BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

Docket No. 09A-324E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF TRI-STATE GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION ASSOCIATION, INC. (A) FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE SAN LUIS VALLEY-CALUMET-COMANCHE TRANSMISSION PROJECT, (B) FOR SPECIFIC FINDINGS WITH RESPECT TO EMF AND NOISE, AND (C) FOR APPROVAL OF OWNERSHIP INTEREST TRANSFER AS NEEDED WHEN PROJECT IS COMPLETED.

Docket No. 09A-325-E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO (A) FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE SAN LUIS VALLEY-CALUMET-COMANCHE TRANSMISSION PROJECT, (B) FOR SPECIFIC FINDINGS WITH RESPECT TO EMF AND NOISE, AND (C) FOR APPROVAL OF OWNERSHIP INTEREST TRANSFER AS NEEDED WHEN PROJECT IS COMPLETED.

APPLICANTS' JOINT MOTION TO STRIKE HEARING TESTIMONY

Pursuant to ALJ Jennings-Fader's Order and Rule 1400 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (the "Commission"), Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. ("Tri-State") and Public Service Company of Colorado ("Public Service")(collectively the "Applicants") submit this Joint Motion to Strike Hearing Testimony in the above-referenced proceeding. In support thereof, the Applicants state:

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Morey Wolfson, Transmission Program Manager at the Colorado Governor's Energy Office ("GEO"), prefiled Corrected Testimony in this proceeding in which, among other things, he expressed certain positions of the GEO concerning the ongoing

Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") process and its implications to this CPCN proceeding. Before Mr. Wolfson testified at the proceeding's evidentiary hearing, counsel for Blanca Ranch Holdings, LLC and Trinchera Ranch Holdings, LLC (collectively "Trinchera Ranch") questioned Tri-State and Public Service witnesses about the GEO's positions.

Counsel for Colorado Open Lands ("COL") also questioned a COL witness on GEO's positions.

The GEO, however, subsequently withdrew the part of Mr. Wolfson's Corrected Testimony on which Trinchera Ranch and COL relied to question the witnesses. With those portions of the Corrected Testimony no longer part of the record, Tri-State moved to strike as irrelevant the testimony of witnesses that was based on Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony. Public Service joined the motion. The Judge granted the motion and requested that the Applicants file a motion identifying the testimony that should be stricken from the record. The Applicants have identified the following testimony as testimony that was based on Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony and move that this testimony be stricken:

- Mr. Joel Bladow's cross-examination testimony at Tr. I, 170:23-172:13, 173:4-21, 175:8-20, 175:25-177:6, attached as Exhibit A.
- 2. Ms. Karen Hyde's cross-examination testimony at Tr. I, 335:17-336:20, attached as Exhibit B.
- 3. Ms. Nicole Korbe's cross-examination testimony at Tr. IV, 168:24-170:20, attached as Exhibit C.
- 4. Mr. Daniel Pike's redirect examination testimony at Tr. V, 175:23-177:2, attached as Exhibit D.

5. Colloquy between the Judge and counsel for Western Resource Advocates ("WRA") at Tr. I, 16:25-18:15, attached as Exhibit E.

BACKGROUND

On October 29, 2009, Mr. Wolfson prefiled Answer Testimony in this proceeding on behalf of the GEO. (*See* Hearing Ex. 28.) Mr. Wolfson's Answer Testimony set forth the position of the GEO concerning Tri-State's and Public Service's applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (the "Applications") for the San Luis Valley-Calumet-Comanche Transmission Project (the "Project"). On January 25, 2010, Mr. Wolfson prefiled Corrected Testimony. The Corrected Testimony sought to clarify statements Mr. Wolfson made in his Answer Testimony concerning the siting of the transmission lines. (*See* Hearing Ex. 29, 2:12-3:17.) Mr. Wolfson explained that the GEO knew an EIS was currently under way and that the EIS will include an analysis of various potential routes for the transmission lines. (*Id.* at 2:21-23.) Mr. Wolfson furthered stated that it was the opinion of the GEO that the Commission should allow the EIS process to conclude before making a determination concerning the preferred routes for the Project:

The GEO recommends that the Commission consider bifurcating the CPCN determination. We recommend that the Commission first find that the public interest is served by expanding transmission capacity to deliver substantial blocks of renewable energy out of the San Louis Valley, while simultaneously improving the reliability in the Valley. We recommend that the Commission issue a separate determination that addresses the routing subject, pending the outcome of the Environmental Impact Statement.

(*Id.* 3:8-14.)

At the evidentiary hearing, counsel for Trinchera Ranch referenced Mr. Wolfson's Corrected Testimony and questioned Tri-State witnesses Mr. Bladow and Ms. Korbe, and

¹ In addition, Mr. Wolfson's Corrected Testimony sought to clarify his original testimony concerning the generation capacity of the Project. (*See* Ex. 29, 2:6-11.)

Public Service witness Ms. Hyde, about the GEO's position regarding the EIS and its relevance to this proceeding. (*See* Exhibit A, 170:23-172:13, 173:4-21, 175:8-20, 175:25-177:6; Exhibit B, 335:17-336:20; Exhibit C, 168:24-170:20.) Counsel for COL also referenced Mr. Wolfson's Corrected Testimony and questioned Mr. Daniel Pike on the same topic. (*See* Exhibit D, 175:23-177:2.) Additionally, counsel for WRA referenced Mr. Wolfson's Corrected Testimony in a preliminary matter with the Judge. (*See* Exhibit E, 16:25-18:15.)

When Mr. Wolfson took the stand, the GEO moved to withdraw the portions of Mr. Wolfson's Corrected Testimony that counsel for Trinchera Ranch and COL had used as a basis for the examination of the witnesses. (*See* Tr. VII, 11:3-25; attached as Exhibit F.) After GEO's request to withdraw such testimony was granted, Tri-State moved to strike as irrelevant the testimony of the witnesses that referenced Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony. (*Id.* at 13:6-14.) The GEO supported Tri-State's motion. (*Id.* at 17:5-12 ("It is our position that in light of the withdrawn testimony questions about that previously are now irrelevant as is his withdrawn testimony.").)

