diamond 13 solar, and just kind of showing a representative 14 example of these houses, and I have photographs thereafter with the low price point of 98,000, 15 16 the high price point of 225,000. Most of them sold between 2017 and 2019, and generally were 17 18 kind of indicating trends of development and price points, which is somewhat consistent with 19 20 the matched pairs that I utilized throughout the 21 report. Obviously the newer houses closer to 22 the support services, the infrastructure of the 23 towns, and the ones with larger lot sizes 24 traditionally reflected higher values.

1 So, there is, I think, three pages of 2 pictures, but again there is more detail on 3 these properties in the report, and then there is a page titled recent residential sales map, 4 5 which shows that two are basically in the middle 6 of the project area, and then the other four kind of surround it. Then the last, and I am 7 not sure, I really have to go into ag prices, 8 9 and clearly that's indicated by the quality of the soil, the proximity of, to the 10 11 infrastructure of the various towns, and how 12 they ungravel, what's the shape, but generally 13 indicated an average value 8 to \$9,000.00 per 14 acre. These are all basically for corn and 15 soybean, and then there is a map there.

16 I hope I am not going too fast for the court reporter, probably the last is just a 17 18 literature review. What's interesting as opposed to wind, which there are quite a few 19 20 peer reviewed studies, there have been very 21 little peer reviewed studies for solar, and on 22 this page I just summarized the study that was 23 done by the University of Texas at Austin in 24 2018. The simple conclusion what's interesting

because what they also did is interview
assessors and found that the assessors that had
no solar experience generally felt there might
be a negative impact compared to the assessors
that actually had experience with solar
development in their counties and found there
was no measurable impact.

Along that line with the assessors what I 8 9 did was call every assessor in the County, County in Illinois that had solar development. 10 11 Again it's relatively new, and discussed with 12 them the developments, the proximity of 13 residential, and had they had any formal tax 14 complaints filed, and have they filed any 15 reductions in value due to proximity of solar, 16 and the answer was no. The other question, and generally these are more conversational 17 18 discussions, but were they valuing houses in proximity to solar any different than similar 19 20 properties in similar, with similar 21 characteristics different than they were by the 22 solar farms, and the same answer, no difference. 23 I done the same study in six Illinois 24 counties, nine Indiana counties, eleven

1 Wisconsin counties, five North Carolina 2 counties, and thirteen counties in Maryland, and 3 came with the same conclusion, the assessors 4 were not seeing any measurable impact based on 5 the solar development. In fact, the economics 6 on the positive impact to the tax base and also 7 the money being paid to the landowners that turned out to be very positive. 8 9 Ο. All right. Thank you. Then my conclusions are simply I am 10 Α. 11 restating what I said earlier in my report. 12 Q. Well, just to summarize then, 13 Mr. Marous, does your study show that the Black 14 Diamond Solar Project will have no negative 15 effect on the property values of homes located 16 in or near the project's footprint? It does. 17 Α. 18 MR. BARRY: All right. Thank you, That's all of the questions that I 19 Mr. Marous. 20 have for you right now. I would also like you 21 to stick around on the phone in case members of 22 the Board have questions or members of the 23 public. 24 I have one more piece of evidence I would

1 like to submit, actually two. Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit an affidavit from Richard 2 3 Coles. Mr. Coles prepared a glint and glare study for the Black Diamond Project. That study 4 is annex 08. I would like to submit his 5 6 affidavit here, and I would like to ask that 7 annex 08 be entered into the record as well. 8 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. 9 MR. BARRY: I will give you an extra copy too in case somebody else wants to look at 10 11 it. 12 Then if I could, Mr. Chairman, I would like 13 to enter the power point presentation that we just went through into the record as evidence. 14 15 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. 16 MR. BARRY: With that we stand -- that concludes our initial presentation. We stand 17 18 ready to answer any questions. So, I am not sure how we proceed from here, 19 20 but we are going to stick around and field any 21 questions you might have. Thank you. 22 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Are there any 23 questions from the ZBA? 24 MR. DOZIER: I have got a few.

1 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Dozier from the 2 ZBA. Can you go ahead and turn the lights back on, please. Please proceed. State your name. 3 MR. DOZIER: Mark Dozier, ZBA Board. 4 First of all, Swift Current, is that the 5 6 development or just the owner of this site or 7 project? 8 MR. SHEEHAN: Swift Current is the 9 development company. MR. DOZIER: So, this will probably be 10 11 sold after you build this, or are you building 12 this for somebody in particular? MR. SHEEHAN: We will most likely bring 13 14 on a financial partner to go on through 15 construction and operations, yes. 16 MR. DOZIER: Will this be an American company, or this be a foreign entity? 17 18 MR. SHEEHAN: I don't anticipate it being a foreign entity. 19 20 MR. DOZIER: Well, that's what I am 21 asking. 22 MR. SHEEHAN: I guess that's ultimately 23 possible, but no, we have not taken on any 24 foreign owned entities to date.

1 MR. DOZIER: Okay. Let's see here. 2 Why do you need four years to build this on a two year project? 3 MR. SHEEHAN: Like I said before --4 MR. DOZIER: The main reason I am 5 6 asking is we had one that went in last year, and 7 to my knowledge they have sunk eight posts in a 8 year. 9 MR. HARRIS: I can kind of speak to that if you don't mind. They wanted a four 10 11 year -- our special use application grants two 12 years to finish this. They wanted an extra four 13 years to do that. 14 MR. SHEEHAN: Total -- an extra two. 15 MR. HARRIS: An extra two years 16 Invenergy did, and that was negotiated between Invenergy and the Chairman, and the Chairman's 17 18 Office, and they got their's. So, I am sure that's -- it is past practice to give the four 19 20 years. 21 MR. DOZIER: Is it past practice that 22 we only do eight posts in a whole year? 23 MR. SHEEHAN: We don't anticipate 24 delaying --

1 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Sheehan, would you 2 go ahead and respond to the question too. MR. SHEEHAN: Gladly. There is a 3 couple reasons for that. One is the 4 5 interconnection studies have been delayed due to 6 COVID. So, we are delayed in getting our results back from the PJM grid studies that are 7 done, our interconnection studies. So, they 8 9 kept rolling that ball back due to these COVID regulations, and that type of thing. 10 So, that 11 is one reason. And the other reason is being 12 able to secure our supply of panels and other 13 components of the project again due to some 14 manufacturing delays, we are just trying to give 15 ourselves a cushion to be able to procure all of 16 the necessary components, and get them on site so we can construct in a timely fashion. 17 18 MR. DOZIER: Okay. I got a couple 19 other questions. 20 Driven steel pilings, how deep are they? 21 Are they set in concrete? 22 MR. SHEEHAN: They are not set in 23 concrete. They are just pile driven right into 24 the ground with a pile driver.

1 MR. DOZIER: Ten feet, 15 feet? 2 MR. SHEEHAN: Oh, no, four to six feet 3 depending on the geotechnical analysis of the soil, but yes, that's, generally speaking that's 4 5 the typical depth of the steel piles. 6 MR. DOZIER: How big is a solar panel? 7 MR. SHEEHAN: They vary in size. We do not have our supplier contracted yet. So, I 8 9 can't give you a specific size. I guess I could ask Steve Battaglia. 10 11 MR. DOZIER: I have no idea. Are they 12 ten by twenty? Are they five by six? I mean --13 MR. SHEEHAN: A typical panel is three 14 by five, but they will sit on a rack in an 15 array. So, there could be three to four panels 16 depending on the size that fill up the rack. But like he said there would be -- they are 17 twelve feet tall, two feet off the ground. So, 18 relatively six to eight feet in height sitting 19 20 on the rack itself I would say. 21 MR. DOZIER: Okay. I quess I have got 22 questions on the native mix grass. What are you 23 going to do for weed control here? 24 MR. SHEEHAN: The idea is to get the

1 stand established as quickly as possible, but as you and I both well know there is going to be 2 some weed control. So, that's when mowing would 3 be done to control weeds and try to get our 4 stand established as well as possible. 5 6 MR. DOZIER: Well, usually about anything that you spray to control weeds is 7 going to kill any pollinator. 8 9 MR. SHEEHAN: Right. Yep, we are aware of that. 10 11 MR. DOZIER: Okay. Tile -- I farm. Ι 12 understand tile. You have got a big job if you 13 are going to probe all that. I will tell you 14 that. MR. SHEEHAN: Well, now just to be 15 clear we are probing the mains that transect 16 from a non-participating parcel onto our parcel 17 18 to maintain the flow of water from say the Eggimanns' parcels or the parcels surrounding us 19 20 to the south. Obviously the laterals you 21 don't -- you won't know where all of the 22 laterals are anyway, but as we find them we will 23 note them, we will identify them, and treat them 24 as they need to be treated going forward.

1 MR. DOZIER: Okay. In your -- under 2 tile repair it says SCE will maintain a fund 3 following construction. Maybe I didn't hear you correctly, but you said that was for 4 5 participating landowners? 6 MR. SHEEHAN: Right. We won't affect anything outside of our project boundary aside 7 8 from the mains that run from one parcel to 9 another. So, we don't need -- we wouldn't need to hold money back for lateral tile repair on a 10 11 non-participating parcel. 12 MR. DOZIER: I understand that. Are 13 you going to take care of the mains though from 14 a farm that's non-participating that goes under 15 your project? 16 MR. SHEEHAN: Absolutely. That will be done ahead of time. 17 18 MR. DOZIER: Is there access to that in case there is a problem? 19 20 MR. SHEEHAN: Well, that's why we are 21 going to reroute the mains ahead of time with 22 our survey, and that's why we are identifying --23 MR. DOZIER: I understand. I have had 24 new tile put in, and had a hole the next year.

1 MR. SHEEHAN: Oh, absolutely, yes, 2 absolutely. There will be -- we will have to -like anything else we will have to come in and 3 4 pull panels off to get in there and remove them. 5 MR. DOZIER: That's possible to do 6 then? 7 MR. SHEEHAN: It is not ideal, but it is possible. As Kyle noted it is a requirement 8 9 of the AIMA that we keep the drain tile functional. 10 11 MR. BARRY: And provide the GPS data. 12 MR. SHEEHAN: And provide the GPS data 13 for the repair locations. 14 MR. DOZIER: Is this going to be done 15 to your tiling standards, to a tiling contractor's standard, or to the adjacent 16 landowner's standards? 17 MR. SHEEHAN: Well, we would replace 18 whatever mains are running with the equivalent 19 20 with what's there. We would just reroute them. 21 If they need to be re-sized based on the route 22 we take, then we will take that into 23 consideration with a professional tile 24 installer.

