BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL APPEALS BOARD

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C.

ORDER SCHEDULING STATUS CONFERENCE/ EXPEDITED ORAL ARGUMENT

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IN	THE	MATTER	OF:

LA PALOMA ENERGY CENTER LLC.,

PSD Permit No. TX-1288-GHG : PSD Appeal No.

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H. APPEALS DOA

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Wednesday, February 12, 2014

Administrative Courtroom Room 1152 EPA East Building 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC

The above-entitled matter came on for hearing, pursuant to notice, at 3:23 p.m.

BEFORE:

THE HONORABLE CATHERINE R. MCCABE Environmental Appeals Judge

THE HONORABLE RANDOLPH HILL Environmental Appeals Judge

THE HONORABLE KATHIE A. STEIN Environmental Appeals Judge

APPEARANCES:

<u>On Behalf of La Paloma Energy Center,</u> <u>LLC.</u>:

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On Behalf of The Sierra Club:

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and

TRAVIS RITCHIE, ESQ. Sierra Club Environmental Law Program 85 2nd Street 2nd Floor San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 977-5727

<u>On Behalf of the Environmental</u> <u>Protection Agency Region 6</u>:

BRIAN TOMASOVIC, ESQ. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Regional Counsel Region 6 1455 Ross Avenue Dallas, TX 75202 (214) 665-9725 (214) 665-2182 fax

and

MATTHEW MARKS, ESQ. BRIAN DOSTER, ESQ. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of General Counsel Air and Radiation Law Office 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20460 (202) 564-3276 (202) 564-5603 fax

ALSO PRESENT:

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Eurika Durr, Clerk of the Board

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2 3:23 p.m. MS. DURR: All rise. Environmental 3 United Appeals of the States 4 Board Environmental Protection Agency is now in 5 session for a status conference/expeditedoral 6 7 argument in re La Paloma Energy Center, LLC, 8 Permit Number PAS-TX-1288-GHG, PSD Appeal 9 Number 13-10. The Honorable Judges Kathie 10 Stein, Catherine McCabe, Randolph Hill 11 presiding. 12 Please turn off all cell phones 13 and no recording devices allowed. Please be 14 seated. 15 JUDGE MCCABE: Good afternoon. Ι 16 am Judge McCabe. On my right is Judge Stein, 17 and on my left is Judge Hill. We are the 18 three panel members for this case. 19 I'd like to welcome you all to 20 Washington on this non-snowy day. But, first, 21 why don't we take appearances of counsel who 22 will be presenting for each of the parties.

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Good afternoon. 1 MR. BENDER: 2 David Bender for petitioners, the Sierra Club. 3 JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. Welcome. Good afternoon. 4 MR. ALONSO: 5 Richard Alonso on behalf of La Paloma. 6 JUDGE MCCABE: Welcome. 7 MR. TOMASOVIC: Good afternoon. Brian Tomasovic from the EPA Region 6 Dallas 8 9 Office, joined at table by, from the Office of 10 General Counsel, Matthew Marks and Brian 11 Doster. 12 JUDGE MCCABE: Thank you. And do 13 we have anyone else on the phone? 14 MR. RICHIE: Yes, your Honor. 15 This is Travis Richie with the Sierra Club. 16 JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. Before we 17 begin, let me ask who will be speaking for 18 Sierra Club? Is that just Mr. Bender, or will 19 Mr. Richie also be speaking? Okay, thank you. 20 Well, first of all, I would really like to 21 thank you all, those of you especially who had 22 to change travel plans, for being here today

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on short notice, and I realize that not only 1 2 disturbs flight arrangements but probably 3 disturbs your preparation time. The good news for all of you, of course, is that we are 4 going to do this a little differently today, 5 6 so, hopefully, that won't make as much a 7 difference as it might in the ordinary case. 8 Before we begin, let me do а 9 travel check as to what time your flights on 10 leaving. I understand a number of you are 11 eager to be back out of town and ahead of the 12 snow this evening. Mr. Bender? 13 MR. BENDER: If everything goes as 14 planned, 7:00. JUDGE MCCABE: Seven o'clock is 15 16 your flight time. And what's your airport? 17 MR. BENDER: National. 18 JUDGE MCCABE: National. Okay. 19 Mr. Alonso, can I assume you're remaining in 20 town? 21 MR. ALONSO: Yes. 22 JUDGE MCCABE: I assume this is a

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1	representative of a company with you?
2	MR. ALONSO: Yes, I'm sorry. This
3	is Sandra Snyder with Bracewell also
4	representing La Paloma, and we do not have any
5	travel restrictions tonight.
6	JUDGE MCCABE: Thank you. And
7	from the EPA side?
8	MR. TOMASOVIC: My flight departs
9	at 8 p.m.
10	JUDGE MCCABE: All right. Then I
11	think we should have plenty of time. We've
12	scheduled an hour and a half for this. We
13	will try our best to get you out on time, so
14	you can run for the airports. Snow is not
15	supposed to begin until later this evening.
16	We are doing this slightly
17	differently than our normal procedure because
18	this is a status conference, as well as an
19	expedited oral argument. As usual, we'll go
20	ahead and allocate one half an hour,
21	approximately, to each party. But the order
22	of the parties will be slightly different than

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usual.

2	We will start, in this case, with
3	the permitee, with La Paloma Energy Center,
4	who I will refer to briefly as La Paloma. I
5	suspect the other judges will be doing that,
6	too, for the record. Because we have some
7	status questions for you, which I assume will
8	not surprise you, given our scheduling order.
9	Those answers to those questions may inform
10	the rest of the discussion that we have here
11	today, so we thought it best to begin with La
12	Paloma.
13	Normally, of course, our practice
14	would be to begin with the petitioner, the
14 15	would be to begin with the petitioner, the Sierra Club. So in this case, Mr. Bender, I'm
14 15 16	would be to begin with the petitioner, the Sierra Club. So in this case, Mr. Bender, I'm going to give you your choice as to whether
14 15 16 17	would be to begin with the petitioner, the Sierra Club. So in this case, Mr. Bender, I'm going to give you your choice as to whether you would like to go second or third. Some
14 15 16 17 18	would be to begin with the petitioner, the Sierra Club. So in this case, Mr. Bender, I'm going to give you your choice as to whether you would like to go second or third. Some people like to have the first word, some
14 15 16 17 18 19	would be to begin with the petitioner, the Sierra Club. So in this case, Mr. Bender, I'm going to give you your choice as to whether you would like to go second or third. Some people like to have the first word, some people like to have the last word.
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	<pre>would be to begin with the petitioner, the Sierra Club. So in this case, Mr. Bender, I'm going to give you your choice as to whether you would like to go second or third. Some people like to have the first word, some people like to have the last word. You also have the option, if you</pre>
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	<pre>would be to begin with the petitioner, the Sierra Club. So in this case, Mr. Bender, I'm going to give you your choice as to whether you would like to go second or third. Some people like to have the first word, some people like to have the last word. You also have the option, if you choose to go second after La Paloma, to</pre>
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<pre>would be to begin with the petitioner, the Sierra Club. So in this case, Mr. Bender, I'm going to give you your choice as to whether you would like to go second or third. Some people like to have the first word, some people like to have the last word. You also have the option, if you choose to go second after La Paloma, to reserve five minutes of your time for rebuttal</pre>

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1	after EPA. What would you like to do?
2	MR. BENDER: I'll combine both and
3	do it all together.
4	JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. That's the
5	way we'll proceed then. We'll begin first
6	with La Paloma. Now, as we, I think,
7	mentioned, if we didn't we should have, in our
8	order to you, we're not expecting you or
9	asking you to make any formal presentations
10	today, as you would in the normal oral
11	argument.
12	In the interest of time, please
12 13	In the interest of time, please presume that we've read your briefs, that
12 13 14	In the interest of time, please presume that we've read your briefs, that we're familiar with the records. And in the
12 13 14 15	In the interest of time, please presume that we've read your briefs, that we're familiar with the records. And in the interest of saving time and getting you out of
12 13 14 15 16	In the interest of time, please presume that we've read your briefs, that we're familiar with the records. And in the interest of saving time and getting you out of here, we'd like to focus right away on the
12 13 14 15 16 17	In the interest of time, please presume that we've read your briefs, that we're familiar with the records. And in the interest of saving time and getting you out of here, we'd like to focus right away on the judges questions. If you have anything that
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	In the interest of time, please presume that we've read your briefs, that we're familiar with the records. And in the interest of saving time and getting you out of here, we'd like to focus right away on the judges questions. If you have anything that you would like to say very briefly first,
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	In the interest of time, please presume that we've read your briefs, that we're familiar with the records. And in the interest of saving time and getting you out of here, we'd like to focus right away on the judges questions. If you have anything that you would like to say very briefly first, though, please let us know that and feel free.
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	In the interest of time, please presume that we've read your briefs, that we're familiar with the records. And in the interest of saving time and getting you out of here, we'd like to focus right away on the judges questions. If you have anything that you would like to say very briefly first, though, please let us know that and feel free. Mr. Alonso?
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	In the interest of time, please presume that we've read your briefs, that we're familiar with the records. And in the interest of saving time and getting you out of here, we'd like to focus right away on the judges questions. If you have anything that you would like to say very briefly first, though, please let us know that and feel free. Mr. Alonso? MR. ALONSO: Thank you, Judges.

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recognizing and thanking you for expediting this appeal. I believe the briefs were submitted on December 27th, and the Board reached out to us just a couple of weeks later to schedule this argument. So we're really appreciative of that. We are prepared to answer your questions presented in your order, as well as any other issue that's before the Court.

10 As to your first issue, you asked 11 us to report on the status of the projects. 12 First, let me address the construction time 13 line. We currently have all government 14 that approvals required for are pre-15 construction, as well as agreements that we 16 need with governments. We have tax agreements 17 that were completed. We have a water supply 18 agreement with the local water works. We have 19 land agreements in place. We have our TCEQ 20 Air Permit that was finalized in February of 21 2013.

The two main components that we

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1 missing right now is, number one, are 2 financinq. Financing is contingent on 3 receiving a final PSD permit. Once we receive a final agency action on the permit, we expect 4 5 to close that financing in short order right 6 after that.

As far as construction, we have in 7 EPC engineering procurement 8 the and 9 construction contract completed. That was 10 executed in September of 2013. So shortly after this closing, we can start construction 11 12 shortly right after that. That was with 13 Bechtel Power Corporation and, again, they are 14 standing by ready to start construction.

15JUDGE MCCABE: Most importantly,16Mr. Alonso, could you address whether you've17selected your turbine yet?

18 MR. ALONSO: Yes, we are prepared 19 to talk about that. We have preliminarily 20 identified the preferred turbine that we would 21 like to install at this site. It is the GE 22 7FA turbine. However, we are currently in

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1 various escalation clauses of our existing contracts, including for the turbine, in the 2 3 sense that we have planned to be done with 4 this process on January 1st. Not just the 5 contract for the turbine but for other 6 components of the site, every day that goes on 7 the client is paying escalation fees on that 8 contract.

9 JUDGE MCCABE: So do you have a 10 turbine contract or not?

MR. ALONSO: We do have a spot for
manufacturing of the turbine.

JUDGE MCCABE:So is that likereserving a place in case you decide to put inyour order?

Correct. 16 MR. ALONSO: And that 17 deadline is April 1st. On April 1st, we have, 18 what happened after January is that we 19 negotiated our escalation clauses through 20 April 1st. Come April 1st, I think that the, 21 well, come April 1st, we would have to 22 renegotiate that contract. And, most likely,

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1	we can maybe even consider selecting one of
2	the other turbines that are in this permit.
3	So if we don't have a final permit
4	in the next, you know and I'm not putting
5	any pressure on you guys, but, as of April
6	lst, I think that the, well, I know the
7	developer would like the flexibility to
8	install any one of these three turbines.
9	JUDGE MCCABE: I'm not sure I'm
10	completely following you. What happens
11	let's try it this way. What happens if you
12	get your permit tomorrow?
13	MR. ALONSO: If we get our permit
14	tomorrow, we would close our financing a
15	couple of weeks later, and we could start, and
16	then we would put in a notice for the
17	procurement, finalizing the GE 7FA turbine
18	contract.
19	JUDGE MCCABE: And how soon could
20	that happen or would that happen?
21	MR. ALONSO: That would happen
22	upon closing, and we would

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1	JUDGE MCCABE: So are we talking
2	about a week, two weeks, a month?
3	MR. ALONSO: Yes. My
4	understanding, the information that I have is
5	that closing can happen in, it's a matter of
6	weeks, a couple of weeks after we receive a
7	final permit.
8	JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. So when you
9	say you've preliminary picked this GE 7FA
10	turbine can we just refer to that as the GE
11	turbine?
12	MR. ALONSO: Sure.
13	JUDGE MCCABE: It's the only one,
14	right, that's a GE? Okay. We'll call this
15	the GE turbine. You've preliminary selected
16	that. If you get your permit tomorrow, is
17	there any reason that you'll change that
18	choice?
19	MR. ALONSO: Most likely not. If
20	we get our permit tomorrow, if we get it
21	before April 1st, we are probably, we are most
22	likely, yes, going to select, we are going to

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1 select the GE turbine.

2	JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. If you get
3	your permit before April 1st, you will select
4	the GE turbine; is that correct?
5	MR. ALONSO: That is, yes.
6	JUDGE MCCABE: And my
7	understanding of this turbine is that it's the
8	smallest of the three, and, according to heat
9	rates, the least efficient, the one to which
10	the region has assigned the highest GHG
11	emission limit; is that correct?
12	MR. ALONSO: That is correct.
13	JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. That will
14	very much inform the rest of our discussion.
15	Thank you, Mr. Alonso. Do you know yet,
16	another question on your preparation here, do
17	you know yet where the facility will be placed
18	in the ERCOT dispatch order and whether it
19	will be operated as a baseload or load cycling
20	facility?
21	MR. ALONSO: Our plan is to
22	operate this as a baseload unit. However, we

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will respond to the ERCOT orders as they come. 1 I mean, in Texas, our business plan is to 2 operate this as a baseload unit. 3 JUDGE MCCABE: Does ERCOT give you 4 5 any preview of that? 6 MR. ALONSO: Excuse me? JUDGE MCCABE: Does ERCOT give you 7 any advanced notice as to whether you're going 8 to be likely operated as a baseload or not? 9 MR. ALONSO: Our intention is to 10 11 operate it as a baseload. I'm not quite sure about, we can follow up with you on that as 12 13 far as ERCOT notices. I'm not prepared to 14 talk about the ERCOT notices. But to the 15 extent that ERCOT manages dispatching, we will 16 comply with their orders. 17 JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. And you 18 expect, at this point, based on current 19 conditions, which I understand can change if 20 other plants come online or other things 21 happen, expect, based current you on 22 conditions, that you'll be dispatched high

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1	enough in the order that this will be a
2	baseload plant; and, therefore, it will be
3	operated at 100-percent capacity?
4	MR. ALONSO: Pretty close to it.
5	JUDGE MCCABE: On a regular basis?
6	MR. ALONSO: On a regular basis,
7	we would like to have, you know, utilize this
8	as much as possible. Keep in mind, though,
9	while we do have the, you know, as an EPA
10	administrative record, yes, larger turbines
11	may be more efficient. But at the end of the
12	day, they also have higher mass emissions.
13	And so when you look at it from an
14	environmental perspective, to the extent that
15	an environmental impact plays into that, the
16	environment really feels the impact of the
17	mass limit more than anything else, I believe.
18	JUDGE MCCABE: Understood. Okay.
19	Can you tell us a little bit about what was
20	the chief factor that drove the company's
21	selection of the turbine, how important was
22	the capacity or size, for example?
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MR. ALONSO: I don't know the ins
and outs of why they selected that turbine.
I believe it's just commercial terms. It was
the better commercial term
JUDGE MCCABE: Would you like to
consult with your client at all to see if you
can clarify that answer?
MR. ALONSO: Sure. She's here.
JUDGE MCCABE: This may help you.
Some of the questions that we're also
interested in are how important was the
capacity or size of the unit in terms of your
decision to select the GE turbine, and how do
the relative heat rates or the GHG emission
rates affect that decision? Did they affect
that decision, if it's made?
MR. ALONSO: The way that this
project was developed is that we went out for
competitive bids of at least three turbines.
And based on the necessary heat rate, the
forecast of demand, that was the basis of the
selection. It was not based on, you know, any

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other factors, except for trying to meet the purpose of the project, which is to supply the load, and the heat rates and the financial arrangements that resulted from that bid process.