The Judge granted Tri-State's motion and ordered that testimony which used as its basis for examination the withdrawn testimony of Mr. Wolfson be stricken from the record:

That then leaves me with Mr. Dougherty's request with respect to striking testimony which used *as its basis* for examination the testimony now withdrawn by Mr. Wolfson. The motion is granted.

(*Id.* at 20:1-4 (emphasis added).) The Judge requested that the Applicants file the current motion identifying the testimony to be stricken. (*See* Tr. VIII, 180:2-181:8, attached as Exhibit G.)

ARGUMENT AND AUTHORITY

A. The Judge Acted Within Her Discretion in Striking Testimony that Was Based on Mr. Wolfson's Withdrawn Testimony.

The Judge acted within her discretion in ordering stricken the testimony which was based on the withdrawn testimony of Mr. Wolfson. Evidence is relevant if it has any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence. C.R.E. 401; *see also* Rule 1501(a) of the Public Utilities Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure (rules of evidence of district courts applicable in Commission hearings).

A trial court has broad discretion over evidentiary matters, including the admissibility of testimony. See Heritage Village Owners Ass'n, Inc. v. Golden Heritage Investors, Ltd., 89 P.3d 513, 516 (Colo. App. 2004) ("Rulings on the relevancy of proffered evidence are within the sound discretion of the trial court[.]"). Absent an abuse of discretion, evidentiary rulings will not be disturbed. Id. An ALJ has the same discretion over evidentiary matters. See, e.g., Rice v. Dep't of Corrections, 950 P.2d 676, 681 (Colo. App. 1997) ("The admission of rebuttal testimony is within the sound discretion of the ALJ and will not be disturbed absent an abuse of that discretion."). Once Mr. Wolfson's testimony was withdrawn, other evidence specifically referencing any portion of Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony, or which used as its basis for examination the testimony withdrawn by Mr. Wolfson, is no longer of consequence to the determination of this proceedings and, therefore, should be stricken as not relevant.

B. Testimony Based on Mr. Wolfson's Withdrawn Testimony Should Be Stricken as Ordered By the Judge.

The testimony of the following witnesses should be stricken because it references Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony and uses the withdrawn testimony as the basis for examination.

1. Testimony Concerning the Witnesses' Familiarity With the Opinions of the GEO and Whether They Agree With It Should Be Stricken.

As a foundation, counsel for Trinchera Ranch asked witnesses for Tri-State and Public Service whether they were familiar with the positions of the GEO. (*See* Exhibit A, 170:23-25 (questioning Mr. Bladow); Exhibit B, 335:17-22 (questioning Ms. Hyde); (Exhibit C, 168:24-169:4 (questioning Ms. Korbe).) After establishing the witnesses' familiarity, counsel for Trinchera Ranch proceeded to read portions of the withdrawn testimony into the record and ask the witnesses if they agreed with the GEO's position that the EIS analysis on potential routes should be allowed to conclude before the Commission made a determination on the Applications. (*See* Exhibit A, 171:1-172:13 (questioning Ms. Bladow); Exhibit B, 335:23-336:12 (questioning Ms. Hyde); Exhibit C, 169:5-15 (questioning Ms. Korbe).) Similarly, counsel for COL asked Mr. Pike whether he too agreed with the opinion of the GEO concerning the EIS and this proceeding. (*See* Exhibit D, 175:23-177:2.)

The questions by counsel for Trinchera Ranch and COL were based on and directly quote from Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony. Thus, the testimony in Exhibit A, 170:23-25, 171:1-172:13; Exhibit B, 335:17-336:12; Exhibit C, 168:24-169:15; and Exhibit D, 175:23-177:2 should be stricken from the record consistent with the Judge's ruling.

2. Testimony Concerning Whether the Witnesses Believed the GEO's Position Had Merit Should Be Stricken.

In addition to questioning witnesses for Tri-State and Public Service on whether they agreed with the GEO's positions, counsel for Trinchera Ranch asked questions intended to elicit the witnesses' opinion on whether they believed that the GEO's positions had merit.

That is, whether they believed, consistent with the withdrawn testimony, that the results of the EIS would be of benefit to the Commission in deciding to grant or deny the Application.

For example, counsel for Trinchera Ranch asked Mr. Bladow several times whether it would be beneficial to have the results of the EIS of the proposed project before the Commission makes its decision in this case. (See Exhibit A, 173:4-7, 173:12-16 ("Q. . . . wouldn't there be a benefit to having the information gathered as part of that environment [sic] impact statement prior to the time the commission determines that your proposed route from San Luis Valley to Calumet is needed?"); 175:8-12 (same); 175:25-176:2 (same); 176:6-8 (same); 177:2-4 (same).) Counsel for Trinchera Ranch asked Ms. Hyde the same question. (See Exhibit B, 336:13-17 ("Q. And do you agree that it would be beneficial to have the results of the evaluation of the Environmental Impact Statement before the Commission makes a determination that the companies can build a line from San Luis Valley to Calumet?").)

The questions asked by counsel for Trinchera Ranch clearly are based on the withdrawn testimony of Mr. Wolfson, and the responses of the witnesses directly relate to Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony. Thus, the testimony at Exhibit A, 173:4-21, 175:8-20, 175:25-177:6 and Exhibit B, 336:13-20 should be stricken from the record consistent with the Judge's ruling.

