

TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD JUDICIAL INQUIRY

Before:

Associate Chief Justice Frank Marrocco

Held at:

Collingwood Town Hall Council Chambers 97 Hurontario Street Collingwood, Ontario

June 3rd, 2019



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1
                  APPEARANCES
2
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4 John Mather
                          ) Associate Inquiry
                          ) Counsel
5
6
7 Michael Watson ) Alectra Utilities
8 Belinda Bain
                          ) Corporation
9
10 (No Counsel)
                         ) For Paul Bonwick
11
12 George Marron ) For Sandra Cooper
13
14 (No Counsel) ) For Timothy Fryer
15
16 Frederick Chenoweth ) For Edwin Houghton
17
18 William McDowell ) For Town of Collingwood
19 Ryan Breedon
                          )
20
21 Patrick Gajos (np) ) For Collus PowerStream
22
                          ) Corporation
23
24
2.5
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1 --- Upon commencing at 10:03 a.m.
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- 3 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Let me
- 4 -- before we start, let me just deal briefly -- I'm --
- 5 I'm going to allow Mr. Chenoweth's application.
- The order of cross-examination will be,
- 7 Mr. Marron will go first, and Mr. Watson or Ms. Bain,
- 8 Mr. Fryer, Mr. Bonwick, Ms. McGrann, and Mr. McDowell
- 9 or Mr. Breedon. Mr. Chenoweth will have the
- 10 opportunity to re-examine, and concluding examination
- 11 will be by Ms. McGrann.
- So, Mr. Marron, I think we were -- you
- 13 were cross-examining.
- 14 THE REGISTRAR: Mr. Bentz, you
- 15 understand you're still under oath.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes, I do.

17

18 BRIAN BENTZ, Previously Sworn

19

- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yes. Thank you,
- 21 Your Honour.

- 23 CONTINUED CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. GEORGE MARRON:
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Good morning, Mr.
- 25 Bentz.

- 1 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Good morning.
- 2 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Mr. Bentz, I
- 3 understood from your evidence on Friday when you were
- 4 being questioned by Ms. McGrann that there was a
- 5 certain point where the handling, if I can put it that
- 6 way, of Paul Bonwick was turned over to your executive
- 7 committee or executive team.
- 8 And can you give us some indication as
- 9 to when that would be? I'm not looking for a specific
- 10 date but do you recall whether it was before June of
- 11 2011 or are you able to say?
- 12 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: It was -- it was
- 13 likely after the -- in terms of handing over the
- 14 management of the contract, it would be after the
- 15 contract would have been executed.
- 16 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay. So we've
- 17 heard in the evidence that on the 31st of May there
- 18 was a draft contract that was provided to Paul Bonwick
- 19 and it bore the date the 1st of June 2011. That was
- 20 the draft contract.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: And we're told
- 23 that, and the evidence is, that on June the 7, 2011,
- 24 the draft contract became a reality in the sense that
- 25 the contract of June 7 was executed on.

```
1
                  MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
 2
                  MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay. And in --=
   in the contract of June 7, and we can pull up the
 3
   document if you wish, but do you have a recall as to
   the term of that?
 6
                   In other words, the contract that was
   executed on, on June the 7, did the scope of duties
   set out in the contract and the warranties, everything
   in the contract of June 7, relate back to establish
   that the commencement of the contract was the 1st of
10
11
   June 2011? Is that your understanding?
12
                   MR. BRIAN BENTZ:
                                       It would be the --
   it would be the effective date of when the contract
13
   was executed, would be my interpretation of it.
14
15
                  MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay. Just -- I'd
   like to pull up that document, Your Honour, and I have
   it here, ALE192.
17
18
19
                          (BRIEF PAUSE)
20
21
                  MR. GEORGE MARRON: And could we have
22
   the -- be the third page, dealing with the -- there --
23
  term.
          Thank you.
24
                   So it indicates here that the term of
   the contract shall be ninety (90) days commencing the
```

- 1 1st of June.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: M-hm.
- 3 MR. GEORGE MARRON: So does that --
- 4 would that be your understanding, that the contract
- 5 basically kicked in from the 1st of June and ran for
- 6 ninety (90) days?
- 7 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: We had a -- a week
- 8 in there where we were trying to settle the
- 9 disclosure, and I think that's the difference. I
- 10 don't -- technically it looks like June 1st would be
- 11 the date but the date of the -- that we executed the
- 12 contract was June 7th because of the disclosure
- 13 issues.
- 14 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay. Well --
- 15 well, I mean, this goes back to the original area of
- 16 questions.
- 17 Would -- would you have turned Paul
- 18 Bonwick over to other members of the executive team on
- 19 or before the 1st of June or can you remember?
- 20 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I don't think -- I
- 21 don't remember.
- 22 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay. But -- but
- 23 there was in existence as of the 31st of May, a draft
- 24 contract --
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.

```
9
 1
                  MR. GEORGE MARRON: -- which bore the
 2 date June the 1st, 2011?
 3
                  MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
                  MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah, okay.
                                                   We --
   we've seen that and I don't need to pull that up.
   Okay. Thank you.
 7
                  Well, then Your Honour, if we could
   pull up the document ALE178.
9
10
                          (BRIEF PAUSE)
11
                  MR. GEORGE MARRON: This is a -- this
12
   is an email that was sent from Paul Bonwick to John
13
14 Glicksman. You're copied, Mr. Bentz, as are two (2)
15
   others, and it's dated the -- June the 3rd, 2011. And
   I direct you to the sentence:
17
                     "The clerk has been thoroughly
18
                     briefed by me."
19
                  And I -- would you have reviewed this
   email?
20
21
                  MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Likely, yes.
22
                  MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right.
                                                   And --
   and this was the 3rd of June. So had you received any
24
   correspondence from the Mayor at this point? This is
25 at 9:02 in the morning on the 3rd of June. The
```

- 1 letter, or the email, where there was an e -- the
- 2 email that was sent is the 2nd -- dated the 2nd of
- 3 June. Had that been brought to your attention at the
- 4 time this email that's on the screen, 178, arrived?
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Sorry, what had been
- 6 brought to my attention?
- 7 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah. I'm just
- 8 wondering if -- yeah, I'm wondering if the letter of
- 9 the Mayor dated June the 2nd had been brought to your
- 10 attention prior to you receiving this email.
- 11 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I'd received a draft
- 12 copy of the letter.
- 13 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Well that was a
- 14 draft copy that was sort kicking around your office
- 15 from about the 18th of May 2011.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Right.
- 17 MR. GEORGE MARRON: And the evidence
- 18 that we've heard on the Inquiry is that on the 2nd of
- 19 June, Mayor Sandra Cooper was approached by her
- 20 brother and that subsequent to that, on the 2nd of
- 21 June, there was an email correspondence which attached
- 22 the -- the letter on the Mayor's letterhead, dated the
- 23 2nd of June 2011.
- 24 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: So I had seen the
- 25 draft letter at that point. I can't recall if I was

- 1 under the impression -- I think I was under the
- 2 impression that the Mayor had discussed it -- or Mr.
- 3 Bonwick had discussed it with the Mayor.
- 4 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah, okay. But
- 5 the -- the statement that "The clerk has been
- 6 thoroughly briefed by me," is something in which I
- 7 wish to question you on.
- And I would ask, Your Honour, that the
- 9 document ALE192 be -- be put on the screen.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- MR. GEORGE MARRON: So -- so this is a
- 14 -- this is the agreement of June the 7th, 2011. You
- 15 were taken through it the other day. And would you
- 16 like to -- to take a scan of it now, and I have a few
- 17 questions in relation to it. If -- if there's any
- 18 difficulty -- would you like to scan it quickly or --
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: If there's any
- 23 difficulty, just let me know.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Okay.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay. I'd like to

- 1 refer you to the evidence of -- of Ms. Almas, Sara
- 2 Almas. She's the clerk of the Town of Collingwood
- 3 during the years in question.
- And, Your Honour, I'd refer to the
- 5 transcript dated the 15th of April 2019, at page 44.

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 9 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Thank you. So
- 10 could we -- This -- this is a -- a time when Associate
- 11 Commission Counsel, John Mather, was examining Ms.
- 12 Almas before the Commission of Inquiry, and he was
- 13 examining her in relation to the contract of June the
- 14 7th, 2011.
- So he -- he put the question to her,
- 16 and I'm referring to -- if the document could be
- 17 scrolled up, Your Honour. I'm referring -- there.
- 18 So Mr. Mather questions:
- 19 "So, Ms. Almas, do you recognize
- this document?"
- 21 She says:
- 22 "I've never seen this document
- 23 before the Inquiry showed it to me."
- Now, we've gone through the document,
- 25 the contract, and it -- it sets out very specifically

- 1 the extensive scope of the work that Mr. Bonwick was
- 2 obliged or contracted to undertake, okay.
- 3 So just in reference to disclosure
- 4 generally, we've heard from you very candidly that you
- 5 and the three (3) mayors had a discussion and that
- 6 disclosure was a significant concern, and -- and you
- 7 indicated in your evidence, if we could have stood up
- 8 in the town square and announced it, we probably
- 9 would.
- 10 I mean, that -- you had no interest in
- 11 doing otherwise. You didn't want any perception of a
- 12 -- of a conflict of interest or any difficulty down
- 13 the road. So -- because it was going to be apparent,
- 14 I suggest, that -- that PowerStream was going to be
- 15 involved in any RFP contest, if I can put it that way,
- 16 or competition, in reference to obtaining part or all
- 17 of the Collus corporations.
- 18 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: (NO AUDIBLE
- 19 RESPONSE)
- 20 MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right. So --
- 21 I mean, I think that states it in so many words, she's
- 22 never seen this document before and --
- 23 So -- so Mr. Mather goes on to say:
- 24 Well, would you scroll down the document? And -- and
- 25 he pulls out the category of Scope of Work. You see

- 1 that?
- 2 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 3 MR. GEORGE MARRON: And he indicates
- 4 that it's -- it's a 'shall' provision and then it sets
- 5 out in bullet point form the various activities or
- 6 scopes of work. And he asked Ms. Almas:
- 7 "Have -- have you reviewed these
- 8 bullet points?"
- 9 And she says she had, and she's
- 10 testifying on the Inquiry, and there was an indication
- 11 in the last answer she gave that she had -- had regard
- 12 to the Inquiry documentation.
- 13 She said:
- "I have, yes."
- 15 "Okay. And did Mr. Bonwick say at
- 16 your meeting, do you recall -- did
- he say that this is the sort of work
- he'd be doing for PowerStream?"
- 19 Her response is:
- "I had no idea that it had anything
- 21 to do -- and obviously he probably
- 22 wouldn't have shared with me either,
- 23 because we hadn't even had
- 24 conversations about selling the LDC,
- 25 so I had no idea that it was for the

1 opportunities to actually purchase 2 the Company or merge with the 3 Company or a strategic partnership with the Company." 5 So I suggest that you have some difficulty with that in the sense that the whole idea of Mr. Bonwick going out and obtaining these letters 7 is to make full and complete disclosure and that the said letters, the emails, were going to be confirmation of that and that you -- you weren't 10 11 obtaining any independent evidence of what Mr. Bonwick 12 was doing, so essentially you were accepting his word for what was coming in by way of emails pertaining to 13 14 this significant important issue. 15 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: We relied on his representations, yes. 17 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah, all right. 18 All right. 19 Then it goes down and deals with the bullet point that says: 20 21 "Identify potential opportunities 22 for the purchase, merger, or -- and 23 other business combinations of 24 LDCs." 2.5 And the question:

- 1 "He didn't talk about that in terms
- of what he'd be doing?"
- 3 And the response was:
- 4 "No."
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: The only thing I
- 6 would add there though is that there was a -- an email
- 7 that he sent to me on April 20th, subsequent to my
- 8 meeting with the mayors and his meeting with the
- 9 mayors whereby he -- and after hearing how important
- 10 disclosure was to us, the email proposed a meeting in
- 11 the event of an RFP happening, a meeting with Town
- 12 officials.
- So we anticipated that that meeting
- 14 would happen, so we relied on his representation prior
- 15 to the contract being executed, and then after the
- 16 contract being executed we knew that meeting would
- 17 happen.
- 18 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah. No, no, I
- 19 appreciate that and we'll get to that, okay.
- 20 Just -- just presently, I'm going back
- 21 through some of the area that's been canvassed by the
- 22 Commission counsel, and I don't want to be tedious
- 23 about this, but I do have to put certain things to you
- 24 and ask questions of you as to what your expectations
- 25 were at the time.

	17
1	All right then. And if I could just
2	continue, Your Honour, at page 45 on line 20.
3	"And then at your meeting of June
4	the 2nd, did he talk about
5	providing, preparing detailed
6	briefings, identify key decision-
7	makers related to a particular
8	opportunity?"
9	And her response was:
10	"I don't recollect."
11	She was asked further:
12	"Okay. Did he say anything [over on
13	page 46] anything about assisting in
14	the preparation of any proposals
15	that PowerStream intends to submit?"
16	And her response was:
17	"I don't know for sure, but I
18	wouldn't be taking proposals in the
19	context of an acquisition or merger.
20	It was more of a communications, a
21	PR, or working with with a
22	cooperative together."
23	Now that cooperative together makes
24	some prior reference to the CHEC group of companies
25	and that Collingwood was a member of the CHEC group as
1	

- 1 was PowerStream.
- 2 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: PowerStream was not
- 3 a member of the CHEC group.
- 4 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Oh, I thought --
- 5 thought there was indication that it was.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- 7 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Well, I stand
- 8 corrected.
- 9 And then the idea -- is -- she is asked
- 10 by Mr. Mather, line 8, Your Honour:
- 11 "And so if we could scroll down to
- 12 Methodology and Deliverables."
- 13 So this says:
- "While executing this retainer, CCI
- 15 and Bonwick shall undertake the
- following..."
- 17 And it sets out various activities that
- 18 he'd be doing."
- The question was:
- "Looking at this now, did Mr.
- 21 Bonwick describe these activities to
- you as what he would be doing for
- 23 PowerStream?"
- 24 Her response was:
- 25 "Sorry, in reviewing it in a general

```
19
                      context, some of this information I
 1
 2
                      believe Mr. Bonwick shared with me,
                      but again it wasn't in the context
 3
                      of acquiring the Collus Utility
 5
                      Services Corporation."
 6
                   So the next question, going on to page
    47 is:
 7
                      "So what -- what did he share with
 8
 9
                      you?"
10
                   And her response, page 47:
11
                      "Basically, like the key components
12
                      that I actually wrote in my notes
                      were about the PR activities and
13
14
                      that sort of community outreach, and
15
                      knowing that his company did
16
                      communications because we had a
17
                      conversation about"
18
                   And she goes on to indicate something
   referencing Ian Chadwick.
19
20
                   So this -- this information was
    something that -- you were questioned in this area and
21
22
   I believe that Ms. Almas' notes were shown to you, the
23 notes she made of this meeting?
24
                   MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
2.5
                   MR. GEORGE MARRON: The written --
```

- 1 there were written notes made.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I don't recall that,
- 3 the written notes. I know that Mr. Bonwick sent
- 4 correspondence saying that he had fully briefed the
- 5 clerk on the matter, and then he copied her on that
- 6 email is what I recall.
- 7 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay, well these
- 8 were act -- these were -- were interview notes that
- 9 Ms. Almas made during the -- the time of the meeting
- 10 on the 2nd of June, 2011. All right.
- I could pull those -- pull those up, if
- 12 I may. I -- I -- I might need a little assistance. I
- 13 ---
- 14 MS. KATE MCGRANN: That document is at
- 15 CJI9206.
- 16 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yes, thanks, Ms.
- 17 McGrann.
- 18
- 19 (BRIEF PAUSE)
- 20
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: That handwriting
- 22 may be a little more legible than yours, Mr. Bentz,
- 23 but --
- 24 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Probably true.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay. So she has

- 1 there, if you scan down, it's -- it's got the 1st of
- 2 June, 2011 and she explained at -- at the beginning of
- 3 the month she might have a difficulty with putting the
- 4 proper date down.
- 5 In any event she indicated that in her
- 6 evidence, the notes were taken and -- and made on the
- 7 2nd of June, 2011.
- 8 So if we look at PR, it says:
- 9 "PR activities/community outreach
- 10 President CEO PowerStream Brian
- 11 Bentz"
- 12 And then she's got an arrow "email to
- 13 confirm". And then question, and then "Paul to send
- 14 email?" And -- and the rest of it is as indicated has
- 15 something to do with Ian Chadwick.
- 16 So just going back to the question
- 17 then, she indicated in her response the notes or about
- 18 PR activities and that sort of community outreach.
- 19 And she contin -- she continues, she
- 20 said in her response on -- this is line 14 on page 47,
- 21 Your Honour, it's a bit of a disjoined response, but
- 22 it -- she said that -- that her -- the indication of
- 23 Ian Chadwick was a bit of a side kind of conversation
- 24 that we had, so it was more in that frame
- 25 conversation.

```
So I wouldn't say that this -- I'm sure
 1
   that he shared some of this, but it was I didn't take
   it in the correct context because I wasn't aware.
                   And she uses the term "aware", which
   obviously goes to one's knowledge or lack of
   knowledge, do you agree?
 7
                   If you're not aware, you don't have
   knowledge?
 9
                   MR. BRIAN BENTZ:
                                      Agreed.
10
                   MR. GEORGE MARRON:
                                        All right.
11
                   Then Mr. Mather goes down a little
    further and gets to the issue monitoring area of the
12
   contract and then he indicates to Ms. Almas:
13
14
                      "Compenso is in constant contact
15
                      with Municipal government leaders
16
                      and as such is able to monitor and
17
                      report any changes or opportunities
18
                      that may arise as your early warning
19
                      system."
20
                   It goes on:
21
                      "Our intelligence gathering will
22
   help prepare you to respond to any potential critical
23
    challenges brought forward regarding this approach."
24
                   And she's asked:
                      "On June 2nd, 2011, were you aware
2.5
```

```
23
                      that Mr. Bonwick was in constant
 1
 2
                      contact with Municipal government
                      leaders?"
 3
                   She indicated:
                      "I didn't know then."
 5
 6
                      "Understood. So the question was at
                      that time, okay? And did he tell
 7
                      you that he was planning on being in
 9
                      constant contact with Municipal
10
                      government leaders?"
11
                   Her indication is:
12
                      "I can't recollect specifically that
                      conversation."
13
14
                   Question:
15
                      "And did he give you an indication
   that Compenso was going to be acting as" -- and I
17
   appreciate these are not your words, but I quote
18
    "early warning system".
19
                   The answer: "No."
20
21
                      (BRIEF PAUSE)
22
23
                   MR. GEORGE MARRON: So just in
24 reviewing that with me, would you not agree that you
   would have expected and hoped for something more
```

- 1 substantial as concerns disclosure of the scope of the
- 2 work?
- 3 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 4 MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

- MR. GEORGE MARRON: So I would --
- 9 would ask that document ALE0175 be brought up.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- MR. GEORGE MARRON: So this -- this is
- 14 -- this is the email then that's directed on the 6th
- 15 of June to yourself, Mr. Glicksman and a copy to Sara
- 16 Almas.
- 17 And it's the email that we reviewed
- 18 during the meeting I described the services my company
- 19 would be providing to PowerStream throughout the
- 20 region as well as specific to Collingwood.
- 21 Then it goes on as -- as we've reviewed
- 22 or as Ms. McGrann reviewed with you, it refers to the
- 23 Provincial Conflict of Interest Act and an indication
- 24 that Ms. Almas was concerned with the Municipal
- 25 Conflict of Interest Act and I don't know, are you