JUDGE HILL: Was that forecast of demand strictly internal, or was it something dictated by either ERCOT or some other external entity?

10 MR. ALONSO: La Paloma is a 11 merchant power plant. We're not regulated, so 12 it's not that we, to the extent that your 13 question is to whether or not we had any 14 regulatory oversight --

15JUDGE HILL: Or just external16information or some sort of external driver,17I guess.

MR. ALONSO: Let me consult with sorry, I just wasn't prepared.
JUDGE HILL: No, that's okay.
MR. ALONSO: So specific

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22 questions. Okay.

	20
1	JUDGE MCCABE: But we appreciate
2	your coming.
3	MR. ALONSO: But I'm glad that
4	Kathleen, the project developer, Kathleen
5	Smith is here with us today. When you develop
6	these projects, yes, they went out, they had
7	third-party evaluations of load demand and
8	what would fit for this market absolutely.
9	JUDGE HILL: Okay.
10	MR. ALONSO: I mean, it's
11	JUDGE HILL: Let me ask one other
12	follow-up. You said at the very outset, Mr.
13	Alonso, that you had preliminarily identified
14	the GE turbine, and the record before us is
15	that certainly at the time of the application
16	that decision hadn't been made. I'm not
17	asking for a specific date, but, roughly, when
18	was that determination made relative
19	because I'm curious how it relates to this
20	proceeding.
21	MR. ALONSO: So, again, we made
22	the selection based on closing in January, but

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the selection of the turbine was made in 1 2 expecting to be, you know, Auqust, manufactured and installed in January. 3 So to answer your question, it was August of 2013. 4 5 JUDGE HILL: Did you communicate 6 that to the region at that time? No, because, again, 7 MR. ALONSO: because of the timing of this permit, it is a 8 9 preliminary determination. At that time in 10 August, if we were 100-percent certain that we 11 would get a permit in January, sure, we probably would have, you know, told the region 12 13 and maybe the final permit may have looked 14 differently. But we couldn't put our eqqs, 15 all our eggs in that one basket at that time. 16 JUDGE MCCABE: What was your understanding, Mr. Alonso, of what the region 17 18 planned to do once you made your turbine 19 Will they revise your permit or selection? 20 leave in those three original limits? 21 We have a special MR. ALONSO: 22 condition in the permit that requires that La

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Paloma submit an amended permit application to remove the other two turbines that are not selected from the permit. So it would be a deletion of the two other turbines that are not selected.

6 JUDGE STEIN: Why, if you've made 7 the decision to proceed with this particular 8 turbine if you receive your permit within the 9 time frame that is necessary for you, would 10 you be revisiting that question if you don't 11 get the permit until May?

MR. ALONSO: If we --

JUDGE STEIN: Just hypothetically, if you get the permit a month after, why is it that suddenly that's an open question again? I'm having difficulty understanding that. MR. ALONSO: Correct. Our current

negotiations on the escalation clauses of the contracts, we have currently negotiated terms through April 1st. At that point, you're right, we would have an option to negotiate further or, more likely than not, we could, we

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might go through another bid process 1 to 2 determine whether or not maybe another turbine might be more beneficial from an economic 3 4 perspective to install. 5 Thank you. JUDGE STEIN: 6 JUDGE MCCABE: Just to make sure 7 the record is clear on this, though, at this 8 point, you're telling us that if the company 9 gets its final PSD permit from EPA before April 1st, it will be the GE turbine? 10 11 MR. ALONSO: That is my 12 understanding. 13 JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. Would you 14 like to qualify that statement? 15 Right. The problem MR. ALONSO: 16 is that, again, we cannot make a final 17 decision on the turbine until after we get the 18 permit because you're only going to reserve 19 your place in line for a certain amount of 20 time at the GE manufacturing plant. 21 JUDGE MCCABE: But if you get your 22 permit tomorrow or anytime before April 1st,

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1	or perhaps you need a week advanced notice,
2	then you would be choosing the GE turbine? We
3	can rely on that?
4	MR. ALONSO: Yes.
5	JUDGE MCCABE: Is that correct?
6	MR. ALONSO: More likely than not,
7	we will be selecting that turbine.
8	JUDGE MCCABE: When you say more
9	likely than not or preliminary, then I'm not
10	sure what you're telling me, Mr. Alonso.
11	Which is it? Will you have that GE turbine be
12	your selection?
13	JUDGE HILL: What else might
14	prevent you from going ahead with the GE
15	turbine if there were a decision before April
16	lst is another way to ask the question.
17	MR. ALONSO: To maintain
18	flexibility. I mean, that's one of the
19	purpose we're here. I mean, if we get a call
20	tomorrow from Siemens saying that they're
21	going to give us the turbine at five cents,
22	maybe we'd go with the Siemens.
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1	JUDGE MCCABE: So price matters?	
2	MR. ALONSO: Absolutely.	
3	JUDGE HILL: Price really, I mean,	
4	but	
5	MR. ALONSO: The likelihood of	
6	that is minimal.	
7	JUDGE HILL: But let's explore	
8	that for a second because it sort of takes us	
9	to the other direction. So if you, so if	
10	Siemens were to, you know I mean, and I can	
11	certainly relate to this. I'm trying to do	
12	some home maintenance. But so they come in	
13	with a bid you're not expecting, and you say,	
14	"You know what? That's the one we should go	
15	with," that's going to be one of the larger	
16	turbines. So what will happen in terms of	
17	your demand forecast or, I mean, how will you	
18	operate that plan?	
19	MR. ALONSO: It may not fit the	
20	business plan at the time. I mean, we would	
21	like to maintain the flexibility of selecting	
22	the turbine as much as we can in this final	

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permit. Everything is in place that, if we were to get a final permit tomorrow, that the GE turbine would be used. However, we still want, I don't want to tell you that it's 100percent guaranteed. We would like to maintain that flexibility.

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JUDGE MCCABE: But you understand 7 desire to maintain that 8 it's your very 9 flexibility that leads us all to be here 10 today, right? As I understand it, the main 11 issue that the petitioners have with the limit that was chosen in this case is the fact that 12 13 you are reserving flexibility to make this 14 choice after you get your permit.

15 MR. ALONSO: But the limit is, the 16 limit doesn't satisfy region as appropriate 17 and valid under BACT. What the permitee is arguing here today is that somehow we start 18 off with a class of control devices. 19 The 20 identified combustion combined region has 21 cycle turbines as a control class. That is 22 your step one. BACT is an evolution all the

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1	way through step five. Once you get to step
2	five, the purpose and the intent of step five
3	is to impose an emission limit looking at
4	those control devices, and it's not just
5	combined cycle. We have a whole list of
6	technologies that were identified by the
7	region that apply to each of these turbines.
8	At that point, you look at the
9	emission unit and you develop a unit-specific
10	emission rate that reflects the technology as
11	it's supplied to that particular emission
12	unit.
13	JUDGE MCCABE: Don't you also look
14	at comparable units located at other
15	facilities when the permitting authority makes
16	that decision?
17	MR. ALONSO: Absolutely. You look
18	at technologies at other, through the
19	clearinghouseand other technical information.
20	That is your step two analysis, absolutely.
21	JUDGE MCCABE: Then why wouldn't
22	you look at other turbines that are available?

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1	MR. ALONSO: I'm sorry?
2	JUDGE MCCABE: Then why wouldn't
3	you look at these other turbines that are
4	available?
5	MR. ALONSO: You look at the other
6	turbines as well, are you saying the other
7	turbines that are mentioned
8	JUDGE MCCABE: The Siemens
9	turbines.
10	MR. ALONSO: The Siemens turbines
11	and the GE turbines have the exact same
12	technology installed. Again, at the end GE
13	and Siemens does not make the identical
14	products. There's going to be some
15	variability amongst those products, and I
16	would argue that the actual impact of these
17	units or these emission rates aren't that far
18	off from each other. But in step five, the
19	region looked at the turbines and looked at,
20	as this board has approved in the past, and in
21	particular in Prairie State, the ability to
22	take into consideration operational

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variability, compliance headroom, and other
 factors made to ensure that the BACT limit at
 the end of the day is workable and something
 that can be achievable from a compliance
 perspective.

6 Mr. Alonso, we'd JUDGE MCCABE: 7 like to go on to that subject of the relative 8 heat rates and, therefore, the GHG emission 9 rates of these three turbines. But before we 10 leave the subject that we are on of the 11 criteria that the company used, perhaps past 12 tense, or might in the future, if something 13 unexpected happens, use in the future to 14 select the turbine, I heard you say two 15 primary things. And I know we're several 16 beats back on the questioning now. But I 17 heard you say the forecast of demand, how much 18 power you can sell -- I'm sure where ERCOT 19 will dispatch you is part of that equation --20 and the heat rates. Are those the two most 21 important factors to the company in selecting 22 the turbine? Price, obviously, has something

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1	to do with this, too.
2	MR. ALONSO: Yes. I mean, and the
3	result of the bidding process and how that,
4	and the third-party analysis of the energy
5	demand and everything else. Absolutely.
6	JUDGE HILL: So are you really
7	saying, to a large extent, price is the
8	primary driver?
9	MR. ALONSO: No, not necessarily.
10	I mean, it's what fits for this particular,
11	you know, looking at the forecast
12	JUDGE HILL: But it's the balance
13	of price to demand to efficiency?
14	MR. ALONSO: Sure. I'm sure.
15	There is a cost component to this, but it's
16	not a cost component as specified in step four
17	of the BACT analysis.
18	JUDGE HILL: No, I'm not doing
19	BACT right now. I'm talking about just the
20	decision of which one to install.
21	MR. ALONSO: Sure. It's a
22	business decision, and the product developer
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would like to maintain that flexibility. At 1 2 the time the permit was submitted, we concurrently went and did, basically, a dual 3 process of trying to get a PSD permit and try 4 5 to come to terms with all these agreements, 6 whether the turbine or your tax agreement, 7 your water use agreement. And that's why our 8 initial application had three turbines in it. 9 To say that we had to do all that 10 work up-front and then wait another two years to get a PSD permit, it would really delay the 11 12 project and lose a window of opportunity 13 currently right now at ERCOT, where there are 14 some energy constraints in Texas. This is a 15 very good time to build a gas-fired power 16 plant in Texas. 17 JUDGE STEIN: I want to follow up. 18 Are you --19 Yes, yes. JUDGE HILL: 20 I wanted to follow JUDGE STEIN: 21 up on your decision of the various steps of 22 the BACT process. I understand your wanting

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flexibility to the last possible 1 to have 2 moment. At the same time, ordinarily, in the 3 step two analysis, you would be looking at whether technologies available and 4 are And if somebody was going to 5 applicable. 6 drive the company to say you should build a 7 size that's too small or too large, it's my 8 understanding that there would be an 9 opportunity at that point for commenters to 10 explain why a different size unit might be 11 appropriate; and you, in turn, would have an 12 opportunity to say, well, that doesn't work 13 for us.

by keeping the flexibility 14 But 15 until the end of the process, my question is 16 whether you have deprived either citizens 17 groups or other commenters of the opportunity 18 to meaningfully comment at an earlier phase of 19 the process. And, therefore, by keeping your 20 flexibility to the last moment, you are, 21 perhaps you should assume the risk for having 22 done that.

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1	I mean, in Pio Pico, we briefly
2	talked about the sizing issues. We've
3	acknowledged. I understand your points on you
4	get to pick the size. But if you pick it so
5	late in the process that nobody else can
6	meaningfullycomment, notwithstandingthe size
7	you want to pick, if you pick it a little
8	bigger, it's much more efficient, how can that
9	happen if you wait until the end of the
10	process to choose, to say what technology you,
11	the company, want to go with?
12	MR. ALONSO: First of all, you
13	know, recognizing BACT and step two, I'm not
14	aware of any precedent in PSD permitting or
15	from this board that somehow size, in and of
16	itself, is a control device. Step two and, to
17	a certain extent, step one is to identify
18	control devices, you know, technology that
19	would be applied to a given emission unit or
20	a given source. And I believe that it's been
21	pretty well established that the permittee has
22	a lot of flexibility in deciding the design

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factors in how the plant is designed. Ι 1 would, you know, ask the Board to consider that size is not a control device, it's more 3 a design criteria that is used by permittees 4 5 when they go to design a source.

6 Yes, I'm not JUDGE STEIN: 7 thinking of size as a control technology. Ι 8 see the control technology as combined cycle turbines. But when you look at combined cycle 9 turbines, you've looked at three different 10 11 models. They have different efficiencies. We 12 can get, later people can tell us whether 13 they're comparable or they're not. But if the 14 company is headed towards а particular 15 efficiency and the agency or other commenters 16 think they should be headed elsewhere, that 17this particular technology, combined cycle 18 turbines, can get efficient you а more 19 process, where in they the process are 20 supposed to raise that? 21 MR. ALONSO: They could raise that

22 the technologies are defined and in how

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1 developed in step two.

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JUDGE MCCABE: You may be hurting Mr. Richie's ears doing that so . . .

4 MR. ALONSO: Sorry, sorry. Region 5 6 identified, roughly, four different energy 6 efficiency and processes or practices that 7 apply to the class of this technology, which 8 is a combined cycle class. The public has 9 full opportunity and they had in this permit 10 to comment on exactly that: whether it's 11 installation, whether it's installing an 12 efficient heat exchanger design, economizer 13 exhaust steam. These are the control devices 14 that apply to the class of technology which is 15 what's known as combined cycle.

16 That list today is what we have 17 today. That list was different ten years ago, 18 and it's going to be different ten years from 19 now because BACT evolves. That is where the 20 public has its say.