3. Colloquy Between the Judge and Counsel for WRA Pertaining to Mr. Wolfson's Withdrawn Testimony Should Be Stricken

At the commencement of the evidentiary hearing, counsel for WRA raised a preliminary matter concerning the prefiled Corrected Testimony of Mr. Wolfson. (*See* Exhibit E, 16:24-17:4.) Specifically, counsel suggested that Mr. Wolfson's Corrected Testimony was, in essence, a motion for bifurcation and inquired as to whether the Commission would treat it as such and whether the Commission was, in fact, considering a bifurcation of the proceeding. (*Id.* at 17:5-12, 18:2-10.)

The colloquy between the Judge and counsel for WRA concerned the recommendation of the GEO that the Commission bifurcate this proceeding. This recommendation has been withdrawn. (*See* Ex. 29, 2:12-3:17; Ex. F, 11:3-25.) Thus, the colloquy at Exhibit E, 16:25-18:15, was based on Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony and should, therefore, be stricken from the record consistent with the Judge's ruling.

C. Trinchera Ranch's Position Regarding the Testimony To Be Stricken Is Inconsistent with the Judge's Ruling.

After granting the motion to strike testimony, the Judge asked that the parties affected confer on the testimony to be designated for deletion. (*See* Exhibit G, 180:2-181:8.) The Applicants, Trinchera Ranch, and WRA met and conferred.² Trinchera Ranch indicated that it disagreed with part of the Applicants' designation of testimony in Exhibit A, Exhibit B, and Exhibit C.³ (*See id.* at 181:3-8.)

designation. (See Exhibit G, 181:2-3.)

² Counsel for COL received notice of the Commission's ruling granting the motion to strike, and was informed of the testimony the Applicants have identified for deletion. (See E-mail from ALJ Jennings-Fader to Anthony E. Velarde, et al. (Feb, 11, 2010, 18:15:00 MST), and E-mail from E. Martín Enriquez, attorney for Tri-State, to Bill Levis, et al. (Feb. 10, 2010, 22:09:57 MST) attached as Exhibit H.) The Applicants, however, have not yet heard from COL and do not know its position concerning the testimony identified for deletion.

³ WRA reviewed the testimony that the Applicants identified to be stricken and agrees with the Applicants'

Trinchera Ranch suggested that only testimony specifically related to the GEO's recommendation for bifurcation should be stricken. Contrary to Trinchera Ranch's suggestion, Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony is not limited to the bifurcation recommendation by the GEO. The recommendation is only a part of the testimony that Mr. Wolfson withdrew. (*See* Ex. 29, 3:8-9.) The remaining portions of Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony relate to the position of the GEO concerning the purported benefits to the Commission of waiting for the EIS results. (*See id.* at 2:12-3:17.) The testimony the Applicants identified for deletion directly followed from, or used as a basis for examination, Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony. (*Compare id. with* Exhibit A, 170:23-172:13, 173:4-21, 175:8-20, 175:25-177:6; Exhibit B, 335:17-336:20; and Exhibit C, 168:24-170:20.)

Trinchera Ranch suggests that some of the testimony the Applicants identified for deletion should not be stricken because the examination could have been done independently from Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony. The examination of those witnesses, however, was not done in a vacuum but rather in the context of Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony. Trinchera Ranch's suggestion simply ignores the Judge's ruling that all testimony which "used as its basis" for examination the withdrawn testimony of Mr. Wolfson should be stricken. (Exhibit F, 20:1-4 (emphasis added).)

The testimony the Applicants identified for deletion took place in the context of a discussion on the subjects that are now Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony. The testimony of the witnesses is inextricably intertwined with Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony. As such, the testimony of the witnesses is, in essence, the fruit of the poisonous tree and, thus, should be stricken.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants respectfully requests that the Judge strike the following hearing testimony consistent with her ruling:

- 1. Mr. Bladow's testimony at Exhibit A, 170:23-172:13, 173:4-21, 175:8-20, 175:25-177:6.
- 2. Ms. Hyde's testimony at Exhibit B, 335:17-336:20.
- 3. Ms. Korbe's testimony at Exhibit C, 168:24-170:20.
- 4. Mr. Pike's testimony at Exhibit D, 175:23-177:2.
- 5. Colloquy between the Judge and counsel for WRA at Exhibit E, 16:25-18:15.

Anything less would defeat the purpose of the GEO in withdrawing those portions of Mr. Wolfson's testimony and would be inconsistent with the Judge's prior ruling.

Dated this 16th day of February, 2010.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing **APPLICANTS' JOINT MOTION TO STRIKE HEARING TESTIMONY** was served on this 16th day of February, 2010, via email on all parties on this service list:

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EXHIBIT A

- 1 identifies it and does some programmatic-level
- 2 screening. Each individual project must still have to
- 3 have project-level EIS analysis, and that normally
- 4 takes the bulk of the time in the projects we work on.
- 5 So I'm not sure how much time or energy one would save
- 6 on that type of a designation.
- 7 Q Well, but that's the purpose of the
- 8 designation, isn't it, to establish procedures under
- 9 the federal agencies to expedite the application
- 10 process for energy-related projects within
- 11 Section 368-designated corridors?
- 12 A And it also says that -- in my
- 13 understanding, is that you have to do a full NEPA
- 14 process for it, just like you would if it wasn't a
- 15 designated corridor.
- 16 Q Okay. But that wasn't my question. My
- 17 question is, isn't the purpose of the Section 368
- 18 designation, that the federal agencies will then
- 19 expedite the application process for energy-related
- 20 projects within Section 368 designated corridors?
- 21 A The ones that are designated. Of course,
- 22 that isn't a designated corridor, it's a proposed.
- 23 Q Have you reviewed the corrected testimony
- 24 of the governor's energy office witness, Morey Wolfson?
- 25 A I have read it once.

