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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

3

Transmission Planning Within Docket No. AD18-12-000

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The California Independent System

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Operator Corporation

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California Public Utilities Docket No. EL17-45-000

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Commission, Northern California

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Power Agency, City and County of

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San Francisco, State Water

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Contractors, Transmission Agency

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Of Northern California

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v.

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Pacific Gas and Electric Company

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Southern California Edison Docket No. ER18-370-000

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Company

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TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

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888 First Street, N.E., Room 1

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Washington, DC 20426

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Tuesday, May 1, 2018

25

9:00 a.m.

- 1 SPEAKER LIST
- 2 Laura Switzer-Moderator
- 3 Linda Kizuka
- 4 Neil Millar
- 5 Jordan Pinjuv
- 6 Jeffrey Nelson
- 7 Noman Williams
- 8 Jonathan Newlander
- 9 Will Speer
- 10 David Gabbard
- 11 Chris Thomas
- 12 Katherine Mapes
- 13 Traci Bone
- 14 Dave Dockham
- 15 Brian Griess
- 16 Dana Cabbell
- 17 Valerie Teeter
- 18 Maria Farinella
- 19 Geneva Looker
- 20 Angela Amos
- 21 Danielle Gordon
- 22 Jocelyn Wong
- 23 Mark Patrizio
- 24 Michael Haddad
- 25 Gary Chen

1 SPEAKER LIST (Continued)

2 MONICA TABA

3 FRANKLIN JACKSON

4 GREGORY PRICE

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

2 MS. KIZUKA: Good morning and welcome and thank
3 you all for coming today. I'm Linda Kizuka from the
4 Commission's Office of General Counsel and before I begin
5 our session I just wanted to briefly mention the
6 Commission's ex parte rules so that we're keeping them in
7 mind as the day progresses.

8 The Commission's ex parte rules apply to on the
9 record contested proceedings and that means we can't discuss
10 matters that are currently pending before the Commission.
11 Should it appear to staff that the discussion begins to get
12 into the merits of a contested issue or a pending matter we
13 will redirect the conversation.

14 If, during the course of the Conference you're
15 concerned about a response you are providing or a question
16 you're asking may run afoul of the ex parte restrictions,
17 please let us know.

18 If we're unable to provide an answer immediately
19 to confirm whether a response would be covered by the ex
20 parte rules, we will table the discussion and respond to it
21 once we've had an opportunity to more fully consider the
22 issue.

23 Thank you for being mindful of the ex parte
24 restrictions as we move forward today. I'd also like to
25 note that as reflected in the list of questions provided in

1 the April 10th supplemental notice, the focus of the
2 discussion today is the processes, the PTOs in CAISO used to
3 determine whether an activity or project should be submitted
4 to the CAISO transmission planning process.

5 Out of an abundance of caution we recently
6 noticed a number of additional dockets involving issues
7 related to activities and projects that were undertaken and
8 costs have already been incurred. However, we do not intend
9 for this Technical Conference to be a vehicle to further
10 litigate the issues in these ongoing cases, rather we intend
11 to focus on the questions Staff raised in the Supplemental
12 Notice for this Conference.

13 I'd also like to state that the view expressed by
14 individual Commission Staff members during this Conference
15 are those of the speaker and do not necessarily reflect the
16 views of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, its
17 Chairman, any individual Commissioner or other members of
18 its staff, thank you, Laura, I'll turn it over to you.

19 MS. SWITZER: Okay, good morning. Welcome to
20 FERC and thank you for your attendance and participation
21 today. I'm Laura Switzer, in the Office of Energy Market
22 Regulation. Our plan for today is to work through the
23 questions asked in the Supplemental Notice from April 10th
24 with a focus to develop a better understanding of the
25 processes used for evaluation of transmission activities and

1 projects undertaken by the CAISO PTOs.

2 We will discuss the categories and types of
3 transmission-related projects and activities -- which of
4 these are submitted to CAISO as part of the transmission
5 planning process and which are considered by the PTOs.
6 We're interested in understanding how each PTO decides
7 whether or not to submit such project and activities to
8 CAISO.

9 Finally, we would like to explore whether CAISO's
10 tariff and BPM's regarding submissions are clear, whether
11 greater transparency is needed and if so, how that can be
12 accomplished.

13 To echo Linda, we are interested in gaining a
14 greater understanding of these concerns from a factual and
15 practical perspective by understanding the universal
16 projects and activities and the current process for
17 reviewing them.

18 However, it is not our intention today to delve
19 into legal arguments regarding whether the existing
20 practices comply with the Commission's requirements, the
21 local transmission planning, pursuant to Order 890 or any
22 other Commission rules or regulations.

23 Existing records in Dockets EL17-45 and ER18-370
24 already includes such arguments and they may be included in
25 any post-Technical Conference comments. Therefore, we

1 encourage participants to keep the fact-finding focus of
2 this Technical Conference in mind throughout our discussions
3 today.

4 We are going to allow five minutes for each of
5 the organizations at the table to introduce themselves and
6 make any opening remarks. From there we'd really like to
7 start on the questions in the Supplemental Notice. There's
8 quite a few questions and not a lot of time today so I'm
9 going to try to keep things moving as best I can.

10 At noon we'll break for lunch and we'll reconvene
11 at 1:15. We'll continue as necessary and plan to end the
12 Conference by 4 today. During the discussion if anyone at
13 the table would like to speak, please tap your name tent up
14 and I will take note and call on you.

15 I also wanted to note that the microphones at the
16 tables are always on in this room and I'm told they'll even
17 pick up whispering so just be cognizant of side bar
18 conversations. There is a phone line so they might be able
19 to hear any conversations.

20 Also, for those listening on the phone I just ask
21 that you put your phone on mute so we don't pick up any
22 disturbances. If time allows we plan to take questions or
23 comments from the audience twice throughout the day -- once
24 this morning and once in the afternoon.

25 Let's see -- okay, again, I want to just thank

1 you for your participation today and we look forward to
2 having an interesting and informative discussion. And with
3 that we're going to start with CAISO and give them their
4 five minutes for the opening remarks and then we'll move
5 along the table.

6 But at this time I'm just going to try to keep
7 everyone to their five minutes so you'll see me probably
8 like around three minutes put up my hand and 5 minutes give
9 you a wave.

10 I understand some parties have requested to pool
11 their time and I'll do the same for them but at the ten
12 minute mark and then again at the 15 minute mark, okay, any
13 staff any -- alright, okay.

14 MR. PINJUV: I'll go ahead and introduce myself
15 first. My name is Jordan Pinjuv, I'm Senior Counsel for the
16 Company ISO, I'm working mostly in the transition client
17 department.

18 MR. MILLAR: Hello there, I'm Neil Millar,
19 Executive Director of Infrastructure Development at the CAL
20 ISO, that's the responsibility for the transmission planning
21 process of the ISO.

22 One of the -- there are probably two key issues
23 that we're hoping to clarify today as we go through the
24 questions. The first is that in much of the material we've
25 seen there seems to be some confusion that the ISO's

1 transmission planning process only applies to regional
2 planning and we do want to clarify through the day that our
3 planning process includes all transmission facilities under
4 our operational control, regional and local.

5 Our transmission planning process is focused on
6 expansion and reinforcement planning. Similarly, while the
7 utilities and the transmission owners are responsible for
8 their maintenance activities, those maintenance activities
9 they also hold the responsibility both for higher voltage
10 facilities that are regional in our footprint as well as the
11 maintenance activities on the local facilities.

12 So there really isn't a local planning versus
13 regional planning demarcation the way we see it in some of
14 the questions. The other issue that we are really wanting
15 to clarify is that our planning process looks at identifying
16 need for reinforcement and then picking the best solution.

17 It's been many years since we've had a process
18 where projects were simply proposed and coupled together out
19 of assessing various projects that had been submitted -- so
20 that's another very important distinction that we seek to
21 clarify as we go through today's questions.

22 So we'll look forward to helping as we go through
23 thank you.

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Noman Williams, I'm the Chief
25 Operating Officer for Gridliance West Transco. We're a

1 newly formed Transco and new PTO in CAISO. We've actually
2 joined CAISO as a PTO in September 15th of 2017.

3 We support an open, coordinated and transparent
4 process with transmission related maintenance and compliance
5 activities so we're here to provide some suggestions but
6 also to learn from other folks in the CAISO and encourage
7 FERC to consider the suggestions to a lot of PTOs to develop
8 their own local planning processes that provide for open and
9 transparent processes that meet the needs of the
10 stakeholders in the CAISO.

11 MR. NELSON: Good morning I'm Jeffrey Nelson,
12 Southern California Edison. I'm the Director of FERC Rates
13 and Market Integration Group. We also have with us Dana
14 Cabbell who oversees much of the execution in our
15 transmission department of the issues at hand here and
16 counsel, Gary Chen, and Monica Donis, our representative
17 here.

18 I'd like to thank you for having us here today.
19 I'll say that in December of last year we made a filing to
20 cover in our transmission tariff, some of the maintenance
21 and compliance issues we do. We fondly refer to that as the
22 TMCR -- transmission maintenance compliance review, so if I
23 throw that acronym out, that's what I'm talking about.

24 One thing I want to emphasize here is a clear
25 difference in our mind and in the tariffs and in our

1 controlling agreements between transmission planning -- the
2 sort of technical analysis to expand and enhance the grid to
3 make it bigger and better -- that's all done in the CAL ISO.
4 The transmission planning is done in the ISO -- both local
5 and regional.

6 And contrast transmission planning with -- I'll
7 call it asset management -- we have about 9 million dollars
8 in plant, over close to 6 billion in rate base -- under the
9 ISO's control and to keep that machine humming along, takes
10 considerable effort, it takes considerable activities on our
11 behalf, but it's not expanding the grid -- this is keeping
12 the machine going and that's what we refer to as asset
13 management.

14 And while we clearly see the importance and the
15 tariff and the applicability of transmission planning, go
16 through the ISO's process, we took it on ourselves to try to
17 enhance the transparency of asset management through our
18 tariff filing, so I'd hope as we go through this day that we
19 can keep those two distinct -- planning very formalized,
20 very tariffed, very technical, very model based.

21 Asset management -- much more the nuts and bolts
22 of keeping the grid going, sometimes far less discretion --
23 sometimes it's immediate response to in effect, car hits
24 pole, things have to be done -- typical monitoring of the
25 equipment status, maintaining it to keep it going -- so the

1 focus of our filing was that latter -- keeping the machine
2 going.

3 With that said, we also would like to look
4 forward to answering any questions or roles on how those two
5 differ, how we see them and I know it's not 890 today but we
6 do see there's different governing authorities for the
7 transmission planning and the asset management and with that
8 thank you.

9 MR. NEWLANDER: Jonathan Newlander, Senior
10 Counsel, SDG&E.

11 MR. SPEER: Good morning, Will Speer, I'm the
12 Director of Electric Engineering for San Diego Gas &
13 Electric. Formerly I was in planning so I worked quite a
14 bit with, you know, Milar.

15 The only other comments I'd like to add maybe
16 because we share a similar view as both Neil and Jeff
17 articulated. SDG&E has turned over all of its 69 KV to
18 operational control of California ISO so all of our planning
19 functions on our 69 and above are done by the California
20 ISO. PG&E shares that and I think that is maybe a little
21 different.

22 Other than that, we do share the same view,
23 planning is done, model-based powerful planning is all done
24 by the ISO -- it's all expansion based. The maintenance
25 compliance activities that we run internally are really our

1 experts in maintenance.

2 We look at aging infrastructure and those types
3 of things, thermal projects we go forward with so we look
4 forward to a fun day, thanks.

5 MR. GABBARD: I'm Dave Gabbard, Senior Director
6 of Transmission Asset Management for PG&E. With me I have
7 Joscelyn Wong, she's my manager responsible for both the
8 implementation of the projects within our transmission
9 portfolio as well as a lot of the regulatory activity around
10 rate filings within our TO and otherwise.

11 Just a little bit of overview of the portfolio
12 that I oversee -- I have the transmission asset management
13 function within PG&E which includes both the transmission
14 planning function and the asset management functions as laid
15 out by my counterparts.

16 I'm not going to take too much time because my
17 counterparts here have eloquently expressed the state of the
18 way that we are managing the transmission system. But I do
19 want to echo the fact that it's very important to understand
20 the transmission planning functions are discreet from asset
21 management activities. We believe that there is clearly
22 guidelines for what projects and needs are evaluated through
23 the CAISO transmission planning process, but we also
24 understand the need to make sure that we're investing, from
25 an asset management standpoint, in our infrastructure PG has

1 over 18,000 miles of transmission line.

2 We also manage north of 900 different substations
3 and there's a significant amount of aging infrastructure
4 across that system that we need to make sure that we're
5 making prudent investments, whether it's when those assets
6 fail in place, or when they're nearing the end of their
7 useful life.

8 And those investments take place outside of the
9 expansion or transmission planning activities that are
10 managed under the California ISO.

11 MR. THOMAS: Real quick, if you don't mind -- I
12 appreciate that. This is Chris Thomas with FERC staff. I
13 know that we kind of have this other table -- it probably
14 has one mic, we might be best served to having that mic
15 shared up and down. I know even by the tables we might have
16 spoken softly.

17 We do have a transcriber and those on the phone
18 so we could be actively minded to speak up if we get a
19 chance, thanks.

20 MS. MAPES: And I'm going to start for the
21 Complainants. My name is Katherine Mapes, I'm with the firm
22 of Spiegel & McDiarmid and I'm here on behalf of the
23 Northern California Power Agency and the Complainants as a
24 group.

25 So we're here because each of the major PTOs does

1 significant transmission planning work and we do believe its
2 planning work. We believe it involved discretion. We
3 believe it involves more than merely asset management. It
4 does not currently go through any public planning process.

5 These self-approved prove projects are on the
6 order of many millions of dollars. For PG&E it totaled 750
7 million dollars in each of 2015 and 2016. For SCE it was
8 188 million in 2016. For STG&E the number was some 80
9 million in 2017.

10 These projects are incorporated into rates in the
11 same way that projects that do go through the California ISO
12 transmission planning process are incorporated in the rates.
13 They're capitalized, they're not big fences operations and
14 maintenance. Rate payers pay for them and they pay for a
15 return on those projects.

16 This means that rate payers are paying
17 significant amounts of money for projects that have gone
18 through no public process whatsoever and this is a
19 significant driver in the rate increases. The CAISO's tack
20 has more than tripled since 2008 and PJ&E alone have seen
21 increases of nearly 9.75% almost annually.

22 And the fact is that for PG&E they're not
23 expanding their transmission system -- what they're doing is
24 these types of projects that we're talking about today and
25 that's a significant driver in the increases that we've

1 seen.

2 We don't know what all of the self-approved work
3 of these PTOs are performing is, but we know that they
4 include projects both based on sub-station and transmission
5 line maintenance and those meant to improve outdated or
6 failing infrastructure and to extend the lives of failing
7 infrastructure.

8 This means they're classic capital work, they're
9 not maintenance which is meant to keep projects running to
10 the end of their natural life span. They're meant to
11 actually increase the life span of transmission projects.

12 And we know that there's a lot of gray area. For
13 instance a line remediation project that increases the
14 capacity of that line might not go through the CAISO TPP,
15 but it might increase the capacity of the line nevertheless.

16 And these are projects where significant
17 discretion is possible. For example, a piece meal
18 replacement of existing facilities versus a large single
19 project that might go through a competitive solicitation
20 process -- currently that piece meal replacement might go
21 through no public planning process even though stakeholders
22 might process the more comprehensive solution.

23 Or a utility might choose a more robust solution
24 that's also significantly more expensive such as a breaker
25 on a half configuration for substations when there's no call

1 to do that -- no configuration is appropriate in every
2 circumstance.

3 Or a customer might learn that upgrades are being
4 performed for PTO retail customers but not for wholesale
5 customers violating Order Number 890's comparability
6 principle.

7 Without a public process we simply can't know.
8 When asked by the CPUC, each of the IOU's have pointed to
9 their rate cases as a chance for rate payers to ask for
10 details about the projects they perform.

11 This is indicative of the very lack of
12 transparency that we're talking about today. At that point
13 projects are decided upon and possibly even completed --
14 there is no possibility for information exchange and
15 certainly no possibility for input into the planning stages
16 of projects.

17 We don't see the criteria and models and
18 assumptions underlying those projects. In short, California
19 is lacking in the process that the Commission has held
20 required nationwide. And this is not just a public process
21 -- indications are that the PTO's are not doing
22 comprehensive planning on an internal basis either and I'm
23 going to turn it over to Traci to talk about that.

24 MS. BONE: Good morning, I'm Traci Bone from the
25 California Public Utilities Commission and with me is Geneva

1 Looker from Whitfield Russell Associates. Thank you, so the
2 CPUC represents PG&E, Edison and STG&E retail rate payers.

3 Retail rate payers pay approximately 90% of the
4 transmission access charge. And the CPUC is very concerned
5 about growing tack rates and balancing these costs with
6 California's renewable energy goals. I'm here to talk about
7 what we have learned from the -- or about the Order 890
8 process in California so far.

9 As you know we filed a complaint against Pacific
10 Gas and Electric Company last year. We have had over a
11 dozen voluntary settlement meetings with PG&E following our
12 February, 2017 complaint.

13 Our goals in those meetings were to develop an
14 Order 890 compliant tariff and to understand PG&E's planning
15 processes. My focus today will be on PG&E as an example
16 because we know more about PG&E's practices because of the
17 2018 rate case discovery.

18 And while spending on self-approved projects is
19 significant for all of the PTOs and the hundreds of millions
20 of dollars that you heard from Katie, PJ&E's spending on
21 self-approved projects is of a much greater order of
22 magnitude.

23 PG&E has spent more than 4.6 billion dollars on
24 self-approved projects since 2010. We have only a few years
25 of data showing the scope of the Edison and STG&E's

1 self-approval practices, thus the CPUC recently issued a
2 data request to all three utilities to better understand and
3 quantify the magnitude of this self-approval process from
4 2007 to the present and we've also asked them to forecast
5 out five years.

6 This will allow us to do more apples to apples
7 comparison of what the three PGOs are doing. We do seek
8 uniformity in the local planning processes for all three
9 PTOs or what they're calling maintenance processes and we
10 would like to see something very similar to the CAISO TPP
11 that already exists.

12 However, there are differences among the PTO's as
13 we've described. There's a significant difference in how
14 much they're spending and so we are very open to the idea of
15 focusing on PG&E first and having individual tariffs or
16 putting it all through the CAISO tariff -- we're still
17 thinking through this issue.

18 We have some immediate challenges that we need to
19 address if we are going to move forward with an Order 890
20 compliance process in California. And the first one is how
21 do we address in-flight projects?

22 The second is how we transition from ad hoc
23 planning processes that we see today to replicable processes
24 when critical asset data is missing -- so that's going to
25 slow us down. We also need to be able to resolve

1 disagreements about the need for specific projects or
2 classes of projects.

3 And, given the magnitude of the customer dollars
4 at stake, we want to see all of this happen as soon as
5 possible, especially in the PG&E area. So in-flight
6 projects -- we will need a going forward process -- planning
7 process that accounts for what we've referred to as
8 in-flight projects.

9 Those are projects that have already been planned
10 and have commenced development. These challenges include
11 drawing the line on which projects are going to be in or out
12 of the new process and we need immediate comprehensive data
13 regarding all of these projects in order to determine where
14 to draw that line -- and we're going to need interim
15 processes to determine which in-flight processes should be
16 delayed and which should be revisited.

17 For example, this in-flight issue is really big.
18 We know from PG&E's TO 19 rate case filing that was filed
19 last year, Table 15-2, that PG&E has forecasted that it will
20 spend 692 million dollars on capital additions this year,
21 510 on capital additions for next year and 256 million for
22 2020 capital additions -- and that's just the forecast of
23 what it's going to spend in 20 -- in this year.

24 We also know that PG&E spends over 60% of its
25 money on self-approved projects each year, thus we can

1 reasonably expect that just for this year PG&E will spend
2 approximately 876 million dollars on self-approved capital
3 additions -- so this is a huge issue.

4 We expect that over the next three years for what
5 they're planning that will be over a billion dollars in
6 self-approved projects. So we believe that these projects
7 should receive some level of immediate scrutiny as soon as
8 possible and PJ&E's rate cases are not the right place to be
9 doing that.

10 So the implementation challenge -- how do we
11 comply with Order 890 if the PTOs lack the processes or data
12 resources necessary for compliance which we believe that
13 they do? The PTOs should describe today the internal
14 processes that they have in place, however, it is critical
15 for us to ground truth those claims.

16 The TO 18 evidence shows that PJ&E could not
17 comply with Order 890 today because PG&E does not have
18 documented and replicable transmission planning processes in
19 place for its own use, much less for review by others.

20 We suspect that SDG&E and Edison similarly do not
21 have the data or planning processes in place today to meet
22 Order 890 requirements. Thus, am I getting into ex parte --
23 are you concerned with this?

24 MS. KIZUKA: We notice the docket.

25 MS. BONE: Okay.

1 MS. KIZUKA: So again, we'd like our focus to be
2 more on the technicals.

3 MS. BONE: Right, right, and these are facts that
4 I think are important that we all believe are very important
5 as we listen to what the PTOs have today because what we
6 find is what they tell us is different than what the
7 documentary evidence shows and that's why it's important.
8 We can't just rely on assertions.

9 So healthy skepticism about what is really being
10 done today as appropriate. In the CPUC's gas transmission
11 experience we found that while PG&E had procedures in place
12 it often did not follow them. And we also found that while
13 PG&E executives claimed that the procedures were being
14 followed, the evidence showed otherwise -- so it's important
15 to keep these things in mind.

16 Also, PG&E has started to develop 2017 strategy
17 documents and this is what the evidence shows in TO 18
18 however, nearly every strategy document that you looked it,
19 it's a PowerPoint presentation it's not very robust and so
20 our concern is that there aren't really even real
21 transmission planning processes in place today for these
22 maintenance projects.

23 I'm going to skip ahead so that Dave has more
24 time. Let's see, okay, I'm going to turn it over to Dave.

25 MR. DOCKHAM: Well good morning, thank you for

1 having us here today. My name is Dave Dockham, I'm with the
2 Northern California Power Agency, I'm Assistant General
3 Manager for Power Management there.

4 I've handed out a PowerPoint presentation if you
5 want to follow along and just get into it. What you've
6 heard from all of the speakers so far today is that there
7 are two processes, they're governed by a series of documents
8 that relate to system expansion versus other transmission
9 related work.

10 As you can see on the left-hand path we have the
11 tariff, we have business practice manual for the planning
12 process -- that yields a set of unified planning assumptions
13 that dictate the studies that are going to take place each
14 year as part of the CAL ISO's plan. It ultimately results
15 in the production of a formal transmission plan.

16 All of the other transmission related work
17 follows a separate path and that's the path on the right and
18 that's governed by the transmission control agreement or
19 specifically Appendix C of the CAL ISO's maintenance
20 standards and a set of maintenance procedures.

21 The next slide -- I think what you've also heard
22 today is that there's a huge separation between those two
23 processes. CAL ISO handles everything on that left-hand
24 path and the investor and utilities are largely responsible
25 for everything down that right-hand path and never the two

1 shall meet.

2 Coming out of this year's process, and I think
3 we're generally pretty satisfied with the CAL ISO
4 transmission planning process. You know you can critique
5 any one project outcome and we've done so this year, but in
6 general that process has improved year over year. They do
7 an incredible amount of study, lots of involvement and the
8 projects coming out of the back end of that are pretty well
9 understood.

10 As you can see this year -- that process
11 resulted in the elimination of 18 projects and a revision of
12 a number more and resulted in a total expenditure of 271
13 million saving close to 2.6 billion into the future.

14 In contrast, we don't have an equivalent public
15 process on the maintenance side path. What we see generally
16 comes out in the TO tariff filings. In many instances when
17 it's too late to do anything about the projects that we
18 ultimately see there.

19 And just for comparison when you look at this
20 year's most recent documents -- you compare the CAL ISO
21 transmission plan that was released in March -- PG&E's TO
22 tariff filing that was published -- it was filed last year
23 in June, CAL ISO total projects 271 million, PJE&E's
24 self-approved project 857 million, when you back out the
25 projects that go through the CAL ISO and the work requested

1 by others, so nearly a three times greater set of costs for
2 the self-approved projects that are running throughout
3 without any public participation to those projects that are
4 going through the CAL ISO transmission planning process.

5 So we think the solution is pretty
6 straight-forward. We really need to reform the transmission
7 planning process -- that path on the right side of the
8 document that I handed out. And I use the term transmission
9 maintenance process and I'm hopeful that as part of the
10 discussions today, we can focus in on three terms because
11 they can be contradictory and confusing at the same time.

12 So we have the CAL ISO maintenance standards, big
13 S and little s and it's used interchangeably throughout the
14 document and it's important because it distinguishes
15 different responsibilities.

16 We have maintenance practices which are
17 confidential and we have maintenance procedures which are
18 merely guidelines. As part of the discussion today we're
19 really hoping we can find out why do you need to be
20 confidential and why they're only guidelines.

21 And I'm on slide 8 but when you look at the
22 maintenance practices themselves, they seem to be pretty
23 robust. As Traci mentioned when you drill down into those
24 maintenance practices, what you find isn't nearly as robust
25 or coherent or complete as the standards would lead you to

1 believe.

2 And so I'll just take one example 5.2.1
3 transmission line circuit maintenance where it says, "As may
4 be appropriate for the transmission line circuits on the CAL
5 ISO's operational control." Replace that with, "As may be
6 appropriate for the specific transmission line circuits
7 under the CAL ISO's control, each PTO's confidential
8 maintenance practices, shall describe the maintenance
9 activities for the various attributes listed below.