To set a one-level, you know, allcombined cycle must be 9.0, the 909.2 pound

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per CO2 megawatt hour, that's not BACT. 1 BACT a case-by-case emission unit-2 is set on 3 specific basis. What Sierra Club is basically 4 asking this board to consider is taking that 5 one limit, the 909.2, and apply it to two cycle 6 other totally different combined 7 turbines, and I don't see that as what is intended by BACT. 8

That brings us to 9 JUDGE MCCABE: an interesting question. Can the GE turbine, 10 11 which you are most likely to select, to quote you, achieve the GHG emissions rate that the 12 13 region established for the Siemens turbine? First of all, we 14 MR. ALONSO: 15 think that to require the GE turbine to meet 16 that limit would be asking the permittee to 17 over comply with an adequately-developed BACT 18 limit. We don't think --19 JUDGE MCCABE: I'm asking you for 20 a factual answer, Mr. Alonso. 21 MR. ALONSO: From a factual

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22 || question, I mean, I'm not --

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1	JUDGE MCCABE: Would you like to
2	consult with your client?
3	MR. ALONSO: Yes, okay. We are
4	not prepared at this time to say 100 percent
5	whether or not we can meet that limit. What
6	we would have to do is possibly de-rate. We
7	might have
8	JUDGE MCCABE: Possibly what?
9	MR. ALONSO: De-rate the unit.
10	JUDGE MCCABE: De-rate.
11	MR. ALONSO: The unit may be not
12	at its maximum capacity.
13	JUDGE MCCABE: What would that do?
14	Explain that.
15	JUDGE HILL: You mean run it
16	greater than capacity?
17	JUDGE MCCABE: Yes, he means if
18	they de-rate it that they would operate it at
19	less than its full capacity. What would that
20	do to your heat rate?
21	MR. ALONSO: Probably not much.
22	But they would have to do something
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operational to the unit to basically comply 1 2 with that limit. Plus, we would not have the 3 compliance headroom that was developed for degradation factors. We might be able to meet 4 5 it day one, but who knows in ten years? And 6 just operation flexibility. It would be 7 really difficult to commit to that limit. 8 JUDGE MCCABE: Let me see if I'm 9 understanding you correctly. I hear you say 10 that de-rating it would be one option to meet that GHG emissions limit because it's a total 11 12 limit, even though your efficiency rate would 13 clearly go down if you de-rated it. I hear 14 you saying that option number two would 15 essentially be to take it out of vour 16 compliance margin, which the petitioner has 17 characterized as generous, I believe, in its 18 comments on this permit. Are those the only 19 two ways that the company could meet the heat 20 or the GHG emission limit that the region set 21 for the Siemens turbines in using the GE 22 turbine?

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1	MR. ALONSO: I mean, we can follow
2	up with the Board on this, but, to the extent
3	of whether or not there's other engineering
4	solutions or modifications to that turbine
5	that could be done to, you know, basically
6	change the design of this unit, I mean, I
7	think that's why we went through the BACT
8	process, though. I mean, the end-of-day
9	emission limit is based on vendor information
10	that we obtain from GE, and the region took
11	that and applied the control technologies to
12	those numbers, and that's how we establish
13	BACT limits at the end of the day is you take
14	those control technologies and you impose them
15	onto the unit that's supposed to be built, you
16	work in compliance headroom, and it was, you
17	know, and this board is generally deferred to
18	EPA technical staff on issues about compliance
19	headroom and what's
20	JUDGE MCCABE: I don't even think
21	that's an issue on this appeal, so you don't

22 need to go there.

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1	MR. ALONSO: Well, no, no, no. To
2	the extent that you said that the Sierra Club
3	thinks that compliance headrooms are generous
4	
5	JUDGE MCCABE: That was just a
6	comment. They didn't raise it on appeal.
7	MR. ALONSO: Okay.
8	JUDGE MCCABE: But let me ask you
9	this, Mr. Alonso. I'm hearing, essentially,
10	that the only two ways that you could, that
11	the company could meet the limit on the GE
12	turbine would be to either de-rate it, in
13	which case you're not getting the power that
14	you want out of it, or to take it out of your
15	compliance margin, which is, effectively,
16	somewhat lowering your limit really.
17	But I'm puzzled about one thing.
18	Didn't the company, in its original permit
19	application, propose to use the average of,
20	propose to set the permit limit at the average
21	of the GHG emission rates or heat rates of the
22	three units, the three turbines? And if

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that's the case, isn't that an admission that 1 you can actually meet the more-demanding 2 emission limit on the less efficient unit? 3 MR. ALONSO: Let me just say, when 4 5 initially submitted this permit we 6 application, we used the LCRA permit that 7 Region 6 had processed and finalized in a 8 period of six months. 9 JUDGE HILL: I'm sorry. What is 10 LCRA? The Lower River 11 MR. ALONSO: 12 Colorado Authority. They permitted a gas 13 plant in Region 6. It was not appealed to 14 this board. So we modeled it after that 15 application. 16 JUDGE MCCABE: You modeled your 17 application after theirs? MR. ALONSO: To a certain extent, 18 19 because it worked at Region 6, as far as this 20 averaging. It turns out that, once between 21 draft and final, LCRA was able to select the 22 turbine and they selected a turbine. The

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1	timing worked for them, given their
2	development path.
3	JUDGE MCCABE: I'm sorry? You
4	said they selected theirs between the draft
5	and final permits?
6	MR. ALONSO: They did. And their
7	final permit came out with one turbine. But,
8	again, that's a different project, different
9	development path.
10	JUDGE HILL: Well, but I think the
11	question is, you're saying that if you were to
12	apply the Siemens emission limit to the GE
13	turbine, that that would over comply. But if
14	the permit limit were set at the average of
15	the three and you would, as you apparently are
16	almost likely to do, select the GE turbine,
17	then you're going to meet a lower limit than
18	the limit that would have been set on the GE
19	turbine alone. So would you have been arguing
20	that that was over-compliance, as well?
21	MR. ALONSO: I mean, the record
22	speaks for itself. I mean, obviously, if we

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1 submit a permit application agreeing to a 2 certain limit, we would have to, you know, 3 probably shave our compliance headroom. But it doesn't, it doesn't, I mean, the issue 4 5 before the Board, though, I believe is whether 6 or not Region 6 acted properly in its BACT 7 analysis of these three turbines, of these particular emission units. Whether or not a 8 9 unit can over comply or whether a permittee 10 can take a voluntarily limit to reduce its 11 emissions, I believe that's outside of the 12 BACT process.

13 JUDGE STEIN: But I think what is 14 inside the BACT process is whether or not the 15 emissions limit that the region has selected 16 is, in fact, BACT. And that's what I'm 17 struggling with. This case comes to us in a 18 somewhat unusual setting in that I don't 19 recall, in my many years on the Board, ever 20 seeing a situation, and it's possible that we 21 did, in which three different emissions limits 22 were picked for the same unit.

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1	Now, I'm not saying it's not
2	happening. I'm simply saying that I don't
3	have any experience with that. And what I'm
4	more familiar with is a control technology
5	being picked, whether it's, you know, a
6	scrubber or something else, and, within that
7	technology, the company being called upon
8	through the BACT process to meet an emissions
9	limit that reflects the best emissions limit
10	that that technology can achieve.
11	And if the technology is combined
12	cycle, then, clearly, there are certain sizes
13	of combined cycle that may be able to achieve
14	a better emissions than the unit that you're
15	picking. And I don't have a problem with
16	somebody saying to me, well, we can't do that
17	because of A, B, and C. But my problem is
18	whether BACT automatically gets picked by
19	size, rather than what the class of technology
20	is capable of performing.
21	MR. ALONSO: Again, I think two
22	points as to previous practices. I mean, we

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1 have identified seven GHG permits, or, I'm 2 sorry, PSD permits that have, throughout the 3 country and different permitting authorities, 4 further research identified five more where 5 you have two or three emission units and all 6 units have different rates. They range from 7 California, Arizona, Florida, Oregon, North 8 Carolina, Texas. So it is an established 9 practice out there in the permitting --10 JUDGE STEIN: Were those 11 federally-issued permits state-issued or 12 permits, if you know? 13 MR. ALONSO: They were, well, you 14 know, they were all state-issued permits, but 15 some of those were in delegated states, such 16 as Washington, the state of Florida, so they 17 are federal permits. I agree that I don't 18 believe that this issue has come before the 19 Board, but keep in mind BACT is a progression. 20 And I think, in step one, the technology is 21 combined cycle. And you take that technology 22 and you run it through the five steps. But at

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the end of the day, in step five, if you take the design of the emission unit that's being proposed to be installed and you take those technologies, you know, the use of reheat cycles, the exhaust steam condensers, the generator design, and all these things apply to each of the three turbines.

8 And at the end of the day, in step 9 five, what's the purpose of step five? The 10 five take that purpose of step is to 11 progression and look at the emission unit 12 being proposed and develop an enforceable BACT 13 limit. BACT is a limit based on technology 14 that's being identified through the step one 15 through four.

JUDGE HILL: That's basically the three separate applications argument; am I correct?

MR. ALONSO: At the end of the day, we could have possibly submitted three different applications, and you would have had to -- to do otherwise, you would be basically

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setting sort of like an NSPS where you say all combined cycles need to meet this one limit across the board. No matter where you are, who you are, which manufacturer you use, what color your turbine is, you need to meet this limit. That's not what BACT is.

Well, the problem 7 JUDGE MCCABE: 8 with that analysis, of course, Mr. Alonso, is that if we take it to the full extent of what 9 10 you're suggesting, you get to pick the 11 emission limit according to which turbine you And I don't believe that's what the 12 pick. 13 permitting authority is supposed to do. But 14 we don't need to debate this issue further.

15 We'd like to turn, before we leave 16 you and go to EPA, to the solar issue. And my question to you is is it possible -- again, 17 here we're talking facts, not legal conclusion 18 19 -- to install some solar-generating capacity 20 proposed facility? what this And at 21 information in the record can you cite us to 22 support your answer, whatever that answer is?

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1	MR. ALONSO: On the solar pre-heat
2	issue, first of all, solar pre-heat is not a
3	control device to be identified in step one.
4	Your factual question, can it be installed at
5	this facility, in a meaningful way, no. We
6	only have 20 acres left over after we build
7	this project.
8	JUDGE HILL: Is that in the
9	record?
10	JUDGE MCCABE: Is that in the
11	record?
12	MR. ALONSO: No, it is not. It's
13	not in the record because, again, what is in
14	the record is that Region 6 determined that
15	installing, based on this board's precedent,
16	installing solar pre-heat or using solar as
17	some type of alternative fuel for this plant
18	would be re-designing the source.
19	JUDGE MCCABE: Well, go back to
20	your explanation about the 20 acres. Explain
21	to us.
22	MR. ALONSO: Okay. First, there's
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1	the 20 acres. There's not enough space, land
2	to make solar pre-heat a feasible or economic
3	technology. Palmdale had 250-something acres,
4	you know, a vast amount of land.
5	Second, this plant is pretty close
6	to the Texas coast, vulnerable to hurricanes.
7	Who knows if regulators of local communities
8	would even let us build such a large solar
9	field in this area, given the threat of
10	hurricanes.
11	JUDGE MCCABE: Is there anything
12	in the record for us to look at on that?
13	MR. ALONSO: No, again, in the
14	record, solar pre-heat is defined as, would be
15	redefining the source. And this board has
16	already ruled on this issue. In Palmdale, the
17	petitioner sought to have Palmdale install
18	even more solar energy than it already had
19	proposed, and this board said that that would
20	be redefining the source.
21	JUDGE MCCABE: I don't believe
22	that's what we said, Mr. Alonso. I believe we

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said that redefining the source was clear if
 you were talking about making it a 100-percent
 solar facility.

MR. ALONSO: Correct.

5 JUDGE MCCABE: That is quite 6 different from what you're talking about here. 7 Well, I point the MR. ALONSO: 8 Board then to Sierra Pacific. In that case, 9 there was a dual fuel plant, biomass as well 10 as natural gas, and the petitioner sought to 11 the permitting authority to force have 12 installation of solar, and this board there 13 said it was redefining the source. 14 JUDGE MCCABE: And what did they 15 base that on? 16 MR. ALONSO: I'm sorry? 17 I don't believe JUDGE MCCABE: 18 that the Board made such a broad statement 19 that any time you introduce solar that it 20 would be redefining the source. Do you recall 21 in Sierra Pacific what the reason was that the 22 Board concluded that?

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1	MR. ALONSO: I do not.
2	JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. Well, I
3	won't make you do that homework right now. We
4	actually know that. Go ahead back to, if you
5	would, to the factual question because that's
6	the one we're most interested for today's
7	purposes about whether it's actually possible
8	and what there is in the record that tells us
9	yes or no on that.
10	MR. ALONSO: Okay. Well, first, I
11	mentioned that there's not enough land, the
12	hurricane situation. The second issue is La
13	Paloma is not in the renewable business. They
14	don't have the resources to go out and do
15	solar studies. They would need to retrain or
16	redo their business model in order to look at
17	alternative energy or renewable energy.
18	JUDGE MCCABE: Do they build their
19	own turbines?
20	MR. ALONSO: They build gas
21	turbines, yes.
22	JUDGE MCCABE: They build them or

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1 they buy them? They don't do wind, 2 MR. ALONSO: 3 they don't do solar. 4 JUDGE MCCABE: Do they use 5 subcontractors? 6 MR. ALONSO: I mean, this is something that they would have to develop as 7 8 a business unit and will take time to go out 9 and get experts, hire them on staff, or go get 10 third-party folks. It's just not part of 11 their business plan. 12 JUDGE MCCABE: Mr. Alonso, what do 13 you think the company responded the first time the first company was asked to put on an SCR? 14 MR. ALONSO: They probably said it 15 16 was unfeasible. They probably did. 17 JUDGE MCCABE: 18 They probably also said they weren't in the 19 business. There has to be a first time, 20 doesn't --21 MR. ALONSO: No, I think that, as 22 far as being in the business, I mean, they're

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in the business of burning coal. And they know that they have to put on pollution control --

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And I think Sierra 4 JUDGE HILL: 5 Club's argument would be that La Paloma is in 6 business of generating the energy as 7 efficiently as possible in South Texas. Ι 8 mean, put aside the hurricane issue for a 9 moment, but if there were enough land, you 10 know, the stated business purpose in the 11 application is to produce between 637 and 735 12 megawatts of energy. I mean, that's the 13 stated business purpose, not to produce it, 14 per se, exclusively with natural gas. That 15 may be their preference, but I'm not sure 16 that's what the record shows.

MR. ALONSO: I mean, the purpose of citing this plant is to use the reclaimed water from the municipality as cooling water. There's also a natural gas pipeline close by to this facility. That is -- and the intent is to maximize the use of that gas pipeline.

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|| You know --

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2 JUDGE HILL: And that is in the 3 record?

> MR. ALONSO: That is in our brief. JUDGE HILL: Okay.