- 1 Q Let's take a look at that. That's
- 2 Exhibit 29 for identification.
- A 29. I don't know if I've got that book.
- 4 Yeah, it's in here.
- Q All right. Let's take a look at Page 2,
- 6 Line 21 of Exhibit 29. Mr. Wolfson states, An
- 7 environment impact statement process is currently
- 8 underway, and the EIS will include an analysis of
- 9 various potential route determinations. Do you see
- 10 that?
- 11 A Yes, I do.
- 12 Q Do you agree with that?
- 13 A Yes, I do.
- 14 Q He goes on to say, It is the GEO's
- 15 position that those findings shall be allowed to
- 16 conclude prior to a final determination by the PUC of a
- 17 preferred route. Do you see that?
- 18 A I see that.
- 19 Q Do you agree with that?
- 20 A No.
- 21 Q All right. Well, further down on Page 3,
- 22 starting at Line 8, Mr. Wolfson states, The GEO
- 23 recommends that the commission consider bifurcating the
- 24 CPCN determination. We recommend that the commission
- 25 first find that the public interest is served by

- 1 expanding transmission capacity to deliver substantial
- 2 blocks of renewable energy out of the San Luis Valley,
- 3 while simultaneously improving the reliability in the
- 4 valley. Do you see that?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q We recommend the commission issue a
- 7 separate determination that addresses the routing
- 8 subject pending the outcome of the environmental impact
- 9 statement. Do you see that?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q Do you agree with that recommendation by
- 12 Mr. Wolfson?
- 13 A No.
- 14 Q The environmental impact statement will
- 15 be an intensive evaluation of the environmental impacts
- 16 of the proposed project; is that accurate?
- 17 A Those are your words. It will be an
- 18 evaluation, a very thorough evaluation of the project
- 19 and the corridors.
- 20 Q You don't think it's going to be an
- 21 intensive evaluation?
- 22 A I guess those are your words. It will be
- 23 intensive, I guess.
- Q What about in depth? Do you agree that
- 25 it will be an in-depth environmental review of the

- 1 project?
- 2 A It will follow the regulations through
- 3 RUS, and that's a very thorough process, in my opinion.
- 4 Q So wouldn't it be beneficial to have the
- 5 results of that thorough evaluation of the
- 6 environmental impacts of the proposed project before
- 7 the commission makes it's decision in this case?
- 8 A You're asking for a routing and siting
- 9 NEPA decision to drive the decision of the commission
- 10 on whether the CPCN should be granted? Is that what
- 11 you're saying?
- 12 Q No. I'm saying, wouldn't there be a
- 13 benefit to having the information gathered as part of
- 14 that environment impact statement prior to the time the
- 15 commission determines that your proposed route from San
- 16 Luis Valley to Calumet is needed?
- 17 A The CPCN determines need for the proposed
- 18 project, not routing of the proposed project, so I'm
- 19 confused as to why you would benefit by having a
- 20 routing discussion in the CPCN process to the level
- 21 you're going to have in the environmental assessment.
- Q Well, you've proposed a route that
- 23 connects from the San Luis Valley substation to the
- 24 Calumet substation as part of this project, right?
- 25 A Yes, we have.

- 1 project.
- 2 Q I think we can get on the same page here,
- 3 because I think you would agree that your CPCN
- 4 application is a request for approval to connect point
- 5 A to B, A being the San Luis Valley substation, B being
- 6 the Calumet substation, right?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q And my question is, wouldn't it be a
- 9 benefit to get the results of an EIS review of the
- 10 proposed environment impacts of the project before the
- 11 commission decides whether A to B is actually the best
- 12 and the needed project, as opposed to A to C?
- 13 A I see them as two separate processes. If
- 14 the commission in the normal course of business
- 15 determined routing and siting every time a transmission
- 16 line was built, I think that information would be
- 17 beneficial, whereas in this case, we have a proposed
- 18 project, and we have a process for approving the
- 19 purpose and need. That's what I thought the CPCN was
- 20 about.
- 21 Q But you agree that once the CPCN is
- 22 issued, you're only authorized to build from A to B,
- 23 not from A to C, right?
- 24 A That's my understanding.
- 25 Q But you don't think it would be of

- 1 benefit to get a review of what the impacts are of
- 2 connecting A to B?
- 3 A Those will be evaluated in the local
- 4 siting by those officials, and it will be evaluated by
- 5 RUS and the NEPA. So they will be evaluated.
- 6 Q But you don't think it would be helpful
- 7 for the commission to have that same information when
- 8 deciding whether A to B is needed?
- 9 A Well, A to B, if it is needed, is based
- 10 on the electrical needs of the system, and that's the
- 11 purpose and need. It's not based on is there an
- 12 environmental impact of building A to B. The other
- 13 process is identified at and are the ones that make the
- 14 determination of what the minimal -- how to minimize
- 15 the impact, what's the best siting alternatives, the
- 16 local county officials, those folks have, the ones that
- 17 give us those local permits.
- 18 Q So you don't think the commission can
- 19 consider the environmental impacts of your proposed
- 20 solution, versus other alternatives, in deciding
- 21 whether or not to grant the CPCN in this case?
- 22 A Oh, I didn't say they couldn't consider
- 23 it, I just don't think that having a NEPA process,
- 24 waiting for a purpose and need to be approved based on
- 25 a NEPA process for that individual project makes any

- 1 sense.
- Q If the commission can consider
- 3 environment impacts, then isn't it some benefit for
- 4 them to have the results of the EIS?
- 5 A I don't see it as being a benefit to them
- 6 for what they are looking at.
- 7 Q Mr. Bladow, do you recall that you had an
- 8 ex parte meeting with Commissioner Tarpey on April 21st
- 9 of 2009?
- MR. DOUGHERTY: Objection, Your Honor.
- 11 This goes beyond the scope of Mr. Bladow's direct
- 12 testimony.
- MR. DOUGLAS: Your Honor, I don't believe
- 14 it does. The issue of the ex parte meetings is an
- 15 issue in this case for the commission to determine.
- 16 This witness has personal knowledge about that. He
- 17 testified about this project. He's the person who
- 18 sponsors all of the witnesses' testimony from
- 19 Tri-State, and whether or not, or if, in fact, he had
- 20 an ex parte meeting with one of the commissioners is
- 21 relevant to the determination of these issues.
- MR. DOUGHERTY: If Trinchera Ranch wanted
- 23 an evidentiary hearing with regard to the motion to
- 24 dismiss, they should have asked for one. That is a
- 25 separate matter. This is an evidentiary hearing on