1 MR. DOZIER: I have put a few mains in, 2 and that's a very expensive deal, and I know that if someone has got one running, they are 3 going to be concerned that it's --4 5 MR. SHEEHAN: Absolutely. MR. DOZIER: Okay. I guess the only 6 other -- back to solar panels. I believe your 7 appraiser said that, something about hazardous 8 9 materials. I was under the impression solar panels were considered a hazardous material upon 10 the end of their life. 11 12 MR. SHEEHAN: I can't speak to that. 13 You will have to speak to whoever's presentation 14 you are referencing that. 15 MR. DOZIER: I am talking to the 16 appraiser. I am not sure he knows a lot about solar panels either, but he knows land value, 17 18 but he said that they were not -- he talked about hazardous materials. 19 20 MR. SHEEHAN: Steve, the engineer, 21 might be able to speak to that. I can't speak 22 to that. 23 MR. DOZIER: I just want to know. Ι 24 mean I have always heard they couldn't be

1 disposed of in just a landfill. 2 MR. SHEEHAN: I don't know that to be 3 true. I can't speak to that. 4 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Who are we looking for? 5 6 MR. SHEEHAN: Steve Battaglia. 7 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Battaglia. MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: Yes. Can you 8 9 hear me? CHAIRMAN SIPES: Yes. 10 11 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: I am not -- I am 12 not aware of solar panels being considered 13 hazardous materials. It is the first I heard 14 that, but I can't testify conclusively that they 15 are not. I just have not ever heard of it. I 16 am not aware of any materials that would be considered hazardous. 17 18 MR. DOZIER: Can you find somebody that 19 can? 20 MR. SHEEHAN: I will make note of that, 21 and provide that information to the Board. 22 MR. DOZIER: I guess the only other thing that I had in your land cost stuff you 23 24 listed some farmland back here, and I may have

1 got mixed up on the map, I am not sure, but it looks to me like parcel two and three were 2 actually purchased for this project. I wasn't 3 real sure how relevant that was because that 4 could be an inflated price. I believe number 5 6 three is going to be where your layout yard is. I kind of looked at the map, and looked at 7 number two, and it looked like it was included, 8 9 but I could be wrong on following roads. MR. SHEEHAN: Number two would not be. 10 11 MR. DOZIER: That's not in your 12 project. 13 MR. SHEEHAN: No. Let me make sure. 14 MR. DOZIER: I thought it was the out 15 crop in here kind of purple colored. 16 MR. SHEEHAN: Two would not be included. 17 18 MR. DOZIER: Okay. 19 MR. SHEEHAN: Three was purchased. Ιt 20 is a part of the project now. It was not 21 purchased for the project. It was purchased 22 before the project entered into a lease 23 agreement. They didn't have any knowledge we 24 were going to go there yet.

1 MR. DOZIER: All right. I think that's 2 all of the questions that I have got right now. 3 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Are there any other questions from the ZBA? 4 MR. GOODRICH: I have one, Glen 5 6 Goodrich, ZBA. On a previous solar panel for some reason I was thinking there was something 7 about the cleaning solution for the panels. 8 Since they are so close to that lake will we 9 have a hazardous problem with that, with the 10 11 chemicals that may be used to clean the solar 12 panels, or do you clean them? Some reason I 13 think that they were cleaned every once in 14 awhile. 15 MR. SHEEHAN: Any cleaning agent that 16 would be used would be EPA certified, and it would be used according to the label of 17 18 recommendations. 19 MR. GOODRICH: The only concern I had 20 we are so close to that lake. 21 MR. SHEEHAN: Sure, understandable, and 22 they would follow the label recommended 23 practices for utilizing any solution or 24 pesticides or herbicides that are used on the

1 project.

2 MR. DOZIER: I am sorry. I got one 3 other question. How many feet from the panel, the closest panel to your fence of your project? 4 5 MR. SHEEHAN: Steve Battaglia would answer. It varies slightly, but he can give you 6 7 a --MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: Can you hear me? 8 Okay. So, it varies across the site, but the 9 minimum distance would be 20 feet from the edge 10 11 of the panel to the fence, the perimeter fence. 12 MR. DOZIER: Okay, thank you. 13 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Any other questions? 14 MR. DORR: I have one question, Joe 15 Dorr, ZBA. Where are your panels made? 16 MR. SHEEHAN: We do not have our supplier contracted yet, so I don't. 17 18 MR. DORR: In some of your other projects where were those panels made? 19 20 MR. SHEEHAN: I believe the vast 21 majority of them either come from China or the 22 U.S. That's the two main lead manufacturers. 23 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Any other questions 24 from the ZBA? Okay. Is it Mr. Yow?

1 MR. YOW: Yes. 2 CHAIRMAN SIPES: I think you are 3 representing the three interested parties? MR. YOW: Yes, Dale and Julie Eggimann, 4 Carolyn Eggimann, and Gary Conner. 5 6 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. Just so I am clear, Gary Conner is owner of the property, the 7 80 acres on the south side that Eqgimanns farm? 8 MR. YOW: That's correct. 9 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. 10 11 MS. JULIE EGGIMANN: And he lives 12 there. 13 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. You had some 14 questions you wanted to ask? 15 MR. YOW: Yes. Just so I understand, I 16 can ask some questions of their witnesses, and then I can put on my case, is that correct? 17 18 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Yes. If you would ask your questions first though, and then present 19 20 your case. MR. YOW: Yes, absolutely. Thank you. 21 22 Mr. Sheehan, obviously you know who I 23 represent. I think you have mentioned earlier 24 that you acknowledge that my clients are not

1 part of the project? 2 MR. SHEEHAN: Yes. MR. YOW: Okay, and is it also correct 3 to say that my clients have not entered into any 4 agreements with Black Diamond? 5 6 MR. SHEEHAN: That's correct. 7 MR. YOW: All right, and since they 8 have not entered into an agreement or what they 9 call an underlying agreement under the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement, that 10 11 those AIMA doesn't apply to my clients and their 12 lands, their tiles? 13 MR. SHEEHAN: It is my understanding, 14 Kyle could correct me if I am wrong, but they 15 are protected by it. 16 MR. YOW: That's not what the AIMA 17 says. Doesn't it define the landowner as 18 someone that actually has the contract and 19 agreement with the facility owner? 20 MR. SHEEHAN: I am going to let Kyle answer that. I don't know the answer to that 21 22 specifically. What are you driving at? 23 MR. YOW: Well, previously I believe 24 you have indicated that the AIMA would somehow

1 protect other people not within the project. 2 MR. SHEEHAN: If they are adversely 3 affected by the project, I believe they are covered under that, but I mean --4 5 MR. BARRY: I mean I can -- you want to 6 swear me in? 7 CHAIRMAN SIPES: You are an attorney, 8 correct? 9 MR. BARRY: Yes. CHAIRMAN SIPES: I don't need to. 10 11 MR. BARRY: I am just reading the terms 12 of the AIMA here, and it refers to, in terms of 13 tile repair it refers to, I believe it refers to 14 tiles that are outside the footprint of the 15 project as well. So, I mean we can argue about 16 what that scope is, but the AIMA itself is by its terms entered into to protect the landowners 17 18 who participate in the project, but there is also I call it a penumbra that provides 19 20 protection to neighboring landowners when it 21 comes to drain tiles. So, I am not sure what 22 the scope of the question is. 23 MR. YOW: Well, Counsel, I appreciate 24 the answer, but I don't believe that's what the

1 AIMA says, or at least my clients have very much 2 of a concern that it doesn't apply to them. 3 Now, Mr. Dozier asked you a question about the fund that had been established or may be 4 5 established by Black Diamond. I believe you 6 said that that does, that protects people within the project, correct? 7 8 MR. SHEEHAN: That's correct. 9 MR. YOW: All right. Were you part of developing the preliminary site plan for this 10 11 project? 12 MR. SHEEHAN: I was involved in that, 13 yes. 14 MR. YOW: Okay. Would it be fair to 15 say that you did not contact my clients during 16 the development of that project? 17 MR. SHEEHAN: I tried to reach out to 18 your clients several times, and never got a call 19 back. 20 MR. YOW: Well, did you work with them? 21 Did you go to their, either of these -- well, 22 did you contact Carolyn Eggimann, and ask for 23 her to participate with you or to work with you 24 in developing that preliminary site plan?

1 MR. SHEEHAN: I utilized the contact 2 information that I could find on line and reached out with numbers that I could find. 3 Whether they were valid -- whether they were 4 good numbers or numbers that were still in 5 6 service I don't have any way to verify that. MR. YOW: All right. I don't mean to 7 be overly aggressive with you. Would it be fair 8 9 to say that as part of the preliminary site plan you did not get or work with the Eggimanns to 10 11 identify any drainage tile that helps benefit 12 the land that they own and/or farm? 13 MR. SHEEHAN: Well, I tried to reach out to Mr. Eggimann again this week, I think it 14 15 was even yesterday or the day before. I would 16 have to look at my phone log. 17 MR. YOW: Did you, in fact, speak with 18 Dale or Julie Eggimann as part of the process of actually drafting the preliminary site plan? 19 20 MR. SHEEHAN: No. 21 MR. YOW: Did you speak with Gary 22 Conner as part of this development of the site 23 plan and discuss actually the location of 24 drainage tiles, that type of thing?

1 MR. SHEEHAN: I did not get that far 2 with Mr. Conner. I presented my -- when I spoke with him on the phone the one time that I could 3 get ahold of him, he said he had zero interest 4 5 in participating in the project, and so I tried 6 to respect his wishes, and I left him alone. 7 MR. YOW: Was that in part you were attempting to actually acquire the land versus 8 9 talking to him? MR. SHEEHAN: Right. I had a variety 10 11 of proposals I was wanting to present to him as 12 options to participate, yes. 13 MR. YOW: The project entails burying 14 lines, does it not? 15 MR. SHEEHAN: Underground collection 16 lines, yes. MR. YOW: Right, and in doing that that 17 18 kind of activity clearly can damage, cut through drainage tiles, is that correct? 19 20 MR. SHEEHAN: That's correct. 21 MR. YOW: You also are going, you 22 proposed having certain access roads along, in 23 the various parts of the project, correct? 24 MR. SHEEHAN: That's correct.

1 MR. YOW: And the construction, 2 maintenance of those types of roads can also 3 adversely impact or damage, destroy existing 4 drainage tile? MR. SHEEHAN: Right, but all of that, 5 all of that activity will be on participating 6 parcels that we have agreements with. 7 8 Exactly, and you don't have MR. YOW: 9 an agreement with my clients, do you? MR. SHEEHAN: I am not on his parcel. 10 11 MR. YOW: Well, but have you talked 12 with my clients, have you gone out there and 13 actually explored how the tiles from my clients' 14 properties cross over other properties, for 15 example, Judith Smith's property to the east? 16 MR. SHEEHAN: That is in our plan to do that, yes. We will. We have not done that yet, 17 18 no. MR. YOW: Okay, and would it be fair to 19 20 say also that you haven't located any drainage 21 tile that may be going from say the southeast of 22 the Conner property through the project? 23 MR. SHEEHAN: We haven't had the 24 opportunity to do that yet, but we fully intend

1 to do that as part of our prior to construction
2 phase of development.

3 MR. YOW: You would appreciate the 4 concern that my clients would have about this 5 type of project.

6 MR. SHEEHAN: Sure, and I am happy to 7 work with them however I can to be sure that 8 they are not adversely effected, and that their 9 drainage is as good or better than it has been 10 before.

MR. YOW: Does Black Diamond and Swift Current, do they acknowledge that my clients have perpetual easements in the drainage tiles that go, for example, across Judith Smith's property?

16 MR. SHEEHAN: I don't know that we have 17 uncovered any of those recorded deeds, but it is 18 in our title work to date.