But, again, I don't 6 MR. ALONSO: 7 believe that solar pre-heat would even survive 8 I mean, you're talking about a step one. 9 redesign of the source by forcing folks to 10 consider renewable energies at a fossil fuel 11 plant where that's not the intention of the 12 design. And this board has allowed and has 13 recognized the ability for permittees to 14 define the parameters of their design of what 15 they want to build, and I don't think we, you 16 know, well, you guys can do what you want, but 17 to force folks that want to build fossil fuel 18 natural gas plants to build wind turbines, I 19 don't know, that sounds like --

JUDGE MCCABE: Do you know if there's any situation where any permitting authority has done that in the United States

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2	MR. ALONSO: I have not seen a
3	BACT analysis resulting in or, you know, to do
4	as an alternative, particularly in step one,
5	to consider the feasibility of a renewable
6	project. I don't have any knowledge of that
7	occurring at other permitting authorities.
8	JUDGE STEIN: But what about a
9	hybrid plant? I mean, I don't think what's
10	being suggested here is that you convert the
11	principal purpose of the gas turbines. I
12	think the question that's being asked is
13	whether any component of it could be solar,
14	and I think what the Board is struggling with
15	is, in a situation in which solar is not
16	already part of the plant design, is it proper
17	or improper to raise questions about that? If
18	so, what is the region's obligation?
19	I mean, I don't see this as sort
20	of a black and white issue. I see it as
21	you're telling us there's 20 acres. Maybe
22	that's in the record, maybe it's not. That
	I contraction of the second seco

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1 may be relevant to how you answer that 2 question in this case, as opposed to some 3 other case.

It really goes to MR. ALONSO: 4 5 whether or not solar or renewable energy 6 should be considered a control device in step 7 one. And I would assert, no, it's a different fuel source. You're redesigning, when people 8 go to build solar plants or hybrid plants, 9 even hybrid plants, you go in and that's what 10 11 you want to build and you have a business plan 12 and an engineering design for a hybrid plant 13 and that's what you want to get permitted.

14 But if you're out building a gas-15 fired power plant and solar is not а 16 component, I mean, nowhere in the record is 17 there anything about La Paloma interested in building a solar plant. We want to build a 18 19 natural gas fire plant, and that's the source 20 that should be permitted, not some alternative 21 design. And a hybrid plant would be forcing, 22 basically, brand new engineering, you have to

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1	study, you know, solar rays and the impact,
2	whether or not it's efficient in this area.
3	It would just be a totally different design or
4	engineering effort to design a hybrid plant
5	versus the plant that we're trying to permit
6	here.
7	JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. Thank you,
8	Mr. Alonso. We take your point, and you may
9	be seated. And we will hear next from EPA,
10	and Judge Hill will take the lead on questions
11	for EPA, but be resting assured that we will
12	all have questions for you.
13	JUDGE HILL: Let me start by
14	asking how you pronounce your name, so I don't
15	mess it up.
16	MR. TOMASOVIC: I will generally
17	say Tomasovic but
18	JUDGE HILL: Tomasovic?
19	MR. TOMASOVIC: Tomasovic is
20	fine if you want to go old country.
21	JUDGE HILL: What do you prefer?
22	MR. TOMASOVIC: Tomasovic.

JUDGE HILL: Tomasovic, okay. 1 So this is purely a hypothetical question, but, 2 3 in your experience or in the experience generally of the region, when does a permit 4 5 applicant decide what their, you know, what 6 their turbine is going to be or what their 7 size is going to be or the precise design Does it typically 8 factors of the source? 9 they submit permit happen before the 10 application, after, both? I think it could 11 MR. TOMASOVIC: 12 be a variety of things, your Honor. Looking 13 through historical permitting actions, we did 14 find that there are a couple of cases that 15 happened before the Board that had permit 16 structured such as this that had permitted 17 multiple turbine options. You wouldn't be 18 able to see it from the face of the decisions 19 and it wouldn't be something that you could 20 discern from the challenges that were raised, 21 but the Three Mountain Power decision in 2001 22 is one such example, and there was a case

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where a petition was dismissed for being a 1 minor source permit. But, clearly, on the 2 3 face of that decision, which was Carlton, Inc. 4 North Shore Plant in 2001, it described a permit with multiple turbine 5 minor NSR 6 options. Could you repeat JUDGE MCCABE: 7 the name of that one, please? 8 MR. TOMASOVIC: Carlton, Inc. --9 10 Carlton, Inc. JUDGE MCCABE: 11 -- North Shore MR. TOMASOVIC: 12 Plant. 13 JUDGE HILL: Do you have a cite on 14 that, or you said it was dismissed as --15 It was 2001, and MR. TOMASOVIC: 16 it was a published decision, your Honor. 17 JUDGE HILL: Okay. Now, mγ 18 understanding of Three Mountain Power is that 19 they allowed for different equipment, but they 20 only specified a single emission limit. 21 MR. TOMASOVIC: It does show that 22 in the RBLC, sir, but we tracked down the

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actually, what is 1 and, happens permit different permit issuers will input different 2 3 data into the RBLC. We gave you approximately 4 ten RBLC numbers, and in almost all those cases you are going to see different BACT 5 6 limits, depending on what types of BACT limit 7 is being assigned. And under the Three Mountain Power 8 9 permit that was issued, there were multiple 10 types of limits, other than the concentration 11 limits. So the hourly limits, the pounds per 12 hour limits, the annual ton per year limits, 13 just as in our permit, show that with each 14 turbine option different limits apply. 15 JUDGE HILL: And what was the 16 control technology in those cases, or can you generalize on that? I mean, one of the things 17 18 that makes this a challenging case, I think, 19 in part, is because the control technology is 20 all, I mean, you know, is also essentially the 21 plant design because what you're trying to do efficient 22 is simply maximize the use

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inherently. Are those others cases, are any of those similar, or are they all about add-on technologies?

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TOMASOVIC: I believe these 4 MR. 5 days the conventional thing is that for add-on 6 control technology with turbines is SCR. For 7 other limits, such as PM and carbon monoxide, you're assigning limits inherent to good 8 9 combustion practices inherent to the equipment that is selected. And that's reflected in the 10 11 TCEO permit that was issued for La Paloma in 12 this case, which, like ours, followed an 13 application that asked for the flexibility to 14 consider multiple options. And, as а practical matter, when the permit writer is 15 16 assigning those limits, they have to look at 17 the specs inherent to the turbine in assigning 18 both the worst case emissions but also those 19 emissions that reflect what's good operation 20 on an hourly basis.

21 JUDGE HILL: Does the TCEQ permit 22 have this condition that says that, once the

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turbine selection decision is made, then the 1 permit is going to be amended to basically 2 3 take out reference to the other two turbines? MR. TOMASOVIC: It does, and I 4 5 believe that may be a practice that varies by I didn't notice that when I 6 permit issuer. looked at the Three Mountain Power permit. I 7 8 also have on hand a listed RBLC number for a 9 Florida permit in 2000. I didn't notice the 10 provision there.

11 special For what we have as a 12 condition, there's no time set requirement on 13 when they would need to come in and modify it. 14 It's more of а back-end cost-keeping 15 requirement where they indicate what their 16 selection would be, and the permit issuer 17 simplify the permit would so it's more 18 readable for enforcement purposes. 19 JUDGE HILL: And that's the reason

20 to do it? Because if you take Mr. Alonso's 21 argument kind of to its logical conclusion, 22 then they get to select the turbine and,

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therefore, they get the limit that applies to that turbine. But you're saying that that condition was put in there just to make the permit cleaner to read, in essence?

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5 MR. TOMASOVIC: It's not the case, 6 as the petitioners have argued, that they get 7 to choose their emissions rate. That's not 8 what they get to choose. They get to choose 9 their capacity, they get to choose the 10 equipment and the various designs of equipment 11 that we couldn't differentiate for efficiency 12 purposes in assigning limits for a final 13 permit.

14 limits look So even as those 15 numerically different in the permit, we have 16 a technical decision on the part of the permit 17 issuer that says these are comparable and they 18 don't implicate a weakening of the BACT 19 requirement that we decided to assign the 20 limits this way.

JUDGE HILL: I want to come back
to the comparable because I think that that's

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1	an important issue. But getting back to this
2	full issue of, basically, the selection
3	decision, Sierra Club's essential argument is
4	that, since the control technology here is
5	maximum efficiency within a range and given
6	that La Paloma defined the business purpose as
7	build a plant that's between the capacity of
8	the smallest capacity turbine and the largest
9	capacity turbine, that they should have to use
10	the most efficient control technology, which,
11	in this case, would be the most efficient
12	turbine. Do you agree? Could the agency have
13	told La Paloma, look, you can pick whatever
14	turbine you want, but you've got to run it as
15	if it were the most efficient because that's
16	BACT? Does the agency have that authority?
17	MR. TOMASOVIC: Speaking for
18	Region 6 with this permit, there are multiple
19	ways that I think permit issuers could have
20	decided to come out in the final permit. We
21	decided, based on the design heat rates, the
22	best data we had for the operational factor

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1 that would apply to this equipment, plus a 2 consistent safety margin for all three 3 options, that there are these three limits 4 that come out. 5 And if we chose to express those 6 limits in their different format, for instance 7 the net heat rate, the picture would actually 8 be quite different. So it is a distorted, a 9 bit of a distorted picture to say that GHG 10 BACT, on a gross output basis, is the ultimate 11 measurement of what is efficient. 12 Why would it look JUDGE HILL: 13 different? Please explain that further. What 14 would happen if you use net? 15 MR. TOMASOVIC: So what appears

16 from the face of the permit is that the 17 largest difference in efficiency is 2.7 18 percent. In our response to comments on page 19 11, we actually provided the numbers to show 20 what that difference would look like on a net 21 basis, which is, I believe, the format that 22 the limits were expressed in the Palmdale

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1 decision, as well as even earlier permits
2 issued by Region 6.
3 And permit issuers do have

discretion at this time, in the absence of
guidance, to consider the comments that come
in and decide which type of limit is going to
be most meaningful for putting BACT in place.
But --

JUDGE HILL: So I can't do math in 9 10 my head, but I'm looking at those numbers. So 11 you've got, for the GE turbine, the net heat rate would be 7527 and for the Siemens it 12 13 would be 7771. Isn't that about two and a 14 half percent, or is it less than that? 15 MR. TOMASOVIC: Well, I think what 16 you want to look to is, if you can see a 945.2 17 number --

18JUDGE HILL: Okay. That's the19emission limit.20MR. TOMASOVIC: -- and the 944.4

21 number.

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JUDGE HILL: And then a 965

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2	MR. TOMASOVIC: If you were to ask
3	what the percent difference is there, you
4	would have one-tenth of one percent of a
5	difference, which, expressed as gross, shows
6	up as 2.7 percent. And this is one of the
7	challenges with such a narrowly-written
8	petition. It didn't challenge the reasonable
9	compliance margins that we assigned to each
10	option, and it doesn't bring up issues like
11	the start-up emission limits, which, in fact,
12	give a different rank order, if you could use
13	that terminology for each of the turbine
14	options.
15	JUDGE HILL: All right. So are
16	you saying that if you, I mean, based on this
17	chart on page 11, that, I mean, the response
18	comments references the 2.6 earlier on, but
19	it's also got this chart. And you're saying
20	that that chart shows that it's really tiny?
21	MR. TOMASOVIC: Yes, your Honor.
1	

22 If we chose to place a final permit, final

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limits in the permit on a net basis using the
 same calculation methodology, it would be one tenth of one percent.

JUDGE HILL: How do you decide whether you set the limit on a gross basis or a net basis? Because I know I've seen both.

7 MR. TOMASOVIC: In this case, we 8 evaluated the adverse comments on the issue, 9 we looked at what was going on, for instance, 10 with the proposed NSPS which expresses those 11 limits, at least in a proposal form on a gross 12 output basis. We saw that, in general, a lot 13 of the performance data that is out there is 14 available on a gross output basis, so we 15 decided that for permitting purposes, 16 permitting administration purposes, and for 17 the benefit of other permitting actions, it 18 seemed that gross output made sense for this 19 permit.

20JUDGE HILL: Okay. But you had21the discretion to pick net?

MR. TOMASOVIC: Well, we don't

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1	close off ourselves from choosing net base
2	limits in future permits if, for instance, the
3	NSPS were to, on the basis of comments, decide
4	that net basis really is a preferred way to
5	go. But we have a reasonable basis for this
6	permit to say so. And in saying that, we're
7	not purporting to say anything that would be
8	determinative of how state permitting
9	authorities or even other regions might choose
10	to assign the limits for a permit that
11	guarantees efficiency and control of GHGs.
12	JUDGE MCCABE: I just want to get
13	some clarity on, again, the facts. I love
14	facts. If the numbers here that we're going
15	to be looking at when we decide whether we
16	agree with the region's position that these
17	limits are really not different, that they're
18	comparable or whatever language you use to
19	describe them, how would we describe that? Is
20	it 0.1 percent are you telling us now? Is it
21	2 7 percent? Is it a range from 0 1 percent
	2.7 percent. 15 re a range from our percent

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1	the facts of what we were looking at when we
2	draw the conclusion, so the facts matter and
3	I'm a little unclear about them right now.
4	MR. TOMASOVIC: Yes, your Honor.
5	So I'll try and go over the notes I have on
6	the comparability of the limits in maybe an
7	orderly
8	JUDGE MCCABE: I was hoping you'd
9	give me a sound bite in the end, but, please,
10	feel free to go through the notes.
11	MR. TOMASOVIC: The first thing is
12	that the permit actually assigns three
13	different kinds of emission limits: the ton
14	per year, the start-up limits which are on a
15	pound-per-hour basis, and this gross output:
16	when it's sending electricity to the grid, how
17	efficient is GHGs in relation to the output?
18	So if you look at those three
19	different limits and were to assign a rank
20	order under each kind of turbine model, you're
21	actually going to get three different orders,
22	there different permutations. I suggest that

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the net limits was another possibility for us. 1 You would get a fourth order if you were to 2 assign -- and actually nothing would have 3 permitted us from assigning both kinds of 4 5 limits and that limit and a gross limit, but 6 that would have been duplicative. So we decided these are the limits for the permit. 7 8 So looking just at that, the basis 9 for the challenge, which is the gross limits, you have a smallest difference of one-half of 10 11 That's the difference between one percent. 909 to 912. 12 The largest apparent difference 13 is 2.7 percent, which is the difference from 909 to 934.5. And this difference is not a 14 15 difference in efficiency. In the commenters 16 around letter, they do throw the term 17 "efficiency," but sometimes that's using the context of what is power plant efficiency, 18 19 which gives you a different comparison. If 20 you're talking about engine efficiency or 21 power plant efficiency, the 2.7 percent 22 difference is actually 1.2 percent.

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1	JUDGE HILL: Why is that? I was
2	with you until that sentence.
3	MR. TOMASOVIC: So
4	JUDGE MCCABE: I think we need a
5	chalkboard.
6	MR. TOMASOVIC: That calculation
7	and I think maybe the footnotes in the comment
8	letter explain it as 3412 divided by the heat
9	rate. And another issue is that the
10	commenters use actually lower heat value for
11	their descriptions of the heat rate, whereas
12	our permit is using the high heat rate
13	information to get the limits.
14	But that 1.2 percent difference in
15	efficiency, that kind of efficiency, power
16	plant efficiency we're talking about is what
17	you may read in
18	JUDGE HILL: Can you define power
19	plant efficiency for that purpose for me?
20	MR. TOMASOVIC: Yes, sir. The
21	definition of power plant efficiency would be
22	what is the heat rate value of the kilowatt
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hour divided by the heat rate for the power plant or the turbine.