10 Similarly when we get into the maintenance
11 practices, we suggest that we take a look at Section 2.1 of
12 the -- they expect to set out a scope, there's a number of
13 objectives listed there and amongst the objectives are
14 achieving high-quality and reliable grid.

15 The last objective is the achievement of the
16 aforementioned the subjective is defined that a minimum
17 reasonable total cost for maintenance with the intent of
18 minimizing customer impacts -- that simply asks how you
19 validate that? How do you confirm that that's actually
20 happening with confidential or guidelines as the basis for
21 the projects that are being done?

22 So as you've heard we believe modifying the other
23 transmission work so that the process follows more closely
24 with the CAL ISO's transmission planning process is the
25 solution. We're looking forward to the discussion today. I

1 think you've asked some great questions and we're looking
2 forward to participating in the discussions associated,
3 thanks.

4 MR. GRIESS: Good morning I'm Brian Griess with
5 the Transmission Agency of Northern California. I'm TANC's
6 General Manager. I'll keep mine pretty short. We did a
7 handout that's got some of the background on TANC and what
8 TANC's objectives are, but I'd like to echo some of the
9 concerns that have already been raised.

10 We just are very concerned with the lack of
11 transparency on the transmission planning process for the
12 local transmission projects. I know that there's a question
13 of whether it's maintenance or whether it's planning -- the
14 fact of the matter its capital additional that are affecting
15 the overall California ISO's tack and they've become very
16 costly over the past several years.

17 There's no opportunity for the stakeholders to
18 look at these capital additions that are compared being
19 self-approved. When it comes to the TO tariffs it's too
20 late, they are already in project, in service or they're
21 being constructed.

22 So we echo the request to come up with some type
23 of management -- some type of transparency where we can have
24 a unified approach to looking at all of these self-approved
25 projects that eventually roll into the ISO's tack, because

1 without that today there's no checks and balances, keep it
2 short.

3 MS. SWITZER: Thank you, alright with that we're
4 just going to dive right into the questions. A number of
5 them have questions today -- the first one please define and
6 describe what constitutes transmission related maintenance
7 and compliance activities facilities.

8 Please provide specific examples and an
9 explanation regarding how it is determined that such
10 examples fall into the categories of transmission related
11 maintenance and compliance and how each CAISO PTO identifies
12 these needs for these maintenance and compliance activities
13 and decide which activities to undertake. And this one I
14 think we'll begin -- we'll begin with Jeff Nelson but on the
15 PTOs, but again feel free to tip up your tent card if you'd
16 like to speak.

17 MR. NELSON: So Dana's the expert on this but
18 I'll just sort of frame certain policy big picture. To the
19 extent that we anticipate funding -- to the extent that we
20 anticipate an activity is actually going to expand the
21 capability of the ISO's grid.

22 Those activities make their way into the
23 transmission planning process. To the extent that we're
24 looking at activities as I framed before, maintaining,
25 keeping the grid going, there may be capital spending --

1 sometimes there's capital replacement that has to happen to
2 keep the machine running, but it's not changing the topology
3 of the grid, it's not changing the capability of the grid,
4 it's keeping the machine as it is, going.

5 Those will fall into the TMCR type processes and I'll turn
6 it over to Dana from there but there's a whole host of
7 standards and processes we follow internally to make those
8 decisions.

9 MS. CABELL: Thank you Jeff. And just to level
10 set also, the Southern California Edison that is under the
11 ISO control is our 220 and 500. It goes down to basically
12 the high side of the 220 66 substations but does include the
13 220 circuit breakers and we do have maybe about 5% that is
14 115 KV, that is under ISO control, but it is quite different
15 than what is under control of the ISO for San Diego and PG&E
16 so it is a smaller group of assets that are under ISO
17 control.

18 So as we laid out in the TMCR we were
19 categorizing these type of asset management projects that we
20 were putting forward as within our stakeholder process as we
21 outlined in the TMCR filing.

22 And so we were looking at compliance projects,
23 infrastructure replacements, some projects that offer
24 operation support and also some work that is contractually
25 required. When we talk about compliance -- and I should

1 again say whenever we're doing any type of these asset
2 management projects, we're not looking to expand the grid at
3 all.

4 We're just replacing the equipment like for like.
5 On these compliance projects that I spoke about, what the
6 big expense right now that we're -- we're going forward with
7 is efficient line rating deviation -- essentially bringing
8 up the ground plants, improving the ground plants of our
9 transmission line.

10 And this is to be able to meet the CPUC policy.
11 And when we're doing that we're not actually increasing the
12 capacity of that particular transmission line, we are just
13 making it to the actual rating that's within the ISO
14 registry. We're not increasing the capacity.

15 Now, as Jeff mentioned, there was one project
16 that we were remediating the ground clearance that we saw if
17 we spend extra capital, it actually met a need that the ISO
18 identified in the transmission planning project.

19 So what we did was we evaluated spending some
20 extra capital on this asset management project and with that
21 incremental increase of capital, we were able to meet an ISO
22 need. So what we did -- we took that incremental piece of
23 work through the ISO process because that did expand the
24 grid.

25 So we do, we do really distinguish between pure

1 asset management and the transmission planning which expands
2 and enhances the grid. The infrastructure replacement
3 projects that we look at typically are circuit breakers,
4 transformers -- and the way we identify the need for that we
5 take them through a health maintenance tool.

6 We look at the age, we look at the criticality of
7 the piece of equipment. We -- it's done by visual
8 inspection. It's also done by some engineering predictive
9 analysis so there is some techniques to understand.

10 Okay, how likely is this piece of equipment going
11 to fail just based on these other parameters that I
12 outlined? So it is a very robust process that we go through
13 to identify which circuit breakers are we going to need to
14 replace and then we also go through a way to try to
15 prioritize that work.

16 So, you know, trying to replace this aging
17 infrastructure which is, you know, quite a bit on the
18 system, we can't do it all at once obviously. We spend
19 about 200 million a year on these types of work -- on this
20 type of work.

21 But we do have a very predictive engineering
22 analysis for circuit breakers and transformers, and then for
23 the transmission line remediation we actually did some
24 technical -- what they call LIDAR -- kind of measuring what
25 the ground clearance is.

1 And we had over 1,000 discrepancies in the line
2 rating so we're going through that and we have until 2025 to
3 remediate that.

4 MS. SWITZER: Question?

5 MS. CABELL: Sure.

6 MS. SWITZER: The example you gave where it was
7 going to expand the capacity of the line say you kicked it
8 over to CAISO to study, but that's a decision that Edison
9 would make though, correct? You decide if you want to do
10 that and then have CAISO study it? Can you just explain
11 that a little bit?

12 MS. CABELL: It was our -- there was a
13 reliability issue that the ISO identified in the
14 transmission planning process up in our Bid Creek system,
15 it's a 230 system that's up in the Bakersfield area that
16 helps deliver our hydro generation for my Bid Creek plants.
17 They identified a reliability issue when we have low hydro
18 and some contingencies in that area.

19 So that had been in their transmission plan as an
20 issue and we had identified that okay, we have this
21 maintenance project that if we add some work at some
22 additional towers, we can actually increase the ampacity of
23 the line and so we took that incremental into the ISO
24 process to meet that need that they identified.

25 MR. NELSON: So if I could say -- we suggested it

1 to the ISO. We didn't approve it, we didn't unilaterally do
2 it. We suggested it based on a no need and it was up to the
3 ISO to give a go/no-go to the transmission planning process.

4 MS. CABELL: Absolutely, yes.

5 MR. THOMAS: A couple of follow-ups to that if
6 you don't mind. As I heard it you talked about the
7 incremental nature or incremental piece of that. When you
8 offered that, did it have a change in the character of the
9 total project from the maintenance side?

10 MS. CABELL: No, it did -- it was the same work
11 that -- we actually did some additional work at the piler's
12 to bring the rating up or bring the line up further and
13 increase the ampacity of the line itself. So the core
14 maintenance work did not change.

15 We just added some additional work at some of the towers to
16 be able to meet this need that the ISO identified.

17 MR. THOMAS: And so in that regard then I wonder
18 if CAISO can possibly answer on this one -- with that is it
19 -- would it have been reasonable maybe to consider the
20 entirety of the maintenance project including the addition
21 as far as purposes of the transmission planning process?

22 MR. WILLIAMS: And so let me just back up one
23 detail and I just want to reinforce the need for something
24 in that area was identified through our routine process of
25 testing the needs on the system.

1 We put that out every year in the mid-August
2 timeframe. We solicit suggestions from everyone -- not just
3 the utilities on how we could potentially meet those needs.
4 Edison did identify the need to do their capital maintenance
5 with this maintenance activity that was the bulk of the
6 project and proposed the incremental adjustment -- the
7 incremental expense as the way to address our reliability
8 need in the area.

9 Now in doing that, other stakeholders had
10 suggested some other massive transmission line substation
11 Greenfield projects. We did clarify that the maintenance
12 responsibility -- Edison had a maintenance responsibility to
13 take care of their transmission line, that the low clearance
14 had to be addressed.

15 So we focused on the incremental cost and the
16 benefit we would get from that incremental cost and that's
17 what the ISO board approved. Incremental -- recognizing
18 that Edison had to address their safety and rating issue
19 separately.

20 MR. THOMAS: Thanks, Can I -- and I'll just ask
21 for the purpose of the community. We've moved the
22 microphone down by you guys a little bit, Neil if that's
23 alright. Thank you, I appreciate that.

24 MS. SWITZER: And one more -- you mentioned the
25 health maintenance tool. I was just wondering if that was

1 publicly available?

2 MS. CABELL: We've never had the reason to make
3 it public available. I think it's described in our PUC rate
4 case proceedings. I don't see why it couldn't be publicly
5 available, I'd have to go back in and understand all the
6 details of what's in there, but that's something that
7 clearly we'll take back and through our TMCR as we go into
8 our stakeholder process, that's the kind of information that
9 we'd be sharing with the stakeholders.

10 We've never had to do this, we've never thought
11 of doing that but now with the TMCR that's what we're
12 proposing and so clearly we'd be putting out this kind of
13 information.

14 MR. NELSON: We have answered questions about
15 that in our rate cases. You heard a theme about there's not
16 transparency. In our rate case we put a draft out four and
17 a half months plus before we filed. We go through a
18 significant, sort of data request process and we have gotten
19 questions about those types of activities through that
20 process currently.

21 The TMCR -- our rate case basically looks forward
22 a year. The TMCR will look forward five years so if we saw
23 something in a five year horizon we'd -- I'm struggling with
24 the correct word here -- describe what was happening and
25 explain what was going on with the TMCR process and then

1 they'd have real drill down in our rate case.

2 MS. TEETER: If I could ask a follow-up question
3 this is Valerie Teeter with FERC staff. So it's helpful
4 with the examples that you have provided of what's kind of
5 taken care of through what you're returning as an asset
6 management process.

7 I guess what I'm trying to understand is, you
8 know, you've given us some concrete examples that a lot of
9 the infrastructure replacement is, you know, individual
10 circuit breakers, transformers -- I'm trying to get a feel
11 though for how much of this process is focused on kind of
12 looking at these small components of the system versus aging
13 infrastructure in a larger sense.

14 You know, are you looking at entire replacements
15 of lines, reconductorings, are you looking at replacing
16 existing sub-stations in kind, and when you do those
17 replacements are you really replacing it at the exact same
18 specifications it was initially designed for or are you
19 considering as part of this aging infrastructure initiative
20 as part of your asset management, whether there are
21 improvements that you could make to these facilities that
22 would better meet your needs as they've evolved since they
23 were first built and is that being done through these asset
24 management processes -- does that make sense?

25 MS. CABELL: Yes, it's a lot but --

1 MS. TEETER: Sorry.

2 MS. CABELL: I was trying to, you know, listen
3 very closely. When we're -- let me see, hopefully I
4 answered your question so please follow-up if I missed
5 something. When we're looking at our aging infrastructure
6 on the grid, we actually are looking at components.

7 We're not looking at entire substations or
8 transmission lines, you know, for replacement. If a
9 transmission line needs to be conductored that would
10 typically mean that there was an identification of a need
11 for the transmission planning process at the ISO, because
12 when you re-conduct, you're expanding the grid, you're not
13 just replacing like for like.

14 Now on some of our remediation that we're doing
15 we are -- could be putting into a conductor that maybe
16 ultimately, just like the example we've been talking about,
17 maybe you can do some other work that you can improve upon
18 the capacity that you're adding, but we are just adding the
19 facilities like for like capacity.

20 We're not adding anymore because we don't --
21 there wasn't a need identified so we're not going to be
22 putting in extra capacity unless a need is identified in the
23 ISO planning process and we take that through that process.

24 MS. FARINELLA: I guess I, this is where I have
25 one follow-up, so it sounds like you're defining maintenance

1 as replacing like for like and expanding -- I'm still not
2 sure what the definition of that is yet, but I heard
3 Valerie's objection more as when you're looking in the
4 maintenance category of like for like, do you look beyond
5 that?

6 Do you consider something more than that? I
7 didn't hear that part.

8 MS. CABELL: No we don't. We look at just
9 replacing that circuit breaker -- replacing that
10 transformer. We're not looking to maybe add a larger
11 transformer because maybe in the future we think there might
12 be a need for that.

13 MS. FARINELLA: Is that typical for TO planning
14 that you don't look beyond the replacement of like for like?

15 MS. CABELL: This is not -- this is not
16 planning. That's a distinct -- that's where we're trying to
17 keep it -- this is for asset management, this is for
18 maintenance. We do have a transmission planning group that
19 works closely with the ISO in the transmission planning
20 process where they do all the technical studies, the power
21 flow stability studies of the grid to determine do we see
22 some future needs for actually expanding or adding capacity
23 to the grid to meet a reliability standard issue -- a NERC
24 reliability standard issue which is identified within the
25 ISO process.

1 These are just -- this is just maintenance that
2 is happening on the components of the grid.

3 MR. NELSON: If I could follow that -- in the
4 planning side of the organization they're constantly looking
5 at how things are changing, what we think is happening in
6 our system and we're frequently making proposals to the ISO
7 for a very open process and transition planning process.

8 Everyone's welcome to put ideas, raise concerns,
9 put things in front of the ISO -- we do that frequently, but
10 we don't have unilateral decision making. Those suggestions
11 could filter through the processes the ISO has and they
12 ultimately decide go/no go or what the requirements are and
13 who ultimately will be doing those.

14 Sometimes it's Order 1000, sometimes it's not --
15 it just depends on the specifics.

16 MS. SWITZER: Let's go to the Complainants and
17 then CPUC and then --

18 MR. THOMAS: I wonder if we do it real quick. I
19 know Dave you had your tent up first. I think some of these
20 questions -- I'd be remiss if we didn't hear from all three
21 PTOs to ensure either one -- continuity or there's a
22 difference so we can ensure the validation of these
23 questions.

24 And then we'll go and it looks like Miss Looker
25 had her tent card up, that way we can go right down that

1 line based upon all of your responses to question one --
2 would that be good? Whoever would like to go first.

3 MR. SPEER: We share a similar process with the
4 aging infrastructure replacement. One thing I would like to
5 add is when we look -- you talk like for like in one system
6 -- we're looking at those components and we're looking
7 across our whole system and that's how we determine and
8 which ones need replacement right, based on age, based on
9 condition.

10 So when we look at transformers we look at all of
11 our transformers. We look at breakers, we look at all of
12 our breakers and determining which has the highest risk for
13 failure and we'll replace those first.

14 So it is both that asset management piece. It's
15 not a planning function, it's more asset management. A
16 couple of other things on aging infrastructure that we do
17 and I would imagine they do too is on substation structures,
18 and we have to meet high seismic requirements in California
19 so we're going to look at some of our structural steel, our
20 disconnects and make sure that those meet the new seismic
21 requirements.

22 So when we look we could -- actually Janene,
23 could look at and we found a few -- we found a transformer
24 and a couple of breakers and we know the structures are not
25 -- they're not meeting current standards so we might -- that

1 could be an asset management type replacement.

2 So we wouldn't be upgrading the system but we
3 would be replacing all those things at one time because
4 you're not going in one doing a transformer, going in two
5 years later, doing a breaker then doing the steel -- so
6 that's where they might come together.

7 Other types of projects -- fire hardening, I
8 think everybody's familiar with the risk we face in
9 California with the threat of fires so a lot of the work we
10 do for San Diego Gas & Electric is the wood to steel pole
11 change-outs, increasing conductor space kind of our East
12 County, our high fire threat area.

13 That's a big part of our asset management risk
14 reduction. There's really fire hardening -- I lied. So
15 those don't necessarily go through the ISO, they're not to
16 change the topology of the grid -- they're really to
17 strengthen our lines for fire threat.

18 A couple of other things too -- there's
19 inspection and maintenance driven so we have wood pole
20 intrusive inspections so we go out and check the entire unit
21 pole. If it doesn't meet a certain criteria we're going to
22 change those poles out and that's just based on the
23 structural integrity of the pole.

24 And I think one other item is probably security
25 -- to both cyber and substation security projects. So we

1 look -- we have a copy, we have our own security internal
2 security department that looks at, you know, what's the
3 highest risk from a security perspective of those
4 substations -- removable poles, you know, new fencing,
5 revolves around transfers and things like that.

6 So those are some of the other projects that are
7 kind of outside the planning -- they're more asset
8 management, how do we take care of our assets, how do we
9 insure, you know, we don't have any failures, and I think
10 that's it for adding.

11 MR. GABBARD: Excellent. So I know this first
12 question is just about the different types of work. A lot
13 of the different types of work have already been called out
14 so I don't need to revisit that. But I do want to highlight
15 that we've been talking about this in this forum today as if
16 there's a certain type of work that goes to the California
17 ISO and a certain type of work that doesn't.

18 And what I'd like to change the thinking a little
19 bit on is that there are categories of types of work. There
20 are proactive asset replacements, there are reactive asset
21 replacement on emergency, there are capacity driven
22 projects, customer driven projects, et cetera.

23 Those categorizations are based on the need --
24 ultimately the determination on whether or not the
25 evaluation of a potential project goes through the CAISO

1 planning process or not, is based on a set criteria.

2 It's whether or not the modifications to the
3 transmission grid will add a new element, will change the
4 topography of the grid, will impact the power flow of the
5 transmission system. There's also consideration that the
6 transmission planning process or the CAISO planning process
7 isn't just transmission planning, it's also interconnection
8 planning so whether or not we're interconnecting or building
9 deliverability for a generator would dictate whether or not
10 it would be evaluated under the generation interconnection
11 and deliverability allocation procedures -- that's also a
12 CAISO planning process.

13 So when we talk about different categorizations
14 of project types, that just defines the way we think about
15 the work, you know, really the engineering mindset in
16 identifying the need, whether or not it goes under CAISO
17 review is based on whether or not it's expanding the
18 transmission system or impacting the overall power flow of
19 the transmission grid.

20 That comes into play when we think about some of
21 these questions that have come up and we've even heard some
22 great examples that we've experienced ourselves. We're
23 going out -- we have the need that NERC alert said we need
24 to go through and evaluate the as-built condition of all of
25 our transmission infrastructure and make sure that the

1 clearance to ground is in compliance with the general order
2 under CPUC regulations in order to be able to maintain the
3 certain current capacity.

4 In order to mitigate some of those discrepancies
5 we've also had to raise the towers. I wouldn't say as part
6 of either the proactive replacement of assets or the
7 mitigation of some of those compliance discrepancies we
8 looked to do transmission planning but as prudent utilities
9 we are always looking for opportunistic opportunities to
10 poll our various engineer analysis across the different
11 processes together.

12 And as the opportunity arose where we were doing
13 -- where Edison was doing a NERC compliance project and saw
14 a need identified through the CAISO transmission planning
15 process, they presented that through that process as a
16 potential opportunity to increase scope and more cost
17 effectively mitigate two needs.

18 We have some similar things where we will replace
19 like for like on asset replacements but we also know the
20 topology of our system. We are engrained, it's a CAISO
21 transmission planning process but our transmission planners
22 are hand in hand with the CAISO transmission planners -- so
23 we know the needs on our system, 10 plus years out and we
24 understand those needs and as asset management related
25 activities are identified that may present an opportunity to

1 propose a project in the transmission planning process that
2 can achieve some efficiencies, we will do that.

3 So there are those synergies on occasion.
4 They're very few and far between. We look for them, but at
5 the end of the day the peer asset management project is
6 replacing like for like, existing infrastructure that is
7 confirmed needed by the grid. It was put in tens and tens
8 of years ago and it's needed to maintain safe reliable
9 operation of the grid.

10 And as prudent transmission owners we have an
11 obligation to make sure that we're investing that
12 infrastructure to maintain the safe, reliable operation of
13 our system.

14 MR. THOMAS: I may have a question, I want to
15 remind everyone to do is when you do have a question,
16 whether it's from the audience or stand-up please identify
17 who you are, who you're with so we can assure the
18 transcriber has all of that.

19 MS. LOOKER: Thank you, I'm Geneva Looker. I am
20 with Whitfield Russell Associates. I am consultant to the
21 CPUC and I have been involved in some of the PG&E cases and
22 I'm now starting to be involved in some of the Edison cases.

23

24 And when you asked the question about the like
25 for -- you know, do you replace in kind -- and I have to say

1 that based upon what we have been able to review for PG&E's
2 internal planning process, that is often not what is
3 happening. They are making upgrades to the system that
4 granted do not increase the capacity of the system but they
5 are upgrades.

6 They are changing the breaker configuration to
7 something that they consider more reliable. They are adding
8 modular protection components, they are adding a lot of
9 scata equipment -- this is all important stuff.

10 We don't -- we agree that some of this is
11 important, however it is being done without the ability of
12 the stakeholders to have any ability to review, participate,
13 say hey, do you need to do this right now? Do you need to
14 put this incredible amount of dollars right now or can it be
15 spread out or can you replace in kind rather than upgrading
16 to something that is bigger and better?

17 You'll see that in PG&E's filings they have a
18 whole category of projects that they list as reliability.

19 OFF MICROPHONE UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

20 Interruption.

21 MS. LOOKER: So just to reiterate, you know that
22 they have a whole component of hundreds of millions of
23 dollars every year that they're putting into something that
24 they're calling reliability but it's not going through the
25 transmission planning process. It is not transparent. We

1 don't have a way to look at it and review and see it and
2 that is just what I'd like to point out.

3 MS. TEETER: This is, we have someone else -- if
4 I can follow-up, this is Valerie Teeter again from FERC
5 staff. I'm trying to kind of get a better sense of where
6 the line lies between what we're planning here at asset
7 management versus expansion.

8 So if I can clarify, is it that expansion is
9 literally -- let me go back to my notes here -- I think PG&E
10 mentioned it will go through the CAISO process if it adds a
11 new element to the transmission system and if it affects the
12 topology of the CAISO grid, if it impacts power flows on the
13 CAISO grid -- is that supposed to be the line between these
14 two and if so, where is that delineated?

15 Is it something that's in CAISO's tariff, is it
16 something that is just kind of the standard practice in
17 CAISO, is it in a business practice manual? I guess I'm
18 trying to get a sense of where the line really is and if
19 it's really just capacity upgrades versus changes in
20 equipment configuration that may not necessarily change the
21 topology of the system but there are bells and whistles
22 that may be going on these replacement staging
23 infrastructure.

24 MR. MILLAR: It's Neil Miller, so maybe I could
25 take the first shot and then see if it's anything bad. Our

1 view is that the delineation is really based on why -- so
2 the same upgrade could go through either process depending
3 on why it was found to be needed.

4 Our planning process sets out a very specific set
5 of issues that we look out in a reliable system to achieve
6 policy direction to provide economic benefits to consumers
7 and so forth. So the criteria we're looking at for why we
8 would need to extend or reinforce the system is set up in
9 our tariff as well as in our business practice manuals.

10 So in that work we had prior needs, we look for
11 potential solutions including suggestions from stakeholders.
12 Now just picking on an example like some of these substation
13 modifications -- if we identify that an existing breaker
14 configuration creates an unreliable system that isn't using
15 our criteria, we would identify that and the utility like
16 proposed to reconfigure that substation or there might be
17 other alternatives that we would look at, and we would pick
18 one, get it approved and move forward.

19 Now if we did not have a reliability need to make
20 that modification, the transmission owner determined that
21 they had aging facilities, they needed to reconfigure and
22 the current configuration wasn't offerable, that they didn't
23 have adequate access to get in with maintenance equipment
24 and so forth, and they chose to propose to reconfigure the
25 substation purely for maintenance purposes, that would be

1 their responsibility to defend that providing a
2 configuration we could accept. It would not go through the
3 ISO planning process.

4 So the big difference here is why -- how is the
5 need for the project identified? Our process identifies the
6 need for enhancements and reinforcements. I keep having to
7 mention reinforcement because a few years ago, I had a load
8 growth -- an expansion with a common. Now, with changes on
9 the generation fleet there are times when we're needing to
10 expand the transmission system to address retirement
11 generation and so forth, so that to me is a reinforcement
12 type project, but it's still called for through our constant
13 funding requirements. Sorry, that was a bit of a side.

14 MS. TEETER: That's okay.

15 MR. MILLAR: The big issue though is really that
16 what is driving the need for the projects determines how
17 it's handled in the different processes.

18 MS. TEETER: Well if I can just recap very
19 quickly and then we'll move on. What you're saying here is
20 that it isn't necessarily whether or not a particular
21 activity expands the transmission system, changes the
22 topology, it's more about there are subtle criteria in the
23 CAISO tariff, and business practice manuals that outline the
24 needs that CAISO will plan for.

25 To the extent a project meets one of those needs

1 or an activity meets one of those needs, it is going to go
2 through the CAISO process, CAISO is the administrator of
3 that process and will make the determination as to what
4 solution best fits, best meets the particular need.

5 If a project does not meet a CAISO need, that's
6 something that is -- would be considered more asset
7 management, go through a PTO specific internal process.