MR. YOW: Okay. Well, I am not talking about recording. I am talking about perpetual easements that are created through mutual benefit under the Illinois Drainage Code. MR. SHEEHAN: I am unaware of any of this. I am happy to explore the option with the

1 Eggimanns by all means. I have no problem 2 working with them. MR. YOW: Sure. Mr. Battaglia. 3 4 MR. HARRIS: You might want to come 5 over here and speak into the mike. Steve, you 6 are live again. 7 MR. YOW: Mr. Battaglia, my name is Allen Yow. I represent several landowners that 8 9 are not within the project, specifically Dale and Julie Eggimann, Carolyn Eggimann, and Gary 10 11 Conner. 12 Are you aware of those names and the fact 13 that they are not part of the project? 14 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: I am, yes. 15 MR. YOW: Okay. Now, you testified 16 earlier that you created the drainage and erosion plan in this, for the preliminary site 17 18 plan? 19 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: Correct. 20 MR. YOW: And would it be fair to say 21 in doing that you did not speak with my clients 22 about the location or the presence of drainage 23 tile that they had an interest in not only on 24 their own properties but on other properties, on

1 project properties?

24

2 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: I did not speak That would be highly atypical for the 3 to them. engineer to speak to them. 4 MR. YOW: Okay. Would it be fair to 5 6 say that your drainage and erosion plan does not 7 indicate the location of any mutual drain across, for example, Judith Smith's property? 8 9 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: Currently the drainage and erosion plan is specific to surface 10 11 drainage, not subsurface. 12 MR. YOW: Okay, and would you agree 13 that -- okay, so you were just dealing with 14 surface drainage, not subsurface drainage, is that correct? 15 16 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: Correct. We 17 don't have the tile maps yet for certain parts 18 of the project. So, we are not able to do a full reconnaissance of what that tile mapping 19 20 looks like yet of the project. So, it doesn't 21 make sense to do it partway. You either do it 22 all of the way or nothing. 23 Okay. So, is it fair to say MR. YOW:

as you sit here today you have no idea where the

1 location of any drainage tiles or laterals are 2 on, either on the property's part of the project or my clients' properties? 3 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: As of today 4 that's correct. We have every intention of 5 6 finding out where those are prior to construction though. 7 MR. YOW: Sure, and you testified 8 9 earlier that fencing will be placed around the project? 10 11 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: Correct. 12 MR. YOW: All right, and fencing can 13 impede or impair surface drainage, can it not? 14 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: I would say the 15 chain link fencing that is proposed on this 16 project I do not anticipate changing the surface 17 drainage patterns. MR. YOW: But you can't rule it out, 18 can you, because sometimes fencing will actually 19 20 impede if the brush or other debris gets along 21 the fencing that can impair drainage, can't it? 22 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: I quess if you 23 put it that way, it could. That would all be 24 internal to the project.

1 MR. YOW: Thank you, Mr. Battaglia. 2 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Yow, are you finished at the moment? 3 MR. YOW: As far as cross examination. 4 I would like to put on my case when I have an 5 6 opportunity. 7 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. I quess we are ready for that part. 8 9 MR. YOW: Okay, thank you. Just a couple of -- I had submitted on behalf of my 10 11 clients entered appearances and objections. 12 Will they be made part of the record on these 13 proceedings? MR. HARRIS: Was that this stuff here? 14 MR. YOW: Yes. 15 16 MR. HARRIS: Yes, I have that part of 17 the record. 18 MR. BARRY: Could I get a copy of those materials? 19 20 MR. YOW: Do you have an extra one? MR. GOODRICH: I have three of them 21 22 over here. 23 CHAIRMAN SIPES: They are all 24 different.

1 MR. HARRIS: He would need all three. 2 I tell you what if you send me the e-mail 3 address, I will scan them and e-mail them to you 4 tomorrow. 5 MR. BARRY: The problem is how am I, 6 excuse me. 7 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Here, you can have 8 mine. 9 MR. BARRY: How am I going to potentially ask questions of his witnesses if I 10 don't have the material? 11 12 MR. DOZIER: He is giving you his. 13 MR. BARRY: Thank you. 14 MR. YOW: Mr. Chairman, where would you like Dale Eggimann I am going to call as a 15 16 witness. Where would the best place for him to testify so you guys can see him? 17 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Probably just right 18 here where you stood earlier. 19 20 MR. YOW: Would you like Mr. Eggimann to sit there? 21 22 CHAIRMAN SIPES: That's fine. 23 MR. YOW: Mr. Chairman, can I just -- I 24 want to give a set of my exhibits to the

1 Commissioners. I have the original that I will 2 have my client testify to. CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. 3 4 MR. YOW: I thought I would give -they are very similar to what you already have 5 6 although there is one additional. 7 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Eggimann, am I 8 pronouncing that right? Would you state your 9 name and spell it, please. 10 MR. DALE EGGIMANN: Dale Eggimann, 11 E-G-G-I-M-A-N-N. 12 MR. YOW: Mr. Eggimann --13 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Hang on just a second. 14 I am sorry. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? 15 16 MR. DALE EGGIMANN: I do. 17 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Thank you. Please 18 proceed. 19 MR. YOW: Thank you. 20 21 22 23 24

1	DALE EGGIMANN
2	called as a witness herein, at the instance
3	of the Eggimanns and Gary Conner, having been
4	first duly sworn/affirmed on his oath, was
5	examined and testified as follows, to-wit:
6	DIRECT EXAMINATION
7	BY MR. YOW:
8	Q. Mr. Eggimann, would you again for the
9	record state your name and spell it.
10	A. Dale Eggimann, E-G-G-I-M-A-N-N.
11	Q. And how old are you, sir?
12	A. Sixty-four.
13	Q. And are you married to Julie Eggimann?
14	A. Yes, I am.
15	Q. Is she here this evening?
16	A. Right there.
17	Q. Is your mother Carolyn Eggimann?
18	A. Right there.
19	Q. She is here as well, okay. Now, you
20	own property in South Fork Township, is that
21	correct?
22	A. Yes.
23	Q. All right, and that's land that you and
24	your wife own, is that correct?

1 Α. Excuse me. 2 That's land that you and your wife own? Q. 3 Α. Yes. All right, and your mom also owns land 4 Q. in South Fork Township adjacent to yours? 5 6 Α. Yes. 7 Do you know a Gary Conner? Q. 8 Yes, I do. Α. 9 Does he also own land basically Ο. southeast of your property? 10 11 Α. Right, yes. 12 All right. Now, Mr. Eggimann, in front Q. 13 of you I have placed several exhibits. Most of 14 these except for one are the ones that were already part of your entry of appearance in this 15 16 case. Is the first page, Exhibit A, a copy of 17 the Black Diamond's project map? 18 As far as I know. Α. 19 Do you need to get your glasses out? Ο. 20 Sure do. Α. 21 Q. Okay. 22 Α. Yes. 23 All right. So, Exhibit A is the Q. 24 project map, is that correct?

1 Α. What map? 2 Q. Exhibit A is the project map? 3 Α. Yes. 4 Okay, and then if you turn the page, Q. all right. That's Exhibit B, is that correct? 5 6 Α. Yes. 7 Now, is this the project map, but it Ο. 8 also then has certain lands that are colored, is that correct? 9 10 Α. Right. All right, and is your land highlighted 11 Q. 12 in blue? 13 Α. Yes, it is. All right, and is your mother's 14 Ο. highlighted in orange? 15 16 Α. Yes. 17 Is Gary Conner's in pink? Q. 18 Α. Yes. 19 All right. Now, is Exhibit C, are Q. 20 those property tax statements verifying you and your wife's ownership in those lands? 21 22 Α. Yes. 23 All right. I say the lands, the lands Q. 24 well obviously you and her own?

1 Α. Yes. 2 All right, and is Exhibit D true and Q. exact copies of tax statements for the 3 properties, the lands that your mom owns in that 4 5 area? 6 Α. Yes. 7 All right. Is Exhibit E tax, real Q. 8 property tax statements for Gary Conner's 9 property at issue here? 10 Yes, it is. Α. Okay, now, how long have you owned the 11 Ο. 12 land that's marked in blue on Exhibit B? 13 Α. Twenty years. All right. How long have you farmed 14 Q. it? 15 16 Α. All my life. 17 All right. Now, your mom owns property Q. 18 just to the south of yours, is that right? She 19 owns 40 acre parcel? 20 Yes, the 40 is south of me, right. Α. 21 Q. Right. 22 Α. South and east. 23 All right, and how long have you been Q. 24 involved with that property?

1 Α. All my life. 2 Q. All right, and is that through farming? We grew up on that farm, yes. 3 Α. 4 All right, and your mom now owns that Ο. farm? 5 6 Α. Yes. 7 All right. Now, are there any drainage Q. 8 tiles on that property? 9 A lot of them. Α. All right, and generally speaking on 10 Q. 11 your mom's property where does the water flow? 12 I am going to show you what is marked as Exhibit 13 N. I have to get my glasses out. Is this an 14 aerial that shows the lands that you, your mom, and Mr. Conner own? 15 16 Α. Yes, it is. 17 All right, and is yours highlighted in Q. 18 blue --19 Α. Yes. 20 -- here? And is your mom's 40 right Ο. down here? 21 22 Α. Yes. 23 Okay. Who owns the land to the east? Q. 24 Judy Smith. Α.

1 Q. All right, and how long has Judy Smith 2 owned it, well, a long time? The Smiths have been there as long as 3 Α. we have been on the other. 4 More than 20 years? 5 Q. 6 Α. Yes. 7 More than 30 years? Q. 8 More than 50 years. Α. 9 All right. Now, with regards to this Ο. property that your mom owns where does the 10 11 drainage tiles go? Do they go towards the east 12 towards the Judith Smith property? 13 Α. They go east towards the lake across 14 Judy's. They go through Judy's? 15 Q. 16 Α. Yes. 17 Okay. Now, prior to 2002 what type of Ο. 18 drainage tiles were crossing from your mom's 19 property over through Judy's property? 20 Prior to 2002 they were -- to my Α. knowledge there is a 14 and a 12 inch main in 21 22 the bottom of that ditch. 23 All right. Going from your mom's Q. 24 property through the Smith property?

1 Α. Yes. 2 All right, and where -- so, water is Q. taken away from your mom's property through 3 Judith Smith's property? 4 Α. 5 Yes. 6 Ο. All right. Were there other waters, 7 other lands also going across? 8 Α. Yes. 9 All right. Were the Smiths aware of Ο. that prior tile and drainage work? 10 11 Α. Yes. 12 All right. Then in 2002 did you work Q. 13 with or have the permission of the Smiths to install another tile? 14 15 Α. Yes. 16 All right. Tell what happened in 2002. Ο. 17 We put a 15 inch main all of the way Α. from the east side of the Smith property up 18 halfway across mom's 40. 19 20 All right. So, in other words, from Ο. 21 the far side by the road here on the way east 22 side all of the way into the middle of your 23 mom's property? 24 Α. Right.