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JUDGE HILL: Okay.

MR. TOMASOVIC: And in our case, our limits aren't just the heat rate for the turbines, as though they were in simple cycle mode, but the heat rate for those turbines, in conjunction with the heat recovery steam generator with duct burner firing. So there's a number of things going on.

11 had explained that And we as 12 turbines get larger they get more efficient. 13 And that's actually true for several reasons, 14 but, in this case, it's not actually because 15 the GE turbine is demonstrated to be 16 inefficient. That's not the case. It's 17 actually the influence of the duct burners, 18 which wasn't something that the petitioners 19 raised in their appeal. Because each scenario 20 has the same size duct burners, they have a 21 disproportionate impact in the overall heat 22 assigned limits that rate. We included

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everything, and that's why, when Mr. Alonso 1 2 was talking about de-rating, that may be a 3 situation where is easy to figure out that you're just cutting into the compliance margin 4 5 if we had decided to set them all the same 6 limit but also might be a case where they 7 really put limits on their use of duct 8 burners, which cuts into the operational 9 flexibility that they want to have as base 10 load plant that has peaking type capabilities 11 12 JUDGE HILL: In other words, you 13 can't sort of size the duct burner to the size 14 of the turbine or --15 MR. TOMASOVIC: No, your Honor. 16 In this case, the HRSG with the duct burners 17 is assigned to be the same for all three 18 scenarios. 19 JUDGE HILL: Okay, all right. So 20 is 2.7 percent the largest, when you talk 21 about tons per year, startup gross output, and 22 net heat rate, is 2.7 the largest difference?

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1	MR. TOMASOVIC: Well, sir, if you
2	were to count the annual ton per year
3	differences, each capacity scenario is
4	actually about 10 percent larger than the
5	next. If you look at the annual ton per year
6	limits, I think the differences might be 6 or
7	7 percent, but you're just building up your
8	plant with the bigger greenhouse gas impact
9	overall and
10	JUDGE HILL: Well, the reason I
11	ask that question is because, in your brief,
12	you talk about that you don't need to look at
13	alternative control technologies that are
14	essentially equivalent. In response to
15	comments, it talks about these turbines are,
16	quote, highly comparable and there are
17	marginal differences between them. So there's
18	a lot of words thrown around that all seem to
19	imply small or not significant, but which one
20	do we use? I mean, the argument seems to be,
21	essentially see, I'm coming up with a new
22	phrase essentially equivalent. How do we

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1	judge that? Well, first of all, is there a
2	single term that is most relevant, from a
3	legal standpoint? And then my second question
4	will be and how do we judge that?
5	MR. TOMASOVIC: Well, the two
6	explanations that we gave in the record I
7	think are pertinent, and that is that the
8	differences are mere fractions of the
9	compliance margin. The compliance margins we
10	assign to each turbine is reflective of the
11	uncertainties in terms of variable load
12	performance, deviations from the iso
13	conditions, degradation over time. So if
14	JUDGE HILL: Well, but how does
15	that cut? I mean, if you accept a compliance
16	margin at 30 percent, then, yes, everything is
17	probably going to get swamped by that. But if
18	you set the compliance margin at 2 percent,
19	you might not.
20	JUDGE MCCABE: Or 12.6.
21	MR. TOMASOVIC: And we set the
22	compliance margin at 12 percent, and I think

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what that illustrates is that the difference 1 between the 2 percent, which is approximately 2 3 a guarter of that total compliance margin, shows these are all, these are all comparable. 4 They are all going to be expected to be 5 6 performing in range of each other, but we decided that there are subtle differences that 7 allowed for the assignment of that reasonable 8 9 They are different sizes and safety factor. 10 different engines, but there's no fact-based 11 reason for us to decide to set them all at the 12 same limit or average them or round them up to 13 the nearest 50 pounds per megawatt hour, 14 although other permit issuers may well choose 15 to do that in order to simplify things. 16 JUDGE HILL: If we want to give 17 guidance to future permit writers, how would 18 you propose we say you've got three turbines 19 with different heat but they rates are 20 essentially equivalent. How much discretion 21 do you think the agency has to figure out, to

declare two different GHG limits to be

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1 || essentially equivalent?

2 Well, Ι would MR. TOMASOVIC: 3 start, your Honor, with the fact that these 4 are all F class turbines, and at the comment 5 period there wasn't any articulated difference 6 turbines in terms of the between the technology they have. You may find that in 7 other cases where here's a turbine that uses 8 9 dry cooling and here's a turbine that uses wet 10 cooling, and that's a technological difference 11 that would allow us to elaborate on it, 12 explain perhaps why one option is necessary 13 and the other isn't. 14 But in this case, where you have F 15 class turbines that are all modern, at least 16 in the last several years, type efficiencies 17 placed into an energy system that has its own 18 subtle impacts on what the overall limits

in the last several years, type efficiencies placed into an energy system that has its own subtle impacts on what the overall limits would be, I think the way that the Board should land on that is deference to the permit issuers technical judgment in this case, on a

basis,

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1 difference of 25 pounds per megawatt hour was 2 not significant. And we made that decision 3 without any written guidance from OAPPS or 4 OGC, but it was based on our permit issuer 5 technical judgment. And all is not as it 6 seems if you were to look at, for instance, 7 that net efficiency, which illustrates that 8 percent difference, which that 2.7 the 9 petitioners now complain about, is only a 0.1 10 percent difference. 11 JUDGE HILL: At what point does it 12 become too big? I mean, you talk in your 13 brief or the response comments document talks 14 about, well, unless it's poorly designed or 15 non-representative of the capabilities of the 16 technology, is that the standard we should 17 adopt? 18 JUDGE MCCABE: We're wondering 19 where that came from, actually. 20 MR. TOMASOVIC: Well, that phrase, 21 you might find a phrase in the GHG guidance on 22 performance benchmarking. I'm not saying it's

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1 straightly transferrable to that, to the way 2 that we used it in the brief, but it does 3 performance capabilities of reference 4 technology as a starting point. And we were 5 looking at the GHG guidance that does say, in the case of a gas-fired plant, if 6 it's 7 considering single cycle for example, you 8 should consider as an option combined cycle. 9 Combined cycle isn't broken down into the 10 world of turbines that are available on the 11 market. Go larger, if you can, if that shows it's more efficient. 12

13 Instead, it was more us taking 14 this application as it came in, a conventional 15 combined cycle plant using modern F class 16 with the turbines heat recovery steam 17 generator and the duct burners. It's а 18 standard type of permit. It is similar to the 19 LCRA permit that we issued. It was the first 20 permit issued, which, incidentally, in that 21 case, the application came to us with the 22 request to permit multiple options, and they

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1 decided before public comment that the GE 7FA 2 turbine was the one that they would go with. 3 JUDGE HILL: So can you cite to 4 any permit where EPA basically allowed the 5 size or model of the main emission unit to be

selected after the permit is issued,

7 happened here? Are the --

6

18

TOMASOVIC: As far 8 MR. as а 9 regionally-issued permit, sir? No. The 10 Washington State permit that is referenced in 11 our brief is a delegated state. Sierra Club 12 submitted adverse comments on it, and that was 13 one case where they, for similar reasoning to us, decided that they would defer to the 1415 applicant's request to have multiple options 16 and not make them pick one of two acceptable 17 turbine models.

JUDGE HILL: Okay.

JUDGE MCCABE: Just going back to your point about the F class turbines, I'm wondering if what you're saying to us is that it is sufficient for the permitting authority

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to look at that class of turbines and say, step one, combined cycle technology is the best available control technology here; and then when we get all the way down to step five to set the emission limit that anything within class F is good enough; is that what you're saying?

8 TOMASOVIC: No, your Honor. MR. 9 The project did come to us with F class 10 turbines. You may see that in the response to 11 comments one of the things that Sierra Club 12 had said is choose larger turbines, make a 13 bigger power plant, and we quickly said that 14we didn't believe that was appropriate in our because they had selected, 15 they're case 16 looking at a power plant of a certain size 17 different types F class using three of turbines. 18

But all of those, we're open to commenters, adverse commenters that may say, well, these three turbine models, of these three turbine models, this one doesn't show

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1	anything that shows modern day efficiencies.
2	But at the same time, it's likely not a good
3	permit practice to say with absoluteness that
4	this turbine that was designed in the last
5	five years is not acceptable for BACT purposes
6	or for project purposes in other cases
7	because, if you rest solely on that one piece
8	of information then the net heat rate
9	expresses as the pounds per megawatt hour on
10	a gross basis, you're not necessarily
11	capturing all that is relevant to efficiency.
12	JUDGE HILL: What if La Paloma had
13	said we're going to build a plant that's 637
14	megawatts, no more, no less, and there's only
15	one turbine on the market that will allow us
16	to do it, even though there are several other
17	F class turbines that are much more efficient?
18	Would the region have any authority to look
19	behind that?
20	MR. TOMASOVIC: I think general
21	permit issuers do have authority to say have
22	you considered this or that that's also

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available. In that case, your Honor, I think
 you're presenting a case where the source is
 defined binarily.

JUDGE HILL: Exactly.

5 MR. TOMASOVIC: However, it 6 doesn't necessarily mean that the selection of 7 that turbine model is unjustified. If you are 8 to look at, going back to the NSR workshop 9 manual, I believe we cited, we said in our 10 brief in one of our footnotes that customer 11 selection factors can be based on a number of 12 things, including reliability and efficiency, 13 experience with the equipment. And all of 14 those are things that you can find in the NSR, 15 in the NSR workshop manual as an example of 16 how you step into the BACT analysis for a 17 turbine. It's really something that we come in with we have a contractual commitment to 18 19 use these turbines, can you see what limits 20 would apply to it at the front end? 21 JUDGE HILL: Let me ask if Judge

Stein or Judge McCabe has anymore questions on

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the turbine issue because then I want to move 1 to solar real fast. 2 3 JUDGE STEIN: I do. 4 JUDGE HILL: Okay. 5 JUDGE STEIN: Did I hear you say 6 that another facility in Region 6 that was 7 recently permitted is using the same turbine as will be used by La Paloma? 8 9 MR. TOMASOVIC: Yes, your Honor. 10 JUDGE STEIN: And does the record 11 reflect what that BACT limit is for that 12 facility and how it compares to the BACT limit 13 here? 14 MR. TOMASOVIC: Yes, your Honor. 15 So the name of the facility is the LCRA 16 And I believe that was Ferguson Plant. 17 referenced in the statement of basis, as well 18 as discussions sections of the response to 19 In all cases, looking at other comments. 20 facilities that are out there, including LCRA, we deemed the limits to be appropriate when 21 22 they're placed in the appropriate context.

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The Sierra Club presents Palmdale, which isn't reflective of the same design that we're using that we permitted here. They referenced the Pioneer Valley, and we had to contextualize the limits that were assigned to the Pioneer Valley permit because that particular facility wasn't using duct burners.

Okay. So if I'm 8 JUDGE STEIN: 9 correct, the BACT emissions limit for the 10 Lower Colorado River was 918 pounds of CO2 per 11 And the limit that we're megawatt hour. 12 looking at here is 934; is that correct? I'm 13 not purporting to say that I have a correct 14 understanding. I'm just trying to clarify. 15 Is this in the MR. TOMASOVIC: 16 response to comments or statement of basis, your Honor? 17 18 STEIN: Oh, it's in my JUDGE 19 little cheat sheet that somebody gave me. 20 JUDGE MCCABE: It's extracted.

21 MR. TOMASOVIC: I may be mistaken, 22 but I believe the limits assigned for LCRA

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were, in fact, on a net basis, so 1 they 2 wouldn't be directly comparable. But we might 3 well have had some discussion that tried to 4 reconcile them. 5 JUDGE MCCABE: Yes, the 6 comparability of all of these numbers is 7 somewhat perplexing to us, so we'll address that at the end because we're thinking that we 8 9 might need some supplemental briefing to try 10 to get us on an agreed-on comparison table 11 here so that we at least understand, and that others who read the decision can understand 12 13 the import of what we're deciding. Do you 14 want to turn to solar? 15JUDGE HILL: Yes. So Mr. Alonso's 16 argument is, in essence, that including any 17 solar into this project would have been redefining the source. 18 Do you agree with 19 that, or do you think the agency has any 20 authority to consider solar some at an 21 electric plant, even if it hasn't been

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22 proposed by the applicant?

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1	MR. TOMASOVIC: Your Honor, I
2	believe that the Board's precedent on
3	redefinition of the source allows that a
4	permit issuer, in their discretion, may
5	require consideration of options that may
6	constitute a redefinition of the source.
7	However, if that is in conflict with the
8	fundamental business purpose of the applicant,
9	then it is against our policy to do that.
10	JUDGE HILL: Do you think that the
11	agency has some okay. So you believe the
12	agency has the authority to require
13	consideration. Do you think the agency has
14	the obligation to do so if it wasn't proposed
15	if somebody raises it in comments, as happened
16	here?
17	MR. TOMASOVIC: I believe that the
18	agency's responsibilities in responding to the
19	comments in many ways are calibrated off of
20	the specificity of the comments that come to
21	us. In this case, the comments that we
22	received on solar are not in the same shape as

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1	they came to the board in the petition in that
2	they've attached the exhibits for two permits
3	that weren't part of their comments that were
4	submitted to us, and they specifically focused
5	on Palmdale and Victorville as two facilities
6	that we should have had a further discussion
7	about in our response to comments.
8	But in terms of how the comments
9	came to us, which actually raised the issue of
10	solar in a lot of different ways where, at
11	times, it wasn't even clear whether they were
12	referencing photovoltaic versus steam,
13	auxiliary contributions to efficiency, I
14	believe that the region's responses were
15	appropriate.
16	JUDGE HILL: Mr. Alonso
17	essentially argued that our decision in
18	Palmdale said that it is appropriate to
19	classify addition of extra solar as
20	essentially redefining the source, and he also
21	cites to Sierra Pacific. Do you agree with
22	that characterization of those decisions?
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MR. TOMASOVIC: Our decision is
based on the facts of our administrative
record and not a broad reliance on those
decisions stating that. As was argued in our
brief, we think the administrative record
shows that the consideration of solar options,
at least as we understood it coming from the
commenters, would redefine the source.
The administrative record does
show, in fact, that the property limits are no
more than 80 acres and, from that, it can be
discerned that there is, based on the
footprint of the plant, not a lot of
additional acres, which might approximate the
20 acres that the permittee was able to
substantiate with the affidavit that they gave
with their petition.
JUDGE HILL: So does the region
believe it's not feasible to install any solar
capacity at the site?
MR. TOMASOVIC: Well, depending on
how that comment might be construed, your

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1	Honor, rooftop solar is an option that
2	presumably is not what the commenters were
3	trying to talk about, although it's not always
4	clear. In the case of the Palmdale decision,
5	it does illustrate that as a rough measure to
6	contribute 10 percent of that plant's total
7	capacity.
8	JUDGE MCCABE: Does someone have a
9	cell phone going? Where is that music coming
10	from?
11	(Whereupon, the foregoing matter
12	went off the record at 4:50 p.m.
13	and went back on the record at
14	4:52 p.m.)
15	JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. Let's
16	proceed. We don't have to cut Mr. Ritchie
17	off. Lovely music anyway.
18	MR. TOMASOVIC: I was saying, your
19	Honor, as a background matter, the Region 6
20	was aware of the factual setting that was
21	recited by the Board in the Palmdale case,
22	which was the fact that, to generate just 10

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1	percent of the capacity for that Palmdale
2	plant, it required 250 acres. And, in fact,
3	and I believe some language in the opinion
4	came close to this, you need acreage to be
5	able to have power in a significant amount.
6	You may well need more than 20 acres just to
7	get steam that could be used in the process,
8	but, you know, that's a different technical
9	issue in any event.
10	If we were to just sort of roughly
11	say 250 acres, 10 percent of the plant's power
12	reduced down to 20 or 25 acres, you're talking
13	about something that doesn't substantially
14	influence the overall plant
15	JUDGE HILL: But that's not in the
16	analysis the region did in the record,
17	correct?
18	MR. TOMASOVIC: No, your Honor.
19	JUDGE HILL: Okay.
20	JUDGE MCCABE: Is it the region's
21	position that, as a matter of exercising its
22	discretion, it would never consider solar, it
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would always consider adding a supplemental solar or whatever we call it here to be redesign and, therefore, against at least the region's policy, if not the agency's, to even consider?