- 1 aware of there being a Provincial Conflict of Interest
- 2 Act, or is that an unfair question to ask?
- 3
 I've never heard of it, but -- all
- 4 right, you're shaking your head?
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No, I was relying on
- 6 the -- or concerned about the Municipal Conflict of
- 7 Interest Act.
- 8 MR. GEORGE MARRON: So I mean, did you
- 9 review this email?
- 11 there a -- did I miss something?
- 12 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: I
- 13 think the court reporter was asking Mr. Bentz to
- 14 either get closer to the microphone or --
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: I'm having some
- 16 difficulty hearing, I'm sorry.
- 17 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: I -- I
- 18 think the reporter was asking Mr. Bentz to either get
- 19 closer to the microphone or further away from the
- 20 microphone.
- 21 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay, thanks.
- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Maybe
- 23 you should repeat the question.
- 24 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yes, okay. Thank
- 25 you.

```
1 CONTINUED BY MR. GEORGE MARRON:
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- MR. GEORGE MARRON: And then it goes on
- 3 to say:
- 4 "Ms. Almas was kind enough to offer
- 5 an interpretation and then (opinion)
- 6 of the Provincial Conflict of
- 7 Interest Act and was quite", and
- then goes on to say Ms. Almas was
- 9 quite clear that there was no
- 10 conflict of interest based on my
- 11 company's relationship with
- 12 PowerStream, and she agreed to be
- copied on this message."
- 14 Now, we heard from Mr. Nolan, and I
- 15 believe you were giving some information in this area,
- 16 as well, that the fact that there was no response by
- 17 Ms. Almas, who was copied on this email, that -- that
- 18 that was interpreted as being a confirmation to the
- 19 content of this email --
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I --
- 21 MR. GEORGE MARRON: -- of the 6th of --
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I think it would be
- 23 reasonable to assume she would have objected if she
- 24 didn't agree with it.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah. But -- but

- 1 once again, that -- that's leaving this important
- 2 disclosure area -- that's leaving it to the -- I -- I
- 3 want to hesitate to say the word 'whim', but it's
- 4 leaving it to the judgment or the manner in which the
- 5 correspondence is assessed by somebody else?
- 6 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes, that's correct.
- 7 MR. GEORGE MARRON: And -- and I take
- 8 it there was no inquiry ever made of Sara Almas
- 9 throughout this?
- 10 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: The email of April
- 11 20th where he proposed a meeting -- now, prior to --
- 12 this is prior to, but where he proposed a meeting, the
- 13 condition upon the meeting transpiring in that April
- 14 20th email was if the RFP scenario unfolds --
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Right.
- 16 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: -- were the words
- 17 that he used, so. And he said that a meeting should
- 18 include the mayor, the deputy mayor, the CAO and the
- 19 Town clerk.
- 20 So, I -- and we agreed with that
- 21 because it was clear -- we made it clear to him that -
- 22 as you indicated, that transparency and disclosure
- 23 was very important to us.
- 24 So, he proposed this to us. We thought
- 25 it made sense. And we knew that a meeting with the --

- 1 with the mayor, deputy mayor, CAO, and clerk would --
- 2 and -- and the chair of the Hydro, would take place to
- 3 disclose Mr. Bonwick's services with respect to the
- 4 RFP.
- 5 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay. Well, and
- 6 we've heard evidence -- we heard the other day the
- 7 meeting didn't occur until the 29th of June, 2011. I
- 8 mean, we're dealing now with the 2nd of June, 2011.
- 9 Now we're -- if there's some indication
- 10 that you had that a meeting might be set up and that's
- 11 as early as April, you'd want to set up a meeting
- 12 anyways if you're going to be introducing yourself,
- 13 the Town of Collingwood, with a view to becoming
- 14 involved in an RFP project?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yeah, I'm only su --
- 16 suggesting that the reliance that we made on Mr.
- 17 Bonwick, that he had represented to the mayor and the
- 18 clerk his services, was in the context of that
- 19 proposal that he made on April 20th and our knowledge
- 20 that that meeting would take place.
- 21 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Right. But he'd
- 22 also drawn a letter of what -- what turned out to the
- 23 be the June sec -- 2nd, 2011, letter on the mayor's
- 24 letterhead signed by her. He -- he had also put that
- 25 together well in advance of the 2nd of June, 2011.

- 1 And you were aware of it. You'd
- 2 reviewed it?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: We wanted it.
- 4 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah. Well, you
- 5 reviewed it. And what you got on the 2nd of June was
- 6 exactly verbatim word for word what had been prepared
- 7 by Mr. Bonwick a couple weeks prior, on May the 18th.
- 8 At least it was -- it was disclosed and emailed to you
- 9 as an attachment on May the 18th.
- 10 So -- so this -- this proposed meeting
- 11 was something that had not been set up. And -- and
- 12 we're advised that there was nothing done in relation
- 13 to that meeting until the 14th of June, or perhaps
- 14 later than that?
- 15 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: The letter had been
- 16 signed by the mayor on June 2nd.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah, but the
- 18 meeting hadn't been set up or anything like that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: That was something
- 21 that might happen down -- down the road. And it was
- 22 projected, if it were ever to occur, it'd be occurring
- 23 down the road, so.
- 24 But my -- my question now is relating
- 25 to the fact that you've got an email here that has a

- 1 couple obvious errors in it. And -- and yet you're
- 2 getting an indication in the same breath that -- that,
- 3 while the interpretation is given on the Provincial
- 4 Conflict of Interest Act what doesn't exist, you're
- 5 getting an indication that Ms. Almas was quite clear
- 6 there's no conflict of interest based on my company's
- 7 relationship with PowerStream.
- 8 And you didn't -- or did you -- did you
- 9 pay particular interest to that? It seems to be a
- 10 little inconsistent, doesn't it, in the sense that
- 11 there's an obvious error in the letter?
- 12 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. Mr. Bonwick
- 13 had, I guess, made statements that were in error in
- 14 the past. He called our three (3) mayors audit
- 15 finance committee. He referred to the clerk as the
- 16 Town's lawyer, so I new he was referring to the
- 17 Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.
- 18 I assumed that the clerk would -- would
- 19 be aware of that, as well. So, yes, I made that
- 20 assumption.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: It seems to me,
- 22 and -- and I'm suggesting to you, that you were very
- 23 accommodating to Mr. Bonwick when it -- in the
- 24 interpretation of these inconsistencies in the email
- 25 correspondence. I mean, it's there in black and

- 1 white. You're being very accommodating of him?
- 2 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I assumed that he
- 3 had spoken to the clerk about the matter and it
- 4 related to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.
- 5 MR. GEORGE MARRON: But on Friday you
- 6 acknowledged that there was a distinction between the
- 7 Town's solicitor and the clerk?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 9 MR. GEORGE MARRON: So, you -- you get
- 10 this -- get this email and -- and you allow it to
- 11 stand in the sense that it doesn't -- well, what --
- 12 what, if anything, did you do with it, anything at
- 13 all?
- 14 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: This was for the
- 15 purposes of -- of him discharging his responsibility
- 16 where he represented and warranted prior to the
- 17 execution of the contract that he had disclosed his
- 18 relationship and services to the Town and the mayor.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Right.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: So, we wanted
- 21 assurances in that regard before we signed the
- 22 contract.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Right. But -- but
- 24 this -- this is an indication that he's -- that Mr.
- 25 Bonwick is making that -- or attributing to Ms. Almas,

- 1 that she was quite clear there was no conflict of
- 2 interest, and he -- he -- it's got nothing to do with
- 3 his sister and Paul Bonwick's relationship.
- 4 But now it goes on:
- 5 "No conflict of interest based on my
- 6 company's relationship with
- 7 PowerStream."
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Well, it says, "As
- 9 it relates to my sister being a member of council."
- 10 MR. GEORGE MARRON: So, you
- 11 interpreted that as being one and the same?
- 12 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Well, I -- I knew
- 13 that what we wanted was that Mr. Bonwick disclosed --
- 14 had spoken to Ms. Almas about the fact that he would
- 15 be doing work for PowerStream and that -- and his
- 16 relationship with -- with the mayor.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Well, we knew what
- 18 you wanted. I mean, you and the three (3) mayors
- 19 wanted full and complete disclosure, which meant that
- 20 the scope of the duties or the work had to be
- 21 disclosed to the Town in the sense of the mayor, the
- 22 clerk?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: The original email
- 24 on -- the April 20th email suggested that -- and I
- 25 think the letter, as well, suggested that the scope of

- 1 the services be broadly defined. And then, if the RFP
- 2 scenario unfolds, then there would be a meeting to
- 3 describe in more detail his services.
- So, I was, at this point, satisfied
- 5 with the general description of his services, knowing
- 6 that we would have a meeting in the event the RFP
- 7 unfolded that would describe in more detail his
- 8 services with respect to the RFP.
- 9 MR. GEORGE MARRON: That -- that was -
- 10 that was an in PowerStream understanding?
- 11 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: That was described
- 12 in -- in the memo to me.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Right.
- 14 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Again, the April
- 15 20th memo that -- after the meeting with the mayors,
- 16 that was the proposed approach.
- 17 MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right. But --
- 18 but that -- that wasn't made known to the mayor or the
- 19 clerk or anyone like that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No --
- 21 MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: -- other than --
- 23 other than the letter that she signed on June 2nd, I
- 24 think, I believe, outlined that --
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right.

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1 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: -- approach.
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- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Well, that's your
- 3 thought and it was the thought you had at the time.
- 4 But there was no attempt made, nor was there any
- 5 contact made with Sara Almas, the clerk?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- 7 MR. GEORGE MARRON: I mean, would --
- 8 wouldn't it have been so easy to pick up the -- the
- 9 telephone? I mean, I'm going back. I mean, I know
- 10 it's email time, but -- or email -- email her directly
- 11 and the mayor directly just to clear the air?
- 12 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: It -- we could have
- 13 done that.
- 14 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah, yeah.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: But he -- we thought
- 16 he had acted -- the fact he suggested this meeting,
- 17 and I think he understood we were very serious about
- 18 transparency and disclosure. I had no reason to
- 19 believe he would not disclose it.
- 20 We also knew that he had proposed the
- 21 meeting after the fact, as I indicated earlier, and we
- 22 felt that that meeting would -- would provide more
- 23 detail with respect to his role.
- 24 MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right. So, I
- 25 mean, Paul Bonwick had some good qualifications. He

- 1 was an ex-member of Parliament and ex-Council member.
- 2 And so that's something that you would have taken into
- 3 account. You would expected him to act in a -- in an
- 4 open, transparent way with you and with the others.
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah.
- 7 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: As former MP --
- 8 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah.
- 9 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: -- and a former
- 10 councillor, yes.
- 11 MR. GEORGE MARRON: So -- and that's
- 12 the approach that you took, I'm suggesting, throughout
- 13 this area of disclosure.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right.

16

17 (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Well, then could I
- 20 then, Your Honour, refer you to the transcript of
- 21 April the 15th. Once again, this is with Sara Almas
- 22 at page 53. Mr. Bentz, 53, please. Thank you.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

```
This is, once
 1
                   MR. GEORGE MARRON:
   again, the continuing examination-in-chief of
   Sara Almas by commission counsel, John Mather.
                   And it indicates here that this is the
   portion of the transcript of Mr. Bentz where
   Mr. Bonwick was giving some indication as to why he
   was seeing Sara Almas on the 2nd of June and had a
 7
   suggestion that Mr. Bentz had some potential concerns.
 9
                   This was part of the question that was
10
   put to Ms. Almas by commission counsel. And the
11
   question is:
12
                      "Do you remember what Mr. Bonwick
13
                      said about Mr. Bentz's concerns
14
                      during the meeting?"
15
                   And her response was:
                      "I don't recollect that he said or
16
17
                      told Mr. Bonwick to contact the Town
18
                      to get clarity."
19
                   So she's not attributing any statement
   to you. And Mr. -- she goes on to say:
20
                      "I think -- I think he was told that
21
22
                      he needs to provide PowerStream with
23
                      confirmation there wouldn't be any
                      sort of conflicts. So he reached
24
                      out obviously to me."
2.5
```

		37
1	And Mr. Mather said:	
2	"Right. Do you remember anything	
3	else about what Mr. Bonwick said	
4	about PowerStream or Mr. Bentz's	
5	concerns?"	
6	And her response was:	
7	"They just didn't want any potentia	1
8	opportunities that came in the	
9	future to be impacted by a conflict	
10	with with his sister who was the	
11	mayor at the time. Yes."	
12	And then she was asked in reference to	
13	ALE175, and that's the document that was just on the	
14	screen:	
15	"Do you remember at any time	
16	receiving this email?"	
17	And she acknowledged she did:	
18	"And what was your reaction to	
19	receiving this email?"	
20	Her indication was"	
21	"I remember being disappointed.	
22	Obviously he put the word	
23	"opinion""	
24	And she puts that in quotations:	
25	" in brackets because we have the	

		38
1		conversation that I don't provide
2		legal advice or opinion. He noted
3		in there provincial Conflict of
4		Interest Act, and I addressed the
5		Municipal Conflict of Interest Act."
6		But she says that:
7		"Overly, I wasn't surprised. Those
8		were two things I was frustrated
9		about, but generally, I thought it
10		was a pretty accurate description of
11		what we had conversation about.
12		So it's confirmed by Mr. Mather that:
13		"The two (2) things you're
14		frustrated about was the opinion and
15		the provincial Conflict of Interest
16		Act."
17		And he asked her:
18		"Can you just expand on why you're
19		concerned about the word "opinion"?"
20		And she went on on page 55 to express
21	the following:	
22		"I personally believe that it made
23		it look like it was more of a legal
24		interpretation I was providing by
25		putting the word "opinion" in
1		

	39
1	there."
2	And Mr. Mather continued:
3	"And you had expressed to
4	Mr. Bonwick that you weren't
5	providing a legal opinion."
6	And her response:
7	"Correct."
8	And then she was asked about the
9	provincial Conflict of Interest Act, and she said:
10	"Well, I don't speak to anything
11	except for the Municipal Conflict of
12	Interest Act."
13	And then she was asked the following:
14	"Did anything else concern you about
15	this email?"
16	And her response was:
17	"No. In hindsight, it seemed okay
18	because I was basically what he had
19	described as his services were. He
20	didn't detail what the services were
21	in the response, but I took his
22	services different than Mr. Bentz
23	and John Glicksman would have taken
24	his services."
25	And I indicated to you earlier that

- 1 she'd had some reference to the document, and I think
- 2 essentially that's what you're saying today that if
- 3 what was disclosed is represented -- is as
- 4 represented -- is represented by Ms. Almas that you
- 5 would have been disappointed with that.
- 6 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 7 MR. GEORGE MARRON: It's not full and
- 8 complete, and it's not the nature type of disclosure
- 9 that you and the three (3) mayors were talking
- 10 about -- transparency and yeah... Yes?
- 11 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay. So she goes
- 13 on into page 56, Your Honour, on line 19. She was
- 14 asked the question by Mr. Mather:
- "Now having seen Mr. Bonwick's
- 16 retainer with PowerStream --"
- 17 That's the June 7, 2011 retainer
- 18 agreement:
- 19 "Now having seen Mr. Bonwick's
- 20 retainer with PowerStream, do you
- 21 think that was a fair
- 22 characterization?"
- 23 And her response is no. Just -- just
- 24 to tie that in, we should perhaps go back up to the
- 25 top of the page. It says -- Mr. Mather indicated:

```
41
                      "You understood as services so --
 1
 2
                      yeah -- based on what Mr. Bonwick
                      had described what services would
 3
                      be, was this a fair characterization
 5
                      for him to write that you had "quite
                      clear" that there was no conflict of
 6
                      interest based on my company's
 7
                      relationship with PowerStream?"
                   And you'd agree -- well, I've asked you
 9
10
   that and --
11
                   THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: I was
   going to say I think you've covered that.
13
                   MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah, I did.
14
15
                      (BRIEF PAUSE)
16
   CONTINUED BY MR. GEORGE MARRON:
17
18
                   MR. GEORGE MARRON: And then on
19
   page 57 just to nail this down if you'll indulge me,
   Your Honour, part of her answer -- beginning at
   line 4:
21
22
                      "Do I think that if I knew the full
23
                      extent of what the services were, I
24
                      may have responded differently?"
2.5
                   And she said:
```

```
42
                      "I'm not so sure."
 1
 2
                   And then she goes on to say:
 3
                      "The biggest thing that I'm
                      frustrated that I didn't do which
 5
                      you can see later on, I actually
 6
                      bring this to the attention of our
                      CAO at the time."
 7
                   And there's some indication in the
   documents, Mr. Bentz, that on the 6th of June, she
   sent an email to the CAO:
10
11
                      "Because it was concerning me a
12
                      little bit as I wish I had responded
13
                      just -- just be clear that this is
14
                      not a legal opinion or an
15
                      interpretation or a legal advice."
16
                   So it's an indication, I'd submit, that
    is capable of an interpretation that she regretted
17
18
   that she didn't respond. You agree with that?
19
                   MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Your Honour, in
   my respectful submission, this isn't a proper question
20
   asking this witness to interpret in support of an
21
22
   argument.
23
                   MR. GEORGE MARRON:
                                         Okay.
```

- 24 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO:
- agree with you, Mr. Watson.

43 1 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay. 2 3 (BRIEF PAUSE) CONTINUED BY MR. GEORGE MARRON: 6 MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right. I'll 7 move on. And then she was asked further down at 8 the bottom of this page, Your Honour, at line 23, and 10 this was something. 11 "At this point in time, wasn't it unusual for someone who wasn't a 12 13 member of Council to be coming to 14 you asking question about the 15 Municipal Conflict of Interest Act?" 16 And she acknowledged that that would be rare and had acknowledged that she couldn't think of 17 18 another occasion when it occurred -- indicated it'd be 19 very rare. I take it you're not in any position to give an indication one way or the other. Just --21 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: 22 don't think -- I don't see how this witness could know 23 that. 24 MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right. Thank 25 you. So if -- if I may, Your Honour, I'd like to go

 $4\,4$

1 to document TOC49090.

- 3 CONTINUED BY MR. GEORGE MARRON
- 4 MR. GEORGE MARRON: And this is the
- 5 email of June 2nd, from Mr. Bonwick to yourself and
- 6 Mr. Glicksman, and this is the email that copies Sara
- 7 Almas.
- 8 Let's -- can we pull that -- scroll
- 9 that up, please?
- 10 And it indicates on the face of the --
- 11 of the email, the copy to Sara Almas, and I would
- 12 refer -- we'll just refer to that, but I'd ask -- I'd
- 13 ask that page -- the transcript of April 15th, 2019,
- 14 page 59 be brought up, Your Honour.
- If I could go half-way down the page,
- 16 this -- yeah, I -- I neglected to -- to bring out,
- 17 Your Honour, with document TOC49090 that Sara Almas
- 18 forwarded the June 2nd email to Kim Wingrove.
- Just scroll up on that.
- 20 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: I
- 21 think you told Mr. Bentz that, so --
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: No, I didn't. I
- 23 neglected to do that, I'm sorry. I missed that.
- 24 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: All
- 25 right.

1 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yes, yes, I didn't

- 2 tell him that.
- 3 There is a -- this is -- yes, there it
- 4 is, Sara Almas to Kim Wingrove and it's dated the 6th
- 5 of June. I -- I indicated to him just generally that
- 6 there was this communication by Sara Almas with Ms.
- 7 Wingrove on the 6th of June, but this is an indication
- 8 that she's sending the attachment on to Kim Wingrove
- 9 with the letters FYI, which would be for your
- 10 information. Do you agree?
- 11 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Well,
- 12 I -- I think it speaks for itself, Mr. Marron, I
- 13 really do.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah.
- 15 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: And
- 16 your statement --
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah, no, I
- 18 appreciate the constraints of time here.
- 19 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: And
- 20 the witness testified, Ms. Almas testified she
- 21 forwarded it on and -- and -- and Mr. Bentz would have
- 22 no knowledge of this email.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Thank you.
- 24
- 25 CONTINUED BY MR. GEORGE MARRON

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1
                   MR. GEORGE MARRON: So just getting
   back, if we could then, to the transcript of April
   15th at page 59.
 3
                   If we could go down to line 12, yes,
   there we go. Thank you.
 6
                   So Mr. Mather questioned:
                      "What did Ms. Wingrove say about the
 7
                      email?"
                   And the indication is:
 9
10
                      "We had a brief conversation, I
11
                      recollect, as I said, you know, I
12
                      did have this conversation, Mr.
13
                      Bonwick, and I wanted to bring this
14
                      to your attention. And I remember
15
                      saying, you know, like technically
16
                      he's not saying that I'm giving
17
                      legal advice, and I remember having
18
                      a conversation is this, you know,
                      one of the battles that we should
19
20
                      engage in or not engage in. And we
21
                      -- it was collectively after the
22
                      conversation determined that it
23
                      would remain unanswered."
                   So this is some indication to you, Mr.
24
   Bentz, that the fact that there was -- there being no
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- 1 response to the email, which she was copied, that this
- 2 discussion was ongoing in the Town of Collingwood
- 3 offices?
- 4 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Your Honour,
- 5 there's no indication --
- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO:
- 7 There's no -- there's no indication that Mr. Bentz
- 8 knows this.
- 9 MR. GEORGE MARRON: No.
- 10 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: I get
- 11 that.
- 12 MR. GEORGE MARRON: No. Okay.
- 13 So if we could go to the next page. I
- 14 don't want to be belabouring this, Your Honour, but
- 15 it's an indication that the discussion involved does
- 16 this warrant a response, basically, I think was -- was
- 17 basically our conversation.
- 18 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: I
- 19 think so. And that -- that was her testimony and she
- 20 said she wished she had responded. But Mr. Bentz is
- 21 not privy to conversation --
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: No, no, I
- 23 appreciate that. I appreciate --
- 24 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: He's
- 25 got nothing to do with it.

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1 MR. GEORGE MARRON: No, I appreciate
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- 2 that, but it may have and I suggest it does have
- 3 something to do with the -- the judgment or the
- 4 decision that appears to have been made by the persons
- 5 who are monitoring this whole matter of disclosure on
- 6 behalf of PowerStream.
- 7 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: I -- I
- 8 agree with that, but I think it's a matter -- that
- 9 would be a matter since -- since Mr. Bentz has no
- 10 personal knowledge of it, it seems to me that's a
- 11 matter of argument then.
- 12 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yes. Well, I
- 13 appreciate that as well and -- yes.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

- 17 MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right, then I
- 18 -- I'd -- and we have -- could I just have your
- 19 indulgence, we may have, just in light of the
- 20 indication.

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 24 MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right, I'll --
- 25 I'll leave the subject matter then of Ms. Almas and

- 1 I'd -- I'd like to move on, Your Honour, to a document
- 2 ALE136.

3

- 4 CONTINUED BY MR. GEORGE MARRON
- 5 MR. GEORGE MARRON: This -- this is
- 6 the draft of the -- of the -- what turned out to be
- 7 the June 2 letter, and this was the draft that was
- 8 emailed to PowerStream on the 18th of May, 2011.
- 9 All right. So we're now dealing with
- 10 Sandra Cooper and she -- I'd refer Your Honour to --
- 11 if that could be -- would you -- would you like to
- 12 review that, or -- Mr. Bentz?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- 14 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay, you're all
- 15 right. Okay.
- 16 Could we then turn to the transcript of
- 17 April 25th of 2019, Your Honour, at page 65?

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 21 MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right. This
- 22 is -- Ms. Cooper is being cross-examined by William
- 23 McDowell and if we could scroll up to line 13. Thank
- 24 you.
- 25 I'm sorry, if we could go to line 8,