8 MR. MILLAR: Yes, that's right and then through
9 the years -- as mentioned, my finding team does coordinate
10 with the utilities to insure that we are moving on a path
11 towards perhaps finding solutions that affect a certain
12 area. We do need to coordinate to make sure that it's
13 consistent with we're not going to create a conflict with
14 any other metering activities that are going on in the area.

15 MS. SWITZER: Can I ask a quick question? So
16 CPUC rule about raising lines. If that's a state liability
17 rule, how come that's not something that CAISO -- why is
18 that a maintenance left to the PTOs and not something CAISO
19 approves in the plan?

20 MR. MILLAR: Actually I'll defer to Dana after
21 because she is the expert in these areas, but the
22 fundamental gist of it is we do address policy requirements
23 but we do not address flat out safety -- maintenance safety
24 issues. And the general order I would characterize around
25 the necessary clearance for safety is actually a

1 transmission owner's responsibility.

2 MS. SWITZER: Okay, the CPUC's policy would go
3 through CAISO but the safety or maintenance that's --

4 MS. CABELL: Yeah, this particular one that
5 we're talking GO 95 is purely related to safety.

6 MS. SWITZER: Who decides -- wait, who decides
7 what is included in the plan and that is at CAISO? You
8 would look at that rule and say this doesn't meet our
9 criteria?

10 MR. MILLAR: There's actually -- there's the
11 first line and then I'll say the second line of defense in
12 how they handle that. When it comes to an issue first we
13 turn to our tariff that lays out all of the specific sets of
14 circumstances that we're expected to address as part of our
15 expansion or reinforcement planning.

16 We also share as part of our stakeholder process
17 in developing our annual study plan, also have an open call
18 for policy issues that stakeholders feel the ISO should
19 address as policy issues inside our transmission planning
20 process.

21 And those to this point, are focused almost
22 exclusively on accommodating renewable generation. I
23 haven't had anyone actually suggest in that process that as
24 a matter of policy we should be looking at safety issues.
25 Our view of the safety issues specifically is though that it

1 is clearly laid out as a transmission owner responsibility
2 under our transmission control agreement.

3 So we vote with the transmission owners. So we
4 believe the safety issues have already been debated and
5 those responsibilities are clear, but for anything new that
6 emerged, we actually have a process that allows stakeholders
7 to raise any possible policy issue that they feel should be
8 incorporated in the transmission planning process and our
9 tariff actually calls for us to provide a written response
10 how we chose to move forward or not with that policy effort.

11 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Dockham, you have a question?

12 MR. DOCKHAM: Yes thank you, I just want to
13 follow-up on a couple of things I've heard and maybe get a
14 response to it.

15 When you talk about the CAL ISO's process and the
16 planning versus the maintenance, one of the things we've
17 come to understand through our discussions with PG&E -- I
18 think it's included in their filing as well -- that they
19 have a set of projects that are related to substation
20 replacement activity.

21 So for example, they have old substations with a
22 double bus, single breaker configuration and they have
23 identified in their processes that a best practices --
24 changing that out to a breaker a half scheme so it's not a
25 like for like type of replacement -- it is an enhancement.

1 The problem that we see and that we've complained
2 about is we can't tell when and why they use a breaker and a
3 half scheme as a replacement versus just increased
4 sectionalizing and we sought that play out in the CAL ISO
5 planning process this year where one of our members was
6 subjected to increased sectionalizing as opposed to this
7 more robust and best practice breaker and a half scheme.

8 So what we'd like to understand is how are these
9 decisions made -- why do they seem to take place within the
10 IOU service territory as opposed to where the municipal
11 customers are connected and this lack of transparency into
12 the exact practices that are used to make these decisions
13 are not making things any easier for us to figure it out.

14 MS. TEETER: This is Valerie Teeter again from
15 FERC staff, if I could ask a clarifying question. I just
16 want to make sure that I'm understanding. So I think a
17 point that you're raising is that it's not just what's going
18 through the CAISO process and what's not, but you're seeing
19 what you believe to be a difference in the practices that
20 are being used internal to the PTOs retail customers versus
21 what's being used at -- in the planning for wholesale
22 customers?

23 MR. DOCKHAM: Yes, yes, and you know, I'll take
24 it one step further. In terms of the performance criteria
25 that are identified in the CAL ISO's maintenance standards,

1 you know, the availability, reliability, impact on consumers
2 are identified as a threshold measure there.

3 When you look at the effect on municipals even
4 though there are thousands of customers behind the meter
5 that is serving as the take-out point for municipal load,
6 you count it as one customer.

7 So when you look at safety, KD, metrics, it
8 counts as one customer in all of those metrics as opposed to
9 let's just say the 30,000 customers that live behind that
10 meter.

11 MS. TEETER: And those are added metrics,
12 correct?

13 MR. DOCKHAM: Correct.

14 MS. TEETER: Okay.

15 MR. SPEER: Well maybe, Will Speer, SDG&E, maybe
16 I can address a little bit of how -- at least for SDG&E how
17 sometimes we change configuration. A lot of it is based on
18 base, substation requirements. So you have a limited area
19 within your fence. That could be a driver on why you would
20 put in break and a half, double bus, whatever you do.

21 I agree a break and a half is the preferred
22 method but a lot of times we're limited on that. And you're
23 also limited on actually taking outages to do the rebuild,
24 so that's a huge constraint.

25 So if you're looking at a 230 cable substation

1 with four lines going in -- multiple transformers, you need
2 to consider -- you can't just take it up and rebuild it next
3 week. You're building within the existing site. So a lot
4 of our configurations, we do work with the ISO on that, talk
5 about out of sequencing, what's the ideal solution line at
6 the end and they'll be aware because that is changing
7 topology but a lot of it is just driven by the constraints
8 of the site and the outages required to do the actual
9 rebuild.

10 But that is coordinated with the ISO at least for
11 SDG&E.

12 MS. SWITZER: Okay, I think we've covered
13 question 2 pretty well, as well as 3. Going to question 3
14 -- we talked a little bit about this but just really if you
15 could explain again the differentiation between CAISO's
16 planning process and what your planning -- or not planning,
17 what the maintenance products.

18 Specifically, what factors are considered, we
19 have your cost voltage level of rating -- does any of that
20 factor into that like -- that one example Edison gave with
21 the incremental project meeting a need or could we just
22 expand on that a little?

23 MS. CABELL: We've done a lot of the talking
24 already related to this question also but to expand a little
25 bit more on when we're going in looking at our assets and

1 doing our asset analysis to determine does that equipment
2 need to be changed out because of age and intimate failure
3 possibility as to the statistical work that's done about
4 that.

5 Again, since that is just looking at changing
6 like for like. Maybe they're -- and you have to remember
7 our system is a little bit different. We don't go in and
8 change a lot of our 66 side of substations. We do rebuild
9 because of some concerns with RACS but that does not go into
10 the ISO, that does not go into TAC, that's for us, that's
11 our local so.

12 So really again the distinction is the work that
13 we're doing adding additional enhancements and capacity to
14 the ISO and is it meeting an identified ISO need that they
15 put forward in their transmission plan?

16 MS. SWITZER: So it would have to be both --
17 meeting a need and an upgrade?

18 MS. CABELL: Yes.

19 MR. NELSON: If I could and this is a little out
20 of my scope but I want to try and contrast a little bit with
21 PJM what we do. It is my understanding in PJM they have
22 certain planning processes, look at reliability criteria and
23 that's sort of the bulk of their planning process and then
24 they defer a lot of the local transmission to the individual
25 utilities to kind of, you know, enough broad brush, let them

1 do what they want to do as long as it doesn't mess up their
2 reliability.

3 I think we're very different in our ISO. They do
4 all voltage levels as long as it's within the ISO. There's
5 not a bright line that says hey, if it's below "X" utilities
6 handle it, they do all voltage levels. They don't defer to
7 the utilities to kind of do things that change grid
8 topology. That -- there may be exceptions to the rule but
9 that goes through the planning process.

10 And it's not just for reliability criteria, just
11 for emphasis -- that's only one category of project that
12 will go through. They also do economic projects where if
13 they just think it's going to save the customers money by
14 building a line, that has to go through the transmission
15 planning process.

16 If we think a line will save customers money and
17 we should built it, we take it to the ISO's planning process
18 and try to convince them that it's a good idea. They also
19 do it, like Neil was saying, for policy type lines. The PUC
20 decides if there is a renewable rich area for folio and they
21 want access -- transmission access, there's coordination
22 with other state entities that goes in the planning process
23 and if that bubbles through the ISO will design a new policy
24 line and again, whoever builds that is going to be unique to
25 the specifics of that situation and maybe Order 1000, it may

1 not.

2 But there's not these sort of bright lines that I
3 sort of see different in PJM where they do defer a lot to
4 the utilities. I don't see that in our case. It's all in
5 the ISO in those major things and not just for reliability,
6 for policy.

7 MS. TEETER: So this is Valerie Teeter again,
8 FERC staff, just if I could ask a follow-up question there.
9 I guess it would be helpful to me to understand so for
10 example for internal utility planning standards that aren't
11 you know, they're not NERC standards, they're not NERC
12 reliability standards but they're -- you know, in CAISO it
13 is different than PJM, your single state.

14 You know there is a single set of state
15 standards, but if you have utility kind of specific
16 standards, internal standards to, you know, that may be
17 necessary to protect your equipment or just kind of the
18 differences in how the utilities have typically operated
19 their system, who plans to meet those standards?

20 Are those something that you provide to CAISO for
21 consideration to their process or is that something that's
22 considered through asset management?

23 MR. SPEER: So I think there's probably a
24 distinction there. I think the ISO plans for everything
25 that, you know, they're responsible for. And it goes back

1 to kind of the distinction asset management planning we've
2 been trying to draw the lines.

3 So that is responsible for any of the planning
4 standards, those are clearly defined. There's, you know,
5 the NERC standards, WEC standards and the CAL ISO planning
6 standards. For SDG&E we don't have additional standards.

7 MS. TEETER: Okay.

8 MR. SPEER: But we -- those are the standards for
9 planning the transmission system. Asset management we do
10 have guidelines around asset management, you know, when
11 equipment reaches a certain threshold life, you know, the
12 condition of the equipment, we'll have standards around
13 that.

14 So I think that's probably the distinction. It's
15 not planning standard, it's really asset management
16 standards. We have protection standards also, things like
17 that but anything planning is all governed by the ISO and
18 really NERC sets the bar and then.

19 MS. TEETER: So you're not -- you don't have kind
20 of internal sorry, internal utility standards for how the
21 system operates or kind of the performance you expect out of
22 your system that you would give to CAISO to kind of put in
23 their models. Is that something that to the extent you have
24 those protection standards et cetera, those are a piece of
25 the asset management program, is that fair?

1 MS. CABELL: Yeah.

2 MR. MILLAR: Yes and I think there's one
3 clarification I can add there. There are cases where each
4 utility may feel that because of their equipment there is
5 some specific issue that needs to be addressed a bit
6 differently within the transmission planning and those get
7 incorporated into the ISO planning standards and the one
8 issue I'm thinking of is not everyone has the same ability
9 to accept certain high voltages.

10 The voltage requirements -- the operating voltage
11 requirement for each utility can differ based on their
12 particular equipment. So some of these differences if they
13 work, they're built into our planning standards and that's
14 what we're using and we're asking our board to approve a
15 project which then obligates someone to actually go build
16 that project.

17 So that is an important clarification. So those
18 are built in. Now there are actual maintenance requirements
19 -- we may have disability of those but that's not an issue
20 that the ISO passes judgment on -- on whether or not someone
21 should take a risk around prolonging a piece of equipment --
22 we're not making that judgment call, we're not accepting the
23 risk or liability for making that decision, that's the
24 utility's decision.

25 We do expect them to do their maintenance and we

1 do have a separate program around ensuring utility
2 maintenance is being done, but that's separate from planning
3 discussions.

4 MR. THOMAS: This is Chris Thomas with FERC
5 staff. Just to follow-up on Valerie's question because I
6 thought it started to maybe hit the hub of a lot of what
7 we've seen in both the cases and what's in front of us today
8 is -- you mentioned that you have a set of criteria by which
9 you'll do your maintenance and so forth.

10 And I wonder if each of the three PTOs is that
11 criteria known and measureable to the PTO, that is where the
12 customers or whatever would see those or are they not
13 necessarily made known and measureable because of specific
14 reasons. I'd be interested in knowing that answer and are
15 they consistent?

16 For example, are we held -- are you all held to a
17 certain set of guidelines on a transmission system or system
18 upgrades repairs and maintenance. For example, if I went
19 and redid my home, certain code has changed over time, I'd
20 have to do various things. Do those things have applicably
21 or code that's outside of the scope of our regulatory theme
22 have a play on what you guys do in your maintenance
23 practices?

24 I know there's kind of three questions there.

25 MR. SPEER: Well I'd say one example there is

1 industry best practices right and we all attend conferences
2 or stuff that goes on throughout the year around those
3 things. I would imagine our processes are a little
4 different. We have different types of equipment, different
5 age of our equipment. So I don't think we're going to share
6 those things but we all try and meet industry standards
7 right -- best practices.

8 There's a lot of work around that. We work with
9 manufacturers too. We all pretty much buy the same
10 equipment, there's big suppliers seen as ABB types of
11 things, so they have recommendations around that.

12 So I would imagine we're pretty consistent in
13 that.

14 That's the way we do our --

15 MS. FARINELLA: Do you have a view on the first
16 part of his question about --

17 MR. SPEER: What for share -- yeah I don't
18 believe -- for us -- I don't believe we've shared it yet.
19 That's something we could take back and talk about. I just
20 -- there hasn't been a need at this point to share that. So
21 we do share at industry events, you know, we have speakers
22 from SDG&E go and present how we do our maintenance
23 practices, what our best practices -- so it's kind of a, you
24 know, that's the environment where a lot of that gets
25 discussed is what's the best practices around maintenance

1 and do we participate there.

2 But we don't have a file plan publically on those
3 practices.

4 MS. CABELL: Yeah this is Dana Cabbell, I echo
5 what Will just said for Edison also. I mean we -- yeah, we
6 might have different type of data and technique but we do go
7 to the different forums for best practices for operations.

8 MR. NELSON: I'll note though that in again -- in
9 rate case scenarios we've fielded request questions about
10 how are you doing it and I believe what you're hearing here
11 is that there's evolving processes and there's unique
12 situations but we have answered the questions when asked on
13 that, you know, it may not have been fully satisfactory to
14 the person asking it, but we have attempted to answer those
15 questions.

16 MR. GABBARD: Yeah I would add that in general
17 there are compliance obligations set at the state level.
18 There are also industry standards that set the minimal bar.
19 There's a lot out there that says no matter what your
20 tolerance is from a performance standpoint, you must meet
21 this minimum threshold.

22 From there it really is a collaboration between
23 peers looking at best practices and understanding the
24 characteristics of your system in order to be able to
25 achieve the objectives of the system that you're looking

1 for.

2 I do want to call out since it was pointed at PG
3 earlier that PG&E does not differentiate between wholesale
4 and retail customers when we evaluate the replacement on our
5 system. There's no consideration for what type of customer
6 we're serving but we do have criteria based on age, and
7 criticality of our infrastructure that help us determine
8 what the right scope of work is for replacing our assets.

9 I would highlight that PG&E's been pointed at as
10 being building up too much breaker and a half but out of the
11 utilities in this room, PG&E has the lowest percentage of
12 breaker and a half configuration in its infrastructure
13 mainly based on the fact that we have a history of pulling
14 the other many different utilities that have different
15 standards along the way so we have a very diverse cross
16 section of existing infrastructure.

17 So we operate with on what I would consider to be
18 possibly a more legacy configuration and in some instances
19 where opportunity arises, we look to bring up to that
20 industry best practice if reasonable.

21 MR. THOMAS: I know we have sets of questions, is
22 it okay if we just get out of line or -- I'm not sure.

23 MR. DOCKHAM: It looks like it's me. So I just
24 wanted to go back to the earlier discussion that we were
25 having about maintenance practices, standards, procedures

1 and just highlight that our concerns are expressed in our
2 introductory comments and what I've heard is a lot of kind
3 of merging of terms and it's really important to use the
4 defined terms when we're talking through this today.

5 So the maintenance practices, I think that are
6 the domain of the investor owned utilities are those
7 confidential documents that it sounds like may be available
8 in some form. It seems like there's some willingness to go
9 down that path.

10 What we haven't heard yet is pursuant to the CAL
11 ISO tariff where it indicates that these maintenance
12 practices will be developed as appropriate and so what we'd
13 like understood is what defines as appropriate?

14 When we get into best practices is that part of
15 the maintenance practice or is that outside of a maintenance
16 practice? It sounds like maybe it's a procedure because
17 it's running through the transmission maintenance
18 coordination committee but we don't know.

19 And so -- if so those are guidelines and if
20 they're going to be represented as a practice, we need to
21 understand that they are a practice and not a guideline. So
22 I think it's really important to use the defined terms and
23 I'll just leave it at that and we're still mixing and
24 merging that today.

25 MS. LOOKER: Thank you, this is Geneva Looker. I

1 just wanted to respond to one of the things I believe that
2 Mr. Nelson said -- I could be wrong about that -- about how
3 the NERC standards, you know, the compliance with NERC
4 standards goes through the TPP.

5 And at least from what we have seen with PG&E
6 that that is not always the case. That many of their
7 capital expenditures are for compliance with NERC standards,
8 you know, such as the physical security which I believe also
9 you have. I don't know whether yours as Edison goes through
10 the TPP or not, the critical infrastructure protection.

11 The -- and the LIDAR, I am not sure but isn't it
12 true that part of that is because when the lines are not in
13 the official place where they should be that the voltages
14 you can't put as much power on them as the TPP in using its
15 models thinks that it can have.

16 So you know, this is all stuff that is very
17 important to the reliability of the system but we don't see
18 it going through the CAISO. Understanding that yes, you're
19 responsible from doing it but there should be some
20 oversight. There should be some recognition from the CAISO
21 that this is all important for the reliability of the grid
22 and that's something that we are concerned about.

23 MS. MAPES: And this is Katherine Mapes. I just
24 wanted to address the idea that a lot of this information is
25 provided to stakeholders in rate cases. And I first wanted

1 to say that in many cases to the extent that's true it's
2 provided in confidential settlement discovery.

3 I think it's our goal in all of these cases to
4 settle and I know that that's the Commission's goal to
5 encourage settlements as well. What we don't want to do is
6 get pushed into a litigation tract just so we can get public
7 information on transmission planning.

8 And I second wanted to say that settlement
9 discovery or even when it is litigation discovery is after
10 the fact -- after money has been spent and projects have
11 been committed and put into rates. So in our mind that's
12 not making this information truly public, it's an after the
13 fact examination that's already been done.

14 MR. GABBARD: Can I respond to that real quick?
15 I would just like to clarify that PGE's recent TO filings
16 have been litigated and we've gone through that so not
17 confidential for all deliverables that have been requested
18 through discovery and we have provided our what are deemed
19 called our maintenance practices, our policies for the asset
20 management investments and those were public in those
21 transmittals -- I'm sorry I just wanted to clarify that.

22 I also wanted to actually add one point is that I
23 continue to hear that TO filings are the rate filings
24 articulated as after the fact expenditures. I do want to
25 clarify that forecasts are included in those rate filings --

1 not just forecasts for capital additions but also we've
2 historically supplemented with forecasts for capital
3 expenditures that expand out in future years.

4 And for transmission investments I'm sure you're
5 all aware that a given transmission investment can take
6 many, many years to implement. So we do have forecasts well
7 out into the future.

8 MR. NELSON: And just for clarification too, I
9 had in mind data requests that were part of our normal
10 process of our rate case before it was litigated. We have a
11 four and a half plus month window where any participant can
12 come in and data requests and general data requests are
13 shared amongst everyone that's an intervenor. And likewise,
14 our rate cases do look out at least a year forward, but
15 again we've got a proposal in front of the Commission -- it
16 was approved, suspended but approved, that will look out
17 five years to sort of fill in that gap and give a five year
18 issue.

19 And you know if something pops up in that five
20 year timeframe where people think, you know, boy why are you
21 doing this? Wouldn't it make more sense to do some sort of
22 capital change or topology change. It's our hope with the
23 five year window people can take that information and go
24 over to the ISO's TPP process and say, you know, Edison is
25 about to do this maintenance and compliance spend, we think

1 you should be changing grid topology instead and the ISO can
2 have hopefully five years or four years a piece to look at
3 that and make a call on whether yeah, they want to change
4 the topology or no, they don't.

5 Edison needs to do the maintenance compliance
6 spend.

7 MR. THOMAS: As far as timing goes we're kind of
8 getting through the big boy part we were trying to get
9 through this good set of questions. I think we've really
10 kind of worked our way through question 3. A lot of what
11 I'm hearing is starting to delve into some good discussions
12 that are going to arise with question 4.

13 And we have one more question here -- one
14 objective question here and then maybe take a small break if
15 that's alright.

16 MS. BONE: Yeah, that's fine. I just wanted to
17 know from the three IOU's -- do you have maintenance
18 practices that are required by the CAISO tariff? Are they
19 all written down in one place?

20 MR. SPEER: Maybe we do, CAL ISO does audit our
21 maintenance practices inspections and what we do in the
22 southern half, but I think yearly. It's been a while since
23 I've been in that realm, but the ISO does audit our
24 maintenance.

25 I don't know what term you want to use -- their

1 practices and procedures but the CAL ISO so we have a file
2 plan on our maintenance procedures on the ISO and they're
3 audited regularly just to make sure we're in compliance.

4 MS. SWITZER: So that file plan that CAISO has is
5 not public to date?

6 MR. MILLAR: What Will is describing is separate
7 from a transmission planning process. We have an obligation
8 to ensure that utilities have maintenance practices in place
9 and that they're actually doing them. That's a piece of the
10 legislative responsibility of the ISO.

11 So to do that our maintenance standards list all
12 the areas where there should be practices to insure that
13 maintenance is being done and on an annual basis we do spot
14 audits to ensure that the maintenance of various equipment
15 transmission and substation equipment is being conducted to
16 ensure that that equipment is being maintained to good
17 status and is available to provide service.

18 That focus is to ensure that the system is
19 available to serve customers. It's not a transplanting
20 exercise, it's a separate process to ensure that the system
21 will be available.

22 Now there is a committee made up of utility
23 representatives, the ISO and other members from outside that
24 include representatives from various organizations. The
25 requirement to participate in that committee is that they

1 actually have a background in maintenance. It's meant to be
2 an engineering exercise, not a rate-setting exercise.

3 And that -- like I said that's a separate
4 function from transmission planning -- so we do ensure that
5 the utilities have maintenance practices in place and that
6 material is considered confidential and it would be the
7 utilities that would be the ones making the decision of
8 what, if any, material to release or not.

9 MS. SWITZER: But the standards are they in the
10 tariff or are they in like a BPM?

11 MR. MILLAR: The transmission control agreement
12 has a standard attached that identifies all of the areas
13 that need to be addressed. It doesn't tell the utility how
14 to address them but it does list --

15 MS. SWITZER: That gets to the best practices
16 that they develop and then all that information that they
17 give you for this is confidential.

18 MR. MILLAR: Yes.

19 MR. THOMAS: Do we have one final question member
20 here?

21 MS. SWITZER: Well we'll take a 10 minute break
22 if that's alright. 10:40.

23 (Break 10:35 - 10:47)

24

25 MS. SWITZER: So it's going to be

1 a good conversation going and I know FERC staff has some
2 questions. We're going to keep going but we're getting
3 through a good amount of the questions so I just wanted to
4 let the audience know that I think we're going to take
5 questions and comments in the afternoon after lunch if
6 that's alright. We'll allow a little more time after lunch
7 for that.

8 MR. THOMAS: So it looks like we have everybody
9 back. I appreciate it. I think as Laura said we've started
10 a real good discussion, I think some issues and some topics
11 are coming to light which is the intent of this Conference.
12 And some of the questions that were arising I think are
13 really turning into a good segue to question 4 -- that's
14 where we're going to begin this next session.

15 But I wanted to take a quick step back and then
16 ask sort of a general question. I think this is somewhat
17 going to be directed at CAISO and the PTOs but I think we
18 could really use some CPUC assistance on this.

19 So I want to take the question of going -- take a
20 moment to kind of explain, take a step back. There were
21 discussions about the bifurcation of responsibility or the
22 responsibilities of the PTOs take, how they take it, when
23 they look at maintenance -- what they look to do in the
24 criteria they operated under.

25 I wonder if maybe you could explain the division

1 of responsibility, between CAISO and the TO's as CAISO came
2 into existence, essentially the history of how we got
3 today's bifurcation and what those responsibilities mean and
4 the reasons for that division.

5 And I think that the later part is kind of going
6 to be the critical one. So I'm kind of asking for a little
7 history lesson here with the reasons why we have a dividing
8 line between maybe where we have maintenance issues and
9 policy issues as was heard because we have the CPUC
10 representatives here, it might be valuable to have them to
11 come up with a system in doing that and so I think we maybe
12 start with CAISO, allow you to go down that line, have the
13 PTOs talk and if there's anything to be added based upon
14 what we hear from CPUC it would be great.

15 MR. MILLAR: Yes, it's Neil here. I do have the
16 disadvantage of not having been here when the ISO was
17 recently created -- ISO for 7 years. However, I think our
18 history is fairly well mapped out including in our comments
19 and to the PG&E complaint -- the complaint against PG&E
20 about the 890 processes.

21 Going back though, to the creation of the ISO,
22 the transmission control agreement between the ISO and PTO's
23 barely lays out the planning responsibility being the
24 responsibility of the ISO -- apologies, and the maintenance
25 and maintaining equipment on an ongoing basis to its current

1 capabilities being the responsibility of the transmission
2 owners.