6 MR. TOMASOVIC: No, your Honor, I 7 don't think anything in the region's response 8 was intended to cut off comments on solar 9 technology as a general matter for any other 10 permitting case.

JUDGE MCCABE: You just think the comments here were insufficient to get you where you needed to go in order to give it serious consideration here; is that what you're saying?

16 Yes, your Honor. MR. TOMASOVIC: 17 I mean, we had a bit of a technical discussion 18 in there that it is the case that, for any 19 process that uses fuel to generate heat, you 20 can get that from something else, which might 21 be geothermal or solar. And you could get 22 into the myriad permutations that qo on

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forever in terms of whatever a commenter might
 bring, but it is --

JUDGE MCCABE: Comment clearly focused on solar in this case, so you don't need to go there.

6 MR. TOMASOVIC: However, there are 7 other parts of the comment which seem to 8 suggest that the, that, in their view, this 9 project was defined to be within a range of capacity that could be energy generated by any 10 11 means, which we disagree with because this is 12 a combined cycle plant that's meant to use 13 natural gas as its fuel and take advantage of 14 the infrastructural advantages specific to 15 that location, including the water 16 availability of the pipelines and the local 17 need for this particular kind of power to be delivered for grid stability reasons. 18

JUDGE MCCABE: I hate to put you on the spot, Mr. Tomasovic, but do you think you could reduce to one or two sentences the reason the region did not consider solar here

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or considered it to be redesign that the region would not entertain?

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3 MR. TOMASOVIC: In the way that 4 the comments came, your Honor, we believe that 5 that solar auxiliary preheat was not well 6 defined because it was, it was actually raised 7 as a substitute for duct burners when duct 8 burners have a different purpose than solar 9 auxiliary preheat. And I'm already past my 10 two sentences but --

11 JUDGE MCCABE: That's okay. 12 You're close enough. Thank you. Those are 13 all the questions we have for you at this 14 time, Mr. Tomasovic. Thank you. And, Mr. 15 Bender, you have been very patient, and I bet 16 you're watching your watch. National Airport 17 flight at 7:00. You probably need to leave 18 would folks who here by - what are Washingtonians say, given that it is Wednesday 19 20 rush hour before a storm? 21 JUDGE HILL: If you take a cab, 22 I'd say 5:45 at the latest.

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1	JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. So 5:30;
2	will that work for you, Mr. Bender?
3	MR. BENDER: I think so, your
4	Honor.
5	JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. I would hate
6	to give you short shrift after you were so
7	gracious as to choose the last position or to
8	suggest that your judgment perhaps might need
9	to be revisited the next time you're offered
10	that choice.
11	MR. BENDER: I wouldn't want to
12	miss this even if I had already gone.
13	JUDGE MCCABE: Okay.
14	
	MR. BENDER: Is this better?
15	MR. BENDER: Is this better? Thank you, your Honors. I think, to address
15 16	MR. BENDER: Is this better? Thank you, your Honors. I think, to address one thing that kind of permeates the briefs
15 16 17	MR. BENDER: Is this better? Thank you, your Honors. I think, to address one thing that kind of permeates the briefs from respondents and some of the discussion
15 16 17 18	MR. BENDER: Is this better? Thank you, your Honors. I think, to address one thing that kind of permeates the briefs from respondents and some of the discussion here today, there's kind of two pieces or two
15 16 17 18 19	MR. BENDER: Is this better? Thank you, your Honors. I think, to address one thing that kind of permeates the briefs from respondents and some of the discussion here today, there's kind of two pieces or two sides of the same coin maybe. We're talking
15 16 17 18 19 20	MR. BENDER: Is this better? Thank you, your Honors. I think, to address one thing that kind of permeates the briefs from respondents and some of the discussion here today, there's kind of two pieces or two sides of the same coin maybe. We're talking about size or capacity. We're talking about
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	MR. BENDER: Is this better? Thank you, your Honors. I think, to address one thing that kind of permeates the briefs from respondents and some of the discussion here today, there's kind of two pieces or two sides of the same coin maybe. We're talking about size or capacity. We're talking about megawatts, right? And when we're talking
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	MR. BENDER: Is this better? Thank you, your Honors. I think, to address one thing that kind of permeates the briefs from respondents and some of the discussion here today, there's kind of two pieces or two sides of the same coin maybe. We're talking about size or capacity. We're talking about megawatts, right? And when we're talking about ERCOT or any other regional system

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operator, the dispatch is to meet a load.
We're talking about dispatching to meet a load
in megawatts.

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And the size of the units are 4 5 different here. It's actually kind of а 6 combination of things, turbines plus heat recovery, steam generator, turbine that adds 7 up to certain numbers. It's 637 for the GE 8 9 combination, for example. That's megawatts as their peak. You know, if you throttle full, 10 11 that's what you're going to get.

The Siemens turbines can generate 637. It's not that you have a turbine, you turn it on, and you get 637 megawatts, or you turn it off and you get zero, and it's a binary on or off situation.

In fact, the other argument or the other piece of this argument in the briefs was that turbines, as they get larger, get more efficient. And if you want a large turbine at a reduced rate, less than full, you're decreasing its efficiency, and that's simply

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not true. And that's not true based on the evidence in this record because that last increment of power comes from duct burning, which is less efficient than the turbines and steam generator.

6 And so as you throttle down or as 7 you de-rate or decrease your generation, all 8 saying the same thing, you're actually, until 9 you hit the point where the duct burners come off, you're actually improving the efficiency 10 and decreasing the emission. And we can see 11 12 that, among other places, in one of the tables 13 that counsel for Region 6 pointed to in the 14 response to comments where, in addition to net 15 and gross, there's also, without duct burner 16 fire, on page 11 of response to comments, 17 which is Petition Exhibit 3, you can see that the GE, the smallest of the turbines piece, is 18 The 19 7527.5 without duct burner firing. 20 biggest turbine, the Siemens 5, is 7771.7. 21 Less efficient, right? And you only get the 22 increased efficiency from the larger turbines

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as a system because they're able to generate
 more of their power before turning the duct
 burners on.

JUDGE MCCABE: Well, does this mean you're happy to hear that they've selected the GE turbine?

7 MR. BENDER: If they have a permit 8 limit that reflects what they could do. If the question is phrased differently, right? 9 10 If the draft permit had come out and said our 11 project purpose is to build a plant that's 12 capable of generating 637 megawatts, you know, 13 this would be a different case. The comments 14 would have been different, and we may or may 15 not be here.

But then we'd say, the comments would come in, among other things, something to the effect of the Siemens, you know, 5 or the Siemens 4 can generate 637 megawatts. In fact, when it does so, it does it at a reduced emission.

So we're dealing with emission

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1	rates. The final permit emission limits are
2	set based on operating full out. But full out
3	is a different number of megawatts for each,
4	right?
5	JUDGE MCCABE: Thank you for that
6	clarification. Do you agree that the F class
7	turbines are among the most efficient turbines
8	available for combined cycle combustion
9	technology?
10	MR. BENDER: I believe they're
11	among. I don't know that they are the most
12	efficient.
13	JUDGE MCCABE: Do you know of a
14	class that's more efficient?
15	MR. BENDER: I don't. The
16	question, though, is the emission limits, too,
17	which is the end of everything. So we're
18	talking about turbines and different turbines,
19	but we're really talking about different
20	turbines put in front of the same 271 megawatt
21	steam generator in this case.
22	JUDGE MCCABE: Well, to you and to
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EPA, of course, the emission limit is the ultimate most important thing here. But, of course, to the company, the most important thing is which turbine do they get to use and is it the one that will fit whatever their business purpose is?

7 I'm a little Your petition --8 confused about something. Your petition says 9 that you're not suggesting that the company 10 should be required to pick any particular 11 turbine but just that they should meet the 12 lowest GHG limit that any of the turbines 13 could meet. But aren't you, in effect, by 14 doing that, forcing their choice of turbine? 15 It's MR. **BENDER**: No. not 16 requiring a turbine. Whether you're forcing 17 it or not raises some other internal issues, 18 I think, at the company, which is, you know, 19 their risk appetite for that headroom margin 20 that's built in, how much they're actually 21 going to operate because this is a 12-month 22 rolling average and assumes operating at 100

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percent, including those duct burners wide
 open, which is one of the least efficient ways
 to operate.

JUDGE MCCABE: So your preference would be that they have to build a bigger turbine and operate it at a lower load?

MR. BENDER: Our preference is they have to meet the emission limit that --JUDGE MCCABE: But in concept.

MR. BENDER: To build a bigger turbine and operate it with less duct burning and using more of the waste heat from the turbine, the way that the three options are set up in this record is the most efficient. And --

16 But that wasn't your JUDGE HILL: 17 comment, was it? Your comment was simply to 18 that reflects the pick the limit lowest 19 emission rate. Your comment wasn't 20 essentially to recalculate the rate based on the lack of duct burning. 21

MR. BENDER: That's correct.

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Sorry. I'm trying to answer a question, a direct question. I'm not representing that that's what the comments were.

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4JUDGE HILL: Okay. Fair enough.5I'm sorry to interrupt. Keep going.

6 MR. BENDER: I should specify this 7 is based on our understanding from the record. 8 Because the Siemens turbines are capable of 9 basically more heat because they're bigger but 10 they're going into the same size heat recovery 11 steam generators, as would the GE turbines. 12 More of the total heat going in is coming from 13 waste heat from the turbines with the Siemens 14 compared to the GE, so there's less need for 15 duct burning. That's what --

16JUDGE MCCABE: What is your goal17here, Mr. Bender? Are you looking for the18lowest total amount of GHG emissions that can19possibly come out of this facility, or are you20looking for something else?21MR. BENDER: We're looking for the

22 | lowest BACT rate, but we're also looking for

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1 JUDGE MCCABE: But the BACT rate 2 is based on efficiency, yes? 3 MR. BENDER: It's based 4 on 5 efficiency here, yes. 6 JUDGE MCCABE: Do you have any 7 objection to that? 8 MR. BENDER: I'm sorry? 9 Do you have any JUDGE MCCABE: 10 objection to EPA's basing the BACT rate on the 11 energy efficiency of the turbines? MR. BENDER: Not in this petition. 12 13 JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. Well, it is 14 this petition we're talking about. 15 MR. BENDER: Right. It's --16 But given that they JUDGE STEIN: have indicated that, depending on the timing, 17 18 that they're going to go with the GE turbine, 19 what is your position as to what the emissions 20 limit should be for that turbine? The emission limit 21 MR. BENDER: for any of these turbines, based on this 22

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1	record and the draft permit that we were able
2	to comment on, should be I'll put it this
3	way. If F class category of turbines,
4	followed by heat recovery steam generator is
5	the control option, and that's what we were
6	able to comment on. And if that's the control
7	option that they're going to treat as the same
8	control option through steps one through four,
9	then in step five the emission rate should be
10	based on the lowest emission rate achievable
11	by that class. And based on the record here,
12	that's represented by the Siemens F4, at least
13	that line in the permit, right?
14	So depending on how your question
15	was intended, your Honor, if they came in and
16	said draft permit, project purpose 637
17	megawatts on peak 100-percent capacity, you
18	know, we would look at what combination of
19	turbine heat recovery steam generator gives
20	you the lowest emission rate at that. But I
21	want to be clear that's not this case, that's
22	not this record.
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1	JUDGE STEIN: Well, I'm a little
2	confused. I mean, I'm with you to a point,
3	but what I thought I heard the region say is
4	that when they chose the BACT limit that they
5	chose that they couldn't necessarily translate
6	between these different turbines in quite the
7	same way that you were doing the translation.
8	And, I mean, if, for example, you're saying
9	that they need to meet emissions rate X, what
10	if they can't meet that with this equipment?
11	Does that mean that they can't install the
12	equipment?
13	MR. BENDER: If La Paloma cannot
14	meet 909 pounds per megawatt hour gross with
15	the GE equipment is the hypothetical?
16	JUDGE STEIN: Yes.
17	MR. BENDER: Yes, then they can't
18	install that equipment.
19	JUDGE MCCABE: So you are forcing
20	their choice of turbine, in effect?
21	MR. BENDER: Only as a secondary
22	effect. But just like if you cannot meet a

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1	BACT limit for S02 on a coal fire power plant
2	with a dry scrubber, are you forcing the
3	selection of a more efficient wet scrubber as
4	a secondary effect? That's true.
5	JUDGE MCCABE: Do you think that's
6	a fair analogy? We're talking here about the
7	main emitting unit and the main unit that
8	produces the capacity of product that the
9	facility wants to produce. The choice between
10	a wet and dry scrubber doesn't affect that.
11	MR. BENDER: Well, according to
12	the region, it's a category, and it's not
13	affecting the category. If the category, as
14	a region, says is combined cycle turbine with
15	heat recovery steam generator, then you're not
16	changing anything. You may be foreclosing
17	business choices that are made later, but I
18	would suggest that's true with every BACT
19	limit. There are choices that a permittee may
20	want to make but cannot make because they have
21	to comply with their BACT limit.