```
50
   just -- yes, we have that, yes, yes. Yes, I'm sorry.
 2
                   So Mr. McDowell puts the question:
 3
                      "So there you are to acknowledge to
                      Mr. Bentz that you say Mr. Bonwick's
 5
                      responsibilities could potentially
 6
                      incorporate advice relating to the
                      Town of Collingwood."
                   And her response is "That's correct."
                   And Mr. McDowell continues:
 9
10
                      "All right, and at the time that you
11
                      were sending this, this is the
12
                      letter of June 2nd, you are to send
13
                      this letter, you know that there's a
14
                      transaction contemplated involving
15
                      Collus Power?"
16
                   She says "Yes".
17
                      "And you know that PowerStream is
18
                      going to be one of the bidders,
19
                      correct, or expected they'll be one
                      of the bidders?"
20
21
                   And her response was:
22
                      "I would expect they would be."
23
                   Mr. McDowell continues on page 66 and
24 he asked in the Foundation Document, paragraph 189
   that -- an indication that Mr. Bonwick, in his
25
```

- 1 correspondence with you, indicated that he wrote a
- 2 letter with the thought of public disclosure if ever
- 3 required, at least the draft of the letter.
- 4 Do you see that?
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 6 MR. GEORGE MARRON: And she's asked:
- 7 "I appreciate it, that you weren't
- 8 copied on this email, but that was
- 9 your understanding of this letter,
- 10 was to provide cover for PowerStream
- if this relationship ever became
- 12 public, correct?"
- 13 And her response was, "Yes." Then he's
- 14 asked to -- paragraph 197, which is the text of the
- 15 letter which we reviewed. And she identifies that as
- 16 being the text of the letter and the letter sent on
- 17 June the 2nd.
- 18 And then Mr. McDowell indicates:
- 19 "Which is substantially in the form
- of the draft Mr. Bonwick had given
- 21 you."
- I don't know that there's any evidence
- 23 on that, but that is what the question was. And she
- 24 indicated, "Yes." Mr. McDowell then indicated, "Well,
- 25 the scrolling down -- stop there." And he indicates:

	Transcript Date June 3, 2019
	52
1	"I would emphasize you say in your
2	letter that, should you choose to
3	engage Compenso in some manner of
4	service, it should be based entirely
5	on the merits of the proposal and
6	completely unrelated to its
7	relationship with me and that in my
8	office, right?"
9	And she responds, "Yes." And then he -
10	- Mr. McDowell continues.
11	"My understanding of your evidence
12	is that you've made no inquiries of
13	Mr. Bonwick about the type of advice
14	he was going to be going to be
15	getting to PowerStream."
16	Her response:
17	"I I felt it was public relations
18	and communications."
19	Mr. McDowell:
20	"Those were that was what the
21	advice and what the services were
22	going to be as understood it?"
23	And her response, "That's what I
24	understand, yes." Mr. McDowell, "But you made no
25	inquiries." And her comment answer was, "That is

```
correct."
 2
                   And if we could just continue over on
   page 68. Mr. McDowell:
                      "And as I understood your evidence,
 5
                      the reason for that was that you
 6
                      have a reticence about asking your
                      siblings about how they earn their
                      income, right?
                      Yes."
 9
10
                   And he goes on at line 16:
11
                      "Let me ask you this. When you
12
                      wrote your letter did you give any
13
                      independent thought as to the
14
                      content of your letter or did you
15
                      just look at his and say that looks
16
                      fine, I'll sign off on that?"
17
                   Her response was:
18
                      "I looked at his letter and thought
19
                      it was fine to sign at the time."
20
                   Now, obviously, this would be something
    significantly less than what you would expect by way
21
22
   of disclosure? There's no indication --
23
                   THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Well,
24
   I -- I think Mr. Bentz was about to answer your
25 question.
```

- 1 CONTINUED BY MR. GEORGE MARRON:
- 2 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Sorry, I didn't
- 3 mean to interrupt.
- 4 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I had reviewed the
- 5 letter with --
- 6 MR. GEORGE MARRON: I'm sorry?
- 7 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I had reviewed the
- 8 letter with --
- 9 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yeah.
- 10 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: -- Mr. Bonwick and
- 11 was satisfied with it.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right. You
- 13 were asked -- you were asked the other day about the
- 14 fact of whether you gave any thought to the fact that
- 15 -- that Mr. Bonwick and Mayor Cooper were brother and
- 16 sister and whether there might be some influence one
- 17 could exercise over the other.
- And do you recall that?
- 19 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: We were concerned
- 20 about the optics of the nature of the relationship.
- 21 MR. GEORGE MARRON: I -- I take it by
- 22 -- on -- at no point in time that you could recall had
- 23 you met Mayor Cooper prior to the 2nd of June, 2011?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: No. And you

```
didn't make any inquiry of Mr. Bonwick as to his
 2 relationship with his sister?
 3
                   MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No, other than
   his...
 5
 6
                          (BRIEF PAUSE)
                  MR. GEORGE MARRON: Now, if we could
   just con -- could continue with the transcript of
   April 25 and go to page 74, Your Honour. Once again,
10
11
   this is in reference to the -- to the June 7, 2011,
   PowerStream retainer letter.
12
13
                   And this has got to do with the
14
   warranty and the representation clause. And, once
15
   again, Sandra Cooper is being cross-examined by Mr.
   William McDowell. At line 12, Ms. -- Mr. McDowell
16
17
   presents as follows.
                      "Bonwick represents and warrants
18
19
                      that he has disclosed the scope of
20
                     his services and his retainer by
21
                      PowerStream to the mayor and clerk
22
                      of the Town of Collingwood. Do you
```

A. Yes, I do see that.

And I understand your evidence --

see that?

23

24

2.5

		56
1		you understood that he was going to
2		be acting for PowerStream but only
3		in public relations activities?"
4		And her response:
5		"Public relations communications,
6		that was what I understood."
7		Mr. McDowell:
8		"Well, can we agree then that Mr.
9		Bonwick did not disclose the scope
10		of his these activities as this
11		required him to do?"
12		Her response:
13		"I had not seen financials or that
14		detailed scope."
15		Mr. McDowell:
16		"All right. But if he was supposed
17		to disclose the scope of his
18		activities, he didn't do that, did
19		he?"
20		And her response, "Correct, that is
21	right."	
22		
23		(BRIEF PAUSE)
24		
25		MR. GEORGE MARRON: It's disappoint to

- 1 hear this, I suggest?
- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: But --
- 3 but really, I -- I don't know what -- Mr. Bentz may
- 4 think it's disappointing. I --
- 5 MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right.
- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: But,
- 7 you know.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay. Well, I'll
- 9 -- I'll continue on. I've got just one (1) further
- 10 area, and this is the area dealing with Kim Wingrove,
- 11 Your Honour.
- 12 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Go
- 13 ahead, Mr. Marron.
- 14 MR. GEORGE MARRON: And I'd like to
- 15 pull up document TOC49604.

16

17 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 19 CONTINUED BY MR. GEORGE MARRON:
- 20 MR. GEORGE MARRON: If we could scroll
- 21 down to the bottom. Okay. I -- I've indicated to
- 22 you, Mr. Bentz, that Kim Wingrove was the CAO of the
- 23 Town of Collingwood.
- 24 This is an email that is sent on the
- 25 10th of June, 2011, to her by Paul Bonwick asking if

```
he could meet with her, and scroll -- if we could
   scroll down, and an indication that the meeting was
   going to occur at 8:30 or 9:00 on a Tuesday morning
   and -- and a confirmation of Mr. Bonwick to that.
 5
                   Now, just in relation to -- could we
   scroll up? See that -- yeah, all the way up. Thank
   you. So, in his initial request for a meeting, if
 7
   you'd look at the second -- well, I wouldn't say
   paragraph, but the second sentence, "I would like" --
   do you see that:
10
11
                      I would like to discuss a company
12
                      that I've recently started to
13
                      provide services. The purpose of
14
                      the meeting is to provide
15
                      disclosure."
                  See that?
16
17
                  MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
18
                  MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay, so. And if
19
   we could go to the transcript of April 16, at page
20
   237.
2.1
22
                          (BRIEF PAUSE)
23
24
                  MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay. And if we
25 could -- this just puts this into context, Mr. Bentz.
```

- 1 It indicates it's a reference to Ms. Almas forwarding
- 2 an email on the 6th of June to -- to Ms. Wingrove, an
- 3 indication, further down, that -- that, "Mr. Bonwick
- 4 asked for a meeting with myself."
- 5 This is -- this is Ms. Wingrove being
- 6 examined by commission counsel. And it indicates
- 7 towards the bottom of the page:
- 8 "I likely would have spoken to Sara
- 9 about the fact that Paul was looking
- for a meeting."
- 11 There was some indication as to whether
- 12 she had any recollection of receiving any email from
- 13 Sara Almas. And it makes reference here to paragraph
- 14 200 of the Foundation Document. But -- and we just --
- 15 we've just reviewed that. That was the email that
- 16 Paul Bonwick sent to you on the 10th of June. This is
- 17 from page 239, Your Honour.
- 18 And an indication in the text of the
- 19 question by Ms. McGrann. He says that:
- "The purpose of the meeting is to
- 21 provide disclosure, as well as
- 22 propose an additional meeting. We
- can see from the email
- 24 correspondence that you agree, and
- you suggested a date. They met.

	60
1	And what can you tell us about the
2	meeting?"
3	And her response was:
4	"It was short."
5	"And what else can you tell us?"
6	Her continuing answer is:
7	"Simply that Mr. Bonwick attended my
8	office. He indicated he would be
9	doing some work with PowerStream
10	with regard to assisting them with
11	the communications in government
12	relations work as it related to this
13	idea of the utilities needing to
14	amalgamate."
15	She was asked if anybody else was at
16	the meeting and indicated not. She was asked:
17	"Did you understand why he was
18	coming to speak to you about this?"
19	And she said:
20	"Not not clearly. I was as I
21	say, I didn't have a very deeper
22	collegial relationship with
23	Mr. Bonwick. I tended to keep my
24	interactions with him quite
25	prescriptive. So I took the
1	

	61
1	information that he gave me at face
2	value. I would say at this point,
3	it would have been prudent for me to
4	ask a lot more questions than I
5	did."
6	Ms. McGrann asked:
7	"Well, other than what you've just
8	said, is there any other is there
9	any reason why you didn't ask him
10	more questions?"
11	And her indication was:
12	"I really didn't read anything into
13	it at the time. Compenso was a
14	communications company."
15	And that that's your understanding
16	as well. Compenso is a communication company.
17	MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
18	MR. GEORGE MARRON:
19	"That's what they did. And so the
20	fact that he was going to do this
21	work he was going to do it with a
22	utility that neighbored our own and
23	that we had some interaction with.
24	I didn't take that to be anything I
25	needed to be overly concerned about
1	

62 at the time." 1 2 And she goes on to indicate: "Do you recall --" 3 This is at line 18 on page 241 of the transcript: 6 "Do you recall if you had an understanding or formed a belief about what he would be doing based 9 on his conversation with you?" 10 And her response was: 11 "Not in any depth or detail." She was asked: 12 "And did this conversation cause any 13 14 concerns for you?" And she said: 15 16 "Always." 17 And Ms. McGrann said: 18 "Well, can you explain what you mean by that?" 19 20 And she goes on to indicate that: 21 "I knew that when certain 22 individuals approach me because it 23 wasn't our normal practice for 24 certain people to come and just 2.5 speak to me at length and toss it

		63	3
	1	around. If they came to me	
	2	specifically, it was highly likely	
	3	there was a reason why they were	
	4	coming to talk to me, and they	
	5	wanted to be able to say I talked to	
	6	Kate."	
	7	She goes on to say in the question	
	8	was:	
	9	"How did you come to form that	
-	10	opinion of what was happening when	
-	11	people were coming to meet you? Why	
-	12	did you believe that?"	
-	13	Her response was:	
-	14	"Because it had been on more than	
-	15	one occasion where as a particular	
-	16	initiative advance and then would	
-	17	be, say, well, you know, I talked to	
-	18	you about this, or you said that	
-	19	something was okay. But, you know,	
2	20	finding out that I hadn't been	
2	21	provided with a full disclosure of	
2	22	what was actually going on or what	
2	23	actual relationships were	
2	24	underpinning that particular	
2	25	initiative."	

	64
1	She's asked:
2	"Did you speak to anybody else about
3	the meeting you had with
4	Mr. Bonwick?"
5	She indicated in her response that:
6	"I know that when he left my office,
7	I went back went to Sara's office
8	just to say that Paul was just here,
9	and this is what he told me, and I
10	really wonder what it is I'm
11	supposed to do with this
12	information."
13	She was asked:
14	"Do you remember what Sara said back
15	to you?"
16	And her response was:
17	"She certainly didn't have any more
18	information for me to to further
19	enlighten me."
20	And she was asked:
21	"Beyond the conversation that you
22	had with Ms. Almas, did you do
23	anything else in response or further
24	to the meeting you had with
25	Mr. Bonwick?"

- 1 And her response:
- "No, I did not. But as I say, I was
- not at that point deeply troubled by
- 4 this. I didn't see there were any
- 5 kind of grave implications for the
- 6 Town."
- 7 So I suggest to you that once again,
- 8 we're looking at a situation here where there doesn't
- 9 appear to have been disclosure made in -- along the
- 10 lines that you would have anticipated the disclosure
- 11 to be made, you and the three (3) mayors. I'm sorry?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: And just on the
- 14 final -- we are getting there, Your Honour, if I could
- 15 ask that ALE192 be brought up. This is the --
- 16 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: The
- 17 word "final," I think was --
- 18 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Pardon?
- 19 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: The
- 20 word "final" was encouraging actually.
- 21 MR. GEORGE MARRON: I'm not -- okay.
- 22 Okay.
- 23
- 24 CONTINUED BY MR. GEORGE MARRON:
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: So she was

```
asked -- I'm going to refer to the transcript.
   all familiar with this document. Do you want to --
   this is the transcript then of the 18th of April,
 3
   2019, Your Honour, page 10.
 5
 6
                      (BRIEF PAUSE)
                   MR. GEORGE MARRON: But just while
   we're pulling that up, Mr. Bentz, Ms. Wingrove, the
   CAO, was asked if she'd ever seen this contract
10
11
   before -- the June 7 retainer letter, and she
12
   acknowledged that, on line 11:
13
                      "No, I did not."
14
                   And she was asked:
15
                      "Did you see this letter at any
16
                      point between the 7th of June 2011
17
                      and July 31st, 2012?"
18
                   Which was the date of the closing of
   the transaction. And she indicated:
19
20
                      "No, I did not."
21
                   She was then taken down through the
22
   agreement, and I'm not going to do that. But I'd like
   to indicate that in reference to -- and I'm looking at
24
   page 11, Your Honour, line 12. And the -- this is in
   reference to the M&A objective clause:
```

	67
1	"At any point between June 2011 and
2	July 2012, did Mr. Bonwick or anyone
3	else disclose to you that
4	Mr. Bonwick was retained to assist
5	PowerStream in achieving its M&A
6	objectives"
7	That's merger and acquisition, M&A:
8	" objectives with respect to other
9	local distribution companies?"
10	And her indication:
11	"I don't recall those specific terms
12	ever being used."
13	Question:
14	"Do you recall that concept being
15	disclosed to you?"
16	And her response is:
17	"I mentioned earlier my meeting with
18	Mr. Bonwick was very brief. He
19	informed me"
20	This is over yeah:
21	"He informed me that he'd been
22	engaged by PowerStream and would be
23	working with them. The extent and
24	the exact natures of those
25	activities was not clear to me."

```
1
                   Further down, she was questioned in
   relation to the two (2) bullet points basic on the
   scope of work, the two (2) bullet points under the --
 3
   the scope of work in the first:
                      "Did Mr. Bonwick disclose --"
 5
 6
                   This is line 16 on page 12:
                      "-- Mr. Bonwick disclose that he
                      would be doing the kinds of
 9
                      activities that are set out in the
10
                      first two (2) bullet points here to
11
                      you at any point between June 2011
12
                      and July 2012?"
13
                   Her response:
                      "No, he did not."
14
15
                   If we could scroll down to page 13,
    she's asked with respect to the other two (2) bullet
   points, and this goes back to the -- to the June 7
17
18
   agreement, but it had to do assisting in the
19
   preparation of proposals -- recall that. He says:
20
                      "Assisting in the preparation of
21
                      proposals that PowerStream intends
22
                      to submit was absolutely not
23
                      discussed with me. As I mentioned,
24
                      the specific mergers and
2.5
                      acquisitions term was never used in
```

```
a conversation with me."
 1
 2
                   Then methodologies and deliverables
   over on page 14, would you take a look at those. Mr.
 3
   -- I'm sorry, Ms. McGrann set out the Bonwick shall
   undertake the following, build the case, enhance the
   profile, develop a personalized contact program.
 7
   Would you take a look at those and let us know if at
   any point between June 2011 and July 2012 this
   information was disclosed to you?"
10
                   Her response "No, it was not."
11
                   Then I'll ask if decision -- key
12
   decision makers -- I'll ask you the same question
13
   about those two paragraphs. Her response:
14
                      "Certainly not the access key
15
                      decision-makers point and the terms
16
                      issues monitoring was never used
17
                      either."
18
                   Further on page 15, an indication as to
19
   CCI in contact with Municipal government leaders and
   acting as your early warning system and our
    intelligence gathering. You recall that? I'm sorry?
21
22
                   MR. BRIAN BENTZ:
                                    Yes.
23
                   MR. GEORGE MARRON: Was that disclosed
24
   to you in her response, middle of the page Your
```

Honour, was no it was not.

	70
1	Then she's asked:
2	"If this information had been
3	disclosed to you at any point between June 2011 and
4	July 31st, 2012, what would your reaction to it have
5	been?"
6	She said in her response:
7	"I would have been, I think,
8	extremely concerned that the idea of
9	being retained to provide access to
10	municipal officials, especially in a
11	time when there was a potential for
12	a transaction between the parties,
13	that that simply would not have
14	passed my own perception of what was
15	correct and I think I would have
16	made that known, that was just not
17	possible to do."
18	And she goes on:
19	"I would have if I can continue, I
20	would have definitely engaged with
21	the Town's legal counsel, and if
22	that had been brought to my
23	attention and would have asked for
24	their advice about how best to
25	proceed."

71 And her indication and when you refer 1 to the Town's legal counsel, who are you referring to? 3 And her response: "Aird & Berlis, Leo Longo and John 5 Mascarin, two -- two persons who are different from the clerk." 6 7 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Well, yes. 9 MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right. Then finally I -- I wanted to refer Your Honour to the 10 11 transcript of April 18th, 2019 and page 6. This is the final -- final reference. 12 13 14 (BRIEF PAUSE) 15 16 MR. GEORGE MARRON: So this -- this 17 relates to the June 22 invitation to the -- the 18 meeting that you and Jeff Lehman attended on the 29th 19 of June here in Collingwood. He indicates her 20 recollection of who was there. 21 She indicates: 22 "What can you tell us about that 23 meeting?" 24 And she indicates: 2.5 "I'm afraid my memory of that

	72
1	particular meeting is not very
2	fulsome. I recall it took place. I
3	recall it was of an introductory
4	nature and there were discussions of
5	the PowerStream company and the work
6	that they did."
7	And Ms. McGrann indicates:
8	"I'd like to explore your memory of
9	this meeting a little bit further.
10	Before you attended the meeting,
11	what did you understand the purpose
12	of the meeting was?"
13	And her indication:
14	"It was an introduction. It was a
15	meeting to introduce these folks to
16	us. It was not the specific
17	purpose of it was not entirely clear
18	to me, but this would not have been
19	necessarily a unique situation"
20	Because she indicates at times she's
21	called into meetings, sometimes on short notice
22	without having been fully briefed on the nature of it.
23	"It was, I guess, meant that it
24	would become clear."
25	She was asked:
1	

	73
1	"Do you remember asking yourself at
2	the time while you're being called
3	to an introductory meeting with
4	PowerStream?"
5	And her response:
6	"I wish that my memory was more
7	precise on this matter. Certainly,
8	you know, given the earlier
9	discussion", and she makes reference
10	to a discussion with Mr. Houghton
11	moving forward with some further
12	thoughts, but with regard to Collus
13	I made some assumptions that there
14	wouldn't be some relationship, but
15	it certainly was not clear to me
16	that there was a specific purpose to
17	this meeting."
18	And she was asked if she could recall
19	who else attended the meeting and she indicated in her
20	response "Ed", being Ed Houghton, I thought your
21	response was he was not there.
22	MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Correct.
23	MR. GEORGE MARRON: And nor was Paul
24	Bonwick there at the meeting?
25	MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I don't think so.