1 Q. All right, and so once again that 2 benefited your land? Α. Yes. 3 4 All right. Did it benefit the Smiths' Q. land? 5 6 Α. Some. 7 Did it benefit your land over here at Q. 8 some point? 9 Α. Yes. Because in 2008 did you actually tie in 10 Q. 11 some drainage tiles from your land over here 12 into that? 13 Α. In '08, yes. Was it 2008? 14 Q. I think it was. 15 Α. 16 All right, and so were you draining Q. 17 then -- so, waters were draining -- so, your 18 land over here is being drained? 19 Α. Right. 20 Getting the benefit of that drainage Q. 21 tile? 22 Α. Yes. 23 All right, and Mr. Eggimann, just so we Q. 24 keep in order is Exhibit F that's in front of

1 you, is that just a plat book --2 Α. Yes, it is. -- page? That shows Section 17 where 3 Q. your land and your mom's land is located? 4 Α. 5 Right. 6 All right. Now, what is Exhibit G? Ο. 7 What does it show? 8 It shows -- in green it shows that 15 Α. 9 inch tile that we put in. All right, and that was in 2008? Is 10 Ο. that dated 2008 on the bottom? 11 12 Α. Yes. 13 All right, and who was Elliott Q. 14 Subsurface Drainage? 15 Α. He was a contractor that we hired to 16 put that tile in. 17 Okay. Now, let's take a step back. Q. 18 Initially the 15 inch tile that you put in that was 2002, right? 19 20 The first half of it. Α. The first half. All right. Can you 21 Q. 22 tell the Board here in 2008 what was being done? 23 What was the additional work that was being done 24 that is shown on Exhibit G?

1 Α. In 2002 we put what is in green. Ιn 2 2008 we came up to the corner with what is in 3 orange, I think. 4 Q. In red? Red, okay. 5 Α. 6 Q. Well, it looks like orange, doesn't it? 7 And then in 2008 we also ran an eight Α. 8 inch tile parallel to the road to the middle of 9 my, or to the edge of my ground. And once again where do all those 10 Ο. 11 waters flow to? 12 Α. To the east. 13 East through Mrs. Smith's property? Q. Mrs. Smith's. 14 Α. 15 Q. Can you tell the Board what's Exhibit 16 Η? 17 It is kind of a summary of the same Α. 18 thing, but there is more tile on it than just 19 ours. 20 All right. Does the tile that's shown Ο. 21 on Exhibit H, does it also help drain 22 Mr. Conner's property to the northeast? 23 Vaguely, yes. Α. 24 All right, and where is that indicated? Q.

1 Α. Well, there is one in the middle 80 2 here that runs at an angle to the southeast. 3 Q. Okay. But it doesn't show all of it. 4 Α. Ιt 5 comes on up to Gary's property. 6 Q. All right. Now, you mentioned 2002, 7 Exhibit I, is this the Elliott subsurface 8 drainage map of August of 2002 showing that, the location of that 15 inch tile? 9 Yes, it is. 10 Α. 11 Q. All right, and there is also reference 12 to an old 12 inch clay tile? 13 Α. Yes. All right, and whose property was that 14 Q. located on? 15 16 Α. That's partly on Carolyn Eggimann's property, and the rest of it is on the Smith 17 18 property. 19 Okay. Now, in 2002 when you installed Ο. 20 that 12 inch or that 15 inch tile, who helped 21 pay for that expense? 22 Carolyn, Don Eggimann trust, me, and Α. 23 Julie, and William Shaw. 24 Did Mr. Conner have any involvement in Q.

1 that? 2 Α. Oh, yes. I left out -- at that -- wait a minute, what year? 3 4 Q. 2002. 5 2002 his mother was still alive. She Α. 6 paid their part. 7 All right, and in fact, her name was Q. 8 Norma, is that right? Norma, yes. 9 Α. Gary is the trustee of the Norma Conner 10 Q. 11 trust, right? 12 Α. Right. 13 Okay. So, everyone had an interest, Q. 14 financial interest in expanding that tile 15 through Judith Smith's property? 16 Α. Yes, whether it was 2002 or 2008, we 17 all paid equal parts. 18 All right. So, that development, that Ο. extra work that you testified to about 2008 19 20 everyone was still chipping in on that? 21 Α. Yes. 22 All right. Now you mentioned Mr. Shaw? Q. 23 Α. Yes. 24 He or a company that he owned owned Q.

1 some land just to the east of Mr. Conner's 2 property, is that right? 3 Α. Yes. 4 To your knowledge he doesn't own that Q. 5 anymore? 6 Α. No. 7 All right. You believe that's part of Q. 8 the project area? 9 Α. Yes. All right. In fact, there is drainage 10 Q. 11 from Mr. Conner's property through that adjacent 12 east property that links up to your mom's 13 property, is that right? Α. 14 Yes. And so there is mutual benefit of that 15 Ο. 16 drainage, is that correct? 17 Α. Yes. 18 Now, looking at Exhibit J what is this Ο. document? 19 Which one? 20 Α. Exhibit J. 21 Q. 22 J, this is -- the top right-hand part Α. 23 is drainage that goes, it drains a low spot in 24 the middle of the field, and it goes, it goes,

1 eventually it goes southeast. 2 Q. All right. Let me ask you here --CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Eggimann, is this 3 Exhibit J is that on your tract? That's on a 4 piece of your property? 5 6 Α. This is on Gary Conner's. 7 CHAIRMAN SIPES: That's on Gary Conner's, okay. 8 9 MR. YOW: I was going to try to direct 10 him. 11 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Sorry. 12 MR. YOW: No, you're fine. 13 Mr. Eggimann, this is the Conner Ο. 14 property that's outlined in ink on Exhibit N, is that correct? 15 16 Α. Yes. 17 All right, and on the top northeast Q. part of that property you said there is some 18 19 drainage? 20 Α. Yes. 21 Ο. All right. Does this drainage then 22 eventually come over to your mom's property? 23 Α. Yes, it does. 24 All right, and was some of that work Q.

1 done -- when was that work done, the tile work 2 approximately? We think it was 2015. That's what Gary 3 Α. 4 told me awhile ago. Okay. Now, looking back at Exhibit J 5 Ο. though, is there some -- well, take a step back. 6 7 Is there tile -- is there tile constructed 8 leading from the southeast portion of 9 Mr. Conner's property further down? Yes, yes, that's what's on the bottom 10 Α. 11 of this page. 12 Q. Exhibit J? 13 Α. Yes. 14 Q. All right, and was that work done around 1998, 1999, something like that? 15 16 Α. Yes, 1998. What was the purpose of this drainage 17 Q. tile? 18 To drain the back corner, the back 19 Α. 20 corner is a wet area. So, we drained it and took it southeast. 21 22 Now, Mr. Eggimann, can you tell me why Q. 23 were you concerned about draining Mr. Conner's 24 property?

1 Α. Because I farm it. 2 Okay. How long have you farmed it? Q. Our family farmed it since I was in 3 Α. 4 grade school. Okay. How old are you again? 5 Q. 6 Α. Sixty-four, about forgot. 7 All right, and who contributed to the Q. 8 cost of improving the drainage on the south end 9 of Mr. Conner's property? Okay. Norma Conner paid equivalent for 10 Α. 11 an eight inch all of the way across. Then as we 12 went across other property it upsized to a ten 13 inch, and then when we crossed onto the 14 Achambach ground -- well, let me back up. As we 15 went across June Calloway's ground at that time, which turned into the Shaw ground, we took it to 16 a ten inch. Then as we crossed the road onto 17 18 Achambach we took it to a twelve inch, and everybody paid -- Norma Conner paid the biggest 19 20 part of it, but everybody paid to increase the 21 tile. 22 All right. You were getting mutual Q. 23 benefit out of this? You were getting benefit

24 from that tile?

1 Α. Because I farmed the ground, yes. 2 Right, and the tile that goes from the Q. southeast of the Conner property that was 3 installed in the 1998, '99 time frame that 4 5 crosses the property that's in the project, the 6 Solar Project? 7 Α. Yes. 8 Mr. Eggimann, if you could turn to Q. 9 Exhibit K. Mr. Eqgimann, could you spell Achambach? 10 11 Α. You might have to talk to my mom there. 12 MS. CAROLYN EGGIMANN: I think it is 13 A-C-H-A-M-B-A-C-H, I believe. 14 Α. It would be on that plat map page. 15 MS. CAROLYN EGGIMANN: I think I am 16 right. 17 MR. YOW: We will come back to that. 18 It had already changed hands by then. Α. Okay. Now, look at Exhibit K. 19 Ο. 20 Α. Okay. What is this document? 21 Q. 22 This is a map, an old map that Judy Α. 23 Smith gave me. 24 Is it dated November 7th, 1939? Q.

1 Α. I think it is, yes. 2 It is entitled plat of tile drains? Q. 3 Α. Yes. 4 All right, and is your mom's property Q. shown on this, a portion of your mom's property 5 6 shown on this document? 7 Α. It would be the top left-hand square in 8 that map is mom's 40. 9 That's the one that says old twelve Ο. inch main tile, and it intersects with a six 10 eight inch new? 11 12 Α. Yes. 13 Ο. And does this show that back in '39 14 there was drainage tile leading from your mom's property onto what is now known as the Smith 15 16 property? 17 Α. Yes. 18 All right. Does this also show that Ο. waters were being conducted from the southeast 19 20 to the northwest onto your mom's property, and then that water was then sent over to the Smith 21 22 property? 23 Α. Yes. 24 All right, and is Exhibit L, Q.

1 Mr. Eggimann, is this a tile drainage plan from 2 May of 1960 concerning tiles and laterals on the 3 Smith property? Α. 4 Yes. And on the left-hand side of the 5 Ο. 6 boundary line there is a line that's north 7 south. That's like a section line, isn't it, or 8 a quarter section line, this one right here, that line? 9 A. I am not sure if it is a quarter 10 11 section or not. 12 Is that the boundary line between what Q. 13 the Smith property is and what your mom's 14 property is now? 15 Α. Yes. 16 Once again does this show the existence Q. of drain tiles? 17 18 Α. Yes. Finally, Mr. Eggimann, with regards to 19 Ο. 20 the exhibit, Exhibit M, does this three pages 21 consist of portions of the Illinois Drainage 22 Code that you believe are relevant to this 23 cause? 24 Α. I haven't seen this before. I have

1 looked at a million papers.

2 Q. All right. Let me just say does this appear to be State law to you, statutes? 3 We have Section 2-8, drains and levies for mutual 4 benefit? 5 6 Α. Yes. 7 All right, and if you turn the next Q. 8 page, drains and levies for mutual benefit, 9 duration of easement, is that what it is called? Yes. 10 Α. 11 Q. All right. Then also Section 2-11, 12 drains and levies for mutual benefit right to repair? 13 Α. 14 Yes. 15 Q. And Mr. Eggimann, are you concerned 16 about the likely adverse impacts on the drainage 17 that your mom has enjoyed, your lands have enjoyed, and Mr. Conner's have enjoyed by this 18 19 Solar Project? 20 Was the question am I concerned about Α. 21 it, yes, I am. 22 Yes. Is Carolyn Eggimann concerned Q. 23 about it? 24 Α. Yes.