EXHIBIT B

- 1 the line is from San Luis Valley over La Veta Pass to
- 2 Calumet; is that right?
- 3 A I believe that that is true.
- 4 Q Might be 100 feet one way or 100 feet
- 5 another, but it's in that area, from San Luis Valley
- 6 over La Veta Pass to Calumet?
- 7 A I think it's much broader than 100 feet
- 8 one way or the other.
- 9 Q Five or 600 feet?
- 10 A Maybe. I don't know how many, but it's a
- 11 pretty broad area.
- 12 Q Measured in feet, not in tens of miles.
- 13 Would you agree with that?
- 14 A I am not the expert on that. You will
- 15 have to talk to, potentially, Ms. Korbe or I quess
- 16 Mr. Thompson.
- 17 Q Are you aware that Mr. Wolfson of the
- 18 Governor's Energy Office file corrected testimony in
- 19 this case?
- 20 A Yes.
- Q And have you read that?
- 22 A I have.
- Q And in particular the Governor's Energy
- 24 Office recommends that the Environmental Impact
- 25 Statement be completed before a decision is made by the

- 1 PUC as to the route of the line?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q Okay. And the Governor's Energy Office
- 4 then recommends that the proceeding should be
- 5 bifurcated so a separate determination on the routing
- 6 could be issued after the decision on the Environmental
- 7 Impact Statement?
- 8 A Yes. That's what I understand his
- 9 testimony to say.
- 10 Q And do you agree with that recommendation
- 11 of the Governor's Energy Office?
- 12 A No.
- 13 Q And do you agree that it would be
- 14 beneficial to have the results of the evaluation of the
- 15 Environmental Impact Statement before the Commission
- 16 makes a determination that the companies can build a
- 17 line from San Luis Valley to Calumet?
- 18 A No. I think that the testimony before
- 19 the Commission in this docket is sufficient for them to
- 20 make a ruling in the CPCN.
- 21 Q Before Senate Bill 100 was enacted, do
- 22 you agree that Public Service developed a grid in
- 23 response to specific transmission and interconnection
- 24 requests from new generators?
- 25 A I believe that there was a period of time

EXHIBIT C

- 1 Counsel.
- 2 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 3 BY MR. FLANAGAN
- 4 Q Good afternoon, ma'am.
- 5 A Good afternoon.
- 6 Q Well, Mr. Thompson set you up. Why don't
- 7 you tell us what the interaction is between the NEPA
- 8 process that you're in charge of and this CPCN process.
- 9 A Well, really, I don't know that I see
- 10 much interaction between -- typically, between the NEPA
- 11 process and the CPCN process. To my knowledge, the
- 12 CPCN process is there to help determine that there is a
- 13 need for the proposed project that the applicants have
- 14 filed their application for, and that the NEPA process
- 15 is entirely separate from that.
- 16 Q So there really is no linkage, is what
- 17 you're saying?
- 18 A No. I said in my testimony that we have
- 19 filed information for this case regarding the NEPA
- 20 process, just to help inform the commission that there
- 21 is an environmental process going on that will evaluate
- 22 impacts, because some of the intervenors have brought
- 23 those matters into this case.
- Q And I presume you're aware of the
- 25 corrected testimony of Mr. Wolfson from the governor's

- 1 energy office that has suggested that the commission
- 2 defer any discussion in this matter on routing until
- 3 the EIS process is completed.
- A I'm aware of that testimony, yes.
- 5 Q Is Tri-State willing to do that?
- A I don't know that it's a motion for
- 7 Tri-State, it's for the commission.
- 8 Q Well, and I suppose it's not a bad idea
- 9 if there's no language between the two, right?
- 10 A I'm not sure I'm following.
- 11 Q Well, is Tri-State willing to abide by
- 12 the end result of the EIS process before this
- 13 commission makes a determination as to a certificate of
- 14 public convenience and necessity, as suggested by the
- 15 governor's office, energy office?
- MS. GOODLETTE: Your Honor, I'm going to
- 17 object, as this is part of -- what Mr. Wolfson filed is
- 18 not part of what was included in her testimony, either
- 19 the direct testimony of Mr. Murray or the -- that she
- 20 adopted or the rebuttal testimony.
- MR. FLANAGAN: Well, I understand that,
- 22 but we've been told this is a NEPA expert, so that's
- 23 why I thought it would be an appropriate question,
- 24 since that's her area of responsibility, as testified
- 25 to by Public Service.

- 1 MR. McGANN: Your Honor, may I offer --
- A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Counsel may do
- 3 what he -- yeah.
- 4 MR. McGANN: I just want to offer a
- 5 clarification as to what I asked Mr. Thompson, and I
- 6 believe the record will show this. I asked
- 7 Mr. Thompson whether Ms. Korbe could be deferred
- 8 questions concerning the integration of the NEPA
- 9 process and the siting process, not the CPCN process,
- 10 which is the way I believe Mr. Flanagan has begun his
- 11 series of questions. So I don't believe what we
- 12 attempted to defer to Ms. Korbe was what Mr. Flanagan
- 13 is asking Ms. Korbe about.
- 14 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: No, I agree with
- 15 that, Counsel, that is to say, that I understood the
- 16 question having to do with the interaction between the
- 17 NEPA process and the siting process, not the
- 18 commission's process, so we'll have to try another
- 19 tack.
- MR. FLANAGAN: All right.
- 21 Q (By Mr. Flanagan) It is true, isn't it,
- 22 that the corridors that were originally proposed to
- 23 the rural -- to the R- -- yeah, the rural electric
- 24 service were five routes chosen by Tri-State as the
- 25 beginning of this -- as the beginning of the RES