```
MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right.
 1
                   She indicated she didn't recall Mr.
 2
   Muncaster being there. And that's -- you do recall
 3
   him there, I believe that was your evidence.
                   MR. BRIAN BENTZ:
 5
                   MR. GEORGE MARRON: She said -- she
 6
 7
   was asked by Ms. McGrann then on page 8, Your Honour,
   line 13 -- line 10:
 9
                      "Is there anything else you can tell
10
                      us about what was said at the
11
                      meeting?"
12
                   And her response:
13
                      "It's not -- it's -- it was not a
14
                      meeting that stuck out in my mind as
15
                      providing any information that was
16
                      concerning to me or of a various
17
                      specific nature."
18
                   If we could then -- Ms. McGrann says:
19
                      "Okay, you mentioned this morning
20
                      the meeting you had with Mr.
21
                      Houghton where he discussed
22
                      potential options for Collus Power.
23
                      The last time we were here you
24
                      talked about a meeting you had with
2.5
                      Mr. Bonwick where he let you know
```

- 1 that he'd be doing some work for
- 2 PowerStream."
- And we all agree on that, I mean, he --
- 4 but it was the nature of the work and the disclosure
- 5 of that that was causing -- which was the issue to be
- 6 -- to be resolved.
- 7 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: The
- 8 difficulty -- the difficulty I'm having is that's a
- 9 question that I can understand, but I don't know that
- 10 there's been any question put to Mr. Bentz about the
- 11 various portions of the transcript that we just went
- 12 through.
- 13 And -- and I'm just not clear -- I
- 14 appreciate your calling his attention to it, and
- 15 that's giving him some context, but I'm assuming that
- 16 there was a question related to that?
- 17 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yes. Yes, I -- I
- 18 asked him some questions at the outset, or I -- on
- 19 Friday afternoon and I -- I'll come back to that.
- 20 That's the intent.
- 21 But I wanted to gi -- get through this
- 22 so I could refer to it. So thank you.
- 23
- 24 CONTINUED BY MR. GEORGE MARRON
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: So if I could

- 1 continue. You talked about a meeting you had with Mr.
- 2 Bonwick where he let you know he'd be doing some work
- 3 for PowerStream.
- 4 At any time after you were invited to
- 5 this meeting, do you draw any connections in your mind
- 6 between your meeting with Mr. Bonwick about
- 7 PowerStream, your meeting with Mr. Houghton about
- 8 Collus Power, and this meeting that you attended with
- 9 representatives of PowerStream?
- 10 And your response, certainly I think as
- 11 I mentioned when I spoke the last time, it was
- 12 something that would give you -- it gave me some
- 13 pause, but again, without the benefit of any other
- 14 information, I really did at that point think that Mr.
- 15 Bonwick intended to do as he said he would, which was
- 16 to provide communication advice to PowerStream. It
- 17 didn't go further than that.
- 18 And she was asked did you speak to
- 19 anybody about this meeting after you attended it, and
- 20 her response, I don't believe so.
- 21 And her -- the question did you take
- 22 any specific steps in response to having attended this
- 23 meeting, no, I did not.
- 24 So I -- as I indicated to His Honour, I
- 25 asked you some questions on Friday afternoon as to

- 1 your recollection and the fact that there's not aid to
- 2 memory in the form of a note or anything such as that,
- 3 and you recall the meeting and your indication was
- 4 that you -- you went to the meeting and it was an
- 5 informal sort of thing in the sense -- or was it? Am
- 6 I being -- I don't want to chara -- I don't want to
- 7 mischaracterize it, but --
- 8 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I think I used the
- 9 word "informal", yes.
- 10 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Yes, okay. All
- 11 right. So -- and the meeting lasted for -- can you
- 12 give us some indication?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: It was probably
- 14 under an hour. Around an hour.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay, all right.
- 16 And -- and your evidence on Friday you
- 17 told us what you recalled about that meeting.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Well, the meeting
- 19 was -- was important to us and it followed the
- 20 evolution of our discussions with Mr. Bonwick around
- 21 our concern around disclosure.
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: And it was
- 23 important to you, you indicated that your recollection
- 24 was that Sandra Cooper was the first, there were some
- 25 short addresses that were given and she was the first

- 1 to address everyone.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 3 MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right. And it
- 4 was a short address, I take it?
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Relatively short.
- 6 MR. GEORGE MARRON: As would your
- 7 response be a -- I take it?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No. So, again, I go
- 9 back to the discussion on April 13th with the Mayors
- 10 making it very clear that disclosure was important to
- 11 us.
- 12 Mr. Bonwick's response to that was I
- 13 suggest a meeting and -- and again, used the words if
- 14 the RFP scenario unfolds was the exact words that he
- 15 used.
- 16 And in -- and then as a result of that,
- 17 I thought that was a good idea, we thought that was a
- 18 good idea, as a result of that he drafted the letter
- 19 for the Mayor's consideration and it -- and it talked
- 20 about it could have been more clear in terms of what
- 21 the letter actually described, but it did say that she
- 22 had been informed that he was -- PowerStream was
- 23 considering hiring him, the nature of the services
- 24 included certain things, including acquisitions, the
- 25 word "acquisitions" was used, and that if -- if

- 1 something evolves, something in the Town of
- 2 Collingwood over the next several months, there should
- 3 be a meeting to describe his services in more detail.
- I took that to mean because he ex -- he
- 5 said it in the April 20th meeting, the RFP.
- 6 So that's how I entered into the
- 7 meeting, talking about that. It followed from the
- 8 April 20th memo that he sent to me and the letter that
- 9 Mayor Cooper signed on June 2nd.
- 10 And then I now understand that on June
- 11 27th there was a meeting at Council that talked about
- 12 the RFP.
- So I think it would have been -- I -- I
- 14 think in the minds of the people at the table, and we
- 15 described our services with respect to that and I
- 16 wanted to get in -- we wanted to get feedback in that
- 17 regard to say do you have a problem with it. And I
- 18 think I gave testimony to say I remember it was either
- 19 Deputy Mayor Lloyd or Mr. Muncaster saying, if
- 20 anything, because of Mr. Bonwick's knowledge of the
- 21 community, it would help you in your -- in your
- 22 response, response to the RFP.
- That's my recollection.
- 24 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Okay, so you're --
- 25 you're -- you're saying that -- that you had knowledge

- 1 of what the Town of Collingwood Council did on the
- 2 27th of June?
- 3 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No. No, I'm saying
- 4 I know that now, in retrospect. In ret -- at the time
- 5 I did not. But in retrospect, now I know that they
- 6 had that meeting, it's in the Foundational document.
- 7 MR. GEORGE MARRON: Well the -- the
- 8 Council meeting couldn't have in any way influenced
- 9 you referencing the -- the meeting of June 29th?
- 10 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No. At the time,
- 11 no.
- 12 MR. GEORGE MARRON: All right, thank
- 13 you.
- 14 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Maybe
- 15 we'll take the break. Are --
- MR. GEORGE MARRON: Thanks, those are
- 17 my questions. Thank you.
- 18 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Oh,
- 19 you're complete. Well, in that case this is a good
- 20 time to take the break.
- 21
- 22 -- Upon recessing at 11:33 a.m.
- 23 --- Upon resuming at 11:42 a.m.
- 24
- 25 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. TIM FRYER:

- 1 MR. TIM FRYER: Justice Marrocco.
- 2 Hello, Mr. Bentz. As a matter of record, my name is
- 3 Tim Fryer, and I'm representing myself during these
- 4 proceedings.
- 5 At this point, I will include some
- 6 review of your last Friday's testimony to help
- 7 familiarize you and add some context for my questions.
- 8 Your testimony spoke of believing PowerStream had a
- 9 good reputation of how PowerStream does mergers and
- 10 acquisitions, and the importance of full disclosure,
- 11 correct?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Correct.
- 13 MR. TIM FRYER: You outlined that
- 14 PowerStream has a corporate growth strategy, and that
- 15 the strategic partnership was predicated on a growth
- 16 strategy for Collus PowerStream as well, correct?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Correct.
- 18 MR. TIM FRYER: You testified from
- 19 PowerStream focus, the overriding reason to seek the
- 20 partnership was the opportunity for further regional
- 21 acquisitions, because Collus being a member of CHEC,
- 22 correct?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Correct.
- 24 MR. TIM FRYER: And in conjunction
- 25 with that point, your September 19th, 2011

- 1 presentation speaking notes indicate an early mover
- 2 premium could be provided to Collus for being a first
- 3 CHEC LDC, and that Collingwood could be the hub of the
- 4 region, correct?
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Correct.
- 6 MR. TIM FRYER: Do you recall if the
- 7 premium was incorporated in the PowerStream proposal?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 9 MR. TIM FRYER: Could you elaborate on
- 10 what you felt it was?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: We engaged BDR, John
- 12 McNeil, to do an independent valuation. We had used
- 13 him before. And -- and he conducted a -- a valuation
- 14 using certain assumptions and a methodology -- a
- 15 discounted cash flow with a terminal value that was
- 16 used as a basis for a baseline valuation. And his
- 17 baseline valuation was in the order of, I think, \$21
- 18 million.
- 19 We knew that the utility had a rate
- 20 base of approximately between 16 and \$17 million, and
- 21 it had been undercapitalized. So there was an
- 22 additional \$5 million in debt that could be brought,
- 23 and that was the recapitalization dividend.
- 24 His -- so -- so it's making those
- 25 assumptions, assuming that you -- the utility had been

- 1 recapitalized to \$10 million in debt, which is 60
- 2 percent of the rate base, in effect, that -- and --
- 3 and that his value -- his -- his baseline value was --
- 4 was \$21 1/2 million. You take off that debt, that
- 5 leaves a fair market value of equity in the \$11
- 6 million range, and that's \$5 1/2 million at 50
- 7 percent.
- 8 He said, that's my -- that would be
- 9 your base case in terms of cash flow. Anything above
- 10 that is a premium, and it's based on your ability to,
- 11 you know, implement a consolidation strategy to
- 12 generate synergies out of the existing relationship,
- 13 those kinds of things.
- 14 The upper end of that -- of that value
- 15 was \$26 million. So when you take the 10 million off
- 16 the twenty-six (26) and divide by two (2), you get to
- 17 \$8 million. That's -- and we bid seven point three
- 18 (7.3).
- 19 MR. TIM FRYER: So when the seven
- 20 hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) was negotiated, it
- 21 was taking it into account that premium was available?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 23 MR. TIM FRYER: Okay. Did that not
- 24 perhaps create a concern from the aspect of future
- 25 partners would be aware of the \$8 million, because

- 1 it's public information, which includes a premium, and
- 2 wouldn't they be looking for that same kind of
- 3 premium?
- 4 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: They potentially
- 5 would have been looking for a similar premium, yes.
- 6 MR. TIM FRYER: Okay. When the seven
- 7 hundred thousand (700,000) was negotiated by Collus,
- 8 do recall what concessions were given by Collus?
- 9 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- 10 MR. TIM FRYER: It wasn't that the
- 11 shotgun clause was back in?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- MR. TIM FRYER: Or the thirty (30) day
- 14 -- or thirty (30) month standstill period?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- MR. TIM FRYER: Not to your
- 17 recollection?
- 18 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: (NO AUDIBLE
- 19 RESPONSE)
- 20 MR. TIM FRYER: So now we'll look at -
- 21 some more at the growth objective in regards to the
- 22 expectations of the decision-makers involved. So
- 23 basically, the Strategic Partner Task Team and the
- 24 Collingwood Council members.
- I wanted to bring up CPS0006920.

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 3 MR. TIM FRYER: And then briefly
- 4 review slide 2, which is the strategic partner element
- 5 thirty (30) points. So it shows that the other eight
- 6 (8) members of the Strategic Partner Task Team all
- 7 scored PowerStream first, and had a max of thirty
- 8 (30), except for Mr. Garbutt's setting of twenty-five
- 9 (25).
- 10 As noted for this element, assessment
- 11 included the integral goal that Collingwood's
- 12 investment value was -- was to grow through further
- 13 partnerships. Would you agree with that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. TIM FRYER: Okay. So during that
- 16 period of time from 2011 forward, after Collingwood
- 17 Council approved the strategic partnership with
- 18 PowerStream, there were no further regionalization
- 19 transactions undertaken?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- 21 MR. TIM FRYER: It was reviewed by Mr.
- 22 Nolan that in November 2011, Mr. Houghton stated at
- 23 the public meeting for the share transaction that
- 24 Collus's expectation was for regionalization of LDCs
- 25 in the near future, and he wanted Collus to be the

- 1 regional hub.
- 2 It -- I also reflected to Mr. Nolan
- 3 that CHEC members correctly perceived that Collingwood
- 4 wanted to be in control and benefit from being first.
- 5 So that's a context thing, because it is something
- 6 that I've already brought up.
- 7 It appears that the critical time
- 8 period for the growth strategy -- excuse me -- to be
- 9 at least underway -- sorry, very much -- was between
- 10 2012 through 2014. Considering the perspective that
- 11 was being put forward by Mr. Houghton and -- and
- 12 PowerStream itself, the report of the Ontario
- 13 Distribution Review Panel came out then, and stated
- 14 that regionalization should be considered, and even
- 15 concluded that the CHEC cooperative model was not
- 16 sustainable. Is that correct?
- 17 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Correct.
- 18 MR. TIM FRYER: So this is a
- 19 critically important time period. The Collus boards -
- 20 comprises of engaged individuals seeking
- 21 regionalization successes, Collingwood Council is
- 22 engaged as the vendor of the Transaction, Mr. Houghton
- 23 is the CEO and CAO. So all the parties are positively
- 24 engaged, yet no success.
- 25 Can you recall why there wasn't any

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1 success?
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- 2 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. I -- I recall
- 3 that -- I mean, this -- this was the -- this was the
- 4 foundation, as I think I gave evidence earlier last
- 5 week, of the -- the attraction of this Transaction to
- 6 me. And so once the -- the deal closed, we had
- 7 strategic planning sessions with the Board that
- 8 included Mr. McFadden and myself as cochairs. I
- 9 believe Mr. McFadden ended up on the -- on the panel,
- 10 the Sector Review Panel as well, so a proponent of
- 11 consolidation. I had seen the merits of
- 12 consolidation, having gone through it in my time at
- 13 Barrie Public Utilities Commission, and the
- 14 PowerStream/Barrie merger, the acquisition of Aurora.
- 15 I could see the -- the benefit of it.
- We needed to figure out a governance
- 17 model and a financing structure and -- and -- and a
- 18 rollout strategy, as to how that would work. And so -
- 19 but -- but the Town had negotiated liquidity rights
- 20 in the deal, the Share Purchase Agreement. They could
- 21 block any transaction. So any deal that we did would
- 22 have -- we would have to engage the Town on the
- 23 strategy, the governance, and our rollout strategy.
- So, we did a lot of work in terms of
- 25 how we would act -- where -- where in the CHEC group,

- 1 and I think Wasaga Beach was probably the first one
- 2 that we had the most interest in. They had indicated
- 3 that they were at least receptive to the idea of
- 4 talking to us about it, saw that as a good
- 5 opportunity.
- 6 We had sessions and strategic planning
- 7 where we talked about how would we -- how would we
- 8 create this vehicle, how would we turn Collus
- 9 PowerStream into this vehicle that could become the
- 10 hub for regional consolidation. So we looked at how
- 11 we could effect the structure, how we could, like I
- 12 said, impact the governance, but you needed the Town
- 13 on side. Otherwise it wouldn't happen.
- 14 Our sense was, and the discussion I
- 15 think that ensued with the Board, and the -- and -- I
- 16 would say the three (3) representatives, who were the
- 17 Collingwood representatives on the Board of Directors
- 18 -- there was three (3) and three (3) -- was that the
- 19 Town -- they wanted a business plan, but there wasn't
- 20 a lot of interest, certainly, say -- I'd say 2012 --
- 21 we closed in the summer of 2012, so the first six (6)
- 22 months you're trying to get your bearings.
- MR. TIM FRYER: M-hm.
- 24 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: 2013 was really the
- 25 -- the year.

- 1 MR. TIM FRYER: M-hm.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: And my sense was
- 3 that the Town was not interested in -- in discussing,
- 4 you know, the opportunities, and unless we had a
- 5 willing partner there, it was -- it was really
- 6 difficult to roll the strategy out, and -- and I think
- 7 -- I think there was a lot of opportunity there,
- 8 opportunity lost as a result of the lack of alignment
- 9 between -- and maybe they didn't understand it fully
- 10 going in, you know, and we could have articulated that
- 11 vision better, but the lack of alignment was the thing
- 12 in that two to three-year period post closing, that --
- 13 that caused the -- the difficulty with rolling out the
- 14 strategy.
- MR. TIM FRYER: Okay. I can say that
- 16 going in, they definitely didn't understand, because I
- 17 kept asking for the model you're talking about so that
- 18 they could understand that the only way the investment
- 19 was going to grow was to put further capital in. And
- 20 -- and one (1) of the points that was made about the
- 21 funds that were received from the sale was a portion
- 22 should be back for -- for that investment purpose.
- 23 So, I -- I understand, and that was a
- 24 concern that I had as CFO.
- 25 So -- so, I was going to talk about the

- 1 two-year time frame and you -- and you already kind of
- 2 talked about that, because it's apparent to me from
- 3 the thirty (30) month standstill clause period, when
- 4 you consider it, because that's the end of 2014, it
- 5 appears that that's kind of the amount of time that
- 6 PowerStream was willing to provide before perhaps
- 7 having to take on a different approach.
- 8 Would that be a fair statement?
- 9 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I think that's
- 10 legitimate, yes.
- MR. TIM FRYER: And not immediately
- 12 maybe, but it was the uncertainty of a new municipal
- 13 council was coming into that next -- that end of that
- 14 year. And you would agree with that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. TIM FRYER: So, with other
- 17 witnesses, I've reviewed the importance of the new
- 18 council impact on ongoing commercial relationships,
- 19 and I reviewed then that when Mayor Cooper was
- 20 reappointed to the Collus Board, the Council enacted
- 21 the requirement of an additional municipal Council
- 22 rep, designating deputy Mayor Saunderson.
- Do you recall why the Collus
- 24 PowerStream Board did not support this requirement?
- 25 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I don't recall

- 1 specifically, no.
- 2 MR. TIM FRYER: So -- so Mayor Cooper,
- 3 Co-Chair McFadden, yourself, don't recall.
- 4 So do you recall if it was even
- 5 discussed at the Board level?
- 6 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No, I don't recall.
- 7 MR. TIM FRYER: Okay. Because in the
- 8 end, and I would expect the CEO of -- of -- of
- 9 PowerStream, having three (3) councils involved, you'd
- 10 ensure that your Board knew of shareholder requests?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes, likely.
- 12 MR. TIM FRYER: You've testified
- 13 earlier that it became dysfunctional between the
- 14 partners, and the evidence definitely supports that.
- 15 This premier Council requirement was to try to bridge
- 16 that gap in a number of ways. By not allowing it, the
- 17 opposite occurred.
- 18 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: (NO AUDIBLE
- 19 RESPONSE)
- 20 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: I -- I
- 21 take it, Mr. Fryer, you -- you're asking Mr. Bentz
- 22 whether he agrees with the statement you just made.
- 23 MR. TIM FRYER: I'm sorry. He did nod
- 24 and I should have --
- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Oh.

- 1 MR. TIM FRYER: -- recognized --
- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Oh,
- 3 all right.
- 4 MR. TIM FRYER: At least I thought you
- 5 had.
- 6 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: The opposite
- 7 occurred. Whether it was directly correlated to what
- 8 you said is a matter of discussion and debate.

- 10 CONTINUED BY MR. TIM FRYER:
- 11 MR. TIM FRYER: Fair enough.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yeah.
- 13 MR. TIM FRYER: yeah. Reflecting back
- 14 now on my first place score of thirty (30) for
- 15 PowerStream, I have testified it was based solely on
- 16 my long-term expectation that whoever the partner
- 17 would be eventually they would come to own a hundred
- 18 percent. I kind of reflected the reasons why, because
- 19 I felt going in we were in a very weak position and I
- 20 knew from the clauses that you could exercise, so
- 21 likely not in a long time either.
- 22 So, that again is just a -- a bit of
- 23 context for -- for the next part.
- 24 If Alectra had obtained a hundred
- 25 percent of the -- of the Utility, among other things

- 1 rates would have been harmonized in order to eliminate
- 2 the need for the costly -- cost of service
- 3 undertaking. Yes?
- 4 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Over time.
- 5 MR. TIM FRYER: So, I wanted to bring
- 6 up TFF10, and the reason I'm doing this is because
- 7 this contains a table on -- on the -- on the
- 8 right-hand side of the data that is comparative annual
- 9 charges, data for Collus PowerStream and Alectra. So,
- 10 as you can see, not substantially different from all
- 11 the classes but residential is lower.
- So, as you say, it might take a little
- 13 time to finish, but really when you look at that --
- 14 and this is current. I didn't want to go to 2011,
- 15 because to me it doesn't mean anything. This means
- 16 something when we're talking in the context of -- of -
- 17 of what would happen if rate harmonization happened.
- So, as you can see, rate harmonization
- 19 probably wouldn't have taken long, in your opinion.
- 20 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I would not agree
- 21 with that statement.
- MR. TIM FRYER: Okay. So there's --
- 23 there -- calculations would need to be done, yeah.
- 24 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: It could take up to
- 25 a decade.

- 1 MR. TIM FRYER: Yeah. You're right,
- 2 because of -- of efficiencies and --
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Rebasing.
- 4 MR. TIM FRYER: And rebasing, yes. So
- 5 --
- 6 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: If I could --
- 7 MR. TIM FRYER: -- the table -- sorry,
- 8 go -- go ahead.
- 9 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: The reason is
- 10 because of the -- of the MAAD's procedure of the OEB.
- 11 It allows a ten-year rebasing deferral period, and you
- 12 can file a rate harmonization plan post the rebasing
- 13 deferral period.
- MR. TIM FRYER: Yes.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: That's why.
- 16 MR. TIM FRYER: I just would think
- 17 that one (1) of the goals would be because the
- 18 residential is higher in Collus' case, to try to get
- 19 harmonization.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: True.
- 21 MR. TIM FRYER: But it was more --
- 22 also the -- the last line is -- and this isn't looking
- 23 for an actual calculation. This is again a general
- 24 statement. It shows the Hydro One rates, and the
- 25 table's been done on a -- on a rough estimate basis,

- 1 taking, because as you know, Hydro rates -- Hydro One
- 2 rates have an urban, an R1 and an R2, and all three
- 3 (3) would be applicable, and most likely in the Collus
- 4 database area.
- 5 So -- but it shows that Hydro One rates
- 6 -- and my -- my question to you is going to be, if
- 7 Hydro One rates were in place for Collus PowerStream
- 8 customer base, it could cost hundreds of thousands of
- 9 dollars more annually. That's correct?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. TIM FRYER: So, I wanted to move
- 12 on to the multi-utility considerations that were part
- 13 of the earlier strategic alliance discussions that you
- 14 had undertaken.
- In my opinion you accurately pointed
- 16 out in your testimony, Collingwood and Collus had a
- 17 solid history of sharing the benefits of mutual cost-
- 18 based no premium services, as you became familiar with
- 19 this. Correct?
- 20 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: (NO AUDIBLE
- 21 RESPONSE).
- 22 MR. TIM FRYER: Sorry --
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. TIM FRYER: Okay, thank you. The
- 25 evidence shows there was an appropriate process in

- 1 place at closing with the July 31st, '12, side letter
- 2 of agreement to continue on with an as-is status in
- 3 the short term and then the updated agreements to be
- 4 in place by early 2013, correct?
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 6 MR. TIM FRYER: Would you agree --
- 7 would it be important with a potential new partner to
- 8 be able to show that there were working resource
- 9 sharing agreements in place at Collus PowerStream with
- 10 -- with their partners? I'm thinking the Town of
- 11 Collingwood.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 13 MR. TIM FRYER: It was noted earlier,
- 14 all necessary partners were fully engaged with moving
- 15 quickly to maximize the benefits of the
- 16 regionalization goal.
- 17 So these agreements could have been
- 18 completed in the short order, but they weren't. Can
- 19 you think of why the shared services agreements
- 20 weren't completed?
- 21 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I think both
- 22 parties -- well, there didn't seem to be the focus on
- 23 the revising -- renegotiating the shared services
- 24 agreement that there otherwise should have been.
- 25 MR. TIM FRYER: But the undertaking

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1 had been done with a third-party resource -- so an
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- 2 objective view -- to determine the appropriate -- the
- 3 appropriate agreement structure, and that came in
- 4 around July of 2013. So it seemed like it was poised
- 5 to take that next step of completing service
- 6 agreements.
- 7 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. I -- I don't
- 8 recall in -- in that.
- 9 MR. TIM FRYER: Okay. From earlier
- 10 testimony, what's been indicated is Mr. Brown was
- 11 contributing factor as new CAO, and that was after
- 12 Mr. Houghton had exited in April 2013. And therefore,
- 13 the shared service agreements didn't get completed.
- 14 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I spent significant
- 15 time with Mr. Brown, and I think -- initially, I think
- 16 it was Deputy Mayor Saunderson. There was a couple of
- 17 meetings here discussing the renegotiation of the
- 18 shared services agreement. So there was, I'd say,
- 19 significant efforts. Maybe not in 2013 but certainly
- 20 post-2013 to try and renegotiate that agreement.
- 21 MR. TIM FRYER: Okay. I wanted to go
- 22 on and look at Foundation Document and paragraph 61.
- 23
- 24 (BRIEF PAUSE)
- 25

- 1 MR. TIM FRYER: So if we can just
- 2 bring the table up. That'll be good there.
- 3 The table of information isn't fully
- 4 complete. So for accuracy when tabulating it, I
- 5 wanted to ask you some clarification questions of you
- 6 as then Board chair. I know you weren't on the HR
- 7 committee, but you were the Board chair.
- 8 So as you can see, the salary amounts
- 9 for 2009 through '11, they indicate 2,080 working
- 10 hours, your normal working hours annualized. Do you
- 11 recall if it was the same for the other years?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No, I don't.
- 13 MR. TIM FRYER: Okay. It's part of
- 14 the evidence that a \$40,000 bonus for work on the
- 15 Collus sale transaction was paid in early 2012. Now,
- 16 this chart's showing a \$34,000 amount of bonus. Was
- 17 this second bonus for work in regards to
- 18 regionalization?
- 19 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I don't recall the
- 20 nature of that bonus in 2012.
- 21 MR. TIM FRYER: Can you recall why the
- 22 8,850 in 2000 (sic) for bi-weekly dropped to 6,805 in
- 23 2015? Would that have been a reduction in work hours?
- 24 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I -- I don't recall.
- 25 I'm sorry.

- 1 MR. TIM FRYER: Okay. Okay. So 2014
- 2 to '16 indicates a period of employment contracts that
- 3 were utilized with CEO Houghton. Can you recall as to
- 4 why the use of contracts started in 2014?
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- 6 MR. TIM FRYER: So I think what I'll
- 7 do then is I'll bring up CPS0011289-0001, and these
- 8 are the memos and the contracts that provided the
- 9 information for the...
- 10 And I wanted to go to page 10 in the
- 11 first "whereas." It's right there. So it shows that
- 12 there was voluntary retirement. So would that be the
- 13 reason that an employment contract had to be used?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Likely, yes.
- MR. TIM FRYER: Okay. So we'll go to
- 16 page 19 and down to clause 4. And that's the
- 17 determination clause, correct?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Correct.
- 19 MR. TIM FRYER: Okay. So I'm going
- 20 to -- I'm going to close off now, and I wanted to
- 21 refer back to earlier evidence I'd given that stated
- 22 the 2012 share sale transaction worked out to the
- 23 mutual benefit of the partners.
- 24 And the partnership with PowerStream
- 25 and then Alectra was successful partly because Alectra

- 1 was a good partner by not exercising on Collingwood
- 2 the buy-sell option in the early stages of when they
- 3 could have. Would you agree with that?
- 4 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. And the late
- 5 stages, as well.
- 6 MR. TIM FRYER: And I think
- 7 Collingwood benefitted from that by receiving millions
- 8 of dollars more than it would have likely got if you
- 9 had exercised.
- 10 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: The return on equity
- 11 increased substantially in 2014 and 2015, and
- 12 dividends were paid, and they had never been paid
- 13 before, so yes.
- 14 MR. TIM FRYER: The other -- oh,
- 15 sorry. Sorry. Let you finish? Sorry.
- 16 The other major aspect was that EPCOR
- 17 had an obvious objective to enter the Ontario market.
- 18 EPCOR knew that with Alectra as one of the owners, a
- 19 very high premium would be required to reach the
- 20 required price point to be successful. Would you
- 21 agree with that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Absolutely. I've
- 23 thought that.
- 24 MR. TIM FRYER: So Collingwood
- 25 benefitted from that, too, most likely by millions, as

1 well as rate protection and customer administrative

- 2 service for a long term that wasn't within the
- 3 Unanimous Shareholder Agreement. Correct?
- 4 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 5 MR. TIM FRYER: So in my case, I
- 6 hadn't expected Alectra to agree to sell their shares.
- 7 This isn't really a question. It's a reflection,
- 8 unless you would like to comment on why you chose to
- 9 sell.
- 10 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: I --
- 11 on why Alectra chose to sell its shares?
- MR. TIM FRYER: And, as I said, I'm
- 13 only asking him if he would like to reflect on that.
- 14 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: All
- 15 right. I'll allow this question. You know I'm not
- 16 getting -- I'm staying away from any subsequent
- 17 transactions. I'm having enough difficulty coping
- 18 with the transaction that I've been asked to look
- 19 into. But I'll allow the one question.
- 20 MR. TIM FRYER: And you don't have to
- 21 answer it.
- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Well,
- 23 I'm supposed to determine that but --
- 24 MR. TIM FRYER: What I'm going to do
- 25 then --

- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: -- but
- 2 you don't have to. You're not --
- 3 MR. TIM FRYER: No.
- 4 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: I'll
- 5 go along with Mr. Fryer.
- 6 MR. TIM FRYER: I will move on. Okay.
- 7 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Thank you.

- 9 CONTINUED BY MR. TIM FRYER:
- 10 MR. TIM FRYER: So my last question
- 11 then to complete the loop, how did the Collus
- 12 PowerStream transactions impact Alectra's reputation
- 13 for mergers and acquisitions?
- 14 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I mean, I think
- 15 the -- the sector knew there was -- there was, you
- 16 know, friction in the relationship. Did it prevent us
- 17 from eventually merging with one of the bidders in the
- 18 transaction? No.
- 19 And did it prevent us from completing
- 20 the largest, you know, merger in Canadian history of
- 21 certainly municipal utilities with an acquisition from
- 22 the government? No.
- MR. TIM FRYER: Well -- and then in
- 24 spite of all the benefits, I certainly believe that
- 25 Collingwood and Collus, their impact -- the impact on

- 1 their reputation was negative.
- Those are my questions, Your Honour.
- 3 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Thank
- 4 you, Mr. Fryer.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

- 8 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. PAUL BONWICK:
- 9 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Thank you, Your
- 10 Honour. Mr. Bentz, my name's Paul Bonwick, and I'm a
- 11 participant at the Inquiry.
- 12 Your Honour, do you mind if I conduct
- 13 my cross-examination from here because I'm referring
- 14 back to the laptop and my notes?
- 15 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: No, I
- 16 don't.
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: Thank you.
- 18 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: I
- 19 don't mind. Go ahead.

- 21 CONTINUED BY MR. PAUL BONWICK:
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: Mr Bentz, I think
- 23 what I'd like to do before I get moving through
- 24 several of the points I've identified over the last
- 25 few days is just quickly address -- or as quickly as I

1 can address this matter as it relates to disclosure

- 2 and transparency.
- 4 followed earlier testimony given by various witnesses,
- 5 but are you aware of the fact that Ms. Wingrove and
- 6 former CAO of the Town of Collingwood identified to
- 7 the commission that she had a -- I'll paraphrase it in
- 8 my language -- a difficult working relationship with
- 9 the new Council elected in 2010?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: Are you aware of
- 12 the fact that she was terminated from her position in
- 13 2011, I believe it was?
- 14 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I'm -- I was aware
- 15 she was terminated from her position, yes.
- 16 MR. PAUL BONWICK: I want to bring
- 17 your attention to the cross-examination by my friend
- 18 Mr. Marron as it relates to some of the comments
- 19 shared by Ms. Wingrove as it related to disclosure.
- 20 And I'm unsure why he didn't, but I'd
- 21 like to call up the transcript for April the 17th. It
- 22 was actually a cross-examination by Mr. Marron.
- 23 Page 248, I believe?
- 24 THE COURT OPERATOR: April the 17th?
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: April the 17th?

Transcript Date June 3, 2019 105 Have I got the wrong date or -- it was Mr. Marron's 2 cross-examination of when -- Ms. Wingrove. I may 3 have... MS. KATE MCGRANN: I think May 5 the 17th? 6 MR. PAUL BONWICK: May the 17th? Oh, 7 my apologies. 8 9 (BRIEF PAUSE) 10 11 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Sorry. Page 248. 12 13 (BRIEF PAUSE) 14 15 CONTINUED BY MR. PAUL BONWICK: 16 MR. PAUL BONWICK: So, just before we move to that, Mr. Bentz, having reviewed the contract, 17 18 the letter of engagement from Compenso and 19 PowerStream, you've clarified, if I understood it 20 correctly, that you felt the letter that was signed by the mayor, confirmed by the mayor that she signed it 21 and sent it to you, provided full disclosure as it 22 23 related to the terms and conditions in our contract, 24 correct?

MR. BRIAN BENTZ: The letter -- the

2.5

- 1 June 2nd letter?
- 2 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Correct.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yeah. I wish it had
- 4 been clear in terms of the events that were going to
- 5 take place in the Town of Collingwood. It was -- you
- 6 know, I -- I didn't think it was clear enough.
- 7 MR. PAUL BONWICK: As it described the
- 8 services that were being provided was the question
- 9 that I put to you, Mr. Bentz. The services that were
- 10 being provided, did you feel that they fully
- 11 encapsulated the work that was expected out of the
- 12 contract?
- I can bring it up for you and go line
- 14 by line, but --
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: M-hm.
- 16 MR. PAUL BONWICK: -- it deals with
- 17 government relations communications --
- 18 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I mean, we re --
- 19 MR. PAUL BONWICK: -- mergers, acq --
- 20 acquisitions.
- 21 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes, the letter was
- 22 reviewed and I was satisfied with it, as I indicated
- 23 earlier.
- 24 MR. PAUL BONWICK: And you've got no
- 25 reason to believe that Mayor Cooper didn't read the

- 1 letter before she signed and sent it to you?
- 2 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- 3 MR. PAUL BONWICK: One (1) of the
- 4 other conditions, of course, or one (1) of the other
- 5 points spelled out in there was the fact that the City
- 6 clerk needed to be notified.
- 7 If I could -- sorry, I'm -- I'm jumping
- 8 around here because there was three (3) points I
- 9 wanted to cover off. Excuse me. Ms. Wingrove, in
- 10 cross-examination by Mr. Marron, stated the following,
- 11 and here's her transcript. It doesn't require a lot
- 12 of reading, but if you could go down a little bit more
- 13 -- sorry, up a little bit more, number 1.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- MR. PAUL BONWICK: Okay. Go down to
- 18 11, please. So, you can see here:
- 19 "Yeah, okay. So, what you're
- saying, in effect, is that you --
- 21 you got that thought or had the
- reason to think that this was being
- 23 disclosed but that the term
- 'amalgamate' may not have used in
- 25 the message?

108 That's correct." 1 2 I just got to make sure I've got the right one (1). Oh, my -- my apologies, 248. This 3 isn't -- this is -- hoping I haven't got my numbers messed up here. 6 7 (BRIEF PAUSE) 8 9 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Yes. Sorry, 2 --10 are we on page 248 right now? 11 COURT OPERATOR: Yes. 12 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Okay. Just give me 13 one (1) second, Your Honour. Go to .1, please. 14 other way, sorry. There we go. And just up just to 247. 15 16 17 (BRIEF PAUSE) 18 19 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Okay. I think this 20 is where I was. Go up a little higher, please. All 21 right. 22 23 (BRIEF PAUSE) 24 2.5 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Go down a little

109 bit. I've got it here on mine. 2 3 (BRIEF PAUSE) 5 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Forty-eight. starts on line -- or 247 on line 27. I just want to make sure I'm lined up with the same screen. Keep 7 going down a little bit. Okay, so I'm -- I'm on 0517 in transcript -- transcript number 2019/05/'17 is what 10 I've got at the top of my page. 11 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: This 12 says, "May 17th." 13 MR. PAUL BONWICK: When I go to 248... 14 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Why --15 why don't we do this? Since you obviously want to --16 MR. PAUL BONWICK: This is --17 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: 18 cross-examine about this, why don't we take a few 19 minutes until we get this straightened away --20 MR. PAUL BONWICK: 21 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: -- and 22 see what the problem is. But just -- just for your 23 benefit, you know, the -- the witness can be asked 24 about the transcript. He can be asked whether he 25 agrees with some statement that's in there or not in

- 1 there.
- In a situation where the transcript
- 3 wasn't put to the witness entirely, it would -- it
- 4 would be -- and you feel something material's been
- 5 left out, then the question is whether it would -- it
- 6 would change an answer that you -- that you're
- 7 concerned about.
- 8 If it's just a matter of saying the
- 9 answer isn't worth what you thought it was worth
- 10 because parts were left out, that can sometimes be
- 11 more a matter of argument as -- as opposed to putting
- 12 it to the witness.
- So, you can look at it -- you can look
- 14 at it either way. But the witness is being asking to
- 15 comment on testimony of somebody else from excerpts of
- 16 a transcript. It may be material, but -- but it -- it
- 17 may not be because the witness may not have been --
- 18 had the full import of the transcript put to the
- 19 witness. That can be done by way of argument, as
- 20 well, but -- but --
- 21 MR. PAUL BONWICK: I would agree, Your
- 22 Honour, that --
- 23 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: I'm
- 24 not trying to dissuade you from pursuing it. I'm just
- 25 trying to make sure you appreciate the different ways

- 1 it could be used.
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: I do.
- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: All
- 4 right.
- 5 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Your Honour, I
- 6 wonder whether I might just indicate something that
- 7 may be of assistance to you. And that is, after Mr.
- 8 Bonwick finishes, I will probably have about twenty
- 9 (20) minutes of examination. And then Mr. Glicksman
- 10 is ready to be called.
- 11 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Well,
- 12 I'm -- I'm quite conscious of the fact that I'm sure
- 13 he's here, and I want to get to him, but I -- I --
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Yeah.
- 15 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: --
- 16 have to wait until Mr. Bentz is -- but you can expect
- 17 we will move right into Mr. Glicksman as soon as we're
- 18 -- that Mr. Bentz has completed his testimony.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Yes.
- 20 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: And
- 21 I'll just be out here.
- 22
- 23 --- Upon recessing at 12:17 p.m.
- 24 --- Upon resuming at 12:18 p.m.
- 2.5

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1
                   MR. PAUL BONWICK: Thank you ver --
   very much, Your Honour. If we could bring that
   transcript back up again, please.
 3
   CONTINUED BY MR. PAUL BONWICK:
 6
                   MR. PAUL BONWICK: So, Mr. Bentz, I
 7
   was referring to the meeting that took place between
   myself and Ms. Wingrove. And while Ms. Wingrove has
   provided through various cross-examinations different
   answers, I think you'll find, if we read 248, her
10
   answer starts -- or 247, sorry, starting on line 23 in
11
   mind, it says -- this is her answer here.
13
                      "He -- Mr. Bonwick disclosed to me
14
                      that he would be representing
15
                      PowerStream in the process. What we
                      knew was that there had been -- this
16
17
                      was -- this information was to be --
18
                      was provided to me within the
19
                      context of the larger discussion
20
                      which I think stated on several
21
                      occasions had been ongoing for some
22
                      time about the need for LDCs to be
23
                      rationalizing their operations and
24
                      look at amalgamations, efficiency,
2.5
                      and that sort of thing.
```