3 There is more details certainly flushed out in
4 the ISO tariff through the development to comply with Order
5 890 and later Order 1000 and we believe those provisions
6 have always been crystal clear on transmission planning,
7 enhanced expansion and reinforcement requirements being with
8 the ISO and the maintenance including replacement that end
9 of life replacement is specifically called out as a
10 maintenance activity with a responsibility to the
11 utilities.

12 Now, that does not mean that they are not
13 coordinated but those were the delineations. Now, the focus
14 at the time was to provide that independence on transmission
15 planning activities to insure that the system was developed
16 in a way that provided open access to all.

17 And to be frank, some of the maintenance issues
18 we're hearing about don't sound like an access issue, but
19 that was my understanding and through the review of the
20 material that's my view of it.

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Gridliance was not there at the
22 beginning and we're kind of new but I do have a couple of
23 observations. You know I don't think there's anything
24 unique about where CAISO is as it relates to maintenance. I
25 think most RTOs in the country really don't look at

1 maintenance as a function that they monitor.

2 They might coordinate, they leave that to the
3 owner of the facility to be responsible for the proper
4 maintenance and care mainly because the RTOs don't want to
5 take the risk because there's a risk around asset management
6 and asset ownership and so if there's prescriptive
7 procedures and policies I think in a lot of cases it puts a
8 lot of the risk back on to the RTO and they just don't have
9 the visibility to understand age and condition, how things
10 operate, how does this operate and they want to know what's
11 going on but they don't necessarily want to direct what's
12 going on.

13 So I don't think CAISO's much difference than
14 SPP, PJM, MISO or ERCOT in that shape. So I think all these
15 conversations are very, very important. I think there are
16 visibility issues that need to be implemented.

17 I think local planning is important for
18 stakeholders to be engaged in and maintenance fits into the
19 local planning. So I think the need for some transparency
20 at that level is very, very important so I applaud what
21 we're trying to do here.

22 MS. CABELL: This is Dana Cabbell. I don't
23 really have anything additional to add that what Neil
24 delineated between message planning and asset management and
25 where that difference shows up in the TCR and the TO tariff

1 and you know, you agree now is probably the time for that
2 transparency on the maintenance projects and so again that's
3 why we submitted a TMCR for that purpose.

4 MR. NELSON: And just two little follow-ups.
5 There's also an issue that I've heard in these discussions
6 about capability and staffing and expertise and it's my
7 impression -- I don't want to speak for the ISO that they're
8 not geared for sort of the routine maintenance and how that
9 would work and that level of -- of singular focus on both
10 the individual tree within the forest that's required for
11 someone who actually owns the assets and needs to know
12 exactly per manufacturer's instructions what the
13 requirements are.

14 MR. MILLAR: Actually, if I could just -- it's
15 Neil here, if I could just step back in for a minute. Jeff
16 did bring up one point that I probably should have touched
17 on was that to take on the maintenance, developing the
18 maintenance actual requirements projects and more
19 importantly approving maintenance or at times not approving
20 maintenance requires far more detail and far broader depth
21 of the maintenance staff.

22 Our broader access to detailed information on
23 condition and age of every asset on the system and also a
24 completely different liability perspective on what risk is
25 the ISO taking on by either approving or at times presumably

1 not approving a recommended maintenance project.

2 So that's where we get very concerned about the
3 suggestion that the ISO should take into its transmission
4 planning process maintenance activities because we do have
5 obligations around the consequences of our planning
6 decisions and if we take on maintenance decisions then that
7 takes on a completely different perspective around not only
8 that technical information but also the consequences.

9 And quite frankly, the staff in the field on a
10 day-to-day basis, that's a very difficult prospect to hand
11 over to another organization to take on responsibility for
12 their maintenance activities.

13 MR. NELSON: And there was just one other thing
14 that you touched on today. I want to amplify --
15 non-discriminatory access to the grid. I feel that we're
16 doing excellent in the CAL ISO's and not to mention that I'm
17 not aware of really any complaints of access to the grid
18 through the interconnection processes, through the ISO's
19 transmission planning process.

20 So part of the functional split -- I'd have to
21 say has been a grand success in addressing the fair access
22 and discriminatory open access.

23 MS. SWITZER: I just wanted to remind people on
24 the phone to please put your phones on mute -- it was
25 supposed to be a listen only line but apparently technical

1 difficulties. Please if you're on the phone, mute your
2 phone, thank you.

3 MR. SPEER: Yeah, I have similar views. I think
4 that really goes to the why, you know, yes our history and
5 why it's split up that way. It's really that that
6 visibility and the engineering day-to-day access to that
7 equipment and really those maintenance plans, inspections --
8 you know we have condition based maintenance on our system
9 that's monitoring.

10 We have full staff's dedicated to just that asset
11 management function and you really need that granular
12 visibility that the ISO doesn't have at this time. I mean
13 that's one of the reasons why it was split that way. And
14 it's true we own the equipment, we're responsible -- the
15 liability question. We're responsible if something happens
16 -- a transformer catches on fire, things like that, that's
17 in our purview so.

18 MR. THOMAS: Thanks, I support what's been
19 communicated.

20 MR. GABBARD: I don't have anything additional to
21 add. I think all of those main points are spot on and PGE
22 shares that same perspective.

23 MR. THOMAS: And I know I added if
24 CPC wouldn't mind commenting if you would.

25 MR. BONE: I think Katie, do you want to start?

1 MS. MAPES: Sure. I think we in our complaint
2 did a review of the CAISO'S tariff's as it existed over the
3 years and we understand that these maintenance projects were
4 never submitted to the CAISO but we think that the CAISO
5 tariff and the filings that were presented to the Commission
6 had some ambiguity in how they projected it and I think that
7 over the years it's become clear to stakeholders that the
8 transparency is less than we once thought.

9 MR. DOCKHAM: So I think with regard to question
10 4 I would say no. You know the tariff simply points to the
11 transmission control agreement which is the governing
12 document for all of these alternative transmission projects
13 that are being done.

14 I'm not aware that the business practice manuals
15 speak to maintenance at all and while I think the
16 transmission control agreement is a good start, and there's
17 some good ideas in there, they need to be significantly
18 built out and I'm glad that we're having that discussion
19 here today.

20 MS. BONE: So to echo Katie's comments about what
21 happened in 2007 and 2008 with the Order 890 development,
22 you know at that time we really understood that the CAISO
23 tariff, the compliance filing that was made would require
24 most, if not all, projects to go through the CAISO and it
25 really wasn't until about 2012 when we saw PG&E's

1 transmission rates going up exponentially with no
2 significant capacity additions that we realized that they
3 were putting this vast bulk of materials under the heading
4 of something other than CAISO or self-approved projects.

5 So I'm -- so we're concerned about that. We're
6 concerned about what was misunderstood or perhaps
7 misrepresented back at that time and we're also concerned
8 about this current dichotomy that seems to be explained
9 between transmission planning and asset management as if
10 there is no planning involved in asset management when we're
11 being told that in fact, you know, PG&E's looking ten years
12 out.

13 Is that only for your CAISO additions or is that
14 also for asset management? And if you're looking ten years
15 out planning is necessarily involved in that asset
16 management so this kind of dichotomy is -- its non-existent.
17

18 There's planning for asset management, we need to
19 recognize that, it needs to be transparent. I will add
20 that, you know, constant reference also to the rate cases
21 being an appropriate opportunity to see this stuff is just
22 ridiculous.

23 We learned in PG&E's rate case that in fact
24 they're advancing projects that aren't anywhere in any of
25 the plans that they file with us that they provided to us in

1 discovery -- over 800 projects costing about 300 million
2 dollars for one -- for two years.

3 So there are projects that are showing up at the
4 last minute that aren't even disclosed in the rate case. So
5 I think that, you know, how we got here --
6 misunderstandings, misrepresentations and where we are today
7 we need to acknowledge that this asset management is
8 planning, they're spending a lot of money and there needs to
9 be transparency.

10 MS. AMOS: I have a question, it's Angela Amos
11 from FERC. Speaking of the listing of projects that you
12 described as an example, do you have any ways to -- how
13 would you evaluate those projects? How would you prioritize
14 if things were more transparent the way that you described?

15 MS. BONES: Well what we're looking for is for
16 the utilities to explain to us how they are prioritizing
17 those projects. We aren't in a position to do that and we
18 aren't getting that information either.

19 So it looks like they're selecting projects based
20 on -- do you want to answer this, okay.

21 MR. DOCKHAM: Sure, so our suggestions is that
22 the business practice -- or excuse me, the unified planning
23 assumption document that starts the process in the CAL ISO's
24 transmission planning process is the way to go. So they
25 identify the criteria that they're going to use to study

1 the4 system for expansion purposes.

2 So N minus 1, N minus 2, G minus 1, G minus 2
3 criteria loads on the transmission system. Everybody
4 understands what those criteria are. For the other types of
5 transmission projects, you know, we've heard a lot today
6 about transmission line, NERC requirements, having to raise
7 the conductor height, changing out poles that have reached
8 the end of their useful life, you know, coding transmission
9 towers.

10 There should be a practice or a procedure that
11 defines precisely what the criteria are going to be for
12 recoding those towers, for replacing those poles, whether
13 it's destructive or non-destructive testing. This is how
14 we're going to do it.

15 And I don't see any of us sitting in the room and
16 saying, you know, your criteria have demonstrated that these
17 poles are defective and need to be replaced. We just want
18 to know that that's the basis for the change outs that are
19 taking place and today we don't have that opportunity.

20 And so like I said, I think what the ISO has put
21 in place in terms of the criteria is a good start but it
22 needs to be augmented with these unified planning
23 assumptions for this huge amount of work that's being
24 self-approved by the IOU's right now.

25 MS. AMES: Any follow-up here?

1 MR. DOCKHAM: Sure.

2 MS. AMES: It's Angela again, obviously. So I'm
3 hearing that there are some categories of maintenance or
4 other activities that the ISO just wouldn't be a part of
5 right? But for the things that wouldn't fall under the
6 ISO's purview, how would those items be prioritized and
7 reviewed were they more transparent?

8 MR. DOCKHAM: So today in the TO proceedings we
9 see a list of, you know, Traci mentioned 800 projects that
10 are segmented by major work category. So if there were a
11 standard -- if there were a practice that defined how those
12 projects were going to be reviewed and approved, you would
13 be able to validate those projects against those practices
14 or standards -- that's what's missing today.

15 MS. AMES: The criteria?

16 MR. DOCKHAM: Correct.

17 MS. AMES: Thanks.

18 MS. LOOKER: This is Geneva. Just to expand on
19 what Dave was saying -- we understand that a lot of this
20 stuff should be done by the TO's, it's their assets they
21 need to make sure that they're replacing it and keeping it
22 in good working order.

23 But what we have been -- had trouble doing was
24 getting from them the prioritization of the ranking of why
25 they were picking the projects they were picking.

1 And, you know, we tried in discovery to get some
2 of this. We did finally get a little bit of this but it's
3 not nearly enough to determine, you know, why have you
4 ranked this as number 1, but you don't have a project
5 planned to replace that?

6 If that's really the worst performing one or the
7 oldest or its condition is bad -- it needs a lot of
8 maintenance, why isn't that in your five year plan?

9 Or let's say with Edison, they have a whole bunch
10 of projects that they put into categories that they call
11 blanket categories so without further discovery to even get
12 underneath to see what is included in those projects, it's
13 hundreds of millions of dollars being put into the ISO TAC
14 that without discovery, without real work and you know, we
15 have learned you have to really know how to ask these
16 discovery questions to get the right information.

17 And that has taken us probably three or four
18 years to get to that point. So if we have some kind of a
19 transparent process whether you know, whether it's under the
20 ISO, whether it's not under the ISO, but it's just each
21 individual PTO has, you know, has to abide by -- say we'd
22 p-refer a unified plan where each of them has to provide
23 this information but it would involve the criteria they're
24 using, you know, how they're ranking and prioritizing their
25 facilities, which ones are in their plans, if they're ranked

1 high and they're not high and they're not in the plan, why
2 not?

3 I understand there might be some difficulties
4 with where the substation is placed or you know, we
5 understand that but we need the information. To have these
6 millions of dollars going in that are -- the rate payers are
7 having to pay for, that just is not right.

8 MS. AMES: Okay, so insomuch as this would be
9 more of a dialogue, the information would come from the
10 PTOs, be presented through whatever process would be
11 established in theory and you disagree, then what happens?

12 MS. LOOKER: There would have to be some
13 protocols for that as well.

14 MS. AMES: And I'm not, I'm trying to ask because
15 the idea of the workshop is that we can collaborate and
16 brainstorm and all of that so don't read too much into my
17 question.

18 MS. MAPES: So I think if I can answer this, I
19 think that there would be a several stage process and we
20 follow it closely what the Commission did in its PJM order
21 where it asks for three meetings.

22 MS. AMES: We want to stay away from that, we
23 have an ex parte issue with PJM.

24 MS. MAPES: Okay, and then what we envision and
25 what we will present in our post-Technical Conference

1 comments is an iterative process. We're not looking to
2 substitute our judgment for that of the PTOs. We understand
3 that it's their system and they have an ultimate obligation
4 there, but we're looking to first give input on the -- on
5 the assumptions and criteria than to give input on the
6 projects themselves and potential solutions.

7 And then finally we would look for dispute
8 resolution process. We'd want to be able to bring both
9 substantive and procedural disputes before the Commission or
10 before a dispute resolution process as laid out in the
11 tariff. So if there's a disagreement we think there needs
12 to be a process in place to handle that disagreement.

13 It wouldn't be well we say this so we're right,
14 it would be, you know, we give input as collaborative over
15 time and then finally there's some sort of dispute
16 resolution and I'll add that this is really what's lacking
17 in the current structure where we give information in the
18 rate cases -- there there's no dispute resolution, there's
19 no opportunity for collaboration. It's merely a one way
20 flow of information followed by at best, a prudency
21 challenge.

22 We would submit that that's the worst way to
23 handle those kinds of disagreements.

24 MS. AMOS: Other thoughts?

25 MR. NELSON: Well yeah, within our TMCR so we --

1 MS. SWITZER: I'm sorry, could you just speak up
2 a little bit more?

3 MR. NELSON: Yes, within our TMCR filing we have
4 multiple feedback loops where we release a draft plan, give
5 people a chance to review it. We have a stakeholder
6 process. We then are given feedback from our stakeholders
7 within -- with written comments. We then have a chance to
8 review those and put out a final report on what we've done
9 with that.

10 As amended we have an escalation process where it
11 can ultimately be brought up to medication. And then we
12 have an opportunity post-final report basically for people
13 to provide feedback on what we should be looking at -- final
14 comments on the report, but more importantly feedback on
15 what we should be focusing on for the next iteration.

16 So in this process there would be we had an
17 example here of a breaker and a half versus
18 sectionalization. So we might put out the draft report that
19 says oh we're going to breaker and a half this. People in
20 our stakeholder process may ask questions -- well why are
21 you breaking and a half this section, doesn't
22 sectionalization make more sense? I'm not a transmission
23 designer but I'm just using examples.

24 We want to hear that feedback because it may be a
25 very reasonable idea and we'll take that into consideration

1 and our final report may come out -- hey, we changed it from
2 the draft. We're sectionalizing this because of the
3 feedback we got.

4 We're not. Or maybe we looked at it and there's
5 whatever -- whatever the situation is it's not going to
6 work. So that's our process and then ultimately multiple
7 years ahead in our process if they think it should really be
8 kicked out of the asset management into the transmission
9 planning process, at least with a five year window there's a
10 chance to kick it into that process or something completely
11 different than we were planning and then ultimately if it
12 makes it into our rates, then ultimately we're back sort of
13 to that last step of a challenge to those costs, ultimately,
14 through some sort of state, but that's sort of the last step
15 after we've gone through these sort of five year process.

16 That's how our process works as approved but
17 suspended.

18 MR. THOMAS: Is there a question over here?

19 MS. MAPES: I'll start. While we appreciate
20 Southern California Edison taking the initiative to file a
21 process however we think that it's still lacking in some
22 respects. The key one from my perspective is that Southern
23 California Edison, as I understand the process, seeks to
24 present solutions to transmission needs at the same time as
25 it first presents those needs so we're not getting to review

1 the criteria and assumptions and models that underlie as
2 identification of transmission needs.

3 And so for us this process isn't iterative
4 enough. It doesn't provide the two-way flow of information
5 and collaboration that we'd really like to see. It provides
6 essentially one round of stakeholder comments on the current
7 draft and there's a final round that will only be taken
8 under account in successive years.

9 We'd like to see multiple rounds of comments on
10 the draft in a given year before we take it into the FERC
11 process. And I'll pass this down to Traci.

12 MR. NELSON: I just want to nuance on a word
13 there. Again, we don't view this as a planning process.
14 Yes you make intentions and budgeting and have events that
15 are going to take place in their maintenance. We don't view
16 this as transmission planning.

17 So with that said the degree of models and the
18 technical input that go into true transmission planning in
19 our assessment don't come into the main nexus, it's a
20 different type of activity. So I do respectfully disagree
21 with labeling these maintenance activities as transmission
22 planning.

23 MR. THOMAS: I can add a follow-up to that, I
24 just want to explore a little bit what I heard Katherine and
25 maybe as Jeff responded. The question that arises to me is

1 it sounds like, you know, again we talk about information
2 sharing. It seems to be kind of narrowing, drilling down to
3 kind of what it is -- it might be the crux of our
4 discussions today.

5 And if there would be some sort of resolution to
6 do that what is your opinion on how that would affect not
7 only the transmission maintenance practice they do as far as
8 duration goes, the duration of that effect on CAISO'S
9 transmission plan. Do you have a sense of kind of how all
10 that plays in because I get a feel if I listen to it long --
11 and we're talking about multiple rounds of iteration.

12 Can we meet the timelines to be timely and active
13 in transmission planning as well as mirroring that up with
14 maintenance activities?

15 MS. MAPES: Yeah, and we'll go into more detail
16 about this in our post-transmission post-Technical
17 Conference comments because we have a proposed process in
18 mind that syncs up with the CAISO transmission planning
19 process.

20 So in our mind it would sync up with both the
21 CAISO transmission planning process so that if something
22 needed to be kicked over to that process we could do that
23 and it would sync up with the TO's rate case schedules so
24 that projects would be reviewed before they went into a
25 particular rate case.

1 I think that the CAISO transmission planning
2 process is a -- exactly the kind of iterative process we're
3 talking about and there are opportunities to synchronize
4 with that process to say that -- and we envision something
5 like an 18 month process for each planning cycle where you
6 start with the unified planning assumptions in one cycle at
7 the same time as you're looking at the draft final plan for
8 this previous cycle so everybody is kind of on the same page
9 as far as these projects move through -- does that answer
10 your question to some degree?

11 MR. THOMAS: I think, I mean a synopsis here
12 would have been helpful -- again we're trying as we go
13 through this and create maybe not only information sharing
14 but ideas and kind of that synopsis is helpful here, we
15 wouldn't want to take anything out of context and be sure if
16 there's a resolution to be gained rather than waiting to
17 post at the Conference hearing it here and seeing if there's
18 some resolve they can get to would be helpful.

19 MS. LOOKER: This is Geneva Looker, but to
20 respond to Jeff's comment that you don't really plan for
21 maintenance -- I would respectfully disagree with that. You
22 keep using the term maintenance as if -- as if that doesn't
23 involve planning.

24 And really I like the term you used initially
25 which was the asset management. These are the assets you

1 have, you have to manage them. You have to plan to manage
2 them which means you are keeping track of outages, you're
3 keeping track of whether they're in a good condition or not.

4

5 You're keeping track of how old they are. You're
6 keeping track of the manufacturer of the circuit breakers.
7 You're keeping track of all of this stuff sometimes through
8 maintenance practices, sometimes through inspections,
9 whatever you need.

10 Granted some of this does not involve modeling --
11 power flow modeling but you have the records that inform
12 your plans for asset management. You obviously have plans
13 of what you're going to work on next year, the year after.
14 And that is what we have not been getting access to.

15 It's the criteria, you know, what is the age of
16 something? Are you weighting that 50%, are you weighting
17 the condition of it 20%, whatever the assumptions in
18 criteria might be?

19 And then the list of okay, we rank all of our
20 assets. These are the ones that appear to be in worse
21 shape. We need to fix those first.

22 (Interruption -- music playing over phone.)

23 I'm finished.

24 MR. THOMAS: Okay, because I did want to comment
25 and I appreciate I think there's -- I don't want to

1 necessarily be in a -- and we appreciate the enlightenment
2 of terminology back and forth. I don't want to necessarily
3 want to get down that versus -- I think we might have lost a
4 little bit of focus on question 4.

5 And Mr. Dockham you mentioned that your answer if
6 I heard you right was no, that the TCA's or the BPM's don't
7 provide enough guidance or clarify. So I wanted to kind of
8 build on that question -- continue moving forward here
9 today.

10 And take a moment, maybe a couple of seconds kind
11 of let -- if you have ideas, what that is because you talked
12 about and mentioned the word built out. Can you give us
13 some high level topics of what would do that?

14 You also mentioned the word, you know, there
15 could be potential ambiguity in the terminology within the
16 current TCA's as appropriate?

17 MR. DOCKHAM: Correct.

18 MR. THOMAS: Maybe define for us what that means
19 -- what you would see that mean and maybe some ideals for us
20 of what a build out would look like?

21 MR. DOCKHAM: Sure, so as appropriate it should
22 cover every category of work for which transmission access
23 charge recovery is being sought. In terms of building it
24 out amongst the things that we would like to see is a five
25 year projection for all of the projects contained within

1 each of these major work categories and I don't know to what
2 degree Southern CAL ISO, or San Diego Gas & Electric
3 utilizes the same kind of structure to identify their
4 self-approved projects.

5 But let's just say for example within the
6 substation asset category or the line maintenance category
7 that there's some hundred projects listed there and if in
8 any one year the criteria for which those projects are
9 advanced as clear and it's essential that they be replaced
10 and for whatever reason in year 1, 2 and 3 for which these
11 things were identified, these projects aren't completed but
12 other projects are such that we're spending the same amount
13 of money in that major work category that was requested in
14 the TO proceeding, what kind of back log are we generating?

15 What kind of adherence to budget is being
16 accomplished? We can't see any of that now. We make no
17 secret of the fact that one of the major concerns that we
18 have here is the rate of increase of TAC and we think a
19 major contributor to that is the lack of visibility into the
20 projects that are being scheduled, deferred or substituted.

21 And so we'd suggest that that's a huge
22 improvement that needs to be addressed immediately -- does
23 that help?

24 MR. THOMAS: I think so. I mean I just want to
25 make sure we come out -- we're talking about frameworks, and

1 we've gotten an idea of what people are thinking when they
2 bring ideas up.

3 MR. DOCKHAM: I've mentioned the unified planning
4 assumption's document as a template and whether you, you
5 know, refer to SF maintenance's planning or not I agree with
6 Geneva. I think clearly you're planning to manage your
7 assets, but the document ought to identify upfront all of
8 the criteria upon which you are evaluating replacement and
9 upgrade needs.

10 And stakeholders in the process can easily
11 determine whether those criteria are being appropriately
12 applied in the projects that are being recommended.

13 MR. THOMAS: Is your suggestion in that regard
14 then -- can it be more focused on the transparency and maybe
15 we use terminology comparability and things like that but
16 not necessarily to establish one's better case in the
17 prudence challenge?

18 MR. DOCKHAM: Could you ask that question again?

19 MR. THOMAS: Sure, it's more -- is the focus
20 about the type of build out as you've explained or heard
21 quite a few things in there that we want to focus on, at
22 least transparency. The thing that's happening, the reason
23 it's happening in the decisions that are being made but not
24 necessarily focusing such granularity that we would know
25 cost items, breakouts, this decision, that decision such

1 that if someone wanted to use the Commission's potential
2 processes or planning as a prudency challenge because I'm
3 of the opinion that's not what our planning processes were
4 about, that's the "B" stuff.

5 I'm just curious if the mindset of having that
6 level of granularity or if we just kind of stop at this
7 floor more than transparency floor.

8 MR. DOCKHAM: Let me try and answer a couple of
9 ways. So I think there are a series of projects that are
10 routine that will be approved with little to no review and
11 little to no objection and I'll site the projects that were
12 mentioned at the very beginning of this Conference.

13 Not much to object about there -- there's another
14 set of projects and Neil mentioned this -- that you know you
15 could have a substation project that fell within the purview
16 of the PTOs or within the purview of the ISO.

17 That one ought to have some ability to at the end
18 of the process run through the alternative dispute
19 resolution process.

20 MR. THOMAS: Okay, thanks, I appreciate it.

21 MR. GRIESS: I think Dave really hit on the
22 important piece. I think there is a -- there is a request
23 for more transparency but because there's been little or no
24 transparency until now for what's becoming a majority of
25 what's feeding the TAC cost, then there does become a

1 question of prudence. Are they doing the right project?
2 Are they doing it at the right time? Are they spinning the
3 right amount of money on it? And so that level of
4 transparency helps answer those questions and I think that's
5 what's needed.

6 MR. THOMAS: Okay.

7 MR. GABBARD: Just real quick. I'd be remiss if
8 I didn't chime in on Chris's earlier point. I think it's
9 very important to acknowledge that time is of the essence in
10 many instances and that no matter what aspect of this
11 conversation we're having the number one guidepost should be
12 around safe and available access to the transmission system.

13 When I say available I mean it's there and its
14 operating to be able to meet the needs of our customers and
15 so there is an aspect of this subset of investments that
16 we're talking about where assets have actually failed in
17 place.

18 And we as the utility have the obligation to
19 maintain availability of that grid so we're doing everything
20 within our power in order to restore that service. So you
21 know, there is an example where that asset fails we're in a
22 situation where we're exposed to an N minus 1 minus 1 type
23 of contingency.