JUDGE HILL: So Mr. Tomasovic says

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1	that, pointed out that the Siemens I'm
2	going to get it wrong the Siemens 4 turbine
3	has the lowest emission limit hourly but that
4	the GE turbine has the lowest annual tons per
5	year, primarily because it's operating at a
6	lower capacity. Is your argument that the
7	limit that the region should have set have
8	been the lowest of each of those, or is your
9	argument that they should use the limits that
10	they got for the most efficient turbine, which
11	was the Siemens 4?
12	MR. BENDER: I believe that the
13	BACT limit is, the primary driver BACT limit
14	is the pounds per megawatt hour, and that's
15	the limit that we think that the La Paloma
16	facility, whatever equipment it ultimately
17	chooses, should meet. That will result in
18	different tons on an annual basis, but tons on
19	an annual basis is, I would submit, not a
20	limiting limit. It assumes 100-percent
21	operation. You know, it's basically, it's
22	JUDGE HILL: Well, but here's my
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1	point. If Mr. Alonso had gotten up and said
2	it's most likely we're going to pick the
3	Siemens 5 or, I'm sorry, the Siemens 4, then
4	there's going to be more total emissions of
5	GHGs, a lower rate but more total emissions.
6	So by your argument, should the region have
7	had to pick the lowest limit for each of the
8	three parameters on which they set the limit?
9	And if not, why not?
10	MR. BENDER: We didn't address the
11	total tons because we don't feel that it's
12	going to limit. If they decide that they want
13	to generate 630 megawatts, that's the number
14	that, multiplied by the emission rate, is
15	going to generate the tons.
16	JUDGE HILL: But if they had
17	picked the Siemens 4 or the Siemens 5, they
18	could be operating at 735.
19	MR. BENDER: They could be
20	operating at 735, but there are other things
21	that go into it, obviously, your Honor, as I'm
22	sure you're aware, of when they're dispatched,

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how they're dispatched. And the focus here is the per megawatt hours because that's the one that the Sierra Club sees as actually limiting emissions here because the annual caps are set at such a high rate that they're not going to be approached. Even the lowest is not going to be approached.

8 JUDGE MCCABE: Let me bring you 9 back to this table that's -- I don't know if 10 you have it. It's page 11 of the response to 11 comments. These numbers are all starting to 12 fungible, so let's try to anchor sound 13 ourselves again. I'm looking at the middle 14 column here that says output-based emission 15 limit, which is net without duct burning. And 16 for the GE turbine, that limit is 894, and for 17 the Siemens 4 turbine is 909. They're picking 18 the GE turbine. What limit do you want? 19 MR. BENDER: Well, first of all, I 20 question the accuracy of these numbers because 21 some of them are the same as the gross with 22 duct burning.

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1	JUDGE MCCABE: They're saying
2	what?
3	MR. BENDER: The Siemens F4 number
4	in that column is the same as the permit limit
5	for that turbine, which is expressed as gross
6	with duct burning. So looking at these right
7	now, I suspect that they're not correct. Some
8	of them may not be correct.
9	JUDGE MCCABE: Can we assume for
10	the moment that these numbers are correct?
11	MR. BENDER: Yes.
12	JUDGE MCCABE: And if that turns
13	it into a hypothetical question, so be it.
14	I'm trying to understand where you're going
15	there conceptually. I'm looking at a lower
16	number, 894, you know, it's CO2 equivalence of
17	per megawatt hour without duct burning, net
18	without duct burning. It's 894 for the
19	turbine they want. It's 909 for the one that
20	you were saying was the most efficient
21	turbine. Which limit do you want for the GE
22	turbine? Do you want the 894 or do you want

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|| the 909?

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2	MR. BENDER: It depends on this,
3	your Honor. It depends on whether we're going
4	to set this as the ultimate rate, or if we're
5	going to set another limit as the ultimate
6	rate because this is a part, this is without
7	duct burning, right? But the permit allows
8	duct burning. So if we say we want 894.7
9	without duct burning and then we'll leave the
10	duct-burning caused emissions kind of
11	unmeasured and unregulated as a different
12	JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. Go to the
13	next column with duct burning. You've got
14	945.2
15	MR. BENDER: Yes.
16	JUDGE MCCABE: for the GE
17	turbine. And just a hair under that, you've
18	got 944.4 for the Siemens 4. Are you telling
19	us that's what you want the Board to do, to
20	tell the region that that kind of difference
21	is significant and that they should force this
22	company, when it installs the GE turbine, to
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1	meet the 944 limit for the Siemens 4? Is that
2	what you're asking us to do?
3	MR. BENDER: Your Honor, if that,
4	if the limits were set based on this as final
5	enforceable limits, based on that, I'm not
6	sure that we would be here on this issue.
7	JUDGE HILL: So how much of a
8	margin is too big? Because the region's
9	initial submission is that, even with the
10	limits that they actually set, the difference
11	is 2.6 percent and that's just not that big.
12	JUDGE MCCABE: And looking at
12 13	JUDGE MCCABE: And looking at these latest numbers, they actually said the
12 13 14	JUDGE MCCABE: And looking at these latest numbers, they actually said the range for all three turbines there was, on
12 13 14 15	JUDGE MCCABE: And looking at these latest numbers, they actually said the range for all three turbines there was, on that net with duct burning column, that the
12 13 14 15 16	JUDGE MCCABE: And looking at these latest numbers, they actually said the range for all three turbines there was, on that net with duct burning column, that the total range was 0.1 percent. So seeing how
12 13 14 15 16 17	JUDGE MCCABE: And looking at these latest numbers, they actually said the range for all three turbines there was, on that net with duct burning column, that the total range was 0.1 percent. So seeing how close those numbers are between 945 and 944,
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	JUDGE MCCABE: And looking at these latest numbers, they actually said the range for all three turbines there was, on that net with duct burning column, that the total range was 0.1 percent. So seeing how close those numbers are between 945 and 944, that's obviously a lot less than 0.1 percent.
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	JUDGE MCCABE: And looking at these latest numbers, they actually said the range for all three turbines there was, on that net with duct burning column, that the total range was 0.1 percent. So seeing how close those numbers are between 945 and 944, that's obviously a lot less than 0.1 percent. Is that a significant difference that the
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	JUDGE MCCABE: And looking at these latest numbers, they actually said the range for all three turbines there was, on that net with duct burning column, that the total range was 0.1 percent. So seeing how close those numbers are between 945 and 944, that's obviously a lot less than 0.1 percent. Is that a significant difference that the agency should be concerned about?
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	JUDGE MCCABE: And looking at these latest numbers, they actually said the range for all three turbines there was, on that net with duct burning column, that the total range was 0.1 percent. So seeing how close those numbers are between 945 and 944, that's obviously a lot less than 0.1 percent. Is that a significant difference that the agency should be concerned about? MR. BENDER: The limits we're

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1	permit, which are gross. And they are
2	JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. Would you
3	like to point us to a different table to look
4	at?
5	MR. BENDER: Sure. I'll point you
6	to the permit, which is Exhibit 1 to our
7	petition, and the permit limits themselves.
8	Because the permits measured, we commented
9	that the region should be looking at net,
10	among other things. And the region said no.
11	It made that choice. It made this permit the
12	way it did, and so we're addressing it the way
13	it came out. What we and EPA and the state
14	can enforce are the limits, and the limits are
15	what drive what we can count on as enforceable
16	emission reductions.
17	JUDGE MCCABE: Wait a minute. You
18	wanted the limits to be based on net?
19	MR. BENDER: We commented that you
20	should look at the net emission rates, and the
21	region said, no, we're going to base this on

gross.

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1 Okay. But JUDGE HILL: my question is how do you respond to the argument 2 3 the region made in its brief and that Mr. 4 Tomasovic stated here, which is, okay, so the 5 permits got gross and the difference in these 6 gross numbers is 2.6 percent and that's in the 7 noise? MR. BENDER: It's not. And the

8 9 reason why I know that it's too big to be 10 insignificant is that the region thought that 11 margins, even around that for different 12 pieces, because the margin is an aggregate, 13 was significant enough to start bumping the 14limit up. And when they got to step five, 15 they said that's a big enough difference 16 between these turbines that we can't expect 17 the one to meet the limit for another. So I 18 know because it's significant enough in step 19 five that it should be significant enough in 20 step one to not count them all as, you know, 21 the same.

JUDGE HILL: So your argument, so

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if their error was at step one, then what you're really saying is that the GE turbine is a different technology than the Siemens turbines?

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5 MR. BENDER: It is a different --6 let me put it this way. Control option in 7 step one should be the same as control option 8 in step five. As counsel for La Paloma put 9 it, it's a sequence, right? It starts at one, 10 it goes to five, and the definition of the 11 control option stays the same. And if, and 12 we're saying we'll grant the argument that 13 they should be treated as one option in step 14 one, well, if that's the case, they should be 15 treated as the same option in step five and 16 the limit based on what that option, as a 17 whole, can achieve. But if you're going to 18 start parsing them, the appropriate time to 19 parse between turbines, or, in this case, 20 turbine plus heat recovery qenerator 21 combination --

JUDGE HILL: Understood.

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1	MR. BENDER: is step one, so
2	that we can look at their relative
3	efficiencies, their relative costs, what they
4	do emit at different levels at production.
5	It's got to be one or the other. It makes
6	hash out of the five-step process to look at
7	one definition of control option in step one,
8	right? And then look at a different
9	definition of control option and start
10	applying limits in step five. That's the
11	argument. It has to be consistent all the way
12	through.
13	I think we would get to the same
14	option or the same result whether we looked at
15	them in step one as separate or if we applied
16	the maximum control efficiency for that class,
17	as a whole, in step five. But you run into
18	problems when you separate them, and that's
19	what we've done here.
20	JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. Mr. Bender,
21	could we back up again to the question that

22 was raised by your saying that you preferred

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1 and said in your comments that you preferred 2 limits based on gross capacity. I was trying 3 to use the table on page 11 of the response to 4 comments to try to understand exactly what you 5 want. If they're picking the GE turbine, you 6 said the limits, these are net limits and 7 gross is a better measure. Have you found a 8 place where I can look at gross limits? 9 MR. **BENDER**: For what qross 10 emissions are relative to --11 JUDGE MCCABE: Is there any place 12 in the record that we can look to see how 13 these net limits would be stated as numbers 14 for these turbines if it were based on gross? 15 Is that in the record any place? 16 MR. RICHIE: Your Honor, if I may, 17 Page 16 of this is Travis Richie. the 18 statement of basis, which was included, I 19 Exhibit AA of La Paloma's believe, as 20 response, I believe has that same table listed 21 with pounds of CO2 per megawatt hour on a 22 gross basis with duct firing.

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1	JUDGE MCCABE: Thank you, Mr.
2	Richie. So glad you stayed on the phone. I
3	have this. Do the other judges have it?
4	Okay. It's the same thing. Well, how are
5	these different? They look like they're the
6	same ones that we were looking at on page 11?
7	What's the difference between the gross and
8	the net rates?
9	MR. BENDER: That's what I was
10	suggesting earlier that I'm not sure that
11	they're correct.
12	JUDGE MCCABE: You're not sure
13	which is correct?
14	MR. BENDER: I don't know.
15	JUDGE MCCABE: You don't know?
16	MR. BENDER: But I don't think the
17	net and the gross can be the same number, and
18	that's what I was maybe failing to highlight
19	before.
20	JUDGE MCCABE: But whatever the
21	gross is, you would prefer it? You just don't
22	know what it is, or you're not sure which of
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1 these numbers it is; is that what you're
2 saying?

3 MR. BENDER: Your Honor, there has 4 to be other details in the hypothetical to 5 know the answer. It depends on if we're If we're measuring just what's 6 measuring. 7 coming out of the turbines or if we're 8 measuring what's coming out of the stack 9 because there's another pollution-causing device in the middle, and that's the duct 10 11 So if we're saying what's the net burner. 12 without duct burning and we're measuring it, 13 but we're still allowing duct burning, it's a 14 different question.

15 Yes, I understand. JUDGE MCCABE: 16 This gets very complicated, which is why 17 the technical judqes usually defer to 18 expertise of the EPA people that are charged 19 with this. Now, in this case, let's try to 20 bring it back to sort of principles that the 21 Board can focus on more appropriately. I was 22 hoping, through this argument, that people

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1 would be able to give us the numbers that we 2 should be looking at to consider this argument 3 that I understand the region to be making that 4 whatever the variation among these turbines is 5 so close, the variation in the heat rates and, 6 accordingly, the GHG limits is so close that 7 is it is something that essentially 8 equivalent, to use one phraseology, another 9 negligible difference, marginal difference. 10 Do you agree that these are so close that they 11 marginally different essentially are or 12 equivalent?

13 MR. **BENDER:** Two answers, your 14 Honor. They are not. What the permit 15 includes is the gross with duct burning, and 16 that number, again, I would say those are 17 different enough that the region thought 18 necessary to differentiate between them. And 19 if that's true, then it's not negligible and 20 it's not inconsequential.

21JUDGE HILL: So let me ask you a22question. So if the region had said they're

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1 close enough, so we're going to set the 2 highest one, and if they happen to pick a 3 turbine that we could limit more closely, 4 we're comfortable with that. 5 In other words, based on that 6 argument, okay, so if the region had instead 7 concluded they are negligible, GE looked good 8 enough, and so we're going to set the limits 9 based on GE. And if they pick Siemens, they 10 get a bennie out of it, would you have a basis 11 for challenging? 12 BENDER: Yes, for the same MR. 13 reason. Because the record says that 909.2 is 14 achievable. And then we have --15 JUDGE HILL: Well, but they would 16 conclude that 909 is not achievable for GE. 17 MR. BENDER: I think it depends on 18 what the record is to support that conclusion. 19 And that's not this case and it's not this 20 record. 21 JUDGE HILL: So the region's

mistake was setting three different limits?

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1	MR. BENDER: The region's mistake
2	was setting three different limits for what it
3	says is the same control. If it had
4	identified them as three different control
5	options in step one, and you have a continuity
6	through the rest of the steps and it set three
7	different limits, it would be a different
8	problem, which is BACT is all limit and you
9	would rank them and set them based on the top
10	rank control option in step five. But, again,
11	it depends on what happened in the prior four
12	steps to be able to say whether that would
13	have been a mistake or not, and that's not
14	this record and it's not the basis that we had
15	to appeal.
16	JUDGE MCCABE: Coming back to the
17	factual question of the variation in these
18	emission limits that the region has permitted
19	for the three turbines, Mr. Tomasovic
20	described them, it may not be fair to call
21	this a range, but he mentioned numbers that,

to my mind, ranged from 0.1 percent up to 2.7

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1	percent. Is a 0.1 percent difference
2	significant enough that the agency should have
3	to distinguish between them in setting and
4	distinguish between these turbine models and
5	force the company's choice? Point one. If we
6	just had point one. I realize there's a
7	range, but just look at point one for a
8	moment. Is that significant?
9	MR. BENDER: I think it's
10	contextual. And I would say, although you
11	asked that as a factual question, I would
12	point to the Prairie State decision, your
13	Honor.
14	JUDGE MCCABE: The what? Prairie
15	State?
16	MR. BENDER: Because it's cited by
17	both respondents to say when there's a
18	negligible difference you don't have to
19	consider them as separate control options.
20	And I think that Prairie State actually stands
21	for the opposite. On page 37 in the footnote,
22	I think it's footnote 36, it rejects that

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1	true of a control option, but we're talking
2	about two different turbines here. If the
3	turbines had the same limit, would we be here?
4	If they had the same GHG limit.
5	MR. BENDER: If they had the same
6	GHG limit and it was
7	JUDGE MCCABE: Because that's just
8	the way they, say that was the manufacturer's,
9	the vendor's number, and EPA permitted it at
10	that number and there was no comparable that
11	showed a better performance, why on earth
12	would we require them to distinguish between
13	those? What practical difference would that
14	make?
15	MR. BENDER: In this record and to
16	my knowledge, there is no other distinction
17	between them, other than emission rates. But
18	if you're saying, hypothetically, the emission
19	rates are all the same
20	JUDGE MCCABE: No, I'm simply
21	following up on what you thought Prairie State
22	stood for, that even if things are the same

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you can't ignore the difference. I just think we're doing apples and oranges here because, in Prairie State, if I recall correctly, and maybe Judge Stein can help us out with this, I think they were comparing, you know, much larger differences.