- So, I think when I was -- gave my
- 2 testimony, I was speaking to this,
- 3 was within this frame of reference."
- And so, clearly, Ms. Wingrove has
- acknowledged that we discussed amalgamations, growth
- 6 strategies, and things of that regard. And that was
- 7 under cross-examination by Mr. Marron.
- 8 The last point on -- in terms of
- 9 individuals, while Ms. Almas provided some testimony
- 10 with regards to her reflection on the meeting that too
- 11 place whereby I disclosed services to her in terms of
- 12 my engagement with PowerStream and subsequently after
- 13 the conclusion of that discussion asked her opinion as
- 14 it related to potential conflicts of interest under
- 15 the Municipal Act, not the Provincial Act, as I put
- 16 down in error.
- 17 If I can go to a transcript, I believe
- 18 it's -- I'm hoping I get this right, 19th of 15, page
- 19 197.
- 20 You were asked to refer to Ms. Almas's
- 21 notes when Mr. Marron was cross-examining you and if
- 22 you'll see -- if you'll see Mr. Watson questioning Ms.
- 23 Almas:
- 24 "Right. But what I'm getting at is
- 25 there -- is that there were some

114 things that were said in that 1 2 meeting and you talked about some of 3 them this morning that did not appear in your notes, fair?" 5 "Absolutely, yeah, like you said, it's not verbatim." 6 It goes on to talk about other points of conflict and things of that regard, but I -- I simply want to provide you a broader context in terms of what Mr. Marron painted for you this morning to, in 10 fact, make you aware of the fact that these 11 12 discussions had go on -- had gone on. 13 You've spoke briefly to the fact that 14 you participated in a meeting with Mayor Lehman, 15 Chairman Muncaster, Mayor Cooper, Deputy Mayor Lloyd, and the Chief Administrative Officer, Ms. Wingrove, in 16 17 June. 18 It is your opinion, and I believe you 19 already stated this, but I think it's important for the Commission to fully grasp this part of it, it's 20 your opinion and that of Mayor Lehman, that there was 21 a full disclosure provided during that meeting related 22 to the services that I would be providing to 23 24 PowerStream. Is that a fair statement? 2.5

1 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Your services were

- 2 discussed in the context of an RFP, an impending RFP
- 3 is my recollection.
- 4 MR. PAUL BONWICK: And you felt, as
- 5 well as Mayor Lehman felt, if I understood you
- 6 correctly, that there was a reasonable understanding
- 7 within the people that were participating and in fact
- 8 the responses back -- there was no negative responses
- 9 back, the only positive -- you only received positive
- 10 feedback as it related to my engagement.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: Going back to Ms.
- 13 Almas, in your opinion would it make any sense
- 14 whatsoever for me to set up a meeting with Ms. Almas
- 15 to ask about a potential conflict of interest with my
- 16 sister, Mayor Cooper, if in fact we were not dealing
- 17 with anything specific to the Town of Collingwood?
- 18 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I assumed you were
- 19 talking to her about work with the Town of
- 20 Collingwood.
- 21 MR. PAUL BONWICK: So for ex -- sorry?
- 22 So for example if -- as you know, we
- 23 had some discussions with Wasaqa Beach as well, would
- 24 it be safe to say it would make no sense for me to
- 25 come in and meet with Ms. Almas to ask her if she felt

- 1 my sister was somehow in conflict or there was a
- 2 potential for a conflict of interest as it related to
- 3 my activities with Wasaga Beach Power?
- 4 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Not likely, no.
- 5 MR. PAUL BONWICK: And respectfully,
- 6 the discussions that I had on behalf of PowerStream
- 7 with representatives out of the CHEC group, that again
- 8 would make sense that I would not go to Ms. Almas and
- 9 ask about whether she felt my sister was in a conflict
- 10 of interest -- was experiencing any conflict of
- 11 interest as it related to her responsibilities as
- 12 Mayor when I'm having discussions with the CHEC.
- Would that have made any sense?
- 14 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No. However, the
- 15 only thing I would say about that is my impression was
- 16 that she had already been apprised of the relationship
- 17 earlier in the year.
- 18 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Thank you. And I
- 19 just -- I wanted to make sure that was perfectly clear
- 20 from the Commission as I count it, and I don't expect
- 21 you to go through all these emails and -- and
- 22 determine this, but as I counted through not only the
- 23 required disclosures, but additional disclosures that
- 24 took place, we not only dealt with the Mayor, the
- 25 Deputy Mayor, the CAO, the clerk, the President and

- 1 CEO of Collus, the Chairman of the Board for Collus,
- 2 as well as two or three other Councillors were well
- 3 aware of my involvement in the -- in the file.
- 4 Is that your recollection as well?
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 6 MR. PAUL BONWICK: And so I think if
- 7 you would agree with me that it's reasonable to say we
- 8 went above and beyond in terms of disclosure,
- 9 hindsight being 20/20, we likely could have even done
- 10 more.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: We assumed that --
- 12 that when we signed the contract that the disclosure
- 13 that was required, the representation that was
- 14 required in the contract had been made to the two
- 15 individuals identified.
- 16 MR. PAUL BONWICK: And to the best of
- 17 your knowledge, do you recall anybody from the
- 18 PowerStream executive management team making any
- 19 further inquiries once you received the email that I
- 20 sent and copied the City clerk as it related to the
- 21 disclosure and the conflict?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: Thank you.
- I'm going to turn the page on that,
- 25 hopefully we've -- we've addressed that to the -- to

- 1 the satisfaction of the Commission at this point in
- 2 time.
- 3 Mr. Bentz, we've heard testimony from
- 4 several different witnesses, including KPMG, lawyers
- 5 from Aird & Berlis, board member, Mr. McFadden, who
- 6 have spoke about Mr. Houghton's active participation
- 7 in the broader LDC sector.
- 8 Are you familiar with that active
- 9 participation, beyond Collus?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 11 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Could you please
- 12 give some description in terms of your opinion of the
- 13 level of engagement Mr. Houghton provided to the
- 14 broader LDC sector, whether it be the OEB or any other
- 15 number of organizations?
- 16 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I knew he was active
- 17 with the Municipal Electric Association, which became
- 18 the Electricity Distributors Association in 2000,
- 19 which was an advocacy and networking group for the 300
- 20 utilities in Ontario prior to the Electricity Act
- 21 coming into force in 2000, very active with respect to
- 22 advocacy for issues associated with the electricity --
- 23 local distribution companies, or municipal electric
- 24 utilities, as they were called.
- 25 So he was active in that regard. And

- 1 he was also active with -- on the water side of things
- 2 with respect to the Ontario Clean Water Association,
- 3 and again an advocacy role in that as well.
- 4 So that he had a -- a profile in those
- 5 areas.
- 6 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Thank you.
- 7 Would you agree that he was very active
- 8 in terms of his representations as it related to small
- 9 and mid-sized LDCs in terms of profiling their
- 10 concerns, their issues and bringing forward
- 11 effectively their agenda on this provincial screen?
- 12 Scene, sorry.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: My understanding,
- 14 not directly, was that he was involved, again when
- 15 utilities became corporatized in 2000 there was a lot
- 16 of M&A transactions that he was involved with the --
- 17 the regionalization on a smaller scale in Collingwood
- 18 and in Thornberry, Creemore and Stayner, that he had
- 19 been involved in that, and that he was a -- a
- 20 proponent and advocate of sector consolidation.
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: Thank you.
- Now, you yourself, as we've heard from
- 23 a witness from your impressive CV, have also been very
- 24 active within the broader LDC community across the
- 25 province. Is that a fair statement?