24 So we need to manage that risk effectively and
25 it's moving towards putting a 14 month process or whatever

1 the process may be on the critical path of those actions is
2 cause for concern when it comes to maintaining the
3 availability of the grid and in many instances the safety of
4 the greater State of California.

5 So I don't -- I didn't want to blow by that. I
6 want to make sure that we're all holding that as a
7 cornerstone in this discussion because it's something that
8 we hold dearly as transmission owners.

9 MS. BONE: And I don't think that we have any
10 disagreement about that and that basically would fall within
11 the class of assets that Dave Dockham was talking about. We
12 have no intention but we don't think that those are
13 emergency replacements or what's getting us to a billion
14 dollars, so they're a very small fraction of what's going
15 on.

16 MS. GORDON: This is Danielle Gordon. Without
17 touching on some of the questions that we have to go over
18 later this afternoon, I keep hearing about increases to the
19 TAC dating back to 2012 even. Can you speak to -- without
20 going into too much detail whether you're seeing increases
21 in the overall TAC, are you seeing increases in the regional
22 component or at the local component or both?

23 MS. MAPES: Do you want to take it Traci -- I can
24 start. We're seeing increases in both, it's increasing
25 across the board and the way it's split up is generally in

1 the high-voltage and low-voltage and NCPA's customers are
2 connected in both and we're seeing significant increases.

3 MS. BONE: However, I will point out that we are
4 also seeing a trend where fewer and fewer projects are going
5 through the CAISO process and the percentage of
6 self-approved projects is going up significantly.

7 MR. GABBARD: Just to clarify for the record. I
8 want to touch on two points. First off the phenomenon of
9 requiring additional investment in the transmission
10 infrastructure is a natural occurrence based on the fact
11 that a lot of the transmission at the structure is reaching
12 the end of its useful life.

13 A lot of the infrastructure that we had in the
14 State of California was built just previous or just
15 post-World War II. We have assets with the useful lives in
16 the -- some newer technologies in the 20 year range, but 50,
17 60, 70, 80, 100 year range. We're reaching that wave in the
18 utilities sector where infrastructure that was originally
19 built out with the build out of the transmission grid is now
20 reaching the end of its useful life and going through that
21 lifecycle replacement.

22 So we are increasing our investment in order to
23 actually maintain the performance of the grid as we're
24 obligated to do. I also want to clarify a correction that
25 at least within PG&E's service territory the percentage of

1 our investment in our transmission infrastructure for
2 projects that were approved by the California ISO is
3 actually increasing and has done so over the recent years,
4 so I just wanted to call that out.

5 MR. SHEER: Will Sheer, the other piece I'd add
6 too is really the fire hardening activities at least
7 specifically for SPG&E. California has been devastated by
8 wildfires, everybody knows. We have been investing in those
9 activities to prevent that occurring again. So we've seen
10 an increased cost in fire hardening our transmission lines
11 in those fire prone areas, so that's an important investment
12 that we're going to make.

13 MS. AMOS: Is that the kind of investment --
14 Angela again, is that the kind of investment that would be
15 time sensitive?

16 MR. SHEER: Yeah.

17 MS. AMOS: And so it wouldn't necessarily fall
18 into the bucket of projects for which there would be
19 concerns?

20 MS. BONE: It would because it's a massive
21 investment and it's going to be -- it needs to be spread out
22 to some extent so the question is over how long and how much
23 is done each year?

24 And I think that both Will's comment as well as
25 Dave Gabbard's comment about you know, the long-term need to

1 replace basically all of the assets in the system points to
2 the very fact that we need to be planning for these things
3 and that there needs to be a process in place that we can
4 participate in to ensure that the planning is happening at
5 the right time on the right assets.

6 MS. AMOS: Can we explore this point a little
7 bit? The fire hardening element since that is such a big
8 concern these days -- where we draw the line between the
9 longer term planning or you know, the next 50 years of the
10 grid and the short-term lead of protecting against current
11 risk?

12 MS. BONE: And I think that that goes to kind of
13 the corporate management of risk and looking at all the
14 priorities that the utility has to meet in figuring those
15 things out so it's not something we have -- that we have an
16 answer for today, but again it needs to be a transparent
17 process where we can balance all of the various needs --
18 fire hardening and other asset replacements.

19 MS. LOOKER: This is Geneva Looker. I'd also
20 like to point out that fires are not new to California so
21 over the years of building transmission facilities fire
22 hardening should have been considered over time.

23 Granted new technology is available, new things
24 are available that you now want to install but this is
25 something that should be part of your planning process

1 continually, all the time so you know, I wouldn't term that
2 as emergency. The emergency was as lines and poles are
3 destroyed in the fire you have to get them back up and get
4 them operating -- that's emergency.

5 But the fire hardening is a planning process that
6 you have to look at, decide how you're going to do it,
7 figure out which areas need it first or are most prone to
8 fire and then budgeting and then, you know, there are a lot
9 of elements that go into that fire hardening.

10 MR. SHEER: Great, and some of those to your
11 earlier point weren't available at least on the lower
12 voltage and that's a lot of what we're doing today so that's
13 the change out. At least for one of our projects did go
14 through the CPUC process.

15 We had a permit to construct for one of our
16 larger fire hardening projects so there was transparency
17 there was, you know, that was a very long proceeding.
18 Eventually we got approval but that's, you know, three years
19 longer than what we probably wanted to start. I mean that's
20 what happens. It just delays getting started and you're
21 just -- we're at risk, our customers are at risk, so.

22 MR. DOCKHAM: Is that, so I mean we can't do
23 anything but comment San Diego Gas & Electric for some of
24 the work they've done, probably some of the most innovative
25 in the nation. I mean they've hired fire departments,

1 they've invested in weather forecasting to better predict
2 when the Santa Ana winds are going to come.

3 They've put practices in place to shut-off lines
4 in the rural wind prone areas, but where we've seen in some
5 TO filings is the capitalization of some of these costs so I
6 have no idea what San Diego is doing but it would be helpful
7 to understand, you know, who's paying for the fire
8 department? Is that an expense or is that a TO expense?

9 In some of these others it is the planning -- the
10 development of the plan, is that a capitalized expenditure
11 because we have seen disaster plans capitalized in the TO
12 process. So all of this I think bears on the rate of
13 increase of TAC.

14 It's just the lack of transparency into the
15 planning processes that are going on. It doesn't allow this
16 to see how these things are being handled up front and it
17 indicates that there is plenty of time to work through all
18 of the details as these plans are being developed because
19 they are long-term in nature.

20 MR. SHEER: I don't want to go through -- down a
21 rabbit hole here but I do appreciate the accomplishments of
22 SDG&E. I just want to clarify two quick things. We didn't
23 hire a fire department for one -- just to be clear.

24 And our costs associated -- we did hire fire
25 coordinators -- ex-firefighters for California but those

1 costs are shown in our CPUC general rate case so we put
2 those in. So there is the opportunity for CPUC to review
3 those in our general rate case filing, one of them.

4 So it's not -- not that it doesn't exist -- I
5 mean that is an effort we're going through right now. We do
6 put in those costs and make them available and the reasons
7 why, so.

8 MS. SWITZER: I keep -- different section, I keep
9 hearing you referring to it as planning and PTOs are -- it's
10 not planning, it's asset management. And this might take us
11 all the way back to the first one or two questions about --
12 can we just again talk about how you plan for asset
13 management?

14 I know that there's criteria, they're
15 confidential right now so is there teams, you know within
16 your companies that are in charge of this and how far ahead
17 do you look and just maybe expand on the planning of these
18 asset management for us.

19 MS. CABELL: This is Dana Cabbell from Edison.
20 Yes, I mean there are teams. There is organizations within
21 the company that that is their sole purpose is to look at
22 the equipment, evaluate the equipment, determine does it
23 need to be replaced, when does it need to be replaced?

24 It does go through our population process that
25 we've been implementing. So they are dedicated to be

1 looking at our assets and to determine when they need to be
2 replaced. And its typically this type of work is a two to
3 three year process.

4 The projects are identified, scoped, procured,
5 constructed within two to three years.

6 MS. SWITZER: So you would agree that there's
7 planning, you obviously have to plan for this asset
8 management. There's different -- it's not very much
9 different than transmission planning?

10 MS. CABELL: Right, it's not transmission
11 planning in the sense of what goes through the ISO process.

12 MS. SWITZER: Yeah, are there any concerns about
13 keeping certain things confidential, if you continue to go
14 down that route?

15 MS. CABELL: I mean I'll have to go back and
16 really dig in to what that information. Maybe Dave and Will
17 might know, there's some of the projects that we get into
18 like the cyber security and the physical security projects
19 -- those we consider confidential, particularly the location
20 and what scope is particularly for cyber security -- what
21 are we doing to harden our system to prevent cyber bad acts.

22 And then also the physical security -- the
23 understanding which substations are being identified through
24 the NERC reliability standard related to physical security.
25 Those substations, the locations are confidential.

1 MS. SWITZER: You do have criteria and you do
2 have a team that's planning these and looking out a few
3 years ahead?

4 MS. CABELL: Yes.

5 MR. GABBARD: I'd like to provide a little color
6 from an asset management standpoint. At the end of the day
7 what asset management is doing is optimizing value so it's
8 looking at the cost and the system related performance or
9 risks that come out of a certain methodology.

10 When we manage our assets it could be a span
11 across a long spectrum of different strategies. One can be
12 as simple as run to failure. You never -- you don't
13 proactively replace your lightbulb. You run that until it
14 burns out and then you go and you replace it because the
15 implications of that one lightbulb going out are de minimis
16 and the most cost-effective way to manage that asset is to
17 run it to failure.

18 On the other end they're assets that you can
19 never have run to failure so you need to employ different
20 strategies. And as the complexity of the transmission
21 system grows that asset management framework has continued
22 to mature.

23 I think asset management as a theory started in
24 the '70's in Australia, but it's matured over time and as
25 more and more of our infrastructure gets to the end of its

1 life we need to think more diligently about how we manage
2 it.

3 Historically it's been run to failure or run to
4 time. We're now moving towards run to condition and it's
5 more of a predictive condition. And that condition is not
6 just about the probability of failure but the potential
7 impact of that failure. And as we move to that more
8 targeted asset management methodology we really need to
9 highlight the criticality of our assets.

10 So in some instances that information can be
11 public in nature. In others, absolutely not -- I think the
12 far extreme would be some of the criticality identified
13 under NERC's set 14.

14 In others, we are really prioritizing okay, we
15 can more aggressively proactively replace this asset because
16 the impacts of it failing would cause this, this and this,
17 having that transparency to the public actually expose us
18 from a sabotage standpoint so that we have sensitivities
19 around it.

20 Another instance we could say this asset the
21 failure will have impact but the impact is negligible --
22 that type of information we would be more comfortable in
23 making transparent. So it definitely is a spectrum, but
24 there are sensitivities that we need to take into
25 consideration.

1 MS. SWITZER: Like in the criteria and the
2 sensitivity in the procedure is just available for everyone
3 to understand but not necessarily specific locations or
4 projects.

5 MS. LOOKER: This is Geneva Looker again. I
6 agree with David in what he's saying that there's changes in
7 how you do things but as he has said different assets have
8 different criteria, different assumptions, different needs,
9 different risks. All of that can be revealed and be
10 transparent.

11 When you get into the details of which project
12 and how the prioritization and the ranking goes and which
13 projects get put into that, that might require some
14 non-disclosure agreements or something like that. But at
15 least that is the kind of stuff that we have been looking
16 for in the TO cases was -- was that information and it took
17 a great deal of work to get it.

18 When we did get it we still weren't in a place,
19 in a litigation proceeding to explore and ask the questions
20 well why this? Why did you rank this one above that and you
21 know, okay you ranked it high, why isn't there a project
22 planned for this but the one that's ranked 589 has a project
23 planned.

24 It's that kind of dialogue we need, feedback,
25 iterative process. The criteria, the assumptions and you

1 know, I don't think that the people here would object to
2 some kind of a confidential process. I believe does the TPP
3 have the confidential process when you're doing --

4 MR. MILLAR: At the ISO we have three levels.
5 Our general planning process is fully open, transparent,
6 published on our web. The next level of information is
7 available through our under our non-disclosure agreement.
8 And there is a third around a certain extreme of analysis
9 that isn't made public, available at all even under an NDA.

10 MS. SWITZER: Okay.

11 MS. TEETER: This is Valerie Teeter from FERC
12 staff. If I can kind of ask a follow-up question. It was
13 helpful to hear kind of like at a very high level, how the
14 asset management process works. I guess I wanted to dig in
15 a little bit more to kind of get a little more detail on
16 each of the steps that I heard.

17 So I heard that as part of this process you know
18 you're constantly evaluating your system against a certain
19 set of criteria. So, you know, assuming that those at least
20 internally are documented.

21 You're identifying criteria that maybe aren't
22 being met, opportunities for projects, scoping the project.
23 I'm kind of curious what's involved in that stuff. Is it
24 looking at different alternatives, is it identifying whether
25 it may be something that goes to CAISO?

1 You know kind of developing the solution and then
2 moving forward to actual construction and all this can take
3 a year or two years depending on the project. Could you
4 give me a little bit more detail maybe about how each of
5 those steps really work so that we could understand what --
6 kind of what considerations come in at each level of the
7 asset management process?

8 MS. CABELL: So I'll start again, this is Dana
9 Cabbell. So the organization looks at the assets -- let's
10 say circuit breakers. What they do and as we've been
11 talking we look at a certain criteria and we take it through
12 a health index type of process, looking at the age, the
13 criticality, the location and trying to understand.

14 And this is, you know, throughout the whole grid.
15 And some of it is done on inspection also. So we identify,
16 you know, which circuit breakers we need to replace and then
17 we take it through the prioritization to understand the risk
18 that if that breaker failed what is the impact?

19 So then you're starting to look at impact also.
20 So we've come up with now a list of circuit breakers that
21 need to be replaced. When I say scope it's really now of a
22 more okay now it goes into engineering, now we need this
23 type of circuit breaker, you go through procurement.

24 It's not scoping like you're looking at
25 alternatives, it's more of the engineering scoping, this is

1 the size of the breaker going to the procurement process and
2 then the design, you know, making sure that this new breaker
3 fits into the old spot.

4 Sometimes you need to change the footings because
5 now with the breakers different, you know, a different size
6 or whatever, just by physicality not by capacity but it just
7 -- or maybe smaller because it's new technology.

8 I mean so you have to engineer it to make sure it
9 fits in to where you want to put in the breaker or the
10 transformer so that's kind of what I mean by scoping and
11 engineering, procurement and then you go out and basically
12 have the crews construct it.

13 MS. TEETER: Is that similar for the other?

14 MR. SPEER: Pretty similar. I mean I think they
15 probably all have internal committees. I mean ours is the
16 substation equipment assessment -- the C team, so they meet
17 regularly, they establish kind of that criteria for what,
18 you know, what we're looking for -- what's the highest risk?

19 So it's the same kind of process internally.
20 We're looking at what are the assets that are most at risk
21 and the criticality and then going through that process
22 then, okay if these are the type of assets we've identified,
23 how many of them do we have across our system?

24 What's the plan to get them all replaced because
25 that's planning -- that's transmission planning but that's

1 asset management planning but there is like, hey maybe we
2 have 30 of these. We can't do them all in one year, it's
3 going to take us 5 years to do it.

4 So we have those same type exercises and then it
5 goes through the procurement and the construction.

6 MS. WONG: This is Jocelyn Wong from PG&E. The
7 one additional thing that we do from a scoping perspective
8 is that in addition to just identifying that single asset
9 that needs -- that is the potential for failure and we will
10 take a look at what else is going on in that substation to
11 see if they can capture any other efficiencies.

12 Anything else that's also on the list for
13 replacement, any other structure or any other assets within
14 the substation that need to be addressed, safety issues,
15 operational issues, we'll take all of that into
16 consideration as we identify what the overall scope of work
17 should be for that project.

18 MS. TEETER: Thank you, that's helpful.

19 MR. GABBARD: I do also want to highlight that
20 asset management has a bottoms up and tops down aspect to
21 it. The bottoms up is really looking at asset by asset
22 based on criteria what is the most critical asset that needs
23 to be replaced first?

24 From the top down standpoint we have some assets
25 more so than others but we have failure data from our asset

1 base or from industry that allows to inform based on the
2 existing condition of our assets what we can project failure
3 rates to look like into the future.

4 And so what we need to understand is how much of
5 those assets do we want or how proactive do we want to
6 replace those assets as they age in order to avoid those
7 assets failing in service and we need to understand the
8 implications of that so we do modelings top down that say
9 you know, at this investment level we're going to be able to
10 catch this many failures before they occur at a higher level
11 we're going to catch more, at a lower level we're going to
12 catch less.

13 What are the implications to those various
14 metrics that are -- that we care about and our customers
15 care about and our regulators care about? Those are things
16 like the impacts on safety, the impacts on overall
17 reliability and availability of the system as well as
18 impacts on the environment and other considerations.

19 And so we look at that holistically and we say,
20 you know, employing the strategy in aggregate is going to
21 have this kind of an impact on the overall company
22 performance on a going forward basis. Where's our comfort
23 level with kind of optimizing the investment level versus
24 the expected outcome from those investments?

25 MS. BONE: Okay just to engage in a little ground

1 truthing of that -- the statements. We understand -- the
2 CPUC would love to see all of the utilities engaging in a
3 process where they look at all of the assets in a class,
4 prioritize them, understand which ones need to be replaced
5 first.

6 But in RTO 18 discovery, PG&E testified on the
7 stand that capital addition decisions have been made
8 primarily on a project by project basis rather than through
9 a comparison of similar assets as a whole in order to
10 compare projects and prioritize them and that it wouldn't be
11 able to do a database search to do that comparison of
12 similar assets as a whole.

13 And this goes to one of the issues that I had
14 hoped to flush out a little bit more in my opening comments
15 which is that even once we get this process in place, you
16 know, we have agreement on what the tariff looks like, the
17 data is lacking and the internal processes are lacking so
18 that we need to -- we need to be moving quickly to make up
19 for those data deficiencies and what's going to be required.

20 So there's going to be a major implementation
21 challenge because today what is happening is not at all what
22 we'd like to see happening in the future.

23 MS. TEETER: Well if I could just follow-up on
24 that from what you've seen in your experiences is a less
25 kind of I want to say, for less process in a way where it's

1 really looking at individual assets and whether they need to
2 be replaced rather than kind of taking, you know, more like
3 a cyclical type thing where you take a look every year or
4 every however many months -- thank you.

5 MS. BONE: Yes, what we are not seeing the N to 1
6 planning or what's is 1 to N? I say it wrong -- I'm not the
7 1 to N planning, that we had hoped to see that it's a very
8 ad hoc more subjective process.

9 MR. GABBARD: Two quick questions. I heard a
10 representation that there was a cite from testimony but I
11 didn't hear that it was an actual cite from testimony. And
12 then I do have a question -- is there any concern about ex
13 parte in that we are citing testimony from an active
14 proceeding in front of the country?

15 MS. KIZUKA: I'm assuming that it's one of the
16 proceedings that was listed in the most recent notice?

17 MS. BONE: Yes.

18 MS. KIZUKA: On that case.

19 MR. GABBARD: There's no concern.

20 MS. BONE: Right, and the transcript cites -- the
21 FERC transcript cites 212 to 214, if you review those areas
22 as well page 230.

23 MR. THOMAS: I will follow-up with that we do
24 want to recognize what this Conference is intended to be and
25 I understood there was supposed to be illustrative only

1 leaked in that regard, that we're not here to rebut or have
2 a conversation about what that testimony's about.

3 MS. BONE: Absolutely. I think that the concern
4 is that it's not just PG&E, we suspect that we're going to
5 see this, you know, throughout all of them and it's not
6 about the TO rate case, it's about getting a process in
7 place and being aware that we have these major
8 implementation challenges.

9 And, you know, that combined with the end flight
10 projects is how do we quickly get our hands around all those
11 issues?

12 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Patrizio before you go I do want
13 to recognize we are kind of working through -- one of the
14 things I wanted to mention is we're trying to get before our
15 next break is through a series of questions and I think
16 we've kind of been migrating, getting through questions 5,
17 6, and 7.

18 I want to kind of maybe plant a seed in your head
19 if there are questions and we still haven't addressed those
20 topics as raised in the agenda, we would feel free to do it
21 but I think we started to kind of get into there and so for
22 purposes of making sure we get good discussions throughout
23 the day and maintain our timeline, I would much divert you
24 beyond that but if there isn't anything else in there --
25 there might be a few questions I have regarding to 6 and I

1 might want to address that before we take a break for lunch.

2 So Mr. Patrizio with that you have a question?

3 MR. PATRIZIO: I do have a question and my timing
4 is bad. I think my question was probably best directed at
5 Linda who just stepped out. I'm not clear on how we're
6 applying the ex parte rules.

7 I acknowledged TO 18 was identified in
8 supplemental Technical Conference notices, but I am growing
9 concerned that representations are being made and this is
10 going to be transcribed and those representations are
11 certainly CPUC's position in TO 18 but hasn't been -- those
12 positions haven't been ruled on by a Commission and we have
13 held fire and not rebutted each one as they have come in.

14 But if it's going to continue throughout the
15 afternoon, we're going to perhaps, feel compelled to rebut
16 them. There was a reference earlier about advancing 800
17 projects costing 300 million -- that's their assertion, it's
18 not a fact.

19 And we've aggressively opposed it in TO 18. How
20 are we going to deal with that for the rest of the day if
21 we're getting these assertions being transcribed, being
22 unrebutted? Maybe you as staff can consider that over lunch
23 how we best handle that in the afternoon but at some point
24 we're going to have to start counterpointing all of these
25 things. I'd prefer to avoid it.

1 MR. THOMAS: Understood.

2 MS. FARINELLA: I'd just like to say at a high
3 level that we need to stay focused on the questions here so
4 if people could just redirect themselves to the questions
5 that are being asked and answer those questions, I think
6 that would help in a high, high level.

7 We'll think more about it on a detailed level
8 after lunch.

9 MS. SWITZER: Are there questions on number 6?

10 MR. THOMAS: Yeah, we've been going a little back
11 and forth. I think we've heard some topicality about how --
12 what are these types of projects, how they're determined. I
13 think there was some discussion on that. Emergency projects
14 weren't in question, I'm not going to go either way on that.

15

16 It was a great opportunity for illustration on
17 what we talked about when we talked about non-transmission
18 compliance and maintenance activities. One thing I kind of
19 wasn't sure that I got is looking at question 6 and the
20 sub-part question is does each PTO differentiate between
21 transmission where the maintenance compliance activities
22 that require immediate action and those who don't?

23 And I think we talked about those that do --
24 emergency type things you would only take, you know, some
25 things that go to failure was a great example, things like

1 that. But when there aren't -- where there are
2 differentiations -- does there exist a differentiation
3 between say maybe a specific gas like San Diego about when
4 they look at what they addressed, what action would be
5 needed for a particular project for transmission compliance
6 and maintenance?

7 That is if you were to do it, do those scope of
8 criteria -- and I think some of them might be -- some of the
9 criteria might be kind of out there that says we still --
10 does it need to be protected data?

11 Does the scope of that criteria between at least
12 the three PTOs significantly diverse at some point? Does
13 what PJ&E look at and the reason they look at it
14 significantly different than how San Diego looks at their
15 systems? And I'm not sure we've really touched on them
16 because I'm going to have a question later on going okay, is
17 there criteria behind those?

18 And I think there probably are criteria behind it
19 I'm just curious of the application of that criteria even
20 different.

21 MR. SPEER: Sorry, trying to understand the
22 question.

23 MR. THOMAS: Understand.

24 MR. SPEER: Is that between immediate and longer
25 term because you've referenced Q6 but I didn't hear --

1 MR. THOMAS: I think the immediate we have kind
2 of gotten to. It struck me as we talked earlier about
3 emergency things like that and those struck me in the realm
4 of the immediate. I'm just talking about the long-term.

5 MR. SPEER: Yeah this is Will Speer. I think
6 it's the driver that determines whether to answer this
7 question it's the driver that determines whether it goes
8 through the ISO process. Is it related to the transmission
9 plan, the expansion, is it economic, is it policy?

10 The matter and the timeframe, that's what goes to
11 the ISO, that's where the rules are. The asset management
12 piece is you know, kind of everything else we've been
13 touching on so it's really the driver it's not the timeframe
14 that would dictate how you would evaluate and control the
15 project.

16 MS. CABELL: And this is Dana Cabbell, and I'm
17 not aware because we haven't really compared notes. I don't
18 know if there is a universal criteria to identify whether
19 its' okay -- a circuit breaker needs to be replaced. I mean
20 there are practices, there are business practices but how we
21 go individually go about it I, you know, we haven't had
22 those conversations coordinated among the PTOs here, upon
23 whether we change out this circuit breaker at this time in
24 this way.

25 I mean there are common tools and practices that

1 you know, looking at the health of the equipment and the age
2 and all of that that we've been talking about but the actual
3 way we would change this breaker out at this time, you know,
4 they might be looking at something different just because of
5 the differences in the systems too and the arrangements on
6 the system.

7 MR. GABBARD: Can I ask a clarifying question? I
8 heard two different answers. The one was do we have
9 consistency in the way we apply criteria within our asset
10 management methodologies and one was do we have a consistent
11 criteria for what projects are submitted to the California
12 ISO in the transmission planning process. Which question
13 are we trying to answer here?

14 MR. THOMAS: That's a great response, actually.
15 I can answer both -- but let's take a bite of the first one
16 so we're trying to investigate a little bit and when we talk
17 about this to individual PTOs how you look at your asset
18 management and I'm going to try to use your terminology
19 because it's obviously been screwed up throughout the day.

20 It strikes me as from what I've heard so far
21 today that there might be differentiations in asset
22 management evaluations. I don't want to use the work
23 planning because I might open another rat hole.