7 Here, I'm concerned that we're 8 getting down in the margins. We are getting dangerously close to micromanaging here on 9 what this GHG emission limit should be. So is 10 percent micromanaging? that 11 0.1 Is а 12 difference that we don't need to worry about? 13 Is 0.5 percent -- 2.7 percent obviously is too 14 much for you. You think that's over the level 15 of significance. We're wondering where is 16 that level of significance in difference? And I'm not talking about the exact numbers. 17 I'm talking conceptually here. That's why I used 18 19 percentages to iron it out.

20 If the range of differences 21 between these two turbines and their GHG 22 emission rates ranges somehow, and depending

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on how you calculate it, from 0.1 percent to 2.7 percent, why should we worry about this? Why should the region be required to distinguish?

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5 MR. **BENDER**: Your Honor, the 6 equivalency of emission rates is an issue or 7 a concept that's tied together with the 8 topdown BACT analysis process, and that was in 9 That's the point of that Prairie State. footnote that I cited to. 10 If you did this, 11 again, this is not what was done, so, in the 12 hypothetical, if they had ranked them as 13 separate control options and they had assigned 14 emission rates and there was somewhere 15 between, Ι think it was 0.1 in your 16 hypothetical difference and there was no other 17 collateral impacts differences between them, 18 would that be enough to say -- and it was not, 19 and it was based on, you know, some emission 20 calculations that, themselves, have some 21 variable in them, Ι think, in that 22 hypothetical, this would not be the issue for

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1	appeal. It wouldn't be because, you know,
2	we're assuming, we're assuming away all of the
3	problems with this particular decision, which
4	is they're not treated as separate, they're
5	not distinguished in the first few steps, we
6	don't know if there's collateral impact
7	differences, and there's no record made to
8	support those findings at each of the rest of
9	the steps.
10	JUDGE MCCABE: So is the critical
11	piece of your argument that they didn't
12	differentiate between the turbines at step
13	one? Is that really what Sierra Club's
14	concerned about?
15	MR. BENDER: If they're going to
16	differentiate between them in step five, they
17	need to differentiate between them in step, I
18	guess it would be one through four because
19	then we'd have an opportunity to look at
20	whether or not there are differences in
21	emissions at that point and under what
22	scenario and everything else that goes into a

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five-step BACT process. And that was just shunted all to the side, and we only looked at the difference between them when we got to step five after the opportunity to address all those other issues had passed.

6 JUDGE MCCABE: Okav. Let's turn 7 quickly, because I'm watching your flight time 8 Is it your position that here, to solar. 9 solar is feasible on this site? Supplemental 10 solar, as you've described it. And if so, 11 please explain how.

12 MR. **BENDER**: Your Honor, the 13 comment was, step one, you need to cast as big 14 a net as possible to identify potentially 15 feasible, available and applicable, and we 16 say, yes, it's available, it's applicable. Is 17 it feasible? Well, we don't know the acreage. 18 They say 20. We don't -- because we never got 19 to this. 20 JUDGE MCCABE: There's a site plan in the record, isn't there? 21

MR. BENDER: There are some maps

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1 in the record. We don't know --2 JUDGE MCCABE: Have you looked at 3 them? MR. BENDER: I've looked at some 4 5 of the maps in the record, yes. 6 JUDGE MCCABE: Have you looked at 7 the site plan? I'm not sure --8 MR. BENDER: 9 The site plans JUDGE MCCABE: 10 shows where things are situated on the site, 11 where the turbines will go and the other 12 equipment, what the footprint of the site is, 13 how much space is open or not. 14 MR. BENDER: I'm envisioning a 15 color map with, I think, that information --Mine is not in 16 JUDGE MCCABE: 17 color, but I saw one like that. Have you 18 looked at that and, considering that, is it 19 And, Judge Stein, please add your feasible? 20 question. 21 JUDGE STEIN: If these maps show 22 or you can deduce from what's in the record

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that what is at play here is approximately 20 acres, do you still contend that solar is feasible at this site?

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I would say, to the 4 MR. BENDER: extent it's scalable, it's feasible. Whether 5 it's cost effective and whether it achieves 6 emission reductions, I don't think, I don't 7 know and I don't think any of us know, and 8 9 that's the point. That's why you go through steps because you gather that 10 the five information at the later steps. 11 It was --

12JUDGE STEIN:So -- I'm sorry.13Finish. I didn't mean to interrupt.

MR. BENDER: It was excluded from 14 15 step one as not, as redefining the source. 16 And I think it would be inappropriate to 17 assume fact findings from what we have, the 18 limited amount of information we have in the 19 record to say it would necessarily be rejected 20 in the following steps, unlike in Palmdale 21 where the issue of incremental increase was 22 looked at and the record was clear that there

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was zero space. And the difference between zero space for no addition and where to draw the line when there's some space but it may or may not be enough to make it feasible, cost effective, and everything else is something that needs to be done by a fact finder with the public input.

JUDGE STEIN: But how much effort 8 and work must a permit applicant go through 9 10 when they're primarily building a particular 11 kind of plant and there's fairly limited 12 I mean, do they need to go do a full space? 13 scale investigation and develop models in space if what you're dealing with is a very 14 15 small area? I mean, that's a question I'm 16 struggling with because, you know, this is not 17 Palmdale, and I don't buy the characterization of what Mr. Alonso said about what Palmdale 18 19 stood for in terms of redefining the source. 20 am troubled by what may be in the But Ι 21 record, perhaps not as fulsome as someone 22 would like, but there may be sufficient

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information in the record to establish that there's only a very limited amount of space there. And if that's the case, are you still insisting that people do a full-scale analysis of solar under those circumstances?

I think that, when 6 MR. BENDER: 7 you get into the later steps, two, three, 8 four, the scale of the analysis is probably 9 relative to, you know, some reasonableness, 10 But in step one, the whole point is right? 11 you cast the net and then you start doing that 12 analysis. And it would be inappropriate to 13 start making assumptions because we don't 14 agree with all the assumptions in La Paloma 15 about hurricanes, about other things, and we'd 16 like the ability to develop the record in 17 response, depending on what is said about 18 feasibility.

But feasibility wasn't discussed until the response to comments. And then it was discussed as not, not that it was not technically feasible but it was redefining the

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source. And based on, in our mind, in one of the main reasons that we brought this appeal is based on a very problematic definition of redefining the source.

JUDGE HILL: Mr. Bender, the region argues that Sierra Club's comments on this didn't really raise this issue to any level of specificity that you're now raising it in your brief or here. How do you respond to that?

10 When they say that, MR. BENDER: 11 they point to one of the multiple comments 12 looking at solar hybrid. And they say it was 13 mentioned as an alternative to duct burning, 14 in addition to other things that could be 15 looked at as alternative to duct burning. 16 Earlier in the comments, is the Palmdale 17 permit and the CO2 BACT emission limit saying 18 it's conservatively lower, they get that, and 19 they get a chunk of it from solar, you need to 20 look at solar because it's available, it's 21 applicable, it meets the step one criteria, 22 let's look at it. And that's what was

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1 rejected.

2	Elsewhere, we said, instead of
3	duct burning, did you consider these other
4	things? And, yes, they're talking about the
5	same concept, but they're talking about two
6	different areas. So it's inappropriate to
7	look at only one comment and say, well, that
8	one comment about solar didn't raise this
9	other issue when the other comment did.
10	JUDGE MCCABE: Are you suggesting
11	that permitting authorities, whenever they're
12	faced with a PSD application by someone who
13	wants to build a power plant, have to analyze
14	solar in all cases if they're not proposing it
15	to begin with?
16	MR. BENDER: Solar hybrid in a
17	combined cycle plant, when it's raised by the
18	public
19	JUDGE MCCABE: Okay. And that
20	MR. BENDER: Then the region has
21	an obligation to look at it.
22	JUDGE MCCABE: Expand on that,
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What do you mean by look at it? 1 please. 2 Include it in step MR. BENDER: 3 one or deem it redefining the source based on 4 a correct interpretation of redefining the 5 source. And here it was an incorrect 6 interpretation of redefining the source. It 7 should have made it into step one when raised 8 by the public. And to go to your question, 9 Judge Stein, how much detail they need to do 10 to develop whether to reject it in later 11 there's Ι would aqree some steps, 12 reasonableness to it. But I don't agree that, 13 even assuming that 20 acres is all that there 14 is, that we can say, based on this record, 15that it's reasonable that that's not enough to 16 generate solar.

17 But if you have a JUDGE STEIN: circumstance where the BACT analysis has been 18 19 done, the regions looked at it, there's been 20 back and forth between the permit applicant 21 and the permittee, I mean, and the region, 22 they proposed the permit for comment, and a

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1	comment comes in about solar, you're
2	suggesting that they have to go redo the BACT
3	analysis, or can't they simply respond to the
4	comment by saying on this particular site, on
5	these facts, we don't think solar is feasible
6	for X, Y, and Z reason?
7	MR. BENDER: That's different than
8	the answer here.
9	JUDGE STEIN: Why is it different
10	than here? I mean, I understand what the
11	region did in its analysis of redefining the
12	source, you know, didn't do exactly what I'm
13	describing here, but I'm concerned about
14	taking us to a place where, in responding to
15	a public comment, where there may be an answer
16	that you have to go back to square one on the
17	BACT analysis because I don't think you do.
18	I think you need to respond to the comment.
19	I think you need to respond fairly to the
20	comment. But we'd never, I mean, how in the
21	world would we ever get a permit out if every
22	time there's a public comment that relates to
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1 the BACT analysis you've got to go back and redo the BACT analysis? Yes, there may be 2 3 cases where you need to supplement it, but I 4 don't think we go back to square one. 5 MR. BENDER: Well, two responses, your Honor. Here we had raising solar in the 6 7 another facility, similar context of а 8 facility, that has solar hybrid and has a permit with lower limits. That's the context. 9 10 So to the extent we're talking about, you 11 know, how much or how real does this have to 12 be to generate a more substantive response, 13 that's the context. 14 In Knauf Fiberglass, I believe, K-15 N-A-U-F, however that's pronounced --16 JUDGE MCCABE: Knauf. Knauf Fiberglass. 17 MR. **BENDER**: 18 The first, the 1999 decision, a comment was 19 production process raised another for 20 fiberglass. that's The response was 21 proprietary to a competitor. We don't have to look at it because we'll reject it later 22

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1	anyways, so, you know, why look at it? And
2	the Board reversed and said you can't pre-
3	judge. That's the point of the process. You
4	can't pre-judge the process. Go back, look at
5	it, and make a record so we know and the
6	public knows that you really did look at it
7	and you really did document your analysis and
8	we know you did your procedural job.
9	That's what should be done here,
10	and it follows that precedent. And I would
11	suggest, if it's distinguishable, this is even
12	a clearer case than Knauf because it's not
13	proprietary that we know of. You can go out
14	and buy it. So to the extent there's a line,
15	this is even further on the petitioner's side
16	of the line.
17	JUDGE MCCABE: Mr. Bender, I'm
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18 worried about your plane. If you would like 19 to take a minute to just wrap up, please do. 20 And then we will let you go on your way. It's 21 getting late.

MR. BENDER: Sure. Thank you,

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your Honors, and thank you for the opportunity 1 to address these issues. From Sierra Club's 2 3 perspective, this is an important permit to get right on these issues raised. And there 4 5 are other issues that were commented on, potentially other issues that could have been 6 7 raised. You know, I don't want to suggest that Sierra Club loves this permit, even if 8 9 it's corrected, but this issue of what you consider 10 have to consider and how you 11 efficiency and how you consider supplemental, in this case solar, that helps improve the 12 13 efficiency of a plant is critically important, 14 especially as we start into greenhouse gas PSD 15 permits, and getting the definition of what is 16 the control option we're looking at correct and making sure that that's consistent all the 17 18 way through the process and that we're 19 correctly addressing efficiency. It's going 20 to be critical, especially until we develop an 21 end of the pipe technology that facilities 22 start installing.

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1	The other is this now perennial
2	redefinition of the source issue. I
3	understand the Board's prior precedents, and,
4	in some cases, unfortunately, they're being
5	applied incorrectly. And this is one of those
6	cases. And when that happens, it's important
7	to correct it, make it clear and give guidance
8	to not only Region 6 but other permitting
9	authorities what redefining the source means
10	and what it doesn't mean. And here it doesn't
11	mean that if a control option is not within
12	the two-sentence description of the
13	application of the project purpose that it
14	can't be considered because that opens a door
15	to all kinds of problems, not just greenhouse
16	gasses but every I mean, and SCR also
17	wasn't in that two-sentence description.
18	Thank you, your Honor.
19	JUDGE MCCABE: Thank you very much.
20	Well, thank you all for your presentations and
21	for your valiant efforts to answer our very
22	often detailed questions.
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I would make one observation that 1 2 there's such factual confusion, at least in 3 the argument around the issue of how do we compare apples to apples with the emission 4 numbers that we really should be looking at 5 6 for these turbines that there is а 7 possibility, and I regret to say this because 8 I know it's a PSD case and we are in a big 9 hurry, but there's a possibility that we will 10 ask you to do a supplemental briefing on that 11 or ask you all perhaps to confer to get on one 12 sheet, if it's possible, to give us some basis 13 of comparison so that we have the facts 14 straight in our opinion. It is a lot to ask 15 of judges like us. We have some technical 16 training, but we are not engineers, and it is 17 really quite difficult for us to understand 18 which numbers we should be comparing to which 19 here. 20

20 We will, however, make a valiant 21 effort to go back and to see if we can figure 22 that out. And we'll only ask you to do a

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1	supplemental briefing if we think it's very
2	necessary. If we do do that, we will get to
3	you quickly on that because we do intend to
4	move quickly on making this decision. These
5	are not easy issues. They are important
6	issues, and we take your point, Mr. Bender,
7	that, as we are entering the world of GHG BACT
8	permitting, we do need to be careful about
9	what precedent we're setting. But we also are
10	very, very cognizant of the need for speed
11	here because we don't want to hold up the
12	building of something that should proceed
13	unnecessarily.
14	So with that, we'll take this
15	matter under submission with the caveat that
16	you may get a request for a supplemental
17	briefing. And we will wish you all safe
18	travels home, those of you who are traveling
19	far especially. And good luck catching that
20	plane, Mr. Bender.
21	(Whereupon, the foregoing matter
22	was concluded at 5:47 p.m.)

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<u>CERTIFICA_TE</u>

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: La Paloma Energy Center

Before: US EPA

Date: 02-12-14

Place: Washington, DC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

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Court Reporter

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