1 Q. Is Julie Eggimann concerned about it? 2 Α. Yes. Is Gary Conner concerned about it? 3 Q. 4 Α. Yes. What are you all concerned about? 5 Ο. 6 Α. Because without that drainage tile we 7 are going to be -- we are going to have wet 8 ground. 9 What do you mean by that? Ο. It drains all our farms. 10 Α. 11 Q. So, if these drainage tiles that you 12 have that extend onto project lands if they are 13 damaged, destroyed, you are going to have 14 increased standing water on your properties? Α. 15 Yes. 16 Will that have an economic loss to you, Q. Mr. Conner, and to your mom? 17 18 Definitely. Α. 19 All right. Has Black Diamond, anyone Ο. 20 from Black Diamond come and walked with you on 21 the ground to attempt to locate any of these 22 existing drainage pipes? 23 Α. No. 24 Are you asking that the Zoning Board of Q.

1 Appeals defer approving any application here 2 until such time as concerns that you all have 3 regarding protecting your drainage system is fully addressed, and that plans are actually set 4 5 in place so you know what's really going to 6 happen if this project starts going forward? 7 That is what I would like, yes. Α. MR. YOW: Mr. Chairman, I would ask 8 9 that the Exhibits A through M be admitted, Exhibit A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, 10 11 and N be admitted. 12 CHAIRMAN SIPES: You get to keep the 13 big map. 14 MR. BARRY: No objection. 15 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Thank you. 16 MR. YOW: Let's gather these up. 17 MR. HARRIS: If you just set those 18 right there, I will take care of it. MR. YOW: Yes, I just want to make sure 19 20 I get them in order for you. 21 Α. They are probably exactly backwards. 22 MR. YOW: These are the original 23 exhibits. I will just put it there. 24 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Did you give a copy of

1 all of that to --

2 MR. YOW: Yes, I gave him the exhibits. Yes, he has them. I am done with this witness. 3 I wouldn't mind making a little bit of a closing 4 5 argument though when we are done. 6 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Because your other --7 there were three packets, but they were all basically the same, correct? 8 9 MR. YOW: Yes, right. They have different interests, but yet similar interests. 10 11 CHAIRMAN SIPES: I just wanted to make 12 sure we weren't going to do this two more times, 13 if you know what I mean, because I looked over 14 it, and it looked all the same. 15 MR. YOW: Right. It is all the same 16 except Exhibit M, which are the statutes, which 17 I cited a couple of those in my written 18 materials; but I just want to make sure that you have them so I quess it is clear the exhibits 19 20 that I submitted tonight are for all three of 21 my, all four of my clients. 22 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Yes. Mr. Barry, 23 rebuttal or questions. 24 MR. BARRY: Actually I just have a

1 couple quick questions for Mr. Eggimann. 2 CROSS EXAMINATION 3 4 BY MR. BARRY: Mr. Eggimann, my name is Kyle Barry. I 5 Q. 6 am an attorney for the project. Did you talk to 7 Mr. Sheehan or anybody at the project about --8 Α. No. 9 -- about your concerns about drainage? Ο. 10 Α. No. 11 Q. Did Mr. Sheehan, did you receive a 12 message or a phone call from Mr. Sheehan? 13 Yesterday right before noon. Α. 14 Q. Okay. That's the only thing I have heard from 15 Α. 16 him. 17 Did you call him back? Q. 18 Α. No. 19 Did you talk to Mr. Cooper about Q. 20 contacts with the project? I have never -- I don't know a 21 Α. 22 Mr. Cooper. 23 Excuse me, I am sorry, Mr. Conner. Q. 24 Oh, Conner, as far as he knew he hadn't Α.

1 talked to anybody.

2 Q. Okay.

MR. SHEEHAN: He had talked to me. 3 4 Were you aware of the project before Q. 5 yesterday at noon? 6 Α. Rumors. 7 Okay. There was nothing that prevented Q. 8 you from calling Mr. Sheehan or anybody else 9 with the project to express your concerns, correct? 10 11 Α. We had heard rumors there might be a 12 solar farm. How would I know where to start? 13 Was there anything that prevented you Q. from calling Mr. Sheehan back when he called 14 15 you? 16 Α. At that point I had already hired an attorney, and I didn't call him back, no, 17 18 yesterday. We had already did all of the paperwork, and I spent a lot of money. 19 20 MR. BARRY: Thank you. I wanted to --21 I wasn't sure. I don't have any more questions 22 for Mr. Eggimann. 23 Mr. Yow, are you finished with your

24 witnesses?

1 MR. YOW: Yes, I am. 2 MR. BARRY: So, are we going to be able to have what we call a closing argument or 3 something of that effect at some point? 4 5 CHAIRMAN SIPES: As long as we are 6 wrapped up by 9:00 because that's bedtime, just 7 being blunt. 8 MR. BARRY: I certainly hope so. 9 MR. HARRIS: We do have other persons of interest. 10 11 MR. DOZIER: Can we question here? 12 CHAIRMAN SIPES: We can. 13 MR. DOZIER: Good. Dale, you talked 14 about this tile running across Smith's ground towards the lake. What did you hook into 15 16 because Smith's property does not touch the 17 lake? 18 MR. DALE EGGIMANN: We dropped right at the edge of the road, and there is a big culvert 19 20 that goes under the road. 21 MR. DOZIER: Is there an open ditch 22 then going to the lake? 23 MR. DALE EGGIMANN: Yes, it needs 24 cleaned out, but there is one.

1 MR. DOZIER: I was just looking at the 2 map, and I just didn't know what you hooked to if you went across Smiths to get to the lake. 3 MR. DALE EGGIMANN: No, we just dropped 4 5 it right at the edge of the road. MR. DOZIER: It don't show a ditch 6 7 here. 8 MR. MARK ELMORE: It goes on my 9 property. CHAIRMAN SIPES: Hang on. You are? 10 11 MR. MARK ELMORE: Mark Elmore. 12 MR. DOZIER: Seventeen acres. 13 MR. MARK ELMORE: Correct. MR. DOZIER: Is that the south or the 14 15 north end of your property? 16 MR. MARK ELMORE: I have drains on both 17 sides. MR. DOZIER: Where is this ditch at 18 that this jumps into? 19 20 MR. MARK ELMORE: The south side. MR. DOZIER: Who has the five acres 21 22 south of that? You have that. Okay, all right. 23 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Let's back up here 24 just a minute. Okay. Who are the other

1 interested parties in the room because I don't 2 have the list? MR. HARRIS: The Thomases. 3 4 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Are one of you going 5 to speak? 6 MR. JERRY THOMAS: I am. 7 CHAIRMAN SIPES: If you want to move up 8 here, please. Would you state your name and 9 spell it, please. MR. JERRY THOMAS: Jerry Thomas, 10 11 T-H-O-M-A-S. 12 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. Do you swear to 13 tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? 14 15 MR. JERRY THOMAS: Yes, I do. 16 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay, thank you. 17 Please proceed with what you have. 18 MR. JERRY THOMAS: Actually my wife and I are here to possibly -- are interested in 19 20 deferring this decision being that we only found 21 out September 2nd, which was the first time I 22 got to talk with Mr. Sheehan about this said 23 project. 24 My house is involved. We are on the

1 northwest corner of Tovey. We are not in the 2 City limits. We are in the County, but we are adjacent within 100 feet of this project. We 3 are concerned how it is going to affect our 4 5 property values. 6 I have asked a few questions. Mr. Sheehan has answered a couple of them, but I do have a 7 question for his, for their expert Mr. Marous. 8 9 It has to do with his appraisal values. CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Marous. 10 11 Mr. Marous, are you there? 12 MR. JEFF DURBIN: He should be live 13 now. 14 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Marous, are you 15 there? 16 MR. JEFF DURBIN: There is three of 17 them. So, hold on a second. 18 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: Can you hear me now? I was unmuted. 19 20 CHAIRMAN SIPES: We hear you now. 21 There is a question here by an interested party. 22 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: Yes, I understand, Mr. Thomas, right? 23 24 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Yes.

1 MR. JERRY THOMAS: I have a few 2 questions for you. What was the average mega 3 capacity on the examples that you have given in what you presented? You said you had a dozen or 4 5 so that you could present. 6 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: A dozen matched pairs. There was quite a variety. 7 8 MR. JERRY THOMAS: That's not what I 9 asked. In the examples that you were giving, the solar farms that they were adjacent to what 10 11 was the average megawatt size of those projects? 12 Were they 15? 13 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: I am providing. 14 MR. JERRY THOMAS: Were they --15 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: I can't answer if 16 you interrupt me, sir. 17 MR. JERRY THOMAS: My apologies. 18 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: So, the average was probably in the 20 megawatt range was 19 20 brought down by a couple that were relatively 21 small and the large one in Minnesota. 22 MR. JERRY THOMAS: So, you have no 23 examples that would be close to this 297 24 megawatt project that we are dealing with right

1 now?

2 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: The one in 3 Minnesota at 100 megawatts is probably the 4 closest.

5 MR. JERRY THOMAS: As an example that 6 you gave on the illustration in Minneapolis, I 7 believe it was, what are the setback 8 requirements in that state?

9 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: They vary by 10 county. I believe that -- well, the state 11 that's multiple, depends on the county, sir. 12 That project itself I believe was somewhere 13 between 100 and 150 feet from a residence. 14 MR. JERRY THOMAS: Were any of the 15 examples that you were able to produce located

16 near a project that actually landlocked an
17 entire community?

18 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: Yes. Again the 19 North Star actually surrounded a neighborhood of 20 maybe 15 houses.

21 MR. JERRY THOMAS: Of 15, okay. So, 22 from what you have told this Board you said you 23 can guarantee there would be no property loss in 24 our area. Are you willing to put that in

writing for any resident living in the Village of Tovey or adjacent within a half mile of that Village in writing that they can maintain their property value?

5 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: I am chuckling 6 because property value is impacted by the 7 economy, the location itself, the economics of 8 the location, the condition of the property, and 9 those items I can't control.

MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: I am not a title company. So, I am here to provide an opinion of value, not a property value guarantee.

10

MR. JERRY THOMAS: I understand.

MR. JERRY THOMAS: But the main concern is the property value. If they were to do an appraisal right now on a property and by the time of completion of this project, would you guarantee that they would not lose any property value?

20 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: I am not a title 21 company, sir. I am an appraiser so I --22 MR. JERRY THOMAS: Exactly. 23 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: -- I can give you 24 my opinion that in my opinion based on the

1 project alone once it is completed and 2 stabilized let's say within 60 to 90 days, in my opinion there will be no negative impact. 3 MR. JERRY THOMAS: Okay. So, your 4 5 guarantee has changed your opinion because I 6 believe that the records show that you said 7 quarantee. 8 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: I never said a 9 quarantee, sir. 10 MR. JERRY THOMAS: All right. That's 11 the only questions that I have for you. Thank 12 you. 13 MR. MICHAEL MAROUS: Thank you. 14 MR. JERRY THOMAS: Next question, Mr. Sheehan. We have been jumping back and 15 16 forth. On that vegetation that you were talking about what height would that be put in on that 17 18 fence, the maturity wise? 19 MR. SHEEHAN: What's the installed 20 height, that would be a question for --MR. JERRY THOMAS: Not the adult 21 22 height, what height it will be as you install 23 it. 24 MR. SHEEHAN: That's what I said, the

1 install height. I don't know the answer to that question right now. We could ask Steve. 2 Т don't know that. He could give you an 3 approximate of what's typically installed. 4 5 MR. JERRY THOMAS: Mr. Battaglia. 6 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: Yes, just so I 7 understand the question right here, you are wondering when the shrubs are planted how large 8 will they be, correct? 9 MR. JERRY THOMAS: That is correct. 10 11 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: So hang with me 12 for a second here, sorry. 13 MR. JERRY THOMAS: No problem. Ι 14 didn't know if they were going to cover 25 percent of the fence, 50 percent, 75. 15 16 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: So, when they are installed they will be -- and I am just looking 17 at our landscape architect's plan here -- they 18 will be in a number five container. Typically 19 20 with shrubs of this size when they are installed 21 they are installed in a juvenile stage because 22 they have the greatest likelihood of taking, and 23 surviving, and growing to maturity at that 24 point. When you transplant something that's

already mature, it increases the risk of that plant dying. So, a number five container is what is proposed.