24 And maybe that's just as simple as if that answer
25 is yes then it kind of gets to the heart of it. There is no

1 one suggesting that they need to conform I'm just curious.

2 MR. GABBARD: I would venture to take a pass that
3 there's likely a difference in the way that we perform asset
4 management across the three PTOs and the reason why I would
5 take that liberty and yes it's challenging, is that we have
6 systems that are made up of different assets with different
7 conditions, different ages and otherwise and we also have
8 different designs of the topography of our systems are
9 different.

10 So the resiliency in one section of Edison's grid
11 is going to be drastically different than the resiliency
12 that's built into the PG&E system that again has been pulled
13 together over a hundred years.

14 But the way that we approach that very finite
15 granular criteria in the way we invest in specific assets
16 will likely be different. But I would argue as you roll
17 that up at the higher level when you talk about asset
18 management principles, I think that the methodologies that
19 we employ across these three PTOs here will actually be
20 consistent with other industries in a lot of instances.

21 MR. SPEER: And manufacture.

22 MR. GABBARD: Absolutely, so it really -- the
23 devil is in the details but there's a justification behind
24 it.

25 MR. THOMAS: That's helpful. I think that does

1 get to the point. So I would venture if there aren't
2 anything on that to try and move to question 7. I think
3 question 7 talks about is there a process in the CAISO PTOs
4 to evaluate whether transmission related active facility is
5 not initially submitted, should be transitioned into the
6 TPP?

7 You know, we talked a little bit earlier -- I
8 think it was opened up at the outset, you know, how by way
9 of example I believe it was Edison, was how a project was
10 considered up. I wonder if the three PTOs can talk about
11 their process for when they would consider whether something
12 should be submitted, if you consider it.

13 So these folks on question 7 I think Edison
14 talked a little bit about that so not to kind of point but
15 to really kind of keep it moving, maybe start on PG&E and go
16 the opposite way.

17 MR. GABBARD: Sure. I would say there's no
18 documented process other than there is clear documentation
19 of what should go through the CAISO planning processes for a
20 project that would evolve using the NERC compliance example
21 that Edison provided because I can very much relate to that
22 occurring through the evolution of the project.

23 We believe there's a clear criteria for what goes
24 in the transmission planning process and what doesn't. So
25 if a project were to evolve to the point where it meets the

1 criteria for going in, then we would submit it through the
2 request window. We would -- time permitting, we would
3 follow the normal process that CAISO does have the ability
4 to off cycle submit proposals if there's some level of
5 urgency behind it.

6 But in long-term transmission planning normally
7 we have the time to go through the year process for larger
8 projects. I think the one thing I'd like to call out is
9 that while more often than not it will be bright line
10 criteria where we know it's in or it's out. We also have a
11 very good working relationship with the California ISO in
12 that we will consult them if we have a question.

13 So if there's something that's on the margin for
14 whatever reason and I am talking in hypotheticals, we would
15 reach out to the California ISO and say, "Here's our
16 interpretation of the tariff language based on this unique
17 application that we have not seen on our system to date, and
18 we think it should be treated this way, what is your
19 perspective."

20 That allows us to be, you know, to rest assured
21 that we are making the right decision in pushing -- in what
22 work goes through the CAISO TPP.

23 MR. SPEER: Very similar, exactly the same. We
24 work really well with the ISO's too. If there's something
25 on the fence we'll raise a question and we'll ask and we'll

1 talk through it and decide where is it appropriate to be so.

2 MR. THOMAS: Is it -- I'll ask a better way, is
3 there a general thought that those opportunities when you
4 ask CAISO about whether something is on the fence we should
5 consider it or not consider it -- is that driven, time
6 delineated like for example is it reactionary knowing what
7 the upcoming unified planning is or is it really this is
8 what we're planning on doing, we might -- it might do this
9 extra down the line or through this part of the system?

10 What drives that question to hey CAISO, you know,
11 we might have this particular project what do you think?

12 MR. SPEER: Maybe what it results in right? So
13 if we do see we need a maintenance activity but it is going
14 to result in maybe a rebuild or maybe more capacity or more
15 -- a different configuration, that's what kicks it into that
16 discussion.

17 It's really what is going to improve the
18 liability or meet some of the NERC standards, are there
19 potential economic benefits? Is there policy benefits? And
20 we don't see those policies so much but maybe economic and
21 reliability.

22 And it would be too if the plan identifies an
23 area where there's a need like the yearly process and we
24 have a maintenance project that hey, that might meet that
25 need, that's how we would --

1 MS. CABELL: Yeah, because I know in PG&E also
2 we have a transmission planning group that we're obligated
3 to do our annual transmission planning assessment under the
4 NERC reliability standards -- you know, the TPL standards.

5 So we as a utility know where we see some
6 concerns based on our analysis and at that point too then we
7 understand okay, there's some of these maintenance projects
8 happening, especially if they particularly happen on the
9 transmission lines.

10 Okay, is there something that we can coordinate
11 and collaborate similar to the example that we gave that we
12 saw hey, you know, we can do a little extra capital
13 investment and actually meet an ISO need that was identified
14 in their process and so we put in the request window and go
15 through their process.

16 MR. MILLAR: And it's Neil here with the ISO.
17 There's one clarification I should probably add that in the
18 ISO transmission planning process and especially on the
19 lower voltage facilities where the time it takes to build
20 certain alternatives might be a bit shorter.

21 We don't necessarily approve a solution each year
22 for every need we've seen over the entire 10 years. If we
23 see an issue start to emerge 10 years out and it looks like
24 it might either grow or fade on its own due to either
25 changes we'll identify the need, we'll list some proposed

1 solutions but we won't approve and act on a solution when it
2 could be years before anyone would actually have to take
3 action.

4 So that information helps the utilities as well
5 looking over their own work to see that well this is already
6 showing up on the radar screen but it hasn't been necessary
7 to take action yet. So that also helps give the opportunity
8 both for the transmission owners as well as other
9 stakeholders to think about possible alternative solutions
10 to those we've already identified.

11 MR. NELSON: And this does feedback into some of
12 the earlier discussions about prioritization and what
13 happens when. Conditions are constantly changing and when
14 new retirements or something happens on the system, there's
15 now an issue that hasn't been an issue that may have us
16 re-examine what our plans were, is there a way we can, you
17 know, kill two birds with one stone by doing maintenance in
18 that area?

19 So yes there are criteria and there's you know, a
20 hope that things are going to proceed in a certain way, but
21 flexibility has to be baked into any process to make sure we
22 can react efficiently as conditions change.

23 MS. SWITZER: Okay, thank you. Well with that
24 it's 5 after 12, we'll break for lunch. We'll meet back at
25 1:20.

1 (12:05 p.m. -1:21 p.m. - lunch)

2 MS. KIZUKA: Welcome back everyone. Before we
3 get started again just as we noted this morning the purpose
4 of this Technical Conference is to explore the questions
5 that were listed in the supplemental notice and not to
6 litigate issues, any ongoing proceeding, even if those
7 proceedings were noticed.

8 So to that end we ask that you please to the
9 extent possible limit the use of examples on those contested
10 proceedings. If an example from one of those proceedings
11 must be used, please provide appropriate citations for that.

12 And to the extent a contested example is used
13 we'll provide an even-handed opportunity to respond or
14 you'll have an opportunity to respond in your post-Technical
15 Conference comments. If we do notice that the discussion is
16 starting to become litigation style type of back and forth,
17 we will interject and break up the discussion, thanks.

18 MS. SWITZER: I think we decided we're going to
19 take questions from the audience first and then we'll jump
20 into the remainder of those questions. So if anyone in the
21 audience has a question just like up at the podium, okay,
22 that's fine too. Okay, that was easy.

23 Alright we had one follow-up question from this
24 morning. We understand from the discussion that a project
25 would be submitted to CAISO if CAISO had identified it in

1 the transmission planning.

2 Edison I think gave the example of the
3 incremental project that they then submitted to CAISO. If
4 there is no identified need what would happen to that
5 project? Would you just not do incremental expansion or you
6 know, or would it be considered like at a later date, maybe
7 just elaborate on what would happen if CAISO didn't identify
8 a need?

9 MR. MILLAR: It's Neil here with the ISO, I'll
10 take the question. This is issue is actually people propose
11 projects to address reliability needs and we haven't
12 identified a need to begin with -- we actually don't carry
13 forward with the project at all.

14 We indicate in our transmission plan that we
15 received these submissions but that there was no identified
16 need and we wouldn't advance that discussion that year.
17 Now, if a utility indicated that they thought there was a
18 flaw in our assumptions that led to us not seeing a need, we
19 might revisit it the next year and see if there was
20 something we missed.

21 But generally, we don't move forward with the
22 issues that don't tie to a --

23 MS. SWITZER: So if there was a maintenance
24 project that needed to get done timely, you would just go
25 ahead and do that project and leave the CAISO type thing --

1 if there was no need for it you wouldn't do it?

2 MS. CABELL: Correct, and like Neil said, if
3 truly we saw that through our analysis and through our
4 assumptions we really saw a reliability issue we would put
5 it into their process and of course it goes through the
6 process as Neil just described, but if they don't approve it
7 we're not going to go forward with that we're just going to
8 do the maintenance, get that done and then if it's prudent
9 and it makes sense you come back and maybe do that
10 incrementally.

11 MS. SWITZER: Okay, I think maybe some of us
12 might have heard if a maintenance type project might expand
13 a line but there was no need for it identified by CAISO,
14 then would that be something you would still do?

15 MS. CABELL: If it's going to be -- well let's
16 kind of define when you're saying expandable.

17 MS. SWITZER: Yeah.

18 MS. CABELL: We're adding actually capability --
19 additional throughput in the line. That clearly goes --
20 would have to go through the ISO process -- our maintenance
21 is not allowing for additional throughput. We're not adding
22 a bigger wire. It might be putting up different kind of
23 wire but then just designing it so that it just meets
24 whatever is in the ISO registry.

25 MS. SWITZER: But if you were replacing something

1 at the end of its useful life with new technology it just
2 enhances.

3 MR. GABBARD: So from the PG&E perspective, you
4 know, we are replacing 1940 infrastructure with current
5 infrastructure so it's not exactly like for like. There
6 could be incidental changes in characteristics but we expect
7 those to be very minor.

8 The way I interpreted your original question is
9 do you see an opportunity to increase capacity at an
10 incremental cost in the perspective that we have and I think
11 CAISO shares this as if there's no incremental need, you
12 don't have a justification for that incremental cost.

13 I think that's the approach we'd all take on that
14 situation.

15 MS. CABELL: Yeah, and we wouldn't go forward
16 with that incremental cost.

17 MS. SWITZER: Is that --

18 MS. TEETER: I think that helps. I think what I
19 was kind of struggling with is I had heard a kind of
20 different formulations of that. The first is that the only
21 reason that something that is going through maintenance
22 activities would go onto the CAISO plan is if it met a CAISO
23 need and I had also heard that the CAISO's transmission
24 planning covers everything that's an expansion of the
25 system, reinforcements.

1 I think you mentioned changes, kind of the
2 topology of the system, so I think what I was trying to
3 understand is, is there ever an instance where there is a
4 transmission system expansion or significant changes to
5 topology that would result from a maintenance project that
6 didn't go through CAISO?

7 Say, for example, if CAISO hadn't identified a
8 need and what I'm hearing is CAISO manages all projects that
9 are expansions, that are reinforcement, we'll go through the
10 TPP but those projects only go forward if there's been an
11 identified need for the project.

12 MR. MILLAR: Right and it's Neil here with the
13 ISO. I think the one clarification I should add is if a
14 maintenance activity is going to create some incidental
15 increased capacity, if there was no need for it, that
16 wouldn't go through the ISO transmission planning process
17 because it wasn't part of an identified -- an ISO identified
18 need.

19 But by the same token as people are moving to
20 more modern equipment or standardizing their needs for
21 different types of equipment, there may be some incidental
22 capacity increase. Those get reported to us through our
23 transmission register process so we're aware of any increase
24 in capacity.

25 Now, like I said, those traditionally have been

1 the case of -- putting it bluntly, you can't buy 1940
2 vintage equipment anymore. Utilities are standardizing on
3 more modern conductor sizes. They tend to also be
4 standardizing on transformer sizes so that they can do
5 transformer replacements.

6 So we've seen cases where one transformer had to
7 be replaced though for age and the replacement unit would be
8 of higher capacity and that was because it was a new
9 standard like the standardized size of equipment so that
10 there was sparring in place should the transformer fail.

11 So we're not saying that our process covers
12 everything that may result in a capacity increase. If it's
13 incidental though to the maintenance activity, we need to be
14 aware of it but that wouldn't automatically cause it to be
15 pulled anymore in the process. It's only if someone's
16 looking at doing something incremental, specifically to
17 increase capacity. That has to go through our process under
18 the terms of our transmission control agreement.

19 MS. TEETER: That's helpful, so the delineation
20 with respect to an "expansion of the capacity of the
21 system," is really about is that the driver of the project
22 or is it a maintenance project that incidentally increases
23 capacity due to something technology change, whatever the
24 case may be, just availability of different equipment that
25 wasn't available 50-60 years ago.

1 MR. MILLAN: Right, and in those cases where
2 there is that incidental capacity increase it is the
3 transmission owner's responsibility to defend why that was
4 the right thing to do because we do notice the capacity
5 increases.

6 Part of my team oh -- next day turnaround on
7 validating any increases in capacity or changes in capacity
8 that appear through the transmission register -- so we do
9 monitor what's happening for other reasons.

10 And one of our tariff obligations is actually for
11 the utilities to provide information on any changes to the
12 system that occur or reasons for projects that are not
13 approved by the ISO. So we have to be aware of that
14 information.

15 MS. TEETER: I assume that that's information
16 that's provided to the ISO but not necessarily made public.
17 It's part of the relationship between the transmission
18 owners and the California ISO, is that something that you
19 would post on the website to --

20 MR. MILLAR: We wouldn't post every change that
21 we've seen. Our models though every year the transmission
22 planning power flow models that include ratings, the models
23 that we use are posted publicly well through the
24 non-disclosure agreement on our website, but that material
25 is available.

1 MS. TEETER: So the changes are available but
2 maybe not the reasons for which they -- the upgrade
3 occurred?

4 MR. MILLAR: Correct, we're not reporting that on
5 a day-to-day basis no.

6 MS. TEETER: Thank you.

7 MR. THOMAS: If I could ask a question on that.
8 I mean I think as clarification you say if it's incidental
9 then it's up to the PTO's to defend.

10 MR. GRIESS: Sorry, I guess under the situation
11 where you say that something's changed out, it has an
12 incidental impact to the capacity or something and that
13 would be up to the PTO's to defend -- where would they
14 defend that? What process is there to do that?

15 MR. MILLAR: I think I'd turn to the utilities to
16 answer that because my understanding is with the FERC
17 revenue requirement and annual -- the requirements as part
18 of the application process.

19 MR. GRIESS: And then the second question is you
20 say that well you'd be able to see the change in capacity in
21 the power flow model. That may be the case but you wouldn't
22 see a change in bust structure. You wouldn't see a change
23 in type A pole for a type B pole, would you?

24 MR. MILLAR: Well no, but we were talking about
25 increases in capacity.

1 MR. GRIESS: Right.

2 MR. MILLAR: Now the change in configuration
3 would show up in our analysis of various contingencies that
4 includes the breaker analysis and so forth that you would
5 see the results in our need analysis that there's been a
6 change in configuration.

7 MR. GRIESS: A little more difficult to find
8 though.

9 MR. MILLAR: Well, to be clear our planning
10 process is to move forward with the information that's
11 already there. We're not providing a reporting system on
12 the utility's maintenance activities.

13 But like I said we do monitor and see the changes
14 in configuration and ratings as they're reported through our
15 transmission register. These also need to be built into our
16 network model for dispatching the power system.

17 MS. SWITZER: Okay, well alright thank you.
18 We're going to move onto question 8. What information does
19 CAISO -- does each CAISO PTO submit to CAISO during phase 1
20 of the TPP concerning these maintenance compliance
21 activities? We've covered this a little bit but -- and
22 we'll start with --

23 MR. SPEER: Will Speer, SDG&E. We had nothing.
24 Nothing that could be related to phase 1. Phase 1 we talked
25 about earlier that's a model to study parameters that the

1 ISO is going to do for the upcoming planning cycle.

2 MS. CABBELL: Yeah, similar.

3 MR. GABBARD: Maybe I'm misinterpreting the
4 question. I don't know that I would agree with that. I
5 think I would agree with what Neil just mentioned that we
6 provide updated base cases, updated power flow models, we on
7 a real time basis, update the transmission register as well
8 as the CAISO RIMS, so all of that information is provided
9 either in real time or in phase 1.

10 Any of those projects that ultimately would be
11 meeting a need as we previously defined that would be under
12 the jurisdiction of the CAISO TPP would have a series of
13 additional deliverables that would be submitted with it as a
14 project but that would be in the later phase of the TPP.

15 MR. SPEER: I'll agree, we do provide updated
16 base cases if it does have changes so.

17 MS. CABBELL: Yeah, absolutely, I just understood
18 the question though specifically talking about these
19 maintenance related projects and whether they go into this
20 phase 1, that's how I interpreted it.

21 MS. TEETER: So they go into phase 1 -- I'm sorry
22 this is Valerie Teeter with FERC staff. So they go into
23 phase 1 to the extent that they change the base case. They
24 change kind of the system configuration that CAISO uses in
25 its planning process, okay.

1 MR. SPEER: Yes.

2 MS. CABELL: If that -- something like that did
3 occur.

4 MS. TEETER: To the extent that's the case.

5 MS. SWITZER: Okay, I'm going to skip number 9,
6 we feel like we've covered that. So number 10 I guess this
7 question would be, you know, in advance of rate cases -- are
8 there any processes for stakeholders to review -- we have a
9 question, sorry?

10 MS. LOOKER: This is just a question, this is
11 Geneva Looker. I'm not sure it follows up exactly but let's
12 say that as loads are changing in California and you know
13 with all the solar generation and distributed generation
14 coming online, things are shifting and so a utility might
15 not need to replace something if it's no longer necessary to
16 serve loads.

17 Let's say a manufacturer goes out of business or
18 something and it's no longer there. Would that kind of
19 information get shared with the CAISO if you're -- I mean --

20 MS. SPEER: That's part of a -- this is Will
21 Speer, SDG&E, part of a load forecast that we work on with
22 the ISO. In most of those cases that's distribution
23 connected in most cases so it would just blow up and
24 aggregate to a substation. We wouldn't report that
25 manufacturing business but we might say our load at this bus

1 is lower. That would be considered when they do their
2 power flow studies.

3 MS. LOOKER: And would you consider that let's
4 say when you're deciding whether or not to replace a line or
5 replace some piece of equipment? Would you be looking at
6 the usage and whether the usage is still needed?

7 MR. GABBARD: Let me clarify a little bit so
8 we're all talking on the same page. We, PG&E have idle
9 facility programs to look at whether or not facilities are
10 still needed and then even having an idle facility creates
11 risk and exposure for the public so we have a process for
12 retiring assets that are no longer needed.

13 Usually that is more of a radial fed piece of
14 infrastructure to serve a load that no longer is needed.
15 When we talk about the scope of what we're talking about
16 here today -- we're talking about the network transmission
17 infrastructure.

18 And the nature of the transmission planning
19 that's done under the CAISO process for the network grid is
20 very deterministic looking at set criteria laid out in their
21 TPL et cetera that are looking at very low probability
22 events of N minus 1 minus 1, et cetera where in order to
23 unravel we have to say we could take this piece of -- this
24 liner element out of the grid.

25 We would have to unravel -- we'd have to reverse

1 engineer the entire TPP in the other direction which would
2 likely not be fruitful because the grid is operated in a way
3 that they actually leverage that redundancy in order to be
4 able to meet NERC planning criteria.

5 And at present we are still finding needs to
6 increase that resiliency not decrease the resiliency.

7 MS. BONE: Yeah, I just wanted to do a little
8 follow-up on question 8 and that I'm wondering for each one
9 of the IOU's -- PTO's, if you could respond. Are all of
10 your maintenance practices on file with the CAISO so that if
11 we see these confidential maintenance practices we'll see
12 the universe of how you engage in your maintenance?

13 And the additional question is do those practice
14 documents show the criteria that you are applying to
15 determine how to prioritize your maintenance? So maybe
16 we'll start with Edison?

17 MS. CABELL: I do not know how deep the
18 documentation is. I'd have to go back and see what we
19 actually do provide to the ISO related to your question.

20 MR. SPEER: Yeah, I would agree. We provide a
21 lot of the stuff that they audit we provide all the
22 information needed so are we doing our annual inspections --
23 those type of things.

24 As far as our criteria for equipment replacement
25 I don't think that's viable.

1 MS. BONE: Wouldn't you go that deep? Wouldn't
2 you consider that part of the maintenance practice?

3 MR. MILLAR: As I said the Appendix C of the
4 transmission control agreements sets up all the reasons, all
5 the issues that do need to be addressed and then they can
6 process this information that's provided to the ISO.

7 Whether or not there are other requirements
8 beyond that I don't know and I'd have to go back and revisit
9 the documentation with the PTO's myself to doctor an opinion
10 on that.

11 MS. BONE: And specifically with regard to PG&E
12 would we see in those Appendix D -- C documents, the
13 strategy documents and the standards that we've seen in the
14 TO 18 rate case? Would those be the types of things?

15 MR. GABBARD: I do not know what's included in
16 those maintenance plans, I'm not familiar with the specific
17 plans. I do know we have plans on file to meet the
18 requirements under the CAISO tariff. I don't know the
19 makeup of that content.

20 MS. BONE: Do you all expect for those plans that
21 are on file with the CAISO to be current or could they be
22 dated and you're doing different things now?

23 MR. GABBARD: I would expect them to be current.

24 MS. BONE: Thank you.

25 MS. SWITZER: Question 10?

1 MR. SPEER: So I think, Will Speer, SDG&E. I
2 think we discussed a lot about the rate cases filings that
3 FERC already signed off and we did beat them up. But the
4 only thing we haven't touched on which I'd like to bring up
5 that is during our filing we actually had the CPUC bring in
6 an independent engineer, that was part of a rate case filing
7 agreement with FERC that actually comes in and audits all of
8 our projects.

9 And there was a back and forth, from the site, IS
10 data requests so as far as another level of what's public
11 and an opportunity to bite at that -- whatever you want to
12 call it, another show of transparency we do have that
13 performed every year.

14 I'm not sure what the other agreements are but at
15 least we host that independent engineer that's, you know,
16 chosen mutually between the two groups, and they do an audit
17 -- all of our projects that are in that PO filing, but I'm
18 not aware of any other public process.

19 MS. BONE: And just to be clear that that
20 provision is pursuant to a settlement, it's not compulsory
21 so they'll be filing a new rate case at the end of this year
22 and that provision may not survive.

23 MR. THOMAS: And just to be clear if you don't
24 mind, Will just to follow-up on that. When you say all
25 projects that are in your TO rate case we're talking about

1 transmission and maintenance type projects?

2 MR. SPEER: Everything.

3 MR. THOMAS: Okay, thank you.

4 MR. NELSON: If I could I'll talk in history
5 because it's not live. Historically we had had a similar
6 type of capital review process within our FERC rate, the
7 same type of -- even provided funding to fund an engineer
8 for the PUC or engineers in the case to dig into all of
9 these sorts of capital spending and other issues.

10 And as they say we now have a new process in our
11 tariff we think is more robust, provides even more of a
12 timeframe of transparency and open to a larger group of
13 stakeholders that say it's been approved but suspended.

14 MR. HADDAD: I think you're talking about the
15 TMCR?

16 MR. NELSON: Yes I am, sorry.

17 MS. BONE: So, Traci Bone from the CPUC, Jeffrey
18 I'm curious whether you think that your proposal complies
19 with all of the requirements of Order 890?

20 MR. THOMAS: I don't know if I want to get to
21 that question today. I know we've referenced it and the
22 Commission has already adjudicated it. I think we want to
23 staff off and focus on the questions here if we could.

24 MS. BONE: Fair enough.

25 MS. SWITZER: Questions 11 and 12 are kind of

1 related so maybe we'll just kind of answer them both at the
2 same time.

3 MR. THOMAS: Hold on, Bryan was there a question,
4 I'm sorry.

5 MR. GRIESS: I didn't hear all three answer the
6 question 10.

7 MR. GABBARD: So I'll let them to say whether
8 they did or didn't. So PG&E specific to question 10 we do
9 not have a process to fund an independent engineer to review
10 our portfolio. We have provided in discovery through our TO
11 rate case every project authorization justification strategy
12 standard procedure you could imagine.

13 So our books are wide open through that process
14 but we do not have a separate independent evaluative process
15 to supplement.

16 MS. SWITZER: I think I may have mentioned
17 earlier to about a five year forecast concluded in these
18 rate cases. I was just wondering what that forecast
19 includes. Is it just a dollar amount, it is actual
20 products, activities?

21 MR. GABBARD: It's by project. It's a list of
22 information about any project that is within our expenditure
23 for the test year. It gives the total expected costs and
24 the in-service date for that project so while it may not be
25 placed in service in the test year and therefore be a

1 capital addition in the as-filed revenue requirement, it is
2 still included in our filing as a list of our portfolio that
3 is incurring capital expenditures for that time period.

4 MS. SWITZER: And if a stakeholder saw that and
5 had questions or comments on that is there a way -- how
6 would they go about that with you? Is it just information
7 for them?

8 MR. GABBARD: Well the first step would be to ask
9 questions through discovery absolutely. There's a caveat --
10 the granularity for which we go through that forecast is
11 going to get only projects one million dollars and above.