- 1 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I've tried to be,
- 2 yes.
- 3 MR. PAUL BONWICK: And thank you for
- 4 that.
- 5 So you would have had ample opportunity
- 6 to interact with not only Mr. Houghton, but with other
- 7 presidents and CEOs or senior executives across the
- 8 board in terms of the LDC sector as well. Is that a
- 9 fair statement?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 11 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Can you give some
- 12 insight in terms of what Mr. Houghton's reputation was
- 13 within that -- oops, sorry -- within that broader
- 14 community based on your various interactions, not only
- 15 with Mr. Houghton, but with many of his colleagues
- 16 across the province?
- 17 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I think he was, you
- 18 know, I mean, he was seen as -- as a leader, a long-
- 19 standing you know, utility executive who was
- 20 passionate about the issues that he talked about.
- 21 The other one I think I failed to
- 22 mention was I think he was very -- he helped the CHEC
- 23 group form, Cornerstone Hydro Electric Cooperative, he
- 24 helped that come together. So that was another thing
- 25 that he did.

1 So yes, he had a reputation as a

- 2 leader.
- 3 MR. PAUL BONWICK: And during your 20
- 4 or 20 plus years of on and off again limited
- 5 interaction with Mr. Houghton and others within the
- 6 LDC sector, did -- at any point in time did anybody
- 7 ever bring into question Mr. Houghton's commitment to
- 8 the industry, his level of integrity that he brought
- 9 to the various boards and positions that he sat on?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- 11 MR. PAUL BONWICK: I -- I can't
- 12 remember the wi -- one (1) witness that characterized
- 13 it, but they -- they did it, I thought, in a kind of
- 14 humorous way.
- 15 They said that -- in a respectful way,
- 16 that Mr. Houghton was known to be punching above his
- 17 weight in terms of representing the small to mid-size
- 18 LDCs, understanding the level of sophistication and
- 19 resources that larger LDCs can bring to the table.
- 20 Would you say that's a fair
- 21 characterization?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: He was an advocate
- 23 for small utilities, yes.
- 24
- 25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MR. PAUL BONWICK: I want to move over

- 2 to conservation -- the conservation programs as they
- 3 relate to approvals through the -- the OEB, if I'm
- 4 getting this right, and that -- if I'm not, please --
- 5 please correct me if I'm using the wrong term of the
- 6 Ontario Energy Board.
- 7 Is it fair to say that there were a
- 8 select few LDCs that were successful in securing
- 9 support for products accredited under the conservation
- 10 program?
- 11 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: All LDCs in the
- 12 Province were required to meet certain conservation
- 13 targets, so there are varying degrees of efforts in
- 14 that regard. I think, as a whole, the sector
- 15 performed well in achieving conservation targets.
- 16 MR. PAUL BONWICK: And I would
- 17 certainly agree based on my observations of the
- 18 industry. And I think it's fair to say that
- 19 PowerStream was a leader in many of these demand
- 20 conservation programs. Is that a fair statement?
- 21 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: We had taken a lot
- 22 of initiative with respect to conservation.
- 23 MR. PAUL BONWICK: But going back to
- 24 my -- my earlier question. I understand there was a
- 25 lot of participation in the programs that unfolded.

- 1 My question to you was, there were very few LDCs that
- 2 actually led the drive to get something approved
- 3 through the OEB on the demand conservation side?
- 4 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: So, I believe the
- 5 legislation was the Green Energy and Green Economy Act
- 6 that came into effect either '09 or '10. And that's
- 7 the program -- or that's the legislation that changed
- 8 the licence conditions for LDCs in Ontario to make
- 9 conservation part of their licence condition, so there
- 10 was a requirement to achieve conservation.
- 11 The rollout of the conservation
- 12 programs was delegated to the Ontario power authority
- 13 and was regulated through the Ontario Energy Board.
- 14 And there were different types of programs that were
- 15 encouraged.
- 16 There were Province-wide programs that
- 17 would be led by the OPA, now the IESO. And then there
- 18 were programs that -- that you -- that utilities were
- 19 encouraged to innovate on their own. And then there
- 20 were programs that utilities were en -- encouraged to
- 21 innovate in collaboration with other utilities. And
- 22 they call these Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 programs,
- 23 so they encouraged all of them.
- 24 MR. PAUL BONWICK: In your opinion,
- 25 was the industry view that this was a complicated or

- 1 complex process to get through?
- 2 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: It was a new area
- 3 for utilities. I mean, for a hundred years we'd been
- 4 involved in power distribution, and so adding the
- 5 conservation initiative to the portfolio was -- was a
- 6 new thing.
- 7 MR. PAUL BONWICK: So, in your
- 8 opinion, going back in time to 2011, 2000 te -- te --
- 9 sorry, 2011/2012, would it seem reasonable that a
- 10 smaller LDC might want to take a leadership role in
- 11 terms of creating these stra -- strategic alliances to
- 12 really show, not only their own abilities to advance
- 13 participation in the program, but to demonstrate to
- 14 other smaller and mid-size LDCs that these kinds of
- 15 initiatives can be done in terms of cooperation with
- 16 others?
- 17 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: They were being
- 18 encouraged by the Government and the regulator to do
- 19 that.
- 20 MR. PAUL BONWICK: So, when we're
- 21 looking at the solar roof vent initiative and the fact
- 22 that Mr. Houghton appears to have taken a leadership
- 23 role in promoting participation from other LDCs, that
- 24 would only seem natural then out of the programs and
- 25 the mandate within that program?

125 1 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 2 3 (BRIEF PAUSE) 5 MR. PAUL BONWICK: We've had significant discussion specific to the Town of Collingwood in 2010 and their financial -- their real 7 or perceived financial dilemma as it related to debt as being one (1) of the pos -- one (1) of the contributors to consideration related to a possible 10 11 share sale for the utility. You're aware of that? 12 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 13 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Is it reasonable to 14 say that other municipalities, as part of their 15 consideration, related to amalgamation, sale of shares, that, especially in the smaller, mid-size 17 communities and -- and based on some of the 18 downloading that had taken place, that they would --19 other municipalities would also be looking to possibly 20 capitalize on the equity they have in that corporation 21 through either mergers or -- or sale? 22 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: It's possible, yes. 23 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Thank you. 24 2.5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 1 MR. PAUL BONWICK: In terms of going
- 2 back to the -- the disclosure, and -- and I appreciate
- 3 you bringing this forward, at any time during our
- 4 various meetings, especially leading up to the letter
- 5 of engagement, did I ever shy away or was I always not
- 6 attempting to profile the fact or make you aware of
- 7 the tra -- fact through disclosure that in fact I was
- 8 related to the mayor?
- 9 Rephrase that. that was a bit of a
- 10 run-on.
- 11 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Please rephrase that
- 12 question. Thank you.
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: During our initial
- 14 meetings --
- 15 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: You
- 16 never tried to hide the fact that you were the mayor's
- 17 brother. Is that the question?
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: Thank you.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.

- 21 CONTINUED BY MR. PAUL BONWICK:
- 22 MR. PAUL BONWICK: And did I ever lead
- 23 you to believe -- this is an important question. Did
- 24 I ever lead you to believe in any manner of speaking
- 25 that, because of that relationship, I might be able to

1 advance PowerStream's interest in some sort of way

- 2 other than a traditional form of government relations?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- 4 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Did you ever get
- 5 the sense from any of the conversations you had with
- 6 Mayor Cooper that she was going to give you any type
- 7 of priority or special consideration as it related to
- 8 you versus others that would be interested?
- 9 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

- MR. PAUL BONWICK: During our various
- 14 meetings, and I appreciate you were only in --
- 15 participated in -- in a select few based on your other
- 16 responsibilities, but during the meetings that you
- 17 were able to participate in when I was in attendance
- 18 at PowerStream, would you characterize my input as
- 19 attempting to create the best possible bid for the
- 20 shareholders and the Town of Collingwood?
- 21 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes, I think you had
- 22 -- you know, you had our interests in mind, but the
- 23 Town, as well.

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 1 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Thank you.
- 2 Appreciating it's hindsight now, but I want to -- do
- 3 take you -- want to take you back in time and go to
- 4 those meetings again.
- 5 Would it be your opinion that I was --
- 6 in any of my engagements during those meetings with
- 7 you, did I ever conduct myself in a way that -- that
- 8 didn't profile Collingwood in a very positive light?
- 9 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- 10 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Did you feel, based
- 11 on our discussions and based on my personal history
- 12 within the region as a former councillor and MPP, that
- 13 I would be able to lend value as we embarked on a
- 14 growth strategy to incorporate -- or to try and create
- 15 relationships with other LDCs within the, I'll call
- 16 it, Simcoe County region?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: That was our
- 18 expectation.
- 19
- 20 (BRIEF PAUSE)
- 21
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: There's been some
- 23 discussion related to the information that I was
- 24 bringing forward to the PowerStream team. I believe
- 25 Mr. Nolan, in his earlier testimony, suggested that

- 1 there had been some discussion, and I believe you
- 2 confirmed that, in terms of the sensitivity of that
- 3 information. Did I understand that correctly?
- 4 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 5 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Did you or any
- 6 other member of the PowerStream team, either verbally,
- 7 that you're aware of, or in email, direct concerns to
- 8 me as it related to any of the information that I was
- 9 sharing?
- 10 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: The information that
- 11 you were sharing with us? No.
- 12 MR. PAUL BONWICK: When we signed the
- 13 contract, the engagement between Compenso and
- 14 PowerStream relay -- identifying me as your agent or
- 15 government relations person responsible through that
- 16 contract, there was an NDA and I think you've had an
- 17 opportunity to quickly glance at it, correct?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: M-hm.
- 19 MR. PAUL BONWICK: You're aware of the
- 20 fact that I became a signatory to that NDA?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: Is it fair to say
- 23 generally speaking that the non-disclosure agreement
- 24 is a standard form of business for PowerStream in
- 25 terms of entering into an agreement?

- 1 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 2 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Entering in -- or
- 3 becoming a signatory to this NDA as I was, would that
- 4 not, in your opinion, restrict me from sharing
- 5 discussions that are taking place within phone calls,
- 6 emails, anything related to my relationship with
- 7 PowerStream without getting consent from PowerStream?
- 8 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: It wouldn't restrict
- 9 you.
- 10 MR. PAUL BONWICK: So a non-disclosure
- 11 agreement would not preclude me from ---
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Could you rephrase
- 13 the question again, please?
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: Sure.
- 15 Does an NDA -- does the NDA that I
- 16 sign, does it impede me or restrict me from sharing
- 17 discussions that we've had or we were having during
- 18 that period of time with members of the public or
- 19 others associated with the matter?
- 20 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: It would depend on
- 21 the nature of the discussions.
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: And the second part
- 23 of that, of course, was that it would require me to
- 24 come to you and ask for approval if I was going to
- 25 release information that was deemed to be of a

1 sensitive nature as it related to our discussions. Is

- 2 that fair?
- 3 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 4 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: I
- think you were in the middle of an answer. You said
- 6 it would depend on information.
- 7 MR. PAUL BONWICK: The nature of the
- 8 information being conveyed.

- 10 CONTINUED BY MR. PAUL BONWICK:
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: In your experience
- 12 having seen municipalities or witnessed municipalities
- 13 or shareholders start to move through a process where
- 14 all or part of their shares in one shape or another
- 15 are looking at mergers or acquisitions, in your
- 16 experience have you found in some cases that
- 17 politicians that are involved in this can be
- 18 diametrically opposed to whether or not this or --
- 19 should or should not happen?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 21 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Do you find -- have
- 22 you found not only in your own personal experiences
- 23 through Alectra or through PowerStream, but in your
- 24 role at the provincial level, that some of these
- 25 transactions can become quite controversial?

132 1 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 2 3 (BRIEF PAUSE) 5 MR. PAUL BONWICK: I just want to make sure I'm not covering off anything that wasn't --I'd like to go back to our earlier 7 discussions prior to signing the contract in terms of what I felt I brought to the ter -- to the table in terms of value for PowerStream, and subsequent to 10 11 that, once you've engaged what your experiences were. 12 And so in my initial introductions did 13 I clearly articulate or did I attempt to clearly 14 articulate that I had significant experience within 15 the political arena of Simcoe County? 16 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 17 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Did I further 18 articulate the fact that I felt that I had significant experience at the provincial level of government as 20 well? 21 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 22 MR. PAUL BONWICK: As part of the 23 follow-up after that agreement in your experience at 24 various events, whether they were in Collingwood or 25 surrounding area or in Queens Park, did anything

- 1 suggest that that was not the case?
- 2 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: During that period
- 4 of time, did anybody within the Collus family, the
- 5 Collingwood family, which is kind of under one umbrell
- 6 -- well, we'll call it as one family, or people that
- 7 we had interaction with in Wasaga Beach CHEC -- or in
- 8 Queens Park raise any issues with regards to me acting
- 9 inappropriately or not representing the best interests
- 10 of PowerStream?
- 11 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No. Not at the
- 12 time.
- 13 MR. PAUL BONWICK: I want to bring you
- 14 to -- if I could ask for ALE894 to come up, please.
- And I'm going to start by saying my
- 16 memory isn't -- is not good enough to remember if you
- 17 were in the meeting when we had a general discussion
- 18 about PowerStream's intent to provide a proposal to
- 19 the Town of Collingwood.
- 20 So I'll give you the background and you
- 21 can reflect whether you were part of that meeting or
- 22 not.
- When we had the discussion in the board
- 24 room at PowerStream, from what I recall there was a
- 25 general discussion about at what point in time do we

- 1 make the PowerStream team aware of the fact, beyond
- 2 the executive management team, that PowerStream was
- 3 going to be participating in -- in this process.
- Were you part of that meeting, or do
- 5 you recall?
- 6 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I do not recall
- 7 being part of that meeting.
- 8 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Maybe if I go a
- 9 little bit further, we talked about PowerStream or Mr.
- 10 Fagen creating a release of some kind for the team and
- 11 I cannot recall who it was, whether it was me or -- or
- 12 Mr. Fagen or Mr. Glicksman, but somebody set out of a
- 13 professional courtesy we should make Mr. Houghton
- 14 aware of the fact that we're about to inform the
- 15 PowerStream team that in fact we're -- we're heading
- 16 down this path now.
- 17 Does that help at all?
- 18 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I don't recall that
- 19 meeting.
- 20 MR. PAUL BONWICK: And so that sort of
- 21 nips that one in the butt, because that would give
- 22 some explanation as to why we had reached out to Mr.
- 23 Houghton to make him aware of that and had some
- 24 discussion back and forth about his offer to talk
- 25 about his communication strategy as well.

1 There was -- and I -- I think for your

- 2 benefit and certainly for mine, you were asked some
- 3 questions on Friday as it related to the bidders that
- 4 had not been successful in the RFP program.
- 5 Do you recall that?
- 6 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 7 MR. PAUL BONWICK: So again, I brought
- 8 this up at the time, but just to clarify the fact, the
- 9 people that provided testimonies were not the bidders,
- 10 they were former employees of the bid team.
- 11 But there was some significant
- 12 discussion related to the scoring that Collingwood,
- 13 KPMG, and Collus had developed.
- 14 I'm interested in your thoughts as it
- 15 relates to what Collingwood was trying to secure.
- 16 So they've told us they wanted a
- 17 partner to go with a regional strategy, that was your
- 18 understanding?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 20 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Would it be
- 21 incumbent upon the Collus board and the shareholder to
- 22 take a very long-term view as it relates to how that
- 23 growth strategy might unfold?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 25 MR. PAUL BONWICK: And so being

- 1 incumbent upon them to take that kind of long-term
- 2 view, would you agree that it was of paramount
- 3 importance for them to pick the appropriate proposal
- 4 that meshed or streamlined with their vision of how
- 5 this thing would grow?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 7 MR. PAUL BONWICK: And so, based on
- 8 that confirmation, does it come to you as any surprise
- 9 that they weighted their proposals 70 percent, 30
- 10 percent being -- the 30 percent being the financial --
- 11 and I'll put it all into one basket and say the rest
- 12 seemed to be more about culture and how the two LDCs
- 13 would work as 50/50 partners.
- 14 Did that come to you as any surprise
- 15 based on understanding what their long-term vision was
- 16 for the LDC?
- 17 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: This was more than
- 18 simply an economic transaction. You're looking for a
- 19 partner to move forward with and maintain your
- 20 autonomy, retain employment in the community, have a
- 21 strong community profile, and expand the service area
- 22 with local partners.
- So, you know, is 70/30 the right
- 24 number? That's what they chose. But I didn't expect
- 25 it to be an entirely economic evaluation, and it --

- 1 and it wasn't. In fact, it was a majority, not
- 2 economic. It did not surprise me.
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: We had one (1)
- 4 earlier witness, and the language is exactly this.
- 5 They referred to the 70 percent basket as a beauty
- 6 contest, and the other much more marketable in terms
- 7 of financial comparisons versus the rest.
- 8 I'm wondering if you'd be prepared to
- 9 comment in terms of the level of importance you attach
- 10 to the non-financial end of the bid?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Well, I described
- 12 that, I think in -- in some detail in earlier
- 13 testimony on Friday where I said that we had a natural
- 14 vocational advantage and that if the Town was looking
- 15 at growing within the geographic footprint that we
- 16 were a municipal partner in Simcoe County.
- 17 So that would make a lot of sense. It
- 18 would enable the growth. Also that if they were
- 19 looking at enhancing -- we talked about technology --
- 20 enhancing the service level. We had a call centre in
- 21 Barrie that could back them up. Hydro One did -- had
- 22 a call centre in Markham.
- 23 And that in terms of reliability
- 24 issues, I think I talked about emergency response. So
- 25 you could dispatch crews. We were in Penetanguishene.

- 1 And -- and in other areas, we could connect to a
- 2 24 by 7 control room monitoring, so we could monitor
- 3 those systems in real time and -- and dispatch crews
- 4 in real time.
- 5 So there was a service and reliability
- 6 and customer -- plus we understood -- we understood
- 7 the geography, and we understood the -- the local
- 8 politics, if you will. That sort of thing.
- 9 So I think that, you know -- based on
- 10 how I saw the RFP, I think that was an important
- 11 consideration, as was maintaining independent and
- 12 anatomy.
- 13 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Would it come as
- 14 any surprise that -- not identifying any specific ones
- 15 but just a general feeling that you might be, for lack
- 16 of better description, a preferred partner versus
- 17 other LDCs -- and this follows up on your answer to
- 18 some degree but that you might be a preferred partner
- 19 in terms of some of the members that were involved on
- 20 the Collingwood side as a result of your relationship
- 21 in Barrie, Simcoe County, many of the mayors and
- 22 deputy mayors sit at county Council. Obviously,
- 23 PowerStream had a very strong reputation within the
- 24 region.
- 25 Based on that level of comfort from

- 1 geography, level of comfort in terms of having served
- 2 or worked with other members within the Simcoe County
- 3 region and the reputation, would you think that there
- 4 might automatically be a preferred vision or choice as
- 5 it relates to working with PowerStream versus other
- 6 LDCs in the province?
- 7 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: We were seen as a
- 8 more potential local partner and more -- we had more
- 9 familiarity.
- 10 MR. PAUL BONWICK: I'll just see if
- 11 I've missed anything here. I think I'm just about
- 12 done, Your Honour.
- 13 Post-transaction for the year following
- 14 the OEB approval of the -- of the merger or of the
- 15 partnership, could you describe the working
- 16 environment between the Collus team -- excuse me --
- 17 Collus PowerStream team at the Town of Collingwood and
- 18 PowerStream's head office?
- 19 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I think it was very
- 20 strong. I think it was actually an excellent
- 21 relationship. There was -- especially with the senior
- 22 leaders and Cindy and Pam and Larry working with our
- 23 team, whether it was regulatory or conservation or --
- 24 there was a good relationship that developed. I think
- 25 it was positive and constructive.

- 1 MR. PAUL BONWICK: I think it will be
- 2 helpful -- and I know you've touched on it briefly,
- 3 but it might be helpful if you're prepared to expand
- 4 on the post -- and I'll call it post-2014 time frame.
- 5 New Council came in; Mr. Brown is now the CAO. Could
- 6 you maybe speak to and provide greater detail in terms
- 7 of how you feel that relationship fell apart or became
- 8 dysfunctional?
- 9 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: From a director's
- 10 point of view, there were a lot of issues that came to
- 11 the Board with respect to HR-type issues with the
- 12 senior leaders. They were concerned about bullying
- 13 and harassment, and they brought it our attention and
- 14 wanted us to deal with it.
- 15 And it was -- I think from across all
- 16 of the -- I would say Cindy and Larry and Pam and
- 17 Mr. Houghton all made similar sort of comments around,
- 18 you know, sort of the -- how the relationship had
- 19 soured.
- 20 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Did you attempt to
- 21 reconcile the relationship to try and get the Town of
- 22 Collingwood post-2014 into a more positive mindset or
- 23 a better working relationship with Collus PowerStream
- 24 to allow you to achieve the growth strategy that you
- 25 had spoke about?