4 MR. JERRY THOMAS: And that is in 5 height?

6 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: I do not know. 7 It probably varies by height. The number five 8 container is essentially the size of the pot 9 that the shrub comes in. So, depending on the species of the plant it could vary in height. I 10 11 don't -- I apologize, I don't have a solid 12 answer for you on the height of the shrubs when 13 they are installed.

14 MR. JERRY THOMAS: The vegetation that 15 you picked what is the annual growth height 16 amongst the varieties?

17 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: That I am also 18 unaware of the annual growth height. I know 19 that the mature size of these will range 20 anywhere from eight to twenty feet, which would 21 completely cover the eight foot tall fence. 22 MR. JERRY THOMAS: That's the only 23 questions that I have for you. Thank you very

24 much.

1 I have one last question. Mr. Sheehan, we 2 had talked about this, you are going to find 3 out -- will the panels being used in this 4 project be the same ones you used in the Road Runner Project in Texas? 5 6 MR. SHEEHAN: I don't remember you 7 asking me that question, but we don't have 8 our --9 MR. JERRY THOMAS: You weren't sure, 10 but you were pretty sure that it was the same 11 company going to provide them that you used in 12 your Road Runner Project. 13 MR. SHEEHAN: Yes. Like I said before, 14 we don't have our suppliers contracted yet. So, 15 I cannot give you an answer on that. As soon as 16 I know I would be happy to share that information. I just do not have it right now. 17 18 MR. JERRY THOMAS: Okay. That's all of the questions that I have. 19 20 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Thomas, I have a 21 question for you just so I understand. You are 22 not actually within the project area, but you 23 are in Tovey? 24 MR. JERRY THOMAS: I am on the edge of

1 Tovey, but I am in their buffer zone. 2 CHAIRMAN SIPES: So, you are closer than 100 feet. 3 MR. JERRY THOMAS: I am within a 4 hundred feet of it. They come up to the low 5 6 side of my property. 7 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. I am a little confused. 8 9 MR. SHEEHAN: The fence would not be within --10 11 MR. JERRY THOMAS: They have 100 foot 12 setoff, and I am talking with them, and there is 13 a possibility of maybe setting that back 300 14 feet. 15 MR. SHEEHAN: The panels themselves are 16 328 feet away from his house, but the fence is on the buffer line of the hundred foot setback 17 if that makes sense. 18 CHAIRMAN SIPES: So, the fence itself 19 is going to be closer than a hundred feet? 20 21 MR. SHEEHAN: No, no, no, it will be 22 more than a hundred feet away from the house, 23 the fence will be. That's the minimum distance. 24 CHAIRMAN SIPES: From the house.

1 MR. SHEEHAN: That's as close as we can 2 get to the house is 100 feet. So, the fence 3 will be beyond that hundred foot mark away from his house. 4 CHAIRMAN SIPES: So, this overhead 5 6 picture here, are you familiar with this 7 picture? MR. SHEEHAN: Yes, I provided that to 8 9 Mr. Thomas. CHAIRMAN SIPES: So, where is the fence 10 11 going to be? 12 MR. JERRY THOMAS: Well, actually the 13 fence is in the green, correct, on the photo you 14 provided? 15 MR. SHEEHAN: We can't be any closer 16 than 100 feet with the fence. That's the setback. So, the fence will not be any closer 17 18 than 100 feet to his property, to the property line. 19 20 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Thank you, Mr. Thomas. 21 Other interested parties? 22 MS. KENNA BERTOLDO: I have a question. 23 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Did you sign up as an 24 interested party?

1 MS. KENNA BERTOLDO: Yes, I did. 2 CHAIRMAN SIPES: If you would come up 3 here then, and state your name and spell it, 4 please. 5 MS. KENNA BERTOLDO: It is Kenna, 6 K-E-N-N-A, Bertoldo, B-E-R-T-O-L-D-O. I live 7 directly across the street from Judy Smith. 8 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Do you swear to tell 9 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? 10 11 MS. KENNA BERTOLDO: Yes. 12 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Thank you. 13 MS. KENNA BERTOLDO: We live directly 14 across the street from Judy Smith --15 MR. SHEEHAN: Okay. 16 MS. KENNA BERTOLDO: -- and my neighbor 17 as well. We were never approached about any of 18 this. We got a registered letter regarding this hearing. That was all we heard. Is there a 19 20 reason none of us were kind of let in on this, 21 that this was coming, and going to be directly 22 across the street from my house? I have a mess. 23 My husband is very ill. We worry about the 24 health risks from this, the temperature changes,

1 the climate changes that come around this. We 2 just want to know why we were not included in 3 anything, and we were blind sided by the whole 4 project. I never heard rumors about it until we got the letter, and that was it. So, that's 5 6 what we were a little bit aggravated about. MR. SHEEHAN: Apologies for that. All 7 I can say is when I look up information and try 8 9 to find people's phone numbers, the way that I do that is very difficult. And I stopped by 10

different times, and either catch people or don't. So, I apologize for that.

It wasn't -- there is no intention of keeping this project a secret, but to a certain point we don't, sometimes we don't want to go public until we have land deals done and things like that.

MS. KENNA BERTOLDO: You know how that makes us feel, like you just slid right in, and didn't care about the rest of us. That's how it feels.

22 MR. SHEEHAN: Well, we definitely have 23 taken into consideration with the screening and 24 the vegetation plan of taking into account your

1 houses that were there.

MS. HOWARD: Which 20 years the trees 2 3 and flowers may be growing if they go in at six 4 inches. It is going to take -- I am still going to have to see this. And then what's the glint 5 6 and the glare and that, the study like from my home or Mark's house, what are we going to see, 7 you know, with the panels? 8 9 MR. SHEEHAN: The glint and glare analysis, I would be happy to provide you that 10 11 information if you would like. 12 MS. KENNA BERTOLDO: I would like that. 13 And then how far from our driveway across the 14 street, how far is that fence going to be? Because I know you are tearing Judy's house 15 16 down, correct? 17 MR. SHEEHAN: That is the plan, yes. 18 If you just give me a second, I have some information for that. Just a minute. I have 19 20 the distance to the house to the panels. I am 21 not sure which -- is yours the middle one? 22 MS. KENNA BERTOLDO: We are directly 23 across the street from Judy. Mark is the 24 middle.

MR. SHEEHAN: Okay. I have that 1 2 distance measured from your house to the panels at 209 feet. 3 4 MS. KENNA BERTOLDO: And so you come to 5 my house, did you say that you tried to get in 6 contact with us? 7 MR. SHEEHAN: I don't believe I stopped by your house. 8 9 MS. KENNA BERTOLDO: Is there a reason why nobody -- I mean Judy -- I mean we are at 10 11 our house almost every day. Is there a reason 12 why you didn't just say hey, you know, we are in 13 the area, and we are doing these studies and checked with --14 15 MR. SHEEHAN: I stopped at a few other 16 houses. 17 MS. KENNA BERTOLDO: I just feel like 18 you did the wildlife studies. You did the airport study, but nobody had the decency to 19 20 just approach us and say we are coming into the 21 area, this is what we want you to know. 22 MR. SHEEHAN: Yes, I can understand 23 that, and again apologies for that. My focus 24 was mainly on getting our land secured with our

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1
       landowners first.
2
                MS. KENNA BERTOLDO: Exactly.
                MR. SHEEHAN: I can understand how you
3
4
       feel that way.
                MS. KENNA BERTOLDO: That's all. Thank
5
6
      you.
7
                CHAIRMAN SIPES: Thank you. Was there
       anybody else, interested parties?
8
9
                MR. HARRIS: We have one more,
      Mr. Elmore.
10
11
                MR. MARK ELMORE: I don't have anything
12
      to say.
                MR. HARRIS: We do have one on line.
13
14
                CHAIRMAN SIPES: For public.
                MR. HARRIS: For public comment, Jody
15
16
      Carriker.
                CHAIRMAN SIPES: You don't see her on
17
      there? Let's see if we have got her by phone
18
       because there might be a phone number.
19
20
                MR. HARRIS: I don't have her phone
21
      number.
22
                CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay.
23
                MR. HARRIS: J-O-D-Y, C-A-R-R-I-K-E-R.
24
               CHAIRMAN SIPES: Carriker.
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1 MR. JEFF DURBIN: Carriker. 2 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Miss Carriker, can you hear me? 3 MS. JODY CARRIKER: Yes, I can hear 4 5 you. Can you hear me? 6 CHAIRMAN SIPES: I can. This is Steve 7 Sipes with the Zoning Board of Appeals, Chairman. You are being listened to now. 8 9 You had a public comment towards the solar farm project? 10 11 MS. JODY CARRIKER: Yes, I do. First 12 off I would like to thank you for holding this 13 meeting because this has been very interesting 14 to listen to. I would agree with Kenna that I 15 talked to the Village the last couple of days, 16 and I had heard from them that yes, they feel like they are being blind sided with this also. 17 18 We went to one meeting at the Village Hall, and they pretty much told us there is absolutely 19 20 nothing that we can do, and we have no say in 21 the Village whatsoever. 22 So, this meeting was very informational, 23 but I do have a question about bees because I 24 notice that your expert talked about birds, and

1 bats, and amphibians, and reptiles; but nobody asked what happens to the bees in this area, and 2 3 if the solar panels have that effect on any, any effect on bees. And I also know that one person 4 5 from your Board asked about chemicals. Some of 6 the chemicals from the research that I have found that I would like to note that the panels 7 have is silver lead arsenic and radiation 8 activity. If there is any information that we 9 can get to give to the villagers on that 10 11 information because those are things that people 12 directed to me that they were concerned about. 13 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Where did you find 14 that information at? MS. JODY CARRIKER: On information that 15 16 I had read out of the Sierra Club and websites off of their website, and then information that 17 18 I have googled, and just the research that I have been doing that I found on the Black 19 20 Diamond projects. 21 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay, thank you. 22 Mr. Sheehan, she does bring up something I am 23 interested in, I guess. Is there -- I know your

24 expert testified that there was nothing that he

1 knew of in solar panels, correct?