12 The smaller higher volume work is bundled
13 together.

14 MR. THOMAS: But just for clarification solar
15 energy understood and we understand the responses is that
16 process is really in your rate case process -- discovery in
17 the rate case process that is I'd have to ask you, you know,
18 some interrogatories about what's the dollar amount, where
19 does it come from, what was the plan, so on and so forth, is
20 that accurate?

21 MR. GABBARD: Can you repeat that last part?

22 MR. THOMAS: The discovery would phase that out,
23 the dollar amounts, the process you determine the use, so on
24 and so forth. That will all come from discovery in your
25 rate cases?

1 MR. GABBARD: That's correct.

2 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.

3 MR. NELSON: I'd like to expand just a little
4 more. In addition to the TMCR we do have an annual process
5 where we post a draft of our rate every mid-June, by June
6 15th and we don't actually file that rate with FERC until
7 our deadline is around December 1st. So we have this window
8 four and a half, five months, where we put it out there that
9 allows for a lot of opportunity, back and forth. It's not a
10 compressed time.

11 There's plenty of time for data requests,
12 replies, questions on the replies, and historically --
13 historically, we've not seen protests by the time that the
14 December 1st actually filing roles along.

15 So our current structure maintains that. We
16 still have that window and in addition we're putting on the
17 TMCR to really cover years 1 through 5 through one of these
18 processes of these types of asset management activities as
19 well as everything else in the rate case.

20 MR. HADDAD: When you say historically is that
21 historically through the settlement agreement?

22 MR. NELSON: Yes

23 MR. HADDAD: That's now been superseded. Yes,
24 the settlement agreement set forth kind of the timelines on
25 that process.

1 MR. NELSON: Yes, so stop me because we have an
2 active rate case in front of you but that active rate case
3 has proposed the same timelines where we'll be posting and
4 along this data request period and the same filings.

5 The proposal doesn't have the paying for the
6 consultants that we did in a previous settlement but people
7 can still ask the questions.

8 MR. THOMAS: Katherine you had your question up
9 first.

10 MS. MAPES: Thank you, question 10 asks
11 specifically whether there are processes for stakeholders to
12 provide input on transmission related maintenancing
13 appliance activities and I think the answer to that is an
14 unqualified no. There are opportunities as people have
15 pointed out to ask discovery questions and there are
16 opportunities based on the results of those discoveries to
17 assess whether the rates are just and reasonable that result
18 from these projects but there is not an opportunity to
19 provide input to the company and I think that's a major
20 point that's lacking here -- we just simply haven't had that
21 opportunity.

22 MR. NELSON: I would know if TMCR's specifically
23 designed to get input all the way through five years forward
24 so it's -- you're seeking, we're actively seeking input in
25 that process and it is a new process. We haven't run it

1 through yet, it actually seeks input.

2 MR. THOMAS: Was there any follow-up data
3 specific?

4 MS. MAPES: No, and I think the TMCR we've
5 discussed that we think it should provide more opportunities
6 for input but we appreciate that there for the first time
7 will be that opportunity.

8 MR. THOMAS: Geneva, I think you had your card up
9 next?

10 MS. LOOKER: This is Geneva Looker and I just
11 have a couple of comments and questions. One of them is
12 that when Dave was talking about the five year plan that
13 they have and that they provide in their TO filings, I would
14 note that it is not the complete five year plan and it only
15 contains projects that will have expenditures within the two
16 year forecast that is there.

17 So that does not allow intervenors to look ahead
18 at projects that might be two or three years down the road,
19 that they're planning to do, but they don't expect to expend
20 funds on them yet which then again brings up the problem of
21 by the time that they're in the TO filing, they're already
22 "in flight" or they're already in progress, they're already
23 in development and so that they won't -- they don't want to
24 have objections to them.

25 You know it's like they're already in here,

1 they're planned, they are going forward. Your input is not
2 welcome at this point -- so that's number one.

3 Number two -- Edison, when you were talking about
4 having this process of five months or so historically and I
5 have not been a part of your process at all but was that --
6 you know normally when you have a TO filing and you make a
7 filing the discovery process doesn't start until FERC has
8 issued an order and set it either for hearing or for
9 settlement negotiations or something like that.

10 And so and often until that occurs and the ALJ
11 has gotten together with the parties and said okay, now
12 we're either going to hearing or we're going to go to
13 settlement process so now you can start discovery. That
14 really limits the time period of you know, five months if
15 you file in June and it is effective in December. Well some
16 of that isn't going to take place.

17 So it's just -- it's pointing out that the length
18 of time that might allow for some of this interaction has
19 not been really much time at all and the TMCR or whatever,
20 would improve on that for sure.

21 MR. NELSON: And I may have misspoken with my
22 technical terms. Just to clarify the record we post our
23 draft write out in mid-June and then we allow data requests.
24 And I may have misspoken for discovery, but we allow data
25 requests. And that data request process continues all the

1 way through until I think through November and then I think
2 you're right -- if we did not, if we had an issue where we
3 were going to settlement I think technically we don't go to
4 discovery until we're in settlement.

5 The data request process has a multi-month riser,
6 I have an account here.

7 MR. CHEN: So this is Gary Chen, Edison. I think
8 you guys have a misunderstanding. We don't file a stated
9 rate every year like the formal way has already been
10 approved, well the previous one. And so it's the -- data
11 request process is not capable of by a FERC order --
12 protocol.

13 MR. NELSON: Yeah, just the annual update that
14 allows responses to --

15 MS. LOOKER: So it is in your protocol?

16 MR. NELSON: Yes it is.

17 MS. LOOKER: Thank you.

18 MR. NELSON: Calendar around it, I sure do.

19 MS. SWITZER: Alright 11 and 12 are covered, we
20 talked some about reliability type maintenance projects but
21 -- is it all new projects that depresses PTO -- I'm sorry,
22 depresses TPP process? Are there some NERC projects would
23 fall on the maintenance asset management category?

24 MR. GABBARD: To be direct, it's the latter and
25 so I think Willy, correct me if I misspeak but the subset of

1 the NERC standards that go through the TPP would be the NERC
2 TPL requirements. There are a variety of other NERC
3 requirements that some of which I think the TPP is anchored
4 on the TPL, so we'll leave at that.

5 MR. THOMAS: For clarity, could TPL is the
6 acronym for?

7 MS. CABELL: For transmission planning.

8 MR. THOMAS: Just two words, three letters two
9 words, okay, I just wanted to make sure.

10 MR. GABBARD: Based on the fact that transmission
11 planning has a T, and a P and an L. But it really is NERC's
12 standard is TPL. Nuke would be NUC so they try and make it
13 align but it truly, it's not a utility acronym, it's TPL.

14 MR. THOMAS: There was no judgement, trust me I'm
15 down here.

16 MR. GABBARD: Basically it's NERC, very good,
17 thanks.

18 MR. MILLAR: But we should be clear, Neil Millar
19 with the ISO, there are other NERC standards that relate to
20 equipment, relate to cyber requirements that are CIP dash
21 and then the suite standard there.

22 So when we are talking about the NERC standards
23 that drive reliability projects in our planning process,
24 we're referring primarily to the TPL suite as well as some
25 of the others that are involved in rating system operating

1 limits for the system and the new -- some of the nuclear
2 requirements around adequate infrastructure around nuclear
3 power plants.

4 So there are others that now apply to the
5 planning process beyond just the TPL but the TPL's suites of
6 standards are the bulk of the ones that apply in our
7 planning process.

8 MS. SWITZER: I think that's what we were trying
9 to get at because we know that the TPP has a reliability
10 bucket, a policy bucket and an -- I cannot touch bucket.
11 I'm just trying to understand the reliability bucket and
12 what goes in and what is the system.

13 MS. LOOKER: This is Geneva Looker again and I
14 could be wrong but at least for PG&E that one of their
15 buckets or whatever, the major work categories that they
16 have is called reliability and some of those, you know, they
17 are all part of the repair and replacement facilities. Not
18 all of them are NERC compliance are they -- NWC 93 or 4?

19 MR. GABBARD: No, our NERC TPL they're the
20 projects that go through the CAISO TPP.

21 MS. LOOKER: Right, but I'm talking about the
22 ones in MWC 93 or 94 which is labelled reliability and I
23 don't think all of them are actually in response to all of
24 the other NERC requirements like the LIDAR or like the CIP
25 right?

1 MS. AMES: You're asking if there's a one for one
2 correlation between every item listed in the reliability
3 list to a NERC requirement?

4 MS. LOOKER: That is the question. I mean for
5 instance I think this is all public, no this one isn't.

6 MR. GABBARD: I would say the answer to that is
7 no, I do not -- please correct me if I'm misspeaking. I do
8 not believe there is any discreet NERC standard that says we
9 have to replace aging infrastructure you know.

10 We do have broader releasing obligations from the
11 CPUC and otherwise that say we need to rely -- we need to
12 operate or we need to manage our transmission system in a
13 safe and reliable way and the requirement there is to employ
14 -- prudently employ good utility practices.

15 That's where we leverage industry standards,
16 industry benchmark and engineering judgment in order to take
17 the actions necessary to maintain safety and reliability.

18 MS. LOOKER: Okay, I'm just looking at some of
19 these projects and some of them are like bus
20 sectionalization or converting a bus or SCATA projects or
21 install switches, or bussed reliability improvements.

22 So there are these projects listed that are
23 forward reliability. They don't say they're for NERC
24 standards, but they're under the repair and replacement
25 process that we have no transparency on, at least prior to

1 implementing -- being in the TO filing.

2 MR. THOMAS: And so if I can just follow-up on
3 that real quick Geneva, I apologize, and coming down to a
4 caveat from counsel after the break. I just want to be
5 sure. Is your question looking at -- do everything they do
6 for TPP purposes is only WEC or NERC related or are there
7 other things that aren't and do they follow the same
8 process?

9 MS. LOOKER: No, no, I'm just trying to point out
10 that they are claiming that some of their repair and
11 replacement projects are for reliability but they are not
12 for reliability needs as defined by the TPL, by the NERC TPL
13 standards.

14 MR. GABBARD: That is correct, so let me clarify
15 on that. So the NERC TPL requirements as I stated earlier
16 are very deterministic and they say you shall not have -- be
17 exposed, shall not have these types of consequences for
18 these types of contingency events.

19 So there's no probabilistic assessment in that,
20 it should never happen regardless of you know, how low the
21 likelihood is. When we talk about reliability on our asset
22 management related projects, it's more on the traditional
23 reliability sense -- it's about maintaining service to our
24 customers.

25 So for example we may have a line that's nearing

1 the age of its -- the -- nearing the end of its useful life.
2 And we've actually had the line fail a couple of times but
3 we put together with slices and at some point it's got 6, 7,
4 slices.

5 And we get to the point where we say this -- we
6 have record on this line that this conductor is at the end
7 of its useful life. It's failing, it's falling out of the
8 sky, we need to go out and proactively replace that. We
9 will perform a like for like replacement.

10 How we characterize it internally is it's a
11 reliability driven project because we don't want it to
12 continue to fall out of the sky and there's new service to
13 our customers, but it's not to meet TPL.

14 MS. SWITZER: There's no NERC requirement but you
15 still consider reliability because it's still reliability
16 operating?

17 MR. GABBARD: Absolutely.

18 MS. TABA: Are there other -- this is Monica with
19 FERC staff. Are there other NERC reliability standards that
20 might play -- for example, for maintenance or the facility
21 standards, do those apply to your TO's -- transmission
22 owners or operators?

23 MR. GABBARD: There's a host of standards that
24 apply.

25 MS. TABA: Okay.

1 MR. GABBARD: But in this case these examples
2 that work on reliability are not scared driver is not the
3 NERC reliability standards, but nearly everything we do
4 around compliance and maintenance improves reliability.

5 You're taking a piece of equipment that's four
6 years old so I think we just need to be careful on the
7 reliability, how we define it. So there's a NERC planning
8 standards that drive that set of reliability -- that's the
9 ISO. Then there's reliability by replacing old equipment --
10 just increasing the reliability of your system.

11 But there is -- and there's hundreds of NERC
12 standards so I mean there's ways to -- we're responsible for
13 a lot of them and we do have an agreement in place and all
14 of us -- each of us do with the ISO and who's responsible
15 for what.

16 And you know, TPL's the operator, the operator
17 for the grid, they're responsible for those, so that's all
18 clearly defined in the agreements.

19 MR. MILLAR: It's Neil here with the ISO. The
20 other thing I'd add is that we were also trying to avoid
21 getting tripped up around the use of the work reliability
22 and the context of reliability driven projects for
23 transmission and planning purposes versus these other types.

24 So we've generally inside the ISO market
25 completely referred to these types of programs as improving

1 or maintaining the availability of the equipment and then
2 there's the transmission planning side making sure that both
3 pieces assuming that they're properly maintained and
4 available, will work together to provide reliable service.

5 So you know, I feel like it's really easy and we
6 try to be careful ourselves about not getting tripped up
7 between I'll say the more defined use of the word
8 reliability as in reliability-driven transmission projects
9 in our transmission plan versus the more general use of the
10 word reliable that, you know, a properly maintained system
11 will be more reliable than one that isn't.

12 So there is a terminology issue there that's
13 tough to manage.

14 MS. BONE: So in moving forward it seems like one
15 of the things that we'd want to do as part of the tariff
16 process is to have a unified planning assumptions document
17 that would reflect the best industry standards and other
18 criteria that the utilities are currently using or that they
19 propose to use going forward for their maintenance
20 practices.

21 And I appreciate that maintenance would be
22 different than transmission planning in that circumstance.
23 So I'm curious do you have those types of documents? Are
24 your criteria and your best industry standards that you're
25 following in making decisions on, are they written down and

1 could we bring them together to try to develop some kind of
2 a unified planning assumptions document, start with Edison?

3 MS. CABELL: Yes, they're written down. We have
4 them documented internally. Whether we create this unified
5 planning assumption document that's something I think that
6 would need some further discussion and try to understand
7 exactly all that's going to go in there, what it would look
8 like. I think that takes more discussion on whether that's
9 a direction we want to go.

10 MR. SPEER: And even unified, even we talked
11 about earlier we have different systems, different
12 equipment, different manufacturers -- those drive a lot of
13 requirements for replacing aging infrastructure so.

14 We do have documents to the list, our criteria --
15 one we would replace aging infrastructure and how we
16 prioritize it. We haven't made it public yet, but you know,
17 that's -- it would be a pretty large document -- a pretty
18 tall task to try to put all the maintenance replacement.

19 I don't know of any utility anywhere or any plan
20 that's out there that discusses this comprehensive plan. So
21 we'd have to think about the scope of what we're actually
22 trying to accomplish but that's --

23 MR. GABBARD: So I'm not sure I completely
24 understand what's being referenced as a unified planning
25 assumption or unified planning assumptions referencing the

1 CAISO transmission planning process.

2 As we've stated many times, we don't do
3 transmission planning on our own, we go through the CAISO
4 process. If you're alluding to some sort of document that
5 characterizes the overall objectives that translate to the
6 strategy and the pace at which we invest in our aging
7 infrastructure, there would need to be a document that says
8 a utility in the State of California shall not have say 80
9 minutes greater than "X".

10 Or should not have a piece of equipment that has
11 gone beyond this number of years in service, and I think
12 that would be very challenging to do and if I'm
13 misunderstanding then maybe a clarification of what it is
14 that you're envisioning for this document might help me
15 understand what it would take for us.

16 MS. SWITZER: Well I think question 15 kind of
17 gets into solutions so if it's okay to table this. We'll
18 set aside some time to talk about that a little bit. I just
19 wanted to make sure that everyone was clear on the
20 reliability questions. Does anyone have any follow-up 11
21 and 12?

22 MS. BONE: Just to clarify that my question goes
23 to reliability as defined by the utilities and therefore
24 what standards and criteria they are applying to do that
25 work.

1 MS. SWITZER: Alright, I think we'll move on to
2 questions 13 and 14, some more -- question 14 just a
3 question of the PTO's if you could answer for us. How are
4 you determining what gets capitalized versus what goes in
5 L&M?

6 MR. NELSON: Well generally there are accounting
7 rules that determine this and just conceptually if you're
8 doing a new thing, a transformer being mounted somewhere is
9 viewed as a capital project and the work that goes into
10 designing that engineering construction of the facilities
11 themselves are capitalized.

12 There's also some A&G and some other adders
13 throughout the company because there are assumptions that
14 other people besides just the engineers are contributing to
15 building this thing. It's capitalized or a portion of it.

16 And then conceptually, once it's in service the
17 ongoing keeping it going is typically maintenance. It's
18 typically not capitalized. Now there can be exceptions to
19 the rules with piece of equipment that have longer lives or
20 shorter lives and then specific accounting rules will kick
21 in on whether those pieces of replacement parts are
22 capitalized or considered maintenance.

23 MS. SWITZER: A little background on the question
24 I guess is this -- is that we heard in the record that if
25 these are maintenance and compliance activities, maintenance

1 being the key word, why isn't it going into the L&M bucket,
2 so that's kind of why we're asking the question.

3 MR. NELSON: So, well I mean transformer
4 replacement is a classic example. We are keeping the
5 machine running. We're not changing the machine. We're
6 keeping it going and the transformer needs to be replaced so
7 to that degree we're maintaining the system, we're
8 maintaining availability but as we've talked about there's
9 some engineering, there's some work, there's some things
10 that have to go into that transformer replacement so it's a
11 capital project.

12 So it is maintenance -- it's maintaining the
13 grid, but rate making its capitalized.

14 MR. SPEERS: Right, I mean I don't know how deep
15 you want to go into this but there are rules around what
16 gets capitalized and what doesn't. You know replacement of
17 a full unit is usually capitalizing it. Anything working on
18 that unit is maintenance even though we consider it, we call
19 it compliance and maintenance. I mean it's exactly what he
20 said.

21 If I'm replacing a breaker, that's a capital.
22 And that's the accounting rules behind it and we all have
23 groups that decide on whether it's capital or L&M, so.

24 MR. GABBARD: Yeah, I agree, I'll provide a
25 little additional clarity. You know, capital accounting is

1 completely separate from the utility operation. It applies
2 to all different industries and there are different
3 accounting rules that can be put in place, you know, in some
4 industries it could be extensive of life or translate to
5 capital, but that doesn't apply at least for PG&E.

6 PG&E has a unit of property structure or
7 retirement unit. We have set guidelines, there are some
8 quirky nuances, I think chairs have different criteria,
9 tools have different criteria, but in general if the
10 material costs associated with the investment in the new
11 unit of property -- if the material costs are greater than
12 \$500.00, and the expected life is greater than a year, that
13 is considered a retirement unit.

14 The installation of a new retirement unit
15 constitutes capitalization. Maintenance on or modification
16 to an existing retirement unit is expense and that's pure
17 financial accounting rules. I think some of the confusion
18 comes out in the ongoing O&M, operating and maintenance
19 costs that we incur at our expense are a lot of times called
20 maintenance expense -- that's what we defaulted to calling
21 that maintenance.

22 And so the use of maintenance in this context
23 which is really more the asset management investment
24 planning that we do we're kind of blending those two
25 together but they are sole and separate and if we were

1 installing a new unit of property that has a material cost
2 greater than \$500 and expected useful life greater than a
3 year, that should be treated as capital and depreciated over
4 the expected use of life with a rate of return applied to
5 that bulk value over time.

6 MS. SWITZER: Okay, thank you. Question 15,
7 we've obviously been hearing calls for greater transparency
8 around these maintenance projects, we'll hear from this side
9 of the table first about your thoughts and then we're
10 planning to allow enough time for the PTOs to talk about any
11 concerns they have around the solutions, okay.

12 MR. THOMAS: Can I take a pause -- it seems
13 there's a question of whether we -- we were just talking
14 about question 14, we had viewed question 13 and 14 very
15 similar. If there's questions on those you guys would like
16 to raise we'd be happy to hear them but we view the
17 construct of the question on cost and transmission rates are
18 reflected in wholesale rates,
19 viz a viz, how they determine whether they're expensed or
20 capitalized.

21 In some respects, for purposes of this Conference
22 which are rather self-evident, it's either an expensed item,
23 how it goes into rates is an issue that would be subject to
24 that rate case and whether it's, you know, we talked earlier
25 today, prudent or non-product, stuff like that.

1 Similarly as a capital asset into rate base
2 matters, so we just kind of combine those but if there are
3 questions on that we certainly don't want to preclude
4 anybody from asking a question.

5 MR. GRIESS: I think question 13 is that just
6 rates?

7 MR. DOCKHAM: Thank you, so I just wanted to let
8 Laura and Linda know what I'm going to say here. I've
9 checked with Marc to make sure I'm okay, so Marc you jump in
10 if I veer from what we have previously discussed.

11 I think through discovery and the TO proceedings
12 and the knowledge that we've gained through the last several
13 years in those proceedings, PG&E has provided a lot of
14 information on their processes which has helped us to
15 understand much better some of the thinking that underlies
16 their practices.

17 I'd say we're still on the upward portion of the
18 learning curve to understand how they are being applied in
19 every instance but I do think that they provide the
20 framework for a starting point in a planning process that
21 could be or form the basis for this unified planning
22 assumption document that we've been referring to all day.

23 You know when I think about some of the things
24 we've seen and you know, in terms of the ISO's performance
25 based criteria, I wouldn't go so far as to you know, the

1 criteria that Dave was speaking to where we're going to have
2 a minimum or a maximum SADI or safety number that is adhered
3 to without regard to cost, but I would suggest that, you
4 know, things like the worst performing circuit criteria --
5 and when those things are evaluated and there's a plan put
6 in place to develop projects over the next five years, that
7 we understand the metrics and how those worst performing
8 circuits are identified.

9 And as I started out this morning, indicating
10 where the municipal entities count one customer, I'd like it
11 very clearly identified in those planning processes that
12 we're going to include all customers in that metric and it's
13 not just PG&E, but it's PG&E and all the municipal customers
14 that reside behind that meter, because that's who's being
15 effected in an outage.

16 And I understand PG&E may have some reporting
17 criteria for CPUC purposes that are different than the
18 reporting that we would like to see and in this worst
19 performing circuit criteria, but nevertheless the ability is
20 there to separate that kind of information out for different
21 purposes.

22 And with that I do think, you know, that the
23 information provided provides a great framework and I also
24 believe that much like the CAL ISO's process where it has
25 evolved over time and it has improved over time, that

1 whatever is put in place here is going to need to be
2 continuously reviewed and continuously updated,
3 particularly as we just start because it's a new endeavor
4 for all of us, but it's something that I think needs to
5 start right away just based on the magnitude of the projects
6 that are in place and ready to be put into service.

7 MS. BONE: I'll just add that we do have a draft
8 document for a planning process, and, but it hasn't been
9 reviewed in many months since a number of your orders have
10 come out and so we'd like to take it back and think through
11 it a little bit more and then we'd be ready to share it with
12 the parties to move the ball along.

13 And it would include the development of a unified
14 planning document, planning assumptions document. And I
15 guess what we'd be looking for is quick movement to get the
16 utilities standards and criteria, you know, what they define
17 as needed for reliability, how they make those
18 determinations about what is good and best engineering
19 practices.

20 Because those are the kinds of things, I think,
21 that we'd want to include in this document so that would be
22 kind of immediate first steps.

23 MR. THOMAS: No, I was just wondering -- I was
24 going to potentially ask some follow-ups on what that might
25 look like but since you know, I don't know if there was a

1 greater framework you can paint a picture for us at the
2 Commission with kind of, what might be in it just to get a
3 feel for, you know, what thought processes might be there.

4 MS. MAPES: Sure, I think I can talk about that a
5 little. I think we've started with the unified planning
6 assumptions document because we believe that getting the
7 assumptions underlying the types of studies and analyses the
8 PTOs are doing is important to us to have a basic
9 understanding of what's going on in the planning process.

10 So our concept would be that that unified
11 planning assumptions document would be released each year.
12 There would be a stakeholder meeting to discuss it and then
13 there would be comments on following up after that
14 stakeholder meeting -- a formal opportunity for comments.

15 And following on that there would become a draft
16 transmission plan which would start identifying the specific
17 system needs and that would take into account all the
18 studies that were done and the assumptions that run the
19 unified planning assumptions and then there would be another
20 stakeholder meeting to discuss that and an opportunity for
21 stakeholders to start proposing their own solutions at that
22 point, so that would be the second of what we envisioned as
23 three stakeholder meetings.

24 And then the draft transmission plan itself would
25 come out and that would provide proposed solutions. And

1 this, so there would be the third stakeholder meeting. So
2 we're envisioning an iterative process where we really do
3 have a free flowing exchange of information between the
4 stakeholders and the PTOs.

5 We're -- as I think I said earlier, we're not
6 looking to dictate the results of the process but we think
7 if we can have input into every stage of it we will
8 ultimately be better positioned to participate in a
9 meaningful way in the planning process.

10 MR. JACKSON: Excuse me, Franklin Jackson, from
11 OMR. I'm just wondering how you feel that some of these
12 immediate we need it projects were factored into that
13 framework you just outlined?

14 MS. MAPES: I think we understand and to be
15 honest we haven't addressed that in our draft tariff
16 language. I think we understand that there will be projects
17 that will not go into this plan because they have to be done
18 immediately and it's a five year plan.

19 We understand that there are projects that don't
20 take five years to plan and implement so there will be some
21 new projects added each year and there will be some projects
22 that just have to be done in the field.

23 But what we're really looking for is what we
24 think is the bulk of the currently self-approved projects is
25 the things that are planned on a several year basis which we

1 can't look at from year to year and say this is how this is
2 developing from year four to year five, this is how this is
3 developing from year three to year four.

4 MR. THOMAS: And Katie, as part of your takeaway
5 with that, as you go back and isolate them on to assert that
6 you have it all thought out maybe at this juncture, but we
7 heard a little bit about those documents or those commanding
8 words that set up some of the activities that they do for to
9 use your words, self-approved projects, could be quite
10 voluminous.