- 1 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 2 MR. PAUL BONWICK: And how receptive
- 3 did you find the Town of Collingwood in terms of your
- 4 desire and your commitment to try and get them to work
- 5 in a more collegial or cooperative fashion?
- 6 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I found -- I found
- 7 it difficult.
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: You care to expand
- 9 on that?
- 10 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Just it was -- it
- 11 was -- I think there was a -- you know, and Mr. Fryer
- 12 earlier had some theories on why that might be. But
- 13 there wasn't an alignment of -- of interest. I think
- 14 one wanted to look forward and one wanted to look
- 15 backward. And so that -- that made it difficult.
- 16 MR. PAUL BONWICK: During the first
- 17 year post-OEB approval, you travel in almost all of
- 18 the LDC circles. You're certainly very active in the
- 19 industry as we've recognized.
- 20 What was your feedback from colleagues
- 21 or others that were out there in the industry beyond
- 22 the Collingwood area for the first year?
- 23 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I think it was
- 24 generally positive.
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: Any negative

- 1 feedback in terms of how this relationship had
- 2 unfolded and --
- 3 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Over time, there
- 4 was. Yes.
- 5 MR. PAUL BONWICK: Most definitely. I
- 6 was thinking maybe -- trying to pigeonhole it in terms
- 7 of year one (1), and obviously as it moved forward, it
- 8 became --
- 9 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: It was generally
- 10 positive year one (1).
- MR. PAUL BONWICK: Do you feel the
- 12 Town of Collingwood got the best possible deal -- the
- 13 shareholders, the taxpayers, the residents of
- 14 Collingwood -- got the best possible deal based on how
- 15 the RFP was constructed, based on the vision the
- 16 community had in terms of selecting PowerStream --
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 18 MR. PAUL BONWICK: -- as its partner?
- 19 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. And it appears
- 20 the assessment committee did as well.
- 21 MR. PAUL BONWICK: That ends my
- 22 questions, Your Honour.
- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Thank
- 24 you, Mr. Bonwick. Mr. Watson --
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Your Honour,

- 1 did -- would you like me to sort of do four (4)
- 2 minutes before the lunch break, or how would you like
- 3 to --
- 4 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: No
- 5 We'll break for an hour.
- But I just have to tell you the Town
- 7 requires the Council chamber for the Council meeting,
- 8 so we will have to conclude around a quarter to 4.
- 9 And tomorrow, we'll start at 9, and we'll proceed and
- 10 hopefully get -- start Mr. Houghton before the end of
- 11 the day tomorrow.
- 12 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Yes, Your Honour.
- 13 Thank you.
- 14 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: All
- 15 right. We'll be back in an hour.
- 16
- 17 --- Upon recessing at 12:59 p.m.
- 18 --- Upon resuming at 2:00 p.m.
- 19
- 20 EXAMINATION BY MR. MICHAEL WATSON:
- 21 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Thank you, Your
- 22 Honour. Mr. Bentz, I have just a few points to ask
- 23 you about. The first couple have to do with the
- 24 things you were asked in -- in cross-examination this
- 25 morning.

- 1 Mr. Bonwick you approximately in this
- 2 language, Did I conduct my -- myself at all times to
- 3 assist PowerStream to put in the best bid in the best
- 4 interests of PowerStream. Do you remember he asked
- 5 you that?
- 6 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 7 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And you -- you
- 8 said yes, but then you also added, "But the Town as
- 9 well."
- 10 Do you remember saying that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Can you expand on
- 13 that? What did you mean by that, and -- "But the Town
- 14 as well"?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Well, that we were
- 16 looking to prepare a bid that was obviously in the
- 17 interests of -- of our company, and it's strategic
- 18 initiatives, but also that would reflect well of -- of
- 19 the Town's needs, to respond in an adequate way to the
- 20 RFP, and the -- and the criteria they set out in
- 21 evaluating the RFP bidders.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And
- 23 did you -- when you set out, did you feel that Mr.
- 24 Bonwick was assisting on that front as well?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.

- 1 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And
- 2 then Mr. Fryer asked you at length -- and I don't want
- 3 to go over all the reasons -- about consolidation and
- 4 why that didn't work out.
- 5 Do you remember he asked you about
- 6 that?
- 7 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And then he -- he
- 9 talked about the need for some funds of the
- 10 Transaction to be held back to fund that strategy.
- 11 Do you remember that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And -
- 14 and you were nodding, I noticed, and it looked as
- 15 though you kind of wanted to say something about that,
- 16 or you were in agreement, but you weren't asked.
- 17 Did you have something to say about
- 18 that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 20 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Please do.
- 21 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: So the total
- 22 proceeds on the sale, all considered, I think the
- 23 monetization of the Town debt, the recapitalization,
- 24 and the proceeds from the 50 percent shares is about
- 25 \$15 million. I don't know if there ever was a

- 1 discussion with the Town with respect to allocating a
- 2 portion of it. They could have allocated one third
- 3 (1/3) of it, for example, to a growth strategy, but in
- 4 my view, they didn't even have to put in any money,
- 5 and it could have been value accretive.
- 6 So, for example, if we had looked at
- 7 Wasaga Beach, and if you do the math on Wasaga Beach,
- 8 and you assume the same multiple, and the same
- 9 capitalization and rate base, so one point six (1.6)
- 10 multiple, and a 60 percent capitalization of rate
- 11 base, if -- if Wasaga Beach came in, they would have
- 12 had a monetizing -- a recapitalization dividend as
- 13 well. If they came in with no sale, the relative
- 14 percentage of ownership would have been approximately
- 15 40 percent Wasaga Beach, 30 percent Collus, 30 percent
- 16 PowerStream.
- 17 PowerStream could have purchased half
- 18 of Wasaga Beach's interest, and they would have went
- 19 to 50 percent. So it would've been 50/30/20. But in
- 20 that -- and -- and Collus could have put in no money,
- 21 but the -- the creative part of it is that the
- 22 consolidated OM&A operations, maintenance, and admin
- 23 costs together were around \$8 1/2 million every year.
- 24 Those two (2) companies spend \$8 1/2 million on
- 25 operations, maintenance, and admin.

- 1 My experience, having done several of
- 2 these transactions, you can save at a minimum one (1)
- 3 in ten dollars (\$10), and likely one (1) in six (\$6)
- 4 by bringing utilities together and achieving
- 5 synergies. And so that could have been \$1 million a
- 6 year in accr -- and you can do this without layoffs,
- 7 and you do it through voluntary separation and
- 8 attrition. You don't -- you don't erode service
- 9 levels, but you can create a accretive value without
- 10 putting any money in.
- 11 Things like, Mr. Fryer was retiring.
- 12 He was the CFO. If we had two (2) companies, we would
- 13 -- only needed one (1) CFO, not two (2). It's those
- 14 kinds of things that -- that generate back-office
- 15 synergies. So I think there was an opportunity there
- 16 that really wasn't discussed, or looked at, or taken
- 17 advantage of.
- 18 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: So even if the
- 19 Town had decided to put all the money into a rec
- 20 centre, for example, and didn't retain any of the
- 21 proceeds, it still, if it wanted to, I take it you're
- 22 saying, could have proceed with the strategy of
- 23 consolidation that had been discussed and was --
- 24 formed part of the reason for the Transaction?
- Is that what you're saying?

- 1 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes, and it would
- 2 have retained its minority protection rights as well,
- 3 because it would have been a 30 percent shareholder.
- 4 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. I
- 5 want to take you back to something Mr. McDowell asked
- 6 you about, and that is KPMG as the valuator for
- 7 Collus.
- 8 Do you remember he asked you questions
- 9 about that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And -- and he
- 12 said to you on Friday, according:
- "In the early discussions between
- 14 you and Mr. Houghton, you, I gather,
- made some suggestion to him about
- using KPMG as a valuator."
- Do you remember he put that proposition
- 18 to you?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 20 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And you answered
- 21 that it was Mr. Houghton who asked you whether you
- 22 knew any other valuators than KPMG?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: He said, Other than
- 24 KPMG.
- 25 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Yes. And -- and

- 1 -- right. Could we bring up, please, Foundation
- 2 Document, paragraph 119. And I'm simply going to ask
- 3 you with 119 and 120, after you read it, whether, in
- 4 fact, this is what happened on that point.
- 5 I'll just ask you -- you to read them
- 6 to yourself.

7

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And then down to
- 12 120.

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 17 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. Are
- 18 you familiar with that, and is that how it happened?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 20 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And
- 21 we see in 120, Mr. Glicksman responded recommending
- 22 John McNeil at BDR Energy.
- You see that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 25 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And was it

- 1 ultimately Mr. McNeil and BDR that assisted
- 2 PowerStream in the fall of the year, as it turned out?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 4 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. With
- 5 respect to KPMG, from your experience, did KPMG do
- 6 work valuation and so on in the LDC industry or LDC
- 7 space?
- 8 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: They had a power and
- 9 utilities practice that was active in Ontario, right
- 10 across this Province.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And from your
- 12 knowledge, did they act for other LDCs as well?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 14 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. Can
- 15 you give some examples?
- 16 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: They did work -- I
- 17 think -- no, I don't know the nature of all of the
- 18 work, but they did extensive work for Hydro One. I
- 19 know that. And they've done strategy work for -- I
- 20 think they did work for Veridian. That -- I mean,
- 21 they were -- they were active in the sector. Many
- 22 utilities used them.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And
- 24 with respect to other names in paragraph 120, are
- 25 there any other of those, KPMG, CIBC, BDR, Crosbie,

- 1 and so on, who did work for more than one (1) LDC in -
- 2 in the -- in that space, from your experience?
- 3 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: They all did, yeah.
- 4 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. Then
- 5 I want to go to the next topic of the April 13th
- 6 meeting with the mayors, you and Mr. Bonwick.
- 7 You remember that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 9 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And
- 10 then you mentioned several times -- I want to look at
- 11 it briefly -- you mentioned several times in your
- 12 evidence this morning the memo of Mr. Bonwick that he
- 13 sent to you of April 20th, a week later.
- 14 Do you remember that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 16 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: We're going to
- 17 turn to that in a moment. I want to ask you about
- 18 this.
- 19 If we could turn to Foundation
- 20 Document, please, paragraph 137.

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 24 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. I'll
- 25 just have you read that over to -- to yourself.

152 1 (BRIEF PAUSE) 2 3 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And you -- and you remember that meeting, that the -- just the discussion about having a meeting with the mayors? 7 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. if we could turn, please, to the May 31st transcript at page 81. This is from last Friday, just to remind 10 11 you before I ask a quick question about the April 20th 12 memo. And it's page 81, line 17. 13 14 (BRIEF PAUSE) 15 16 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. So it 17 says: 18 "The April 13th meeting with 19 yourself, Mr. Bonwick, and the 20 mayors. Do you remember attending 21 that meeting? 22 Yes." 23 I'm just going to go over to the next 24 page a bit. 2.5 "What was discussed with respect to

	153
1	the disclosure that would be
2	required if PowerStream was going to
3	retain Mr. Bonwick?"
4	Going down. Scroll down, please.
5	"I just remember that the mayors
6	unanimously underscoring strongly
7	that the disclosure was something
8	that, you know, we we were
9	concerned with, that it's done very
10	in a very transparent way, that,
11	you know, we we have a reputation
12	in terms of how we do mergers and
13	acquisitions. I think we have a,
14	you know, a good reputation in that
15	regard. And, you know, full
16	disclosure is something that is very
17	important to us. That's what I
18	recall."
19	Were you recalling the discussion with
20	the mayors orally in front of Mr. Bonwick at that
21	meeting?
22	MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
23	MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. Thank
24	you. Now if we could turn, please, to ALE104. This
25	now, at long last, is this April 20th memo that you

- 1 had talked about. Again, read the whole thing if you
- 2 want, but I know it's one (1) of your favourites, so
- 3 you're probably fairly familiar with it. So this is -
- 4 is to you from -- on Compenso letterhead, from Paul
- 5 Bonwick. Do you remember this?
- 6 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 7 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And
- 8 you've probably seen it recently.
- 9 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 10 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. We
- 11 can just go down -- we'll just scroll down quickly,
- 12 and he says:
- "I want to put some thoughts on
- 14 paper first. Thank you for providing
- opportunity to discuss our
- 16 relationship with your Audit
- 17 Committee."
- 18 And remember you -- you had said that
- 19 he misspoke on that? And in what way?
- 20 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: He thought the --
- 21 the three (3) mayors constituted the Audit Committee.
- 22 They were three (3) members of the Audit --
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Right.
- 24 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: -- Committee but
- 25 there are two (2) other directors who are members of

- 1 the Audit Committee.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And you're
- 3 talking about a meeting just with the mayors and not
- 4 with the rest of the Audit Committee, right?
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 6 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Okay. And then
- 7 he talks about pride, having an affiliation with the
- 8 company, et cetera.
- 9 Going down -- and -- and he talks then
- 10 -- in -- in the last paragraph, fourth last line he
- 11 says:
- 12 "The position the Audit Committee
- has taken on this matter clearly
- 14 reflects the reputation PowerStream
- has earned since its inception.
- 16 Transparency, integrity, and
- 17 unreserved commitment to the
- 18 shareholders and the reputation of
- 19 PowerStream continue to be their
- 20 number one priority."
- 21 Now, I should have asked you this: I
- 22 take it you read this memo when you got it from Mr.
- 23 Bonwick?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And -

- 1 and is that what he's talking about there,
- 2 reflective of the discussion that I just asked you
- 3 about and that you were talking about on Friday, that
- 4 that's what the Audit Committee was saying to him?
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Okay. Go over
- 7 the page, please.
- 8 "And in keeping this -- with this
- 9 direction, I recommend the following
- 10 action, subject to approval of the
- 11 terms and conditions in the
- 12 agreement between PowerStream and
- Compenso."
- 14 Just stopping there. Of course that
- 15 ended up being the June 7th agreement, right?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 17 MR. MICHAEL WATSON:
- "I would propose we create an
- 19 approach and address the perceived
- 20 issue of optics."
- 21 And I take it that term had come up,
- 22 and you've talked about it.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 24 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right.
- 25 "If the RFP scenario unfolds, I

	157
1	would propose that we request a
2	meeting with the following people in
3	attendance: Ed Houghton, President
4	and CEO, Collus; Dean Muncaster,
5	Chairman of the Board of Collus; Kim
6	Wingrove, CAO, Town of Collingwood;
7	Mayor Sandra Cooper; Deputy Mayor
8	Rick Lloyd, Budget Chair; and Sara
9	Almas, Clerk."
10	Do you see that?
11	MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
12	MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And with the
13	exception of the clerk, who was who was not there,
14	those, I take it, were the people plus plus Mayor
15	Jeff Lehman, who is who attended, right?
16	MR. BRIAN BENTZ: And Mr. Houghton was
17	not in attendance.
18	MR. MICHAEL WATSON: In in
19	indeed, and there may be some some evidence about
20	that.
21	"The sole purpose of the meeting is
22	to provide full disclosure to the
23	officials of Collus and the Town of
24	Collingwood related to my business
25	activities and relationships

- 1 relationship with PowerStream and
- 2 seek their input...to the
- 3 engagement..."
- 4 And -- and so on. So that's what Mr.
- 5 Bonwick was proposing to you as early as April 20th?
- 6 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 7 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Did that topic,
- 8 the details that he put in and the fact that he raised
- 9 it himself and suggested it, give you any confidence
- 10 about, you know, his representations later that he had
- 11 made the disclosure that you were looking for?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. That plus the
- 13 fact we had done reference checks. I asked the former
- 14 mayor, who was an MP (sic), I think in a similar
- 15 caucus to him, Mayor Bevilacqua, about him, and I
- 16 asked Mr. Houghton about him originally as well. So
- 17 all of those things, plus these types of behaviours,
- 18 reinforced our confidence in him.
- 19 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: You mentioned
- 20 Mayor Belilac -- I always get it wrong. You know who
- 21 I mean. And what did he say about Mr. Bonwick when
- 22 you asked?
- 23 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: He knew him in
- 24 caucus and he seemed to have a -- you know, a good
- 25 reputation.

1 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. Now,

- 2 that's enough for that. Thank you.
- And we go to the December 1st meeting,
- 4 and you recall that this is the meeting at which you
- 5 were, according to one (1) of the documents, invited
- 6 to come in, and that's with Mr. Muncaster and Mr.
- 7 Houghton, right.
- 8 And you remember Mr. Rock -- or Rockx,
- 9 people pronounce it differently, who was there as
- 10 well?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 12 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And
- 13 you gave some evidence last week about it?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: I want to ask you
- 16 about that.
- 17 Could I please have the May 31st
- 18 transcript brought up again, this time at page 240?
- 19 And when we go through some of this, I'm going to ask
- 20 you, then after this, Mr. Nolan -- about what Mr.
- 21 Nolan said about this and see whether it triggers a
- 22 memory.
- 23 So page 240, line 10, if we may, and
- 24 it'll be going just down to the bottom of the page and
- 25 over to the top line.

	160
1	So Ms. McGrann asked you:
2	"Do you remember at this meeting
3	that you gave a commitment to
4	increase PowerStream's offer by an
5	additional \$700,000?"
6	Mr. Bentz:
7	"Yes."
8	Ms. McGrann:
9	"What can you tell us about how
10	those negotiations unfolded?"
11	Mr. Bentz:
12	"I believe Dean Muncaster came too,
13	and Ed Houghton and I think John
14	Herhalt was there as well, and it
15	was in our boardroom at PowerStream,
16	and they they said that we had
17	made a good bid, that they and I
18	remember Dean Muncaster asking if we
19	would consider increasing our bid to
20	eight (8) million and we would do
21	that."
22	And that's the point I want to ask you
23	about, all right, shortly.
24	Went on to say:
25	"And I said yes, I would consider
	And I said yes, I would consider

	161
1	that, and I can't remember if I
2	agreed to it at that time but I did
3	subsequently agree to increasing the
4	bid to eight (8) million."
5	You remember that that's what you said
6	on Friday?
7	MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
8	MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Can we please
9	turn up Mr. Nolan's transcript of May 29? Page 322.
10	And the reference will be lines 3 to 24.
11	So, Mr. Nolan was asked this by Mr.
12	Mather.
13	"I'd like to ask you about this.
14	There was a meeting on December 1st
15	as between certain representatives
16	from Collus as well as and I
17	believe the deputy mayor was there
18	as well as representatives from
19	PowerStream. And at that meeting"
20	This is Mr. Mather speaking:
21	"PowerStream increased the equity
22	portion of its offer from 7.3 to 8
23	million. Is that the me is that
24	the meeting you're talking about?"
25	Mr. Nolan:
1	

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162
                      "That's correct."
 1
 2
                   And then the question:
                      "At that meeting, did -- did someone
 3
                      from Collus or Collingwood side of
 5
                      the discussion disclose what Hydro
                      One's financial offer had been?"
 6
 7
                   Mr. Nolan:
                            They had just -- there was, I
                      believe -- best -- best of my
 9
10
                      recollection, there was an
11
                      intimation that it was higher and
12
                      that you needed to up your bid."
13
                   Just stopping there, does that ring a
14 Bell at all as to what was said on the other side?
15
                   MR. BRIAN BENTZ: That sounds
16 plausible, yes.
17
                  MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Do you have a
18 recollection?
19
                  MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I have a
20 recollection of that.
21
                   MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Going on:
22
                      "And so, no precise number was
23
                      given?"
24
                   Mr. Nolan:
2.5
                      "No, not that -- no. I'm fairly
```

	163
1	certain of that."
2	"To the best of of your
3	recollection, how was it intimated
4	that Hydro One's bid was was
5	higher?"
6	"I don't have any more recollection
7	than than that."
8	Okay. So then, if we can go, please,
9	to Mr. Nolan now on May 30th, because the he
10	returns to that in cross-examination. May 30, page
11	116, line 1. Now, this was actually examined well,
12	first examination again.
13	"Mr. Nolan, we touched briefly
14	yesterday, a December 1st meeting
15	you attended, at which time
16	PowerStream increased their offer to
17	equity, da da da."
18	Answer:
19	"Correct."
20	Going down:
21	"And you spoke about the indication
22	you got that Hydro One had a made
23	a higher offer. Can you tell us
24	anything else about what you recall
25	about that meeting?"
1	

	164
1	The answer:
2	"I recall a conversation I think
3	both myself and Glicksman made that
4	7.3 was already at the high end of
5	the range and, you know, Mr. Bentz
6	agreeing to increase it to eight (8)
7	million. I don't recall exactly how
8	the Hydro One bid was portrayed, but
9	it was pretty clear that it was
10	higher and that you needed to get
11	your bid up."
12	"Do you"
13	Question:
14	"Do you recall how the number eight
15	(8) million was arrived at?"
16	Answer:
17	"Well, eight (8) million was the
18	yes, I do. So eight (8) million was
19	the limit of Brian's Mr. Bentz'
20	authority authorized by the Board."
21	And over for the next few lines on the
22	next page, 117.
23	"Do you know if eight (8) million
24	was something that Brian offered or
25	was and if so, was it in response
1	

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 1
                      to something that Collus had put on
                      the table?"
 2
 3
                   Mr. Nolan:
                            I think it's something that
 5
                      Brian offered and made it very clear
 6
                      that he couldn't go any higher. And
 7
                      that -- and -- and that was, you
                      know, in our -- in our view and
 9
                      still is a very high price,
10
                      especially for 50 percent."
11
                   Now that you see that, and thinking
12
   about it, which was it from your recollection?
13
                   Did you just offer eight (8) million or
14
   did they -- did it -- did it unfold the way Mr. Nolan
15
   indicated there?
16
                   MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I remember Dean
   Muncaster saying you have to get your bid up, and I
17
18
   knew that eight (8) million was our upper limit. Do I
19
   recall, did I offer it or did they say it? Makes more
    sense to me that I offered it because eight (8)
20
   million was the upper limit, and I don't have a
21
   specific recollection of -- of which way it went.
22
23
                   MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And I'm going to
24
   take you to one (1) document that deals with that.
25
                   Do you recall that at that meeting,
```

- 1 when Mr. Muncaster said that, intimated that Hydro
- 2 One's bid was higher, and said you got to get it up a
- 3 bit -- do you have any recollection with your
- 4 executive team of leaving the room and going to your
- 5 office to caucus there to discuss it, what you were
- 6 going to do in response to that request?
- 7 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I wouldn't have
- 8 answered it directly and -- and we would have wanted
- 9 to discuss that. I typically would consult with Mr.
- 10 Nolan and Mr. Glicksman on those things. So, yes.
- 11 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. So I
- 12 -- I take it what you're saying is, that's what you
- 13 typically would have done but you don't specifically
- 14 remember leaving the -- the -- the meeting with them
- 15 in the large boardroom there and going to your office.
- 16 Is that fair?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes, that's fair.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Fine, thanks.
- 19 Okay. Just a couple of other things.
- 20 On Friday, Justice Marrocco asked you,
- 21 and I'm quoting:
- "Based on your experience in the
- industry, would you have been able
- 24 to guess at who the bidders might be
- in a fairly informed way?"