EXHIBIT D

- 1 open for all sorts of different entries, whether it's
- 2 minerals or exploration or -- just all sorts of public
- 3 uses. And forest service land specifically is
- 4 considered multiple-use lands, and so it's available
- 5 for mineral-entry permitting of different things. At
- 6 one point in time, I permitted cell towers on forest
- 7 service land. And so there's different degrees of
- 8 protection, and not all public land is set aside for
- 9 protection.
- 10 Q Now, when it comes to degrees of
- 11 protection, where does the conservation easement rank
- 12 in there?
- A Well, even though it's private, in many
- 14 ways, it's probably the strongest protection there is,
- 15 because Congress mandated that in order to have a
- 16 qualified conservation easement, it has to be in
- 17 perpetuity. You have to protect the conservation
- 18 values on the easement in perpetuity, and they have the
- 19 IRS enforcing those provisions. You know, you could
- 20 certainly say a Congressional designation of a
- 21 wilderness area is a strong protection, but that could
- 22 be removed.
- Q Mr. Pike, could you put Exhibit 29 in
- 24 front of you, please?
- 25 A Which one is that?

- 1 O It should be in the blue binder.
- 2 Exhibit 29 is titled corrected testimony of Morey
- 3 Wolfson on behalf of the governor's energy office.
- 4 A I have it.
- Now, you answered a line of examination
- 6 regarding whether you would disagree to certain
- 7 positions that the governor's office took in some
- 8 publications. Do you recall that?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Well, let me read from Page 2, and if you
- 11 could follow along as I read out loud on Lines 8
- 12 through 9 -- 8 through 14, I apologize. Let me read it
- 13 now. "The GEO recommends that the Commission consider
- 14 bifurcating the CPCN determination. We recommend that
- 15 the Commission first find that the public interest is
- 16 served by expanding transmission capacity to deliver
- 17 substantial blocks of renewable energy out of the San
- 18 Luis Valley, while simultaneously improving the
- 19 reliability in the Valley. We recommend that the
- 20 Commission issue a separate determination that
- 21 addresses the routing subject, pending the outcome of
- 22 the Environmental Impact Statement." Do you see what I
- 23 read?
- 24 A Yes.
- 25 Q Do you have any reason to disagree with

- 1 that statement from the governor's office?
- 2 A No.
- 3 Q Now, there was a line of questions
- 4 regarding the restriction on airstrips on the portion
- 5 of the property -- portion of the property that's
- 6 subject to the easement that's Exhibit 85. Do you
- 7 recall that testimony?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q Now, are you aware -- I think you wanted
- 10 to clarify your statement regarding the airstrip.
- A Simply, that I said I wasn't aware of it.
- 12 I have not seen the airstrip; I've been told there is
- 13 one there. That airstrip is on the Blanca piece of
- 14 property, which is -- I'd like to clarify, which is not
- 15 subject to the conservation easement; therefore, if
- 16 there is any implication it's a violation of the
- 17 easement, it is not.
- 18 Q Thank you. Now, if you could put
- 19 Exhibit 85 in front of you, which is the copy of the
- 20 easement.
- 21 A Yes.
- Q Now, there was a line of examination
- 23 regarding what you can construct on the property when
- 24 it comes to residential improvements. Do you recall
- 25 that testimony?

EXHIBIT E

- 1 MR. LEHR: That's what I understand.
- MR. HICKEY: Yes, ma'am.
- I was part of the communication, yes.
- 4 And counsel for Tri-State and Public Service have
- 5 agreed that Friday might work.
- 6 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: I'll have to look
- 7 at that.
- 8 Mr. Dougherty, you had something to say
- 9 with respect to --
- MR. DOUGHERTY: Not on this matter, Your
- 11 Honor.
- 12 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Okay.
- Based on at least the witness list and
- 14 estimate of cross-examination provided, filed in this
- 15 case, it appears that Mr. Blue's estimate of
- 16 cross-examination is approximately three quarters of an
- 17 hour. So we'll look to adding him to the Friday
- 18 schedule which would be the 5th of February.
- MR. HICKEY: Thank you very much.
- 20 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Was there
- 21 anything further, Mr. Lehr?
- MR. LEHR: No.
- A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Thank you.
- Ms. Mandell.
- MS. MANDELL: Yes, I would like to raise

- 1 a preliminary matter concerning the corrected testimony
- 2 of Mr. Morey Wolfson, filed on behalf of the Governor's
- 3 Energy Office a week ago.
- 4 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Yes
- 5 MS. MANDELL: In that testimony,
- 6 Mr. Wolfson proposes that this matter be bifurcated;
- 7 and it's the position of WRA that that is in essence a
- 8 motion for bifurcation of the proceeding and was not
- 9 appropriately filed as, quote, unquote, corrected
- 10 testimony. And we're opposed to bifurcation of the
- 11 proceeding and would be happy to make a statement
- 12 regarding the reasons.
- A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Mr. Goad, before
- 14 we proceed --
- MR. GOAD: Thank you, Your Honor.
- The Governor's Energy Office did not
- 17 intend that testimony as a motion, but rather as a
- 18 suggestion of a possible way to address the issue of --
- 19 the Environmental Impact Statement, for example,
- 20 informing the decision of the Commission on the CPCN.
- 21 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Thank you.
- Ms. Mandell, with that clarification, is
- 23 that helpful to you or do you wish still -- if the
- 24 proponent of the testimony says that that's not a
- 25 motion, does that change your view with respect to the