11 How would that concept of creating a unified
12 planning encapsulate that without being overly burdensome or
13 overly narrow but yet to be seeking on what you give is
14 transparent? Is there a thought on that yet?

15 MS. MAPES: I think there's a couple of thoughts
16 -- I mean I think that the first is that everybody that has
17 been participating in this process is expecting that we'll
18 have to have engineers and transmission planners review
19 these documents.

20 We're expecting them to be voluminous and we're
21 expecting it to take a good deal of work on our part to
22 really dig in. I think we understand that there is a level
23 which it might simply be too much to ask to be provided, but
24 based on what we've seen so far, and the discovery that
25 we've gotten, we don't think we've reached that level, we

1 think that the documents that have been provided can be the
2 basis for a solid plan.

3 MR. THOMAS: Okay, thanks.

4 MR. PRICE: This is Greg Price, I'm in the Policy
5 Office. Is it possible instead of having a unified document
6 to have a single document from each TO outlining all of
7 their criteria just so that it would maybe not be so
8 difficult to consolidate practices?

9 MS. MAPES: You know I think that's what we had
10 been thinking would likely happen. We've been using unified
11 to refer to what each TO comes up with, we'd assume that
12 there would be separate documents.

13 MS. LOOKER: This is Geneva Looker. And to your
14 question about the voluminous documents and what we're
15 looking for, I think based upon the information that we have
16 seen and that some of the parties have discussed. You know,
17 what we're most -- well what I'm most interested in are
18 things like, okay, when we're looking to replace a circuit
19 breaker, these are the three or four or five elements that
20 we look at -- age, condition, manufacturer, whatever.

21 And every utility might have a different criteria
22 and then they get weighted. And then what we would like to
23 see is, you know, that would be part of the initial -- these
24 are the assumptions, these are the criteria.

25 And then the next phase would be okay, we ran our

1 study and we looked at all the circuit breakers, our
2 transmission level circuit breakers and this is the list,
3 these are the ones that look to be in the most need of
4 repair.

5 And then, you know, presumably those ones who
6 most need the work will then be what our proposed as final
7 solutions, you know, so that we can see that the
8 prioritization is taking place -- that the prioritization
9 makes sense.

10 If something seems out of place we can ask those
11 questions and they can explain -- oh, well we have these
12 other projects going on right now, you know, so we're going
13 to do it at the same time. Fine, you know, but it gives us
14 that ability to ask questions, pursue -- get information.

15 And that is -- you know and I think over time,
16 initially that might be difficult for some of the utilities
17 if they don't have records, you know, in a fashion that they
18 can do this easily, but I think over time this is probably
19 going to smooth itself out, probably just like the TPP has
20 over time is that you become used to it and you know what
21 you're doing and you know what's expected and the process
22 moves along.

23 MS. AMES: This is Angela from FERC. So I'm
24 hearing two pieces to this and please confirm. There is
25 both a window into what is happening but also an opportunity

1 to opine and redirect if you disagree? Right, so it's not
2 just about transparency it's also about modifying behaviors
3 with which you disagree, is that correct?

4 MS. LOOKER: I believe so yes, that there is a --
5 that's the point of having some dispute resolution if
6 necessary. If we sit there and see that they're doing a
7 whole bunch of replacement of projects that according to
8 their prioritization list don't seem to be needed
9 immediately, that we could question that and say why are you
10 going -- why are you doing this, or why are you trying to
11 do this in two years rather than eight years, or you know,
12 that kind of a feedback at least.

13 And so yeah, that's actually the next piece too
14 of thinking about as these conversations are developing, as
15 you all are collaborating to figure out what might work, how
16 the timing fits in because a report posted on a website that
17 doesn't have that dialogue element is probably easier and
18 faster to implement than a more robust dialogue.

19 And so making sure -- and I shouldn't even use
20 robust, then a report that it's posted is probably faster to
21 implement than a conversation and redirection of activity
22 right?

23 MS. LOOKER: Yes, but I think the Order 890
24 process asks or tells, requires utilities to provide
25 transparency and to provide the ability for customers to

1 participate and to be a part of the planning process and
2 that is what we are asking for.

3 MS. MAPES: And I would add on the timing that I
4 think that we might need some sort of abbreviated process
5 that we'll have to discuss in the first year or two because
6 these projects are, you know, about to go eminently into
7 service and they're happening now and there's not
8 necessarily time for a full process. But once we have a
9 process up and running, we can from year to year know that
10 we'll in March we do the unified planning assumptions and in
11 September we do the draft transmission plan.

12 And we'll have a system in place and I think
13 everybody will be able to keep moving along that track
14 pretty easily once we have a system up and running.

15 MR. MILLAR: Thank you it's Neil here with the
16 ISO. I keep vacillating between being concerned, relieved
17 -- , I'm undecided I just have to leave the card up even as
18 I go through the oscillations.

19 Just to back up, the ISO prepares each year a
20 document called the unified planning assumptions and study
21 plan. That's the phase one of our annual transmission
22 planning process, it details the assumptions we're going to
23 be using, all the background information, the material we'll
24 be turning to and it's the study plan that we then, after we
25 get that approved, embark on the actual analysis each year

1 and we produce an annual transmission plan.

2 Now I'm hearing the same words being used as a
3 unified assumptions document plan and it's not always clear
4 to me if the intent is to -- and we're flattered if it is to
5 copy, emulate some of the current ISO transmission planning
6 process and apply it to the maintenance activities with the
7 utilities, or if the intention is actually to get some of
8 this incorporated into the ISO's transmission planning
9 process.

10 And I do need to be clear that that's not a minor
11 procedural issue. Shifting responsibility for the
12 maintenance activities into an ISO process with ISO
13 responsibility to approve as we do with transmission
14 projects, is a major shift to current roles,
15 responsibilities, it could affect huge amounts of staffing,
16 liability issues. It's not a minor process difference
17 between the two.

18 So when I'm relieved is when it sounds like this
19 is an issue around transparency for the individual and
20 utilities, transmission owners to address with the
21 complainants on the transparency around their capital
22 maintenance.

23 When it shifts to the terminology sounding like
24 it's being incorporated into the ISO process that's suddenly
25 a much different discussion that requires a much broader

1 range of issues being debated and that's where we get very
2 concerned.

3 So it almost -- it would help me out if we were
4 using different terminology than the words specifically
5 extracted out of the ISO process or maybe it's just the
6 clarity we need if are we talking about a separate process
7 between the complainants and each transmission owner or are
8 we still talking about possibly trying to labor this into
9 the annual ISO transmission planning process which is, like
10 I said, a much different conversation.

11 MS. MAPES: So I think that we've always been
12 open to both ways, we've always seen advantages to putting
13 it under the ISO process, but we understand there are a
14 number of hurdles to doing that and that it would require as
15 you say, these large shifts.

16 So the working assumption we've been working
17 under is that these would be individual processes run by the
18 ISO or run by the PTOs and we've developed a -- we've been
19 using some of the same terminology because we think some of
20 these things have worked well in the ISO and are good things
21 to emulate.

22 MR. MILLAR: Thank you.

23 MR. HADDAD: This is Mike Haddad, FERC staff. I
24 had one question -- I may have misheard and that's been kind
25 of a couple of hours ago, but I have heard that there is

1 going to be some consistency in the timelines between your
2 proposed approach and ISO's TPP and I thought what I heard
3 was that there might be like off-ramps if necessary.

4 So just following up on Neil's point, is there an
5 expectation that some of these -- some of the projects will
6 be discovered through this process as being oh this is
7 really a capacity addition -- I really shouldn't go through
8 this. And again, I might be misheard.

9 MS. MAPES: No I don't think you misheard. I
10 think we were thinking of projects like the Southern
11 California Edison project mentioned earlier today where it
12 was discovered that an incremental addition should actually
13 go through the CAISO TPP and we thought that any process we
14 developed here should leave the opportunity for processes to
15 be moved into the CAISO TPP if it was deemed appropriate,
16 but we wouldn't see that as the ordinary course of business.

17 MS. TEETER: This is Valerie Teeter with FERC
18 staff. Just another follow-up question -- so I understand I
19 think what you're trying to get out with this idea of a
20 unified planning assumptions document but I guess I also
21 understand kind of the different purposes of the planning
22 versus the more maintenance type activities and I can see
23 how the full list of things that are in the unified planning
24 assumptions that CAISO puts together, you may not need the
25 same utility level data for the type of document that

1 you're thinking of here and how certain other things that
2 may not be in CAISO's unified planning assumptions may be
3 key to having at the utility level in the type of
4 documentation that you're looking for.

5 If you thought through this, if you've got any
6 additional detail you could share about what exactly you
7 would like to see in this kind of base document to kick off
8 the asset management process, kind of planning process, what
9 type of information would you like to see in that besides I
10 think you've mentioned the criteria in determining whether a
11 replacement is needed and understanding how scheduled
12 replacements are prioritized.

13 MS. MAPES: Let me pull out a document, we have a
14 list actually. So what we had been envisioning as being
15 included in this draft unified planning assumptions document
16 is the -- and I think you mentioned this, the identification
17 and explanation PTO criteria and operating standards,
18 ranking mechanisms for prioritizing projects, descriptions
19 of how criteria and standards are applied to that ranking
20 process.

21 And then there's a study component -- we'd like
22 to know the list of technical studies and the purpose for
23 which they are being conducted and we'd like identification
24 and explanation of the computer software, methodology and
25 other criteria. And that is our preliminary list.

1 I think there might be additional information as
2 we think more deeply about this but those were the types of
3 information we were contemplating as an initial matter.

4 MS. TEETER: Thank you, that's helpful.

5 MS. AMES: One other question, this is Angela.
6 Would that be on a project by project basis or collectively?

7 MS. MAPES: I think what would make sense yes, I
8 think yes is the answer to that. For larger projects we'd
9 want a project by project basis but we understand there are
10 certain kinds of projects that would be aggregated so a
11 certain type of pole replacement project we wouldn't ask for
12 each pole to be listed necessarily but we're replacing these
13 types of poles with these types of poles would be the kind
14 of thing we'd expect to see as we go through this process.

15 MS. AMES: And then it's also to follow-up on
16 that based on the project rather than the dollar?

17 MS. MAPES: That's a good question and we had
18 thrown around thresholds for dollar amounts. I think that's
19 something we'd be open to discussing. Sometimes it might
20 make sense to apply a dollar threshold and say we only need
21 to talk about individual projects that are over a certain
22 dollar threshold and sometimes it might make sense to say
23 well these are the types of projects that can be aggregated
24 on a year to year basis without us losing any information
25 and that might be the kind of thing we would find as we go

1 through this process and start to learn what's important.

2 MS. AMES: Okay, that's helpful and this will all
3 be included in your comments?

4 MS. MAPES: Yes, we will, did you have a comment
5 Bryan?

6 MR. GRIESS: Yes, Bryan Griess with TANK. I was
7 just going to -- and a lot of this has already been said but
8 in my mind it's kind of easy to look at it at a very high
9 level. What we're asking for is just some uniformity as to
10 how we can have dialogue to a dialogue and transparency on
11 items like the need to replace items.

12 I think in most cases what we've learned from
13 what we've seen in analysis, we're probably not going to
14 question the need to replace an item, but where other
15 questions come up is eventually how am I going to replace
16 it?

17 I am going to replace it in kind? Am I going to
18 replace it with new technology? Am I going to replace it
19 with something that adds capacity? And then when we replace
20 it -- there's going to be some discretion as to when you
21 replace it and how do we prioritize that with other needs of
22 the system?

23 That's what we'd like to have that to a dialogue.

24 MS. SWITZER: Okay, PTOs if you have any thoughts
25 or concerns.

1 MR. NELSON: Well I start with asking the
2 question what problem are we trying to solve -- and I think
3 there's agreement that we don't have a discriminatory access
4 to the grid issue that's really in play here. That's not
5 what the concerns are.

6 And I think we have consensus when it comes to
7 expanding the ISO's grid and the ISO's transmission planning
8 process it's very robust. I'm not hearing anyone concerned
9 that something's deficient in the ISO's transmission
10 planning process.

11 What I'm hearing the problem is -- is when we
12 move beyond the transmission planning process to the asset
13 management process that there's not enough transparency.
14 There's not enough dialogue on what's happening.

15 Now my opinion that this is outside of the scope
16 of 890 -- that we're now talking about maintenance
17 compliance activities, not the transmission planning. With
18 that said, we agree, we think that more transparency in the
19 asset management is healthy.

20 We think a two-way dialogue is healthy. We think
21 that there is a good reason to be providing more information
22 -- these things are going into rate, people should
23 understand what's going into their rates.

24 I don't think it's possible to have a unified,
25 unified sort of approach. Utilities are too different, the

1 asset base are too different, the challenges geographic in
2 the case are just too different.

3 But nevertheless, our proposal -- our TMCR
4 approved process is not only going to give a five year look
5 ahead but it's going to tell people why we're doing these
6 things, not just the what but the why we're doing it and we
7 plan on putting our criteria or at least the approaches we
8 were using into that into the document that we generate.

9 We put it out there, we let people see it, we let
10 people digest it then we get together and talk about it. We
11 have the dialogue. We hear what concerns are. We hear what
12 they are saying then we allow for written comments to come
13 in for us to really see it -- maybe the stuff got cleared
14 up, maybe people thought we were doing it this way but we're
15 not and we hear what people are saying.

16 Now I do have a little bit of concern on going
17 into sort of the micro-managing or mandate of sequencing of
18 event and swatting things in for a lot of the reasons we've
19 discussed. Sometimes things just make more sense to bundle
20 together -- you've got your work crews together, there needs
21 to be some flexibility in how to do things smart that go
22 within the general criteria but certainly can't be
23 memorialized in a checklist of sequence and order that you
24 will follow.

25 We can't introduce a level of bureaucracy that's

1 going to interfere with the utilities and I need to
2 emphasize this -- the utility's obligation to maintain a
3 safe and reliable system. We respect the intervenors, we
4 understand that they have to pay for this, but we are
5 responsible.

6 We are the ones held accountable to make sure
7 that we keep that system to those standards. We have to be
8 able to insure that we can be able to do that. We have to,
9 it's our business. So any process we're talking about
10 that's non-negotiable.

11 We have to make sure we can maintain a safe
12 system. So we have feedback in ours, we have a lot of final
13 comments, we want to hear alternatives, we see with a five
14 year window, there are times for off-ramps for people to
15 say, look I don't think you should be doing that. We think
16 change the topology is the answer.

17 Let them get into the ISO's TPP and suggest that
18 to the ISO -- change the topology, and we think there's
19 enough window here that it would work within a process.
20 We've released the final report, we've posted comments --
21 again we're not trying to keep things secret here.

22 We have public meetings. We get comments that
23 come in, we then post all the comments for everyone to see,
24 so in case you didn't think of something, it is all out
25 there publicly. We ultimately put out the final report and

1 in the middle here if there is some flavor of dispute we
2 have an escalation process to get seniors together -- not
3 seniors, management teams together to see if there's some
4 resolution and then we have even a mediation process if the
5 parties agree that mediation might be the right path
6 forward -- I'm checking with my counsel on that.

7 We release a final report. Some people are going
8 to love it, some people are not going to get what they
9 wanted. Some people are going to say you didn't hear me,
10 why didn't you do this? We then offer another round of
11 before you start this process next time you really need to
12 do, X, Y and Z.

13 So we can take that into consideration before we
14 start the process next time. So if something came up late
15 or we just didn't think of it there's a change to get it on
16 our radar screen before we start.

17 So we have a whole feedback process and we feel
18 this transparency is helpful as a two-way dialogue. We want
19 to know if people have issues with things we're doing and if
20 they do we need to really scrutinize that if we think that
21 this is yes, despite people's concerns, this is either a
22 must do or it is the right thing to do.

23 Now we talked about what happens if push
24 ultimately comes to shove, but providing years in advance
25 warning typically of things that are coming or heads up and

1 information, they're ultimately going to get into our rate
2 case.

3 We have another round of data requests, once
4 things get in the rate case. If we know people are not
5 happy about that they're not going to be hidden, they're
6 going to know it's in there, it's worked its way in and then
7 ultimately, ultimately throughout all that process there's
8 still some concerns that was imprudent, that was
9 unreasonable, unallowable activity -- ultimately that gets
10 litigation through the rate case for people to make their
11 case, the Commission that sort of last judgment if whether
12 it was proper spend.

13 So we are concerned about impeding necessary work
14 with too much process. We think there's a balance, we think
15 we found a pretty good balance, we're open to suggestions
16 but we think we found the right spot. We have 890 well
17 covered in the ISO's processes, there's a legitimate concern
18 about our asset management practices and we're trying to
19 provide more transparency on what we're doing, why we're
20 doing and the decision-making process.

21 So we have it, we have it. So we think we've
22 reached the right balance with TMCR.

23 MR. JACKSON: Franklin Jackson, FERC staff. So
24 I'm just wondering in the event that someone does -- someone
25 comes in and says that this project should go through the

1 transmission planning process, what happens to the project
2 that you've already been planning under the TMCR process?

3 MR. NELSON: Okay, so I guess there's a level of
4 technical argument here. They may be right. You may see,
5 you're right this has got additional changing the topology
6 or expanding the grid, you're right.

7 And what we've done in the past is we take that
8 incremental sort of out of our asset management plan and put
9 that into the ISO's TPP, so we would pass this on. Now if
10 there was a disagreement on whether it was or not, at least
11 the stakeholders know it's there, they know what our concern
12 is and if we say we don't think it should -- they have a
13 venue to go to the ISO directly and say hey, do you know
14 that Edison is planning on doing this don't you think they
15 should be in the TPP and then there will be some more
16 conversation.

17 We may get a call from the owner, why didn't you
18 guys tell me? We did tell you, oh okay. So there's another
19 chance for them to at least know it and have a shot of
20 talking to someone besides us.

21 MR. SPEER: Will Speer, SDG&E, we're obviously
22 not quite as far along as Edison on that process, we didn't
23 come up with a plan yet to do it. At this point I can't
24 really commit to anything doing that we're not at that
25 place.

1 But what has been proposed you know, seems
2 reasonable, it does seem to address some of the needs. I do
3 struggle with you know, what's the end game, what's the
4 value. If we're going to add a lot of administrative costs
5 to this are we really going to get value for our customers,
6 I'm really struggling with that personally but obviously
7 we're here having the discussion because there's interest.

8 So at least from as far as SDG&E what we said
9 we're going down the path with everyone else. I don't know
10 if we have an opinion that this is the right thing to do,
11 but like I said we're behind, we didn't file anything yet.

12 I think PG&E already has too we haven't done that
13 yet so.

14 MR. GABBARD: Just to clarify we have not filed
15 anything yet. No I think we generally align in our thinking
16 the challenges are real, we do have to maintain safety and
17 reliability of the grid first and foremost.

18 The reservations around the inefficiencies to an
19 overly burdensome process, both in -- just in the cost of
20 managing and then the potential implications to that safe
21 reliable operation of the grid are of concern for us, so
22 that's where our reservations are anchored and we want to
23 lead with that that any modifications to the way that we
24 plan investments in the State of California should be only
25 embarked on if we can insure that we are not jeopardizing

1 those, you know, key pillars in the way that we manage our
2 transmission system.

3 That said PG&E is supportive of greater levels of
4 transparency. If we try to do what we can to educate and
5 bring visibility to our strategies and our processes and
6 even our project level justifications for the work in our
7 rate filing, we hope that can help move the conversation
8 along.

9 The concern that I have is that the end game has
10 continued to -- it's not clear but from other parties have
11 continued to signal that the interest is to have a prudency
12 review and a micro-managing process. And now I'm
13 speculating that -- that has not been stated but that's my
14 reservation.

15 So if we can get to greater levels of
16 transparency without overburdening the process or taking the
17 place of an actual rate filing, I think we might be able to
18 get to the finish line.

19 MS. BONE: So I have a couple of questions for
20 each of you again. You're investing in transmission
21 infrastructure, three year asset management practices so,
22 you know, we're seeing billions of dollars in the case of
23 PG&E, hundreds of millions, with respect data in the STG&E.

24 So the question is when does your asset
25 management become transmission planning?

1 MR. NELSON: I think we've answered the
2 transmission planning is what it is and clearly defined the
3 asset management is not.

4 MS. BONE: So then what do you see as the
5 difference between what you're referring to as asset
6 management and the PGM PTO supplemental projects?

7 MS. SWITZER: We don't want to --

8 MS. BONE: Oh you can't even talk about that,
9 sorry.

10 MS. MAPES: So I appreciated hearing each of the
11 PTO's thoughts on process and it sounds like there's some
12 general agreement that a process of some sort might be
13 appropriate. I want to read back the idea that we're
14 looking to in PG&E's words micro-manage. I don't think
15 that's a fair characterization. I think what we're looking
16 for is information exchange on both sides.

17 And we think we can actually contribute. We have
18 transmission planners and engineers and we have experience
19 serving our own customers around the CPUC's case
20 representing 90% of the customers in California and I think
21 that experience will actually contribute to the asset
22 management of the self-approved project process.

23 MR. THOMAS: Anything else? Any further
24 questions or so forth as it gets later in the day from the
25 audience if they have nothing further, Gary please?

1 MR. CHAN: My name is Gary Chan with Southern
2 California. Just on your proposed -- on your proposed
3 solution. Would it include stuff like -- projects?

4 MR. DOCKHAM: I think the simple answer to the
5 question is yes, but you know there are a set of projects
6 that must be done that aren't going to be able to be argued
7 over. How those are done may come into question and I think
8 this document that we are talking about that describes how
9 you are going to approach these projects will make it very
10 easy to say, okay, the project that is being proposed is
11 consistent with those criteria or not.

12 MR. CHEN: But you would want those projects to
13 be identified individually as opposed to I can't say these
14 are, you know --

15 MR. DOCKHAM: Yeah, and let me give you an
16 example. A substation hardening project you know, that
17 could be a chain link fence, it could be a block wall, it
18 could be a marble wall.

19 Some ability to look at a project that is just
20 outside of any expected norm for expenditure would be ripe
21 for question but on balance we wouldn't expect a whole lot
22 of discussion or argument over those NERC reliability XO
23 projects.

24 MS. LOOKER: To add my two cents to that, this is
25 Geneva. I think with those kind of things where you want to

1 keep locations and other things quiet or confidential, if we
2 don't do an NDA process or something it might be sufficient,
3 you know, to have a list of okay, we have X number of
4 substations that we need to do some work on and we
5 anticipate each of them to cost
6 X, Y and Z and the reason they're going to cost X, Y, and Z
7 is because we plan to do boom, boom, boom, boom, boom.

8 That then allows us to have an idea of the
9 magnitude of the costs, whether we think what you're
10 planning to do is reasonable or not. You know, so I think
11 that those are things that we can, especially in that first
12 phase where we're looking at the assumptions and criteria we
13 can sort of talk it over and decide what is going to be
14 necessary.

15 Because eventually I think, you know, some of
16 these things will pass. You'll have them all done and
17 granted new ones might come in. But there can be some give
18 and take on that.

19 MR. NELSON: So what we proposed in our TMCR was
20 to aggregate and give collective spend so it's federal
21 criteria that we're following, aggregating, letting people
22 know how much we're planning on spending because of these
23 concerns.

24 They have real concerns about dividing too much
25 information.

1 MS. BONE: And, I realize that as we end up
2 closing here as a representative of the utility's regulatory
3 there have been a number of questions that have come up
4 about, you know, is this going to end up being a type of
5 prudency review?

6 And my position -- I can't speak entirely for the
7 CPUC, but my position is that we are doing this process and
8 we are seeking the information now to avoid having to get to
9 the point of doing prudency reviews in the rate cases.

10 We want to be talking about these projects now,
11 understanding that they're needed and that they're
12 appropriate now and then there's no need for prudency review
13 because we're all on the same page.

14 So it's about getting involved earlier in the
15 process rather than doing after the fact challenges to
16 projects where money has already been spent, projects are
17 nearly built and it's really too late.

18 So I hope that answers your question on that
19 point.

20 MR. THOMAS: Yeah, that was very helpful. And as
21 we're ending I think that a lot of the discussion and the Q
22 and A was very helpful today to understand what goes on. So
23 hopefully we can take this back to the Commission, the
24 record will speak for itself as you see on the notices
25 you'll get to provide brief comments thereafter.

1 MS. SWITZER: Yeah, I would just say that this is
2 all in the notice but initial comments are due on or before
3 May 31st and reply comments are June 15th.

4 MS. BONE: And I take it that if we have a tariff
5 line probably to make that would be an attachment and would
6 not count against our 15 page limit.

7 MR. THOMAS: Technicality, I'm not going to lie,
8 I would prefer it not to but there may be further
9 supplemental notice out to you to provide greater guidance
10 so let's see what happens.

11 MS. BONE: Okay.

12 MR. PATRIZIO: Very technical questions -- how do
13 we go about getting a copy of the transcript of today's
14 comments and do we have to sign-up for that or will it be
15 emailed to the participants? How does that work?

16 MS. SWITZER: So the transcript's available
17 almost immediately from FERC via Ace Reporting Company and
18 their information is in the supplemental notice from April.

19 MR. PATRIZIO: Thank you.

20 MS. SWITZER: We're letting you out a whole hour
21 early, wow. Thank you so much, it was a very helpful, thank
22 you.

23 (Whereupon at 2:56 p.m., the conference was
24 adjourned.)

25

1 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

2

3 This is to certify that the attached proceeding
4 before the FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION in the
5 Matter of:

6 Name of Proceeding:

7 Transmission Planning Within The California
8 Independent System Operator Corporation

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15 Docket Nos.: AD18-12-000; EL17-45-000;

16 ER18-370-000

17 Place: Washington, D.C.

18 Date: Larry Flowers

19 were held as herein appears, and that this is the original
20 transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy
21 Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcription
22 of the proceedings.

23

24

Larry Flowers

25

Official Reporter