MR. SHEEHAN: Right, as far as to our 2 knowledge there is not, but we will look into 3 that, and see what information we can find or 4 what the manufacturer's specifications note will 5 6 give us once we secure our supplier. 7 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. MR. SHEEHAN: As far as the bees, was 8 she asking about bees, like honey bees? 9 CHAIRMAN SIPES: I think so. 10 11 MR. SHEEHAN: I couldn't quite 12 understand. Well, that's the idea of the 13 pollinator mix is to help enhance the bees population in the area, and that's in accordance 14 15 with the Illinois Department of Natural 16 Resources recommendations for that. So, it should be more of a benefit than a detriment. 17 18 MR. BARRY: Maybe Mr. Battaglia could speak further to that since he prepared the 19 20 vegetative management plan. 21 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: Yes. Can you 22 hear me? 23 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Yes, we can. 24 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: Daniel,

1 Mr. Sheehan had pretty much hit the nail on the head there with the pollinator mix. That is the 2 Illinois Department of Natural Resource 3 guideline that we are following, and that's 4 5 there to enhance the wildlife population. 6 And I would like to provide a clarification on the hazardous materials. What I was saying 7 8 in my earlier testimony I can't confirm or deny 9 that there has been -- I was saying that I couldn't confirm or deny the presence of 10 11 hazardous materials. I was saying I have not 12 heard of them being considered hazardous. 13 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Thank you. 14 Mr. Harris, was that all that was --15 MR. HARRIS: That was all. 16 CHAIRMAN SIPES: -- of the interested parties, the comments? 17 18 MR. HARRIS: Yes, sir. CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mrs. Carriker, I 19 20 appreciate your time. Thank you. 21 Okay, Mr. Barry, do you have closing 22 arguments or closing, a closing I guess, not so 23 much an argument? 24 MR. BARRY: So, let's talk about why we

1 are here tonight. We are here at a public hearing so that this Board can evaluate the 2 3 application for a special use permit for the 4 Black Diamond Solar Project. Why do I mention 5 that, because I want to remind everybody what 6 your role is here. I don't need to remind you, you do this all of the time, but it is sometimes 7 useful. And in doing that what I want to do is 8 point out the provisions in the solar ordinance 9 because I know you have heard a lot of testimony 10 11 tonight. You have heard from expert witnesses 12 on the applicant's side. You have heard from 13 some folks who were opponents to the project. 14 But the role of the Board is to vote on the 15 application materials and the evidence submitted 16 as to whether to issue a recommendation to the 17 Board to grant or not grant a special use 18 permit. So, the ordinance, the solar ordinance gives some guidance to that end. It says both 19 20 the Board and County Board may include 21 conditions in the permit. That's a pretty 22 common thing to do as I am sure you all know. 23 Then there is a list of things specifically that 24 the ordinance directs you to consider, not in

terms of whether to issue the permit, but consider the following factors when setting conditions.

One of those items has been addressed 4 significantly tonight. It states that all State 5 6 drainage laws must be followed. I mean that's axiomatic. If it is a State law, the project 7 has to follow it, right. So that's something 8 that the Board is directed to consider. 9 So, this project will not only have to consider 10 11 those laws, it will have to comply with them. Ι 12 guess I suspect the project wouldn't have a 13 problem inviting the Board to impose a condition 14 like other conditions that the Board will likely 15 consider, which are again commonly recommended 16 to make sure that those drainage laws are followed specifically with respect to any of the 17 18 most immediate neighbors to the parcel. I mean one condition I could think of off the top of my 19 20 head is that the project shall comply with the 21 AIMA standards with respect to non-participating 22 landowners in the project footprint or adjacent 23 to the project footprint. I mean that would 24 seem to be a reasonable condition, and I am sure

1 that the project would agree to follow. Of 2 course, those AIMA standards require the careful 3 consideration and mapping and listing GPS 4 coordinates of drain tiling systems.

5 But I will note that nothing in these, in 6 the ordinance here says that you can't grant a special use permit because a neighbor has issues 7 with their tile system. So, my point is that 8 9 there is nothing -- you notice that the project didn't challenge Mr. Eggimann's testimony 10 11 because I mean there is nothing to challenge. I 12 don't think anybody doubts that there is a 13 drainage system in place over his neighboring 14 property, but that's not a reason not to issue a 15 special use permit here. And in fact, again it 16 is clearly -- there is nothing in the solar ordinance that would arguably allow for it. 17

18 So, let's also talk about the Zoning Code, 19 the general Zoning Code for the County. It 20 talks about the standards that a Board of 21 Appeals shall consider when issuing a special 22 use permit. Whether the proposed design 23 location and manner of operation of the proposed 24 special use will adequately protect the public

1 health, safety, and welfare and the physical environment. The effect the proposed special 2 3 use would have on the value of neighboring properties and on the County's overall tax base, 4 5 and whether there are any facilities near the 6 proposed special use, schools, hospitals, et cetera, that requires special protection or 7 consideration. Again there is nothing in there 8 9 in those standards that you are directed to consider, and that's in Section 1-11-23 of the 10 11 Zoning Code, there is nothing in there that says 12 anything about preventing a recommendation of a 13 special use because of a neighbor's drain tile 14 system.

15 So, again I think that imposing a condition 16 would be a reasonable step, but it shouldn't prevent you from issuing a recommendation. So, 17 18 with that I will say that let's look at the evidence in the application, the reports that 19 20 were submitted in connection with the 21 application, and then on top of that the expert 22 witnesses that testified tonight, their 23 testimony is uncontroverted when it comes to the 24 standards that are listed in the ordinance. Νo

1 one presented any other expert witness to say 2 anything contrary to the evidence that was 3 submitted by these experts. You are obligated to consider that evidence. And if you do, I am 4 confident that you will find that the 5 6 application has satisfied the standards in the ordinance, and that you will vote to issue a 7 recommendation to the County Board to issue a 8 9 special use permit for the Black Diamond Solar Project. 10

11 Thank you for your time tonight. I know we 12 have run late, and it is also kind of hot in 13 here. So, I certainly appreciate your attention 14 to this. And if I could reserve 60 seconds for 15 rebuttal, if you will consider that. We don't 16 have to decide now. I would appreciate it. 17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Yow.

MR. YOW: Thank you, appreciate it.
Thank you all for allowing us to be here
tonight, and to put on our case.

I do have one question Counsel could answer at some point for my clients, the actual setback of a fence from their property line. They 1 thought it was maybe 50 feet, but they are not 2 sure. If you could let me know at some point, I 3 appreciate that.

4 MR. BARRY: Okay, sure.

5 MR. YOW: If I understand it right, the 6 date of the special use permit application was August 19th, 2020. So, several of the 7 8 interested parties talked about the fact that 9 they just received notice of this hearing. Ι would submit that there is a lot of unknowns at 10 11 this point. It is only September 22nd. So, a 12 deferral of this for answers and careful 13 consideration is not inappropriate I would submit to the Board. 14

15 But as far as my clients this is not just a 16 case of you can't stop this project because the neighbor has got a tile issue. Well, when you 17 18 look at the statute I provided to you, the drainage laws which has to be taken into 19 20 account, Section 28 sets forth how a mutual 21 drain is created, and there is facts on that in 22 the record. Clearly mutual drains cross these 23 lands. Section 2-10 says drains and levies 24 deemed to be for the mutual benefit of the lands

1 connected or protected shall constitute a perpetual easement on such lands, okay. So, it 2 3 is not just neighbor's land, it is a legal 4 right. A perpetual easement on such lands and shall not be filled, obstructed, breached, or 5 6 impaired in any way without the consent of the owners of all such lands. My clients haven't 7 consented to this. So, we have demonstrated I 8 9 think through the evidence here through my client and the exhibits the establishment of 10 11 these mutual drains. We also know that before 12 you at this present time there is no drainage 13 tile map. There is no way for you all to 14 understand exactly the magnitude of what this 15 project may, the impacts that this project may 16 have on drainage tiles. I am concerned obviously with my clients' interest, but there 17 18 may be other individuals as well that have drainage tile issues. 19

The gentleman, the engineer, Mr. Battaglia he testified that his work was for surface drainage, not for subsurface drainage, the tiles. I guess, yes, Counsel is correct the zoning ordinance or the solar talks about taking

1 into account drainage tile maps. We don't have 2 one. We don't have before you how they are 3 actually really going to take care of people 4 like my clients that are not in this project. 5 The testimony has been they are going to 6 take care of -- I mean it is my belief the testimony is we are going to take care of the 7 8 drainage tiles for the people that are in this 9 project. It is not so clear, and it is not in writing, in that application it talks about 10 11 taking care of drainage for the people in the 12 project, no one else.

So, we are suggesting is that, take a step 13 14 back here, let's protect other landowners in 15 this area, okay. Farming has been the life blood of my clients and this community. You may 16 find a Solar Project is worthwhile, and it is 17 18 appropriate, but if you do, don't sacrifice the 19 livelihood and the value of the lands of my 20 clients. Their interests are just as important 21 as those of the other people that want to 22 develop this project.

So, in my entry of appearance and
objections I have listed a variety of remedies

1 that we would request. And so instead of reiterating all those, I will tell you they are 2 3 in there. So, I appreciate your time this 4 evening. Thank you. CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Yow, I have a 5 6 question for you. Would the AIMA agreement cover your clients' interest? 7 8 MR. YOW: I don't believe so. The wav 9 it is written, as I read the AIMA agreement it 10 deals -- the AIMA agreement is an agreement 11 between the Department, all right, and the 12 facility owner, okay. I don't know if that's 13 going to be Black Diamond or whatever. It then 14 references the facility owner's obligation with 15 the landowner, and the landowner is a specific 16 term and it is defined, and the landowner is someone that has an underlying agreement with 17 18 the facility owner. My clients don't have that. 19 So, I am very concerned that that does not apply 20 here. 21 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Barry. 22 MR. BARRY: The project will agree to, 23 the project will agree to include his client

24 under the definition of the AIMA, can apply the

1 AIMA standards.

2 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Is something workable 3 here? I am not -- we just went through six 4 months of heck with you know what, and we have a 5 fairly small group here that I think is level 6 headed. I mean maybe this is a little 7 unorthodox, I don't know, but is there something we can do here? 8 9 MR. YOW: My thought would be -- my clients would like to see some language. 10 11 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Some what? 12 MR. YOW: Some language, okay, in the 13 sense of exactly what is being proposed, okay. 14 I don't want to commit my clients because they 15 are very concerned about this --16 CHAIRMAN SIPES: I understand. 17 MR. YOW: -- but if we actually can see 18 some language as to what in a sense a special permit with conditions would actually say, in 19 20 other words, if we had a form language that we 21 could look and say you know what, we believe 22 that that does or does not address our concerns. 23 So, I guess that's my thought. So, if we have 24 some perhaps language that could be submitted to

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us for review.

2 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Well, hang on. MR. BARRY: I mean, Mr. Chairman, 3 that's -- again the ordinance allows for this. 4 It allows for --5 6 CHAIRMAN SIPES: I understand and it 7 does. So, how about we take, if the rest of the 8 Board is in agreement take five minute break for 9 everybody, you two talk a little bit. I don't want a big fight on this. So, will you two 10 11 talk? 12 MR. YOW: I am happy to talk. 13 MR. BARRY: Yes. 14 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Motion to take a 15 break. 16 MR. DOZIER: I will. 17 (Whereupon the meeting was in 18 recess.) 19 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Barry, are you 20 quys close? 21 MR. BARRY: I don't know. He had to go 22 talk to his client. 23 CHAIRMAN SIPES: I have a question to 24 Mister -- we are back recording, right?