- 1 testimony?
- MS. MANDELL: It would change -- well,
- 3 the question is whether or not this -- whether Your
- 4 Honor is considering bifurcating the proceeding. And
- 5 if it is, I propose that we take oral argument on that
- 6 question. If that's not at issue, then we don't need
- 7 to discuss it.
- But if it is at issue, I think it is in
- 9 the nature of a motion and we would need to have the
- 10 opportunity to address that.
- 11 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Based on the
- 12 representations of Mr. Goad, I do not consider it a
- 13 motion; therefore I will not take it up as a motion.
- MS. MANDELL: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 15 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Certainly.
- 16 (Discussion off the record.)
- 17 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Mr. Dougherty.
- MR. DOUGHERTY: Your Honor, I would just
- 19 like clarification on your first instruction this
- 20 morning with regard to documents referenced in
- 21 testimony that they are not part of the record unless
- 22 they are admitted as an exhibit, particularly with
- 23 regard to decisions in other dockets, statutes, things
- 24 of that nature. I understand obviously we have to have
- 25 copies for the court reporter and the witness; and if

EXHIBIT F

- 1 clarification, Exhibit No. 28 is admitted.
- 2 BY MR. GOAD:
- 3 Q Mr. Wolfson, if you could find Exhibit 29
- 4 in that notebook.
- 5 A I have that.
- 6 Q Does that appear to be a true and correct
- 7 copy of corrected testimony that you prefiled in this
- 8 case?
- 9 A Yes, it is.
- 10 Q Do you have any corrections to that
- 11 testimony?
- 12 A I do have corrections to this testimony.
- 13 Q And what are those corrections or
- 14 changes?
- 15 A We -- I would like to draw your attention
- 16 to page 2 of Exhibit 29, starting on line 12, and
- 17 continuing through page 3, line 17. It is the
- 18 Governor's Energy Office's interest in removing that
- 19 from your testimony. We want to withdraw those -- that
- 20 material from our corrected testimony.
- 21 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Could you state
- 22 the page and line number, the beginning and end point.
- THE WITNESS: It was page 2, line 12, and
- 24 ending on page 3, line 17.
- A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Thank you.

- A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Exhibit No. 29 as
- 2 modified is admitted.
- MR. GOAD: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 4 Mr. Wolfson is available for
- 5 cross-examination.
- 6 MR. DOUGHERTY: Your Honor, a matter with
- 7 regard to the record, in light of Mr. Wolfson's
- 8 withdrawn testimony -- I don't know if you want to
- 9 address it now, but there were previous questions in
- 10 the examination of other witnesses that referred to the
- 11 portions of what is now withdrawn from Mr. Wolfson's
- 12 testimony. And applicants would move that those
- 13 portions of the record be stricken because that is no
- 14 longer in the record.
- 15 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Counsel?
- MR. FLANAGAN: Your Honor, we would
- 17 resist that; however I, too -- to follow up on Mr.
- 18 Dougherty's suggestion, I don't know, if lining that
- 19 out, one can read what has been stricken; but I would
- 20 propose that the first set of corrected testimony -- I
- 21 would like to offer that as an exhibit in this
- 22 proceeding so that one can tell what the difference is
- 23 between the testimony of the Governor's Office on
- 24 January 25th versus -- or I guess versus what was the
- 25 testimony on February 10 or 9th.

17

- 1 questions of the witnesses early in the docket
- 2 concerning whether or not they supported that
- 3 testimony, just for clarification.
- 4 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Thank you, ma'am.
- 5 MR. GOAD: Your Honor, Jerry Goad on
- 6 behalf of the Governor's Energy Office.
- 7 It is our position that in light of the
- 8 withdrawn testimony questions about that previously are
- 9 now irrelevant as is his withdrawn testimony.
- If there are going to be any questions
- 11 about that testimony, I will object as irrelevant and
- 12 probably privileged.
- A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Mr. Flanagan,
- 14 anything further?
- MR. FLANAGAN: Your Honor, I think the
- 16 only thing at this point is my request to mark as an
- 17 exhibit what was filed with this Commission as
- 18 corrected testimony on January 25th, before it was
- 19 recorrected. That's all I'm asking for at the this
- 20 point.
- 21 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Yes, sir. Do you
- 22 have anything in support of why you are asking for it
- 23 or why it might be relevant or probative or otherwise
- 24 of interest?
- MR. FLANAGAN: Certainly, certainly. As

- 1 That then leaves me with Mr. Dougherty's
- 2 request with respect to striking testimony which used
- 3 as its basis for examination the testimony now
- 4 withdrawn by Mr. Wolfson. That motion is granted.
- 5 But I am unable at this precise
- 6 historical moment to give you citations to the
- 7 testimony that is withdrawn.
- So, Mr. Dougherty.
- 9 MR. DOUGHERTY: We will accept
- 10 responsibility for that, Your Honor, and present that
- 11 tomorrow morning as a preliminary matter.
- 12 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Yes, sir, you
- 13 will. Thank you so much. Thanks for the offer because
- 14 that's exactly where I was going. We'll need to have
- 15 something on the record with that for tomorrow.
- 16 Thank you.
- Now, where are we?
- Mr. -- and had I admitted Mr. Wolfson's
- 19 corrected testimony -- yes. So with that,
- 20 cross-examination.
- 21 I believe Trinichera Ranch has indicated
- 22 that it has some questions.
- MR. FLANAGAN: Your Honor, could I
- 24 approach?
- A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: You may.