1 MR. JEFF DURBIN: Yes, we are back 2 recording. CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Sheehan, the 3 4 Thomases and the map that you gave them that's 326 feet, is that done? 5 6 MR. SHEEHAN: That's what the engineer provided to me based on the site layout that we 7 8 have right now, yes. 9 CHAIRMAN SIPES: So, that is a done deal as far as that being that far back? 10 11 MR. SHEEHAN: That's where we have the 12 panels proposed to go, yes. 13 MR. DORR: Can it change? 14 MR. SHEEHAN: I guess it could change. 15 I don't anticipate that it would. That's the 16 layout that we have proposed to build. 17 MR. DORR: Could the vegetation change? 18 MR. SHEEHAN: The vegetation could change. Yes, we would work with the Thomases if 19 20 they -- he gave me some suggestions on some 21 evergreens that he would like to see and that 22 type of thing. I have our team looking at that 23 to see if that's something feasible, but I am 24 happy to work with them on taking their

1 suggestions and seeing if there is something 2 they like better that would work. We will keep working together at it. I have no problem with 3 4 that. 5 MR. DORR: Okay. 6 MR. SHEEHAN: I will say we will keep 7 our conversation open and try to come up with 8 something that's reasonable on our side and 9 acceptable for you guys. 10 CHAIRMAN SIPES: But the map that you 11 provided the Thomases last night is the way it 12 is going to be? 13 MR. SHEEHAN: As far as I know today, 14 yes. MR. DORR: Can you find out if that 15 16 could change? 17 MR. SHEEHAN: I could find -- is it 18 subject to change. If anything, it would move 19 farther away. We are not going to move -- we 20 wouldn't move any closer than that. 21 MR. DORR: Could you keep the Thomases 22 updated on that? 23 MR. SHEEHAN: Absolutely, would be 24 happy to do that.

1 CHAIRMAN SIPES: And Mr. Sheehan, the 2 solar panels, I know we have touched on this 3 subject a couple of times about what happens to 4 solar panels when it is done, when its life use 5 is done. What happens then? Does it get 6 recycled? What happens to them? 7 MR. SHEEHAN: As far as my understanding goes I mean obviously it would be 8 9 up to the project owner at the time. So, I hesitate to put -- what my personal 10 11 understanding would be that there is places that 12 do recycle them, and take out the valuable 13 metals and different things that are inside of 14 them, and dispose of them in accordance with the 15 State laws that are in place. So, they are not 16 just dumped in a regular landfill. There is a method for disposal of them. 17 18 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Can Mr. Battaglia, can he maybe help us with that. 19 20 MR. SHEEHAN: He has probably a little 21 more experience on the decommissioning. 22 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Battaglia. 23 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: Can you guys hear 24 me?

1 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Yes. 2 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: It usually takes 3 a couple moments to get my name right. So, don't feel bad. 4 5 CHAIRMAN SIPES: I thought I had it 6 earlier, and I lost it. So, my question is when -- the life expectancy of these panels when 7 it is done, what happens to these panels? 8 9 MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: So, there is a couple different things. They can be -- when 10 11 the project is decommissioned, they can be 12 removed and disposed of, or they can be kind 13 dismantled and parted out; or what we are seeing 14 a lot lately is that solar panels that are used 15 in the United States are of a high quality that they can be resold and salvaged to other 16 countries. Particularly what we are seeing is 17 18 actually countries within Africa that are taking used solar panels, and mounting them themselves, 19 20 and using them at a lower efficiency than what 21 we would here. 22 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Because the panels, 23 the panels when you install them here once they

24 reach a percentage of their life, you go ahead

1 and take them out because they are no longer 2 producing enough to make it worthwhile to leave 3 them in place, correct? MR. STEVE BATTAGLIA: There is a number 4 5 of different aspects, but as time goes on 6 technology is probably more the driver, 7 technology 20 or 40 or 50 years from now will be drastically different than what it is today. 8 9 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. Thank you. MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman, I think 10 11 Counsel and I have come to an agreement on 12 language for a condition. 13 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay. 14 MR. BARRY: And is that fair to say? 15 MR. YOW: We have tried, yes. I think 16 we have an understanding here, not final 17 language, but an understanding. 18 MR. BARRY: Right, right, that's true. CHAIRMAN SIPES: Here is what I would 19 20 like to propose, okay. I would like to continue 21 this within two weeks, and you guys are close I 22 have a feeling. Mr. Thomas I think is closer or 23 somewhat more satisfied now. Mr. Elmore, we 24 need to address Mr. Elmore a little bit here,

1 okay. So, I am sorry if you feel like I put you through your paces tonight, but I wanted to get 2 the ball rolling because I don't want this 3 4 dragging out forever. 5 MR. BARRY: Certainly in my opinion it 6 was not a waste of time. We made progress. 7 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Well, that's what I was hoping. I have got a list of everybody here 8 9 that we needed to somewhat, or satisfy for lack of a better term, and I think we are close. 10 Ι 11 would like to look, everybody look at their 12 calendars, and figure out a date here in the 13 next two weeks. 14 MR. DORR: Only day that is bad for me 15 is the 28th. I have got a township meeting. 16 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Of this month? 17 MR. DORR: Yes. MR. HARRIS: I think if we did it on 18 the 6th, I don't think there is any, it would be 19 20 any conflict with any of the other County 21 entities that need this machine because we only 22 have one. 23 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Okay, Tuesday the 6th 24 there is none of those committee meetings going

1 on or anything.

2 MR. HARRIS: I don't believe so. 3 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Our meetings are normally the fourth Tuesday, and the County 4 5 Board's meeting is the third Tuesday. 6 MR. HARRIS: The third Tuesday. 7 CHAIRMAN SIPES: The committee meetings are the week before? 8 9 MR. HARRIS: Yes. CHAIRMAN SIPES: Is Tuesday, the 6th, 10 11 all right with everybody? 12 MR. DORR: It is okay with me. What 13 about our people on line? 14 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Joann, Jon, is the 6th 15 all right? 16 MR. ROSENTHAL: That's fine. 17 MS. HOWARD: That's fine. MR. GOODRICH: The 6th is good for me. 18 19 CHAIRMAN SIPES: Mr. Barry, 20 Mr. Sheehan? 21 MR. SHEEHAN: We can make it happen. 22 CHAIRMAN SIPES: A little more research 23 on the panels might be a little helpful as far 24 as --

MR. SHEEHAN: As far as like I said 1 2 until we get our suppliers solidified I can get 3 some general, a little more specific general 4 information I guess you could say. 5 MR. BARRY: Can I ask a question about 6 the folks on the phone. Do you think you will 7 need any or all of them back on the 6th? Because they are the ones I think are going to 8 be the hardest to schedule. 9 CHAIRMAN SIPES: I don't know that we 10 11 need them back. Does anybody else on the ZBA 12 board think we will need them? 13 MR. BARRY: They have already 14 testified. They have been cross examined by 15 Mr. Yow and other members of the public. So, I 16 would think that they should be finished. 17 CHAIRMAN SIPES: I would think so. 18 MR. BARRY: Thank you. CHAIRMAN SIPES: Tuesday, the 6th, at 6 19 20 o'clock. Is there a motion to continue the 21 meeting at that time? 22 MR. GOODRICH: Glen Goodrich, ZBA, I 23 would make a motion that we continue the meeting on October the 6th at 6:00 P.M. 24

1		CHAIRMAN SIPES: Is there a second?
2		MR. ROSENTHAL: I will second that
3	motion.	
4		CHAIRMAN SIPES: Roll-call.
5		MR. HARRIS: Glen Goodrich.
6		MR. GOODRICH: Yes.
7		MR. HARRIS: Mark Dozier.
8		MR. DOZIER: Yes.
9		MR. HARRIS: Joe Dorr.
10		MR. DORR: Yes.
11		MR. HARRIS: JoAnn Howard.
12		MS. HOWARD: Yes.
13		MR. HARRIS: Jon Rosenthal.
14		MR. ROSENTHAL: Yes.
15		MR. HARRIS: Chairman Sipes.
16		CHAIRMAN SIPES: Yes.
17		MR. HARRIS: The motion carries.
18		(Which were all of the proceedings
19		had on this meeting as of this
20		date.)
21		
22		
23		
24		

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS ) ) SS 2 COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN )

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I, Sandra K. Haines, a Notary Public and 4 Certified Shorthand Reporter, associated with 5 6 Haines Court Reporting, do hereby certify that 7 on said September 22, 2020 the foregoing meeting 8 was taken down stenographically by me and 9 afterwards reduced to typewritten form by me, and that the foregoing transcript contains a 10 11 true and accurate translation of all such 12 shorthand notes.

13 Given under my hand and seal this 26th day 14 of September, 2020 at Taylorville, Illinois. 15

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Sandra K Haines

Sandra K. Haines Notary Public and CSR License No. 084-002423

**\$112,000.00** [1] - 52:22 **\$151,000.00** [1] - 52:5 **\$186,000.00** [1] - 51:22 **\$219,900.00** [1] - 50:15 **\$302,500.00** [1] - 50:12 \$307,000.00 [1] - 17:7 **\$75,000.00** [1] - 52:24 \$9,000.00 [1] - 54:13 **'08** [1] - 91:13 '**39** [1] - 101:13 **'99** [1] - 100:4 04 [1] - 36:7 **06** [1] - 39:6 08 [2] - 57:5, 57:7 084-002423 [2] - 1:21, 151:23 **1** [2] - 2:19, 36:19 1,200 [2] - 17:14, 42:17 1,400 [1] - 52:20 1,500 [1] - 50:6 1-11-23 [1] - 134:10 **10** [1] - 23:20 100 [12] - 14:21, 24:6, 24:14, 50:7, 112:3, 114:3, 114:13, 120:3, 120:11, 121:2, 121:16, 121:18 **103** [1] - 43:8 **104** [1] - 15:12 **105** [1] - 4:17 107 [1] - 4:18 108 [1] - 4:18 **11** [1] - 23:20 11th [1] - 34:16 12 [3] - 89:21, 94:12, 94:20 **13** [2] - 33:5, 43:7 **14** [2] - 33:19, 89:21 **15** [12] - 13:2, 23:18, 46:6, 61:1, 90:17, 92:8, 92:18, 94:9, 94:20, 113:12, 114:20, 114:21 150 [1] - 114:13 160 [1] - 24:5 **165** [1] - 50:5 17 [2] - 51:20, 92:3 **186,000** [1] - 52:3 **19** [2] - 4:4, 52:15 1900 [2] - 7:2, 7:11 1939 [1] - 100:24 **1960** [1] - 102:2 **1980** [1] - 47:2 1996 [1] - 38:16 **1998** [3] - 98:15, 98:16, 100:4 **1999** [1] - 98:15 19th [1] - 136:7 2,300 [1] - 13:23 2,800 [1] - 50:9 2-10 [1] - 136:23 2-11 [1] - 103:11 **2-8** [1] - 103:4 20 [7] - 28:23, 29:6, 69:10, 89:5, 113:19, 124:2, 146:7 200 [1] - 46:11 2000 [1] - 50:8

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