EXHIBIT G

1 AFTERNOON SESSION

- A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: We will be back
- 3 on the record after the noon break. Before we go to
- 4 the last witness of today, and of the hearing, there
- 5 was a pending matter with respect to striking some
- 6 portions of testimony due to the withdrawal of some of
- 7 Mr. Wolfson's testimony.
- MR. DOUGHERTY: Yes, Your Honor. You had
- 9 asked us over the lunch break to confer with counsel.
- 10 The parties that were affected -- let me back up.
- 11 Tri-State went through the entire transcripts, up until
- 12 the decision on GEO's testimony, reviewed everything,
- 13 and identified what we believed to be the relevant
- 14 sections. We then made that information available to
- 15 all counsel by page and line citation in each volume
- 16 and asked for input.
- 17 The affected parties, in terms of their
- 18 witnesses being implicated by those sections that we
- 19 identified, were WRA, in that Ms. Mandell asked certain
- 20 questions on the record related to this issue, not of
- 21 her own witness, but she was the questioner; Tri-State,
- 22 in terms of questions to Mr. Bladow; Tri-State, in
- 23 terms of questions to Ms. Korbe; and then Colorado Open
- 24 Lands witness Mr. Pike was asked certain questions.
- We were unable to, and have not heard

- 1 from counsel for Colorado Open Lands, so we do not know
- 2 their position. WRA has reviewed the proposed
- 3 deletions and agrees with that recommendation. We have
- 4 conferred with counsel for Trinchera, because they were
- 5 the questioning party with regard to the Bladow
- 6 portions of the testimony. We have been unable to
- 7 reach agreement with regard to certain aspects of that
- 8 testimony which Tri-State has recommended be deleted.
- 9 At this time, Your Honor, we can either
- 10 take this up and you can hear from the parties, and I'm
- 11 prepared to give you the list of the pages and lines,
- 12 as well as the relevant copies of the testimony for
- 13 your review, or we can handle this some other way, if
- 14 you would like.
- 15 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: Well, given that
- 16 Colorado Open Lands, one of the affected parties, is
- 17 not present, but --
- MR. DOUGHERTY: Were advised.
- 19 A.L.J. JENNINGS-FADER: -- were advised.
- 20 But nonetheless, we have no information with respect to
- 21 that. At the risk of, you know, putting more burden on
- 22 the applicant, I request that you all file a motion
- 23 specifying -- stating, obviously, the basis, and
- 24 specifying, as you apparently already have, identifying
- 25 the witness, page and line numbers that you believe

EXHIBIT H

From: Jennings-Fader, Mana [mailto:Mana.Jennings-Fader@dora.state.co.us]

Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 6:15 PM

To: Anthony E. Velarde; Brett A. Johnson; Bruce G. Smith; Christopher Irby; Christopher S. Jensen; David W. McGann; E. Martin Enriquez; Elizabeth Tormoen Hickey; Gregory E. Sopkin; Holly E. Sterrett; Isaac H. Kaiser; Jacek A. Wypych; James E. Guy; James J. Killean; Jerry W. Goad; Kenneth J. Burgess; Kenneth V. Reif; Mariya Barmak; Mark A. Davidson; Matthew J. Douglas; Michael J. Santisi; Michelle Brandt King; Paula M. Connelly; Richard P. Noland; Ron D. Velarde; Ronald Lehr; Russell W. Kemp; Sarah W. Benedict; Seth T. Lucia; Stephen W. Southwick; Goodlette, Tami; Dougherty, Thomas J.; Thomas T. Farley; Thorvald A. Nelson; Timothy J. Flanagan; Timothy R. Macdonald; Victoria Mandell; William Dudley; William M. Silberstein

Cc: Reasoner, John

Subject: Testimony pertaining to Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony - Dkts. No. 09A-324E and No. 09A-325E

Importance: High

Counsel and Parties:

When Mr. Morey Wolfson appeared as a witness on behalf of the Governor's Energy Office, he withdrew the portion of his prefiled testimony (Hearing Exhibit No. 29) found at 2:12 to 3:17. This prompted the Applicants to request the striking from the record of testimony (whether written or oral) of other witnesses that pertained to Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony. I agreed that such testimony ought to be stricken and requested Applicants to prepare a list of the testimony (by witness, date, page, and line) that they suggested be stricken. At the hearing on 11 February 2010, Applicants reported that they had prepared a list of testimony; had contacted the affected parties in an attempt to reach agreement on the testimony that ought to be stricken from the record; and were unable to reach agreement with all affected parties on this issue. Consequently, the matter remained unresolved at the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing on 11 February 2010.

No later than close of business on 16 February 2010, Applicants shall file a motion to strike testimony and shall identify those portions of the written and oral testimony that they seek to strike based on Mr. Wolfson's withdrawn testimony. On or before NOON on 18 February 2010, the other parties each shall file its response to the motion. If a party does not respond to the motion by noon on 18 February 2010, the party will be deemed to have conceded the motion and the requested striking of testimony as specified in the motion.

Applicants are directed to provide me with an electronic copy of the motion when it is served on the other parties. Parties which file a response to the motion are directed to provide me with an electronic copy of the response no later than noon on 18 February 2010. In view of the fact that statements of position are to be filed on or before 25 February 2010, I will rule on the motion to strike testimony by close of business on 18 February 2010 and will inform Parties of my ruling by electronic mail.

A written Order will follow.

Mana L. Jennings-Fader Administrative Law Judge

Public Utilities Commission Administrative Hearings Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies 1560 Broadway, Suite 250 Denver, Colorado 80202 Telephone: 303.894.2842

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Sent: Wed Feb 10 22:09:57 2010
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Subject: Tri-State and Public Service proposed testimony to be stricken from the record

stricken from the record per today's ruling by A.L.J. Jennings-Fader:

On behalf of Tri-State and Public Service, please find below the testimony in the record that relates to the withdrawn testimony of Mr. Wolfson and that Tri-State and Public Service believe should be

- Vol. 1, 16:25-18:15;
- Vol. 1, 170:23-172:13;
- Vol. 1, 173:4-21;
- Vol 1, 175:8-20;
- Vol 1, 175:25-177:6;
- Vol. 1, 335:17-336:20;
- Vol. 4, 168:24-170:20; and
- Vol. 5, 175:23-177:2.

If you do not have a copy of the transcripts Vol. 1, 4, or 5, I will have copies of the above-referenced testimony for your review in the morning.

Kind regards,

E. Martin Enriquez

E. Martín Enriquez, Attorney-at-Law

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