- 1 Do you remember that?
- 2 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And you answered:
- 4 "Yes."
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 6 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Can you explain
- 7 that answer, please? What had your experience been?
- 8 What did you expect and -- and why, and particularly,
- 9 for example, with respect to the four (4) that
- 10 ultimately did in fact provide bids in this case?
- 11 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: There weren't a lot
- 12 of transactions in this sector. There were many
- 13 transactions in the -- in 2000. It went from three
- 14 hundred (300) to --
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: We've heard that,
- 16 yeah.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: -- a hundred and
- 18 seven (107) utilities. In the -- in the intervening -
- 19 in this case, this was 2010. In the intervening
- 20 decade, there may be a handful of transactions that
- 21 occur. We were involved in quite a number of them.
- 22 And there were only a handful of utilities that were
- 23 active in the sector.
- It was clear, for example, Toronto
- 25 Hydro was not a utility that was focussed on being

- 1 actively involved in mergers and acquisitions.
- 2 Veridian definitely, when we did the -- the merger
- 3 with Barrie in 2009, they were -- they were very
- 4 active in trying to make their case even though we
- 5 were -- we were in the middle of a sole source
- 6 negotiation with Barrie Hydro.
- 7 And Veridian came in and tried to make
- 8 their case to council to say, well, you should pick
- 9 us, too. Horizon we knew. That's why they hire --
- 10 hired Mr. Freeman. He had worked with Hydro One for
- 11 many, many years and was involved in their eighty-
- 12 seven (87) acquisitions in 2000.
- 13 He was -- one (1) of the main purposes
- 14 was for him to be active in the consolidation sector
- 15 in the Province. So, Hyd -- or Horizon utilities and
- 16 Veridian were definitely very active.
- 17 And Hydro One, because they had a
- 18 footprint across Ontario and had acquired eighty-eight
- 19 (88), anything that was an imbedded utility they felt
- 20 that they could integrate into their service area at a
- 21 very low cost, and it had good value for them. It was
- 22 clearly part of their strategy.
- But beyond that, there were very few
- 24 that were active in the sector.
- 25 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: So, I -- I take

- 1 it that -- that these were sort of, from your -- your
- 2 point of view, to quote the penultimate scene in
- 3 Casablanca, the usual suspects that you'd run into in
- 4 these things?
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 6 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. Then
- 7 Board approval of the bid for Collus. And this then
- 8 goes directly to the \$8,000,000. Very briefly, the
- 9 Foundation Document, please, paragraph 316.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

- 13 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And you can just
- 14 scroll down. And just there's several documents
- 15 referred to. We're not going to go to all of them,
- 16 but just read that over to yourself.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 20 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. Do
- 21 you -- do you recognize that and does that remind you
- 22 about what happened?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 24 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And
- 25 then could we go to two (2) documents, ALE610?

Transcript Date June 3, 2019 170 1 (BRIEF PAUSE) 2 3 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And so, these are draft minutes, minutes always seem to be draft, they never seem to be finalized, but of a meeting of audit and finance committee of PowerStream. And this is October 19th. Do you see that? 8 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: (NO AUDIBLE 9 RESPONSE). 10 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And that was five 11 (5) days before ul -- ultimate board approval. Do you 12 see that? 13 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 14 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And 15 we the various people who were present and Mr. Glicksman and you and various others. And then if we can just scroll down. I just want to ask you about a 17 18 few things. 19 So, the confirmation of agenda. And then here we have Collus. 20 "The EVP and chief financial officer 21 22 and present CEO led the audit and 23 finance committee through a

update."

confidential presentation and

24

2.5

171 Do you remember doing that? 1 2 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 3 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And those two (2) people, of course, are Mr. Glicksman and you, right? 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And then there 6 7 was a question, clarification of mayor -- by Mayor Bevilacqua and -- outline of the synergies. And then is this accurate, what you -- is re -- you were reported to have said at the bottom? 10 11 "The present CFO emphasized that this transaction cannot be looked at 12 13 in a two (2) year time frame and 14 that this is a part of a long-term 15 strategic plan to grow PowerStream 16 with further mergers." 17 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 18 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: You've talked 19 about that --20 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 21 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: -- at length, 22 right? All right. Going over... Okay. And then the bottom is the part dealing with Mr. Bonwick and 24 approval of that. We won't deal with that right now. 2.5 And then just above heading 3 there:

```
172
                      "It was moved and carried that the
 1
 2
                      audit and finance committee accept
                      for information the confidential
 3
                      presentation and an update on the
 5
                      Collus RFP and term sheet and agree
 6
                      that management should take it
 7
                      forward with suggested changes to
                      the October 24th Board meeting."
 9
                  Do you remember that?
10
                  MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
11
                  MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Could we then
    finally on this point bring up ALE167, which is the
13
   report? I want to ask you about a couple of things on
14
   that.
15
16
                          (BRIEF PAUSE)
17
18
                  MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Do you remember
19
   that this was the Collus Power RFP update that was
20
   prepared?
21
                  MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
22
                  MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Who prepared
23 this? It may have been more than one (1) person. I
24 don't know.
2.5
                  MR. BRIAN BENTZ: It would likely be -
```

- 1 Mr. Glicksman would be leading the preparation of
- 2 the slides and he would have reviewed it with me.
- 3 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And
- 4 so, I take it the two (2) of you were satisfied that
- 5 this was the presentation that should go to the
- 6 committee?
- 7 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 8 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Okay. Let's
- 9 scroll down. I want to get to page 8, but we'll see
- 10 if we can -- go down. All right. So, there's a whole
- 11 background here, October 4th the RFP, responses due
- 12 November 16th.
- 13 The second to last bullet point,
- 14 "Engaging John McNeil of BDR." And we talked about
- 15 that, et cetera. And then going down to the next
- 16 slide, "Propose criteria." And this, of course, came
- 17 from the RFP itself, right?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 19 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. Going
- 20 down, "Overview of Collus." And there's a good deal
- 21 of information there. And it talks about customers,
- 22 full-time residents, the rate base of 16.8 million.
- 23 You talked about that this morning, right?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And

- 1 these figures and so on are all publically available
- 2 filed with the OEB, isn't that so?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes, they are.
- 4 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. Going
- 5 down, "The CHEC group." And so, you saw fit, I take
- 6 it, to put all of this in the CHEC group because that
- 7 was part of the strategy that you were proposing and
- 8 you wanted to discuss with the committee?
- 9 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Correct.
- 10 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. Going
- 11 down. And then, "Structure." We can go past that,
- 12 "Initial structure, additional structure." And then
- 13 going down. And this, I think, is the -- is the final
- 14 one (1) here:
- 15 "Purchase of shares. The RFP asked
- for offers to purchase up to 50
- 17 percent of the shares."
- 18 And then you've got:
- 19 "Recapitalizing -- the second bullet
- 20 point -- to leverage. The utility
- 21 60:40 will provide Collus with
- 22 approximately 5 to 6 million to give
- to the Town as a dividend."
- The next bullet point, deemed equity is
- 25 6.8. Then the next one (1):

```
175
                      "Based on BDR's initial financial
 1
 2
                      analysis, the enterprise value of
 3
                      Collus is in the range of 24 to 26
                      million."
 5
                   Which was what you were talking about
 6
   this morning, yes?
 7
                  MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
                   MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And then:
 9
                      "BDR values Collus Power's
10
                      shareholder equity in the range of
11
                      twelve (12) to sixteen (16);
12
                      therefore, 50 percent would be in
                      the range of 6 to 8 million."
13
14
                  Do you see that?
15
                  MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Correct.
16
                   MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Are those numbers
   familiar to you?
17
18
                   MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
19
                   MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. Now,
   as I understand it, we won't go through all the
   documents, but what happened is that this is what you
21
22
   and Mr. Glicksman, the management team, were
23 recommending, right --
24
                  MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
2.5
                  MR. MICHAEL WATSON: -- and that the
```

- 1 audit and finance committee approved you taking this
- 2 recommendation to the Board?
- 3 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 4 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And then fi -- on
- 5 October 24th, the Board approved this recommendation,
- 6 right?
- 7 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 8 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And is that the
- 9 source of the \$8 million cap then?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 11 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. Thank
- 12 you. Finally, just a few questions on one (1) last
- 13 point. And, Your Honour, I have just a very few
- 14 questions about this, and it does relate to 20 -- the
- 15 2017 transaction, but these matters are raised in the
- 16 Foundation Document and there's been some discussion
- 17 about it, so it's very short and it deals directly
- 18 with those.
- 19 Could I ask, please, that the
- 20 Foundation Document --
- 21 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Well,
- 22 just go one by one and --
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Indeed.
- 24 Absolutely. Foundation Document 797 be brought up.

2.5

177 1 (BRIEF PAUSE) 2 CONTINUED BY MR. MICHAEL WATSON: 3 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And if you please could -- well, and 7998. If you could read those over to yourself, Mr. Bentz. 7 (BRIEF PAUSE) 9 10 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 11 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. Do you recall this? 13 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 14 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. There 15 is one (1) thing that preceded this but had to do with 16 this whole matter that I want to ask you about. In December 2016, outside the buy/sell, did PowerStream 17 18 make an offer to -- to the Town, to Collus, to 19 purchase the Town's 50 percent of shares? 20 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 21 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And 22 what -- so -- so that -- and if the Town had accepted, 23 then PowerStream would have owned a hundred percent? 24 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 2.5 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Did the -- did

- 1 PowerStream make its offer open until, my
- 2 understanding is, December 22nd? Does that ring a
- 3 bell?
- 4 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 5 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Did the Town ask
- 6 for more time?
- 7 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 8 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Did PowerStream
- 9 give that more time?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. And -
- 12 and do you have any recollection of what the price
- 13 was that -- that PowerStream was offering?
- 14 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: It was in a similar
- 15 range of multiple as the original bid, the one point
- 16 six (1.6) times. It was one point five (1.5) or one
- 17 point six (1.6) times rate base.
- 18 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Right. And by
- 19 that time, the rate base had increased slightly,
- 20 right, from five (5) years?
- 21 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Over 20 million.
- MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Right.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: It was 16.8.
- 24 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Right. Does the
- 25 number 9.3 million ring a bell to you?

179 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: That sounds right. 1 2 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: And did the Town reject that offer? 3 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 5 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: All right. did PowerStream then sit on the situation until the following October, when the Town triggered the buy/sell --9 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 10 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: -- for 11 approximately 13 million? 12 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes. 13 MR. MICHAEL WATSON: Okay. 14 my questions, Your Honour. Thank you. 15 16 (BRIEF PAUSE) 17 RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. KATE MCGRANN: 18 19 MS. KATE MCGRANN: Just a couple of questions in reply. Mr Watson asked you a question about further growth with Collus PowerStream, and you 21 said that they wouldn't have had to contribute any 22 money to an acquisition in order to enjoy the benefits 24 of an acquisition. 2.5 Is that a fair paraphrasing of your

- 1 answer?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 3 MS. KATE MCGRANN: If the Town did
- 4 contribute money to the acquisition, what additional
- 5 things would they get out of that transaction?
- 6 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: They would get
- 7 increased proportional value of the synergies. So
- 8 when I was talking about -- I used the case of Wasaga
- 9 Beach. So if -- if they put no money in --
- MS. KATE MCGRANN: M-hm.
- 11 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: -- they would have
- 12 retained a 30 percent ownership in that consolidated
- 13 entity. They would have -- and if you -- and if you
- 14 could have achieved a million dollars a year in
- 15 synergies, they would have got 30 percent of those
- 16 synergies. So presumably \$300,000 a year and a
- 17 accredited value. If they purchased 50 percent and
- 18 increased their percentage ownership in the
- 19 consolidated entity, they would have got 50 percent of
- 20 the synergies.
- 21 And this is -- you know, this is in --
- 22 well, I would -- it's in perpetuity under the OEB
- 23 rules for the first decade because they allow owners
- 24 to enjoy the benefits of the synergies in the first
- 25 ten (10) years. After that, all of the benefits go to

- 1 customers.
- 2 So the benefits go somewhere 'cause
- 3 you're lowering the costs. So in the first ten (10)
- 4 years, they go through either increased equity or
- 5 dividend flow to the shareholder; in the out years,
- 6 they go to lower rates to consumers. So the -- that's
- 7 what they would have had.
- 8 MS. KATE MCGRANN: To help me
- 9 understand your answer, when you say purchase an
- 10 interest in the consolidated entity, what is -- what
- 11 is the consolidated entity that's being envisioned
- 12 here?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: The new entity would
- 14 be admitting -- admitting a new LDC. So if Collus --
- 15 if Collus PowerStream had -- had purchased
- 16 Wasaga Beach Hydro, for example Wasaga Beach -- the
- 17 Town of Wasaga Beach could have chosen like -- like
- 18 Collingwood did to retain a 50 percent interest in
- 19 Wasaga Beach Hydro. That would -- they could have
- 20 done the same thing.
- 21 The new entity now has a bigger service
- 22 area, which is geographically contiguous, and there's
- 23 synergies that you can get from that. So that's --
- 24 that's where the value comes from in terms of
- 25 operations. You can -- you can standardize

- 1 engineering practices. You can standardize material
- 2 standards. Your call response is better. You can go
- 3 to one potential call centre. You have one executive
- 4 management team. You can rationalize a lot of the
- 5 back office.
- 6 MS. KATE MCGRANN: So can we look at
- 7 ALE617 for a second? I'm just wondering if this
- 8 diagram will help clarify your answer a little bit.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 12 MS. KATE MCGRANN: Could we look at
- 13 slide 7 of this just for my assistance. I wonder if
- 14 this diagram might help me visualize what you're
- 15 talking about here.
- So we got PowerStream, the Town of
- 17 Collingwood, and an additional CHEC utility. I'm in
- 18 the Collus PowerStream diagram at the bottom here.
- 19 What's being envisioned in this
- 20 picture?
- 21 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: So we're bringing --
- 22 we would bringing in a new LDC, so a new partner. And
- 23 that -- that new partner -- the assets -- so the
- 24 service area assets of that LDC would be transferred
- 25 into Collus PowerStream. So now you're -- you're

- 1 operating a utility with a larger footprint.
- And in this case, we're assuming that
- 3 the new -- a new owner comes in. It would likely be
- 4 another municipality, so that municipality would then
- 5 own a -- it would own shares in -- in a new company
- 6 that would -- that would have the Collingwood service
- 7 area plus another adjacent municipality or a CHEC
- 8 group, for example. Utility service area in there, as
- 9 well.
- 10 MS. KATE MCGRANN: So is this picture
- 11 envisioning that -- you say that there's going to be a
- 12 new entity. I'm just trying to understand the
- 13 50/25/25 that's in here, and then I can hopefully use
- 14 this to understand what would happen if the Town's
- 15 putting money in or not.
- 16 Is the notion that Collus PowerStream
- 17 is going to buy shares in the -- in the CHEC group
- 18 utility? Like, what is -- what's happening here?
- 19 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No. It could be --
- 20 it could be negotiated either way. So first of all,
- 21 the Town of Collingwood had -- well, they negotiated
- 22 liquidity rights, and they negotiated minority
- 23 protection rights --
- MS. KATE MCGRANN: M-hm.
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: -- that basically

- 1 allowed them to block any -- any new shareholder from
- 2 coming in. So that's the first thing. This one
- 3 envisions PowerStream purchasing 50 percent of the
- 4 utility just like it did with Collingwood.
- 5 So instead of 50/50, you now have a new
- 6 partner of a similar size who is coming into the
- 7 partnership. They're paid 50 percent of their shares.
- 8 So PowerStream's interest increases to 50 percent.
- 9 The Town of Collingwood's value of its
- 10 ownership -- the \$8 million that was -- you know, if
- 11 you assume that's the fair value -- the \$8 million
- 12 stays the same, the value. But they would exchange
- 13 the shares they had in Collus PowerStream for the new
- 14 entity.
- MS. KATE MCGRANN: I see.
- 16 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: And the new entity
- 17 would be a bigger entity.
- 18 MS. KATE MCGRANN: Okay. So is it the
- 19 case then that on the example you've given me, as you
- 20 bring in more partners, the new entity gets bigger,
- 21 and the Town of Collingwood has the option to either
- 22 participate in the purchase by putting in money,
- 23 maintaining their ownership interest, or they will get
- 24 to continue to participate but their relative
- 25 proportionate share of ownership is decreased with

- 1 each transaction?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 3 MS. KATE MCGRANN: Okay. When
- 4 Mr. Bonwick was asking you questions, one of the
- 5 questions he asked you is about in the course of the
- 6 meetings that you attended with him after the
- 7 transaction closed whether anyone raised concerns that
- 8 he wasn't acting in the best interests of Collus
- 9 PowerStream, and I think your answer was not at that
- 10 time. Do you remember that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: (NO AUDIBLE
- 12 RESPONSE).
- MS. KATE MCGRANN: What did you mean
- 14 when you said not at that time?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I was think -- well,
- 16 after the fact -- after, you know, the allegations of,
- 17 you know, what happened during the transaction came
- 18 out, then I think we were -- we were more cautious in
- 19 terms of the activities that we wanted him to pursue.
- 20 This was probably in the first -- I'd
- 21 say that maybe the second quarter of 2012, just making
- 22 sure that, you know -- because he was still -- we
- 23 rolled the contract over to Collus/PowerStream at some
- 24 point. So just making sure that we were clear and
- 25 careful in terms of instruction.

- 1 MS. KATE MCGRANN: Okay. So when you
- 2 say after the allegations came out, you're talking
- 3 about the second quarter of 2012?
- 4 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I -- I can't
- 5 remember the exact time frame, but it was sometime in
- 6 that following year.
- 7 MS. KATE MCGRANN: Okay.
- 8 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Maybe it was 2013.
- 9 I -- I don't recall.
- 10 MS. KATE MCGRANN: Are you referring
- 11 to the allegations in the CBC article, and it would
- 12 follow that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: That would be part
- 14 of it, yes.
- MS. KATE MCGRANN: My understanding
- 16 that you -- your -- you ended your relationship with
- 17 Mr. Bonwick after the CBC article came out.
- 18 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: So somewhere
- 19 between -- whether it was article or not or just sort
- 20 of talk in the community that, you know, something --
- 21 something -- there was -- there was undue influence,
- 22 those types of allegations. So we were more cautious
- 23 after that.
- 24 MS. KATE MCGRANN: So was it the case
- 25 that first, there was -- there was information that

- 1 you received that caused you to want to be more
- 2 careful in the way that you used Mr. Bonwick, and then
- 3 the CBC article came out, and then the relationship
- 4 ended?
- 5 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- 6 MS. KATE MCGRANN: What can you tell
- 7 me about what you heard that caused you to want to be
- 8 more careful in the way that you used him?
- 9 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Well, it was
- 10 fulfilling the -- the initial concerns we had around
- 11 optics that there was you know, the notion that, you
- 12 know, the community perceived this as was it -- was
- 13 it -- did they get fair value? Was the process fair?
- 14 That kind of thing.
- 15 MS. KATE MCGRANN: At the point in
- 16 time that you -- that that information started to come
- 17 up -- the after-the-fact information that caused you
- 18 to be more careful with him, did you take any further
- 19 steps to investigate the nature of his relationship
- 20 with his sister and any of the other members of
- 21 Council?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- MS. KATE MCGRANN: Why not?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: We didn't think it
- 25 was appropriate at the time. We didn't think --

- 1 MS. KATE MCGRANN: How as it not
- 2 appropriate?
- 3 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Well, it didn't --
- 4 it didn't -- we didn't feel that we needed to do it at
- 5 the time. I mean, we really didn't give it a thought
- 6 in terms of -- we thought that the appropriate measure
- 7 would be just to speak to him directly.
- 8 MS. KATE MCGRANN: Did you have a
- 9 conversation with him about this?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: There were
- 11 definitely conversations. Do I remember a specific
- 12 conversation? No. But there were conversations.
- MS. KATE MCGRANN: Okay. Can you
- 14 say -- can you tell us generally what the
- 15 conversations were about?
- 16 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Just that given that
- 17 the allegations that were in the community that we had
- 18 to be -- we had to be, you know, the conduct had to be
- 19 very guar -- guarded and it had to be in the -- in an
- 20 appropriate way. It had to be managed properly.
- 21 MS. KATE MCGRANN: Did you explain to
- 22 him what you meant by guarded?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: I don't recall the
- 24 specifics of the -- of the conversation, just
- 25 generally those were --

1 MS. KATE MCGRANN: Do you remember

- 2 what you wanted him to do as a result of your
- 3 conversations with him?
- 4 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No. I -- I don't
- 5 remember the conversations in great detail.
- MS. KATE MCGRANN: Okay, but you
- 7 understand the fact that there were concerns and that
- 8 as a result of those concerns you wanted to be more
- 9 careful with how you used him. How were you more
- 10 careful?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: By -- by speaking
- 12 with him and talking to him about, you know, these --
- 13 these things are coming out in the community and lets
- 14 make sure that, you know, that we're sensitive to
- 15 them.
- I don't think it was anything more than
- 17 that.
- MS. KATE MCGRANN: What did you --
- 19 what did you hope he would understand when you said
- 20 you needed to be more sensitive?
- 21 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: It's the whole idea
- 22 of the -- of the optics of the relationship. You have
- 23 to be sensitive to the optics of the relationship in
- 24 the community, and it was becoming elevated.
- MS. KATE MCGRANN: Did you know what

- 1 you wanted him to do as a result of the conversations
- 2 you had with him?
- 3 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- 4 MS. KATE MCGRANN: You just wanted him
- 5 to figure it out?
- 6 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No. No, I wanted
- 7 him to conduct himself being aware of the fact that
- 8 these -- these -- this was a concern in the community
- 9 at the time.
- 10 MS. KATE MCGRANN: Was it the case
- 11 that you identified the concern, you alerted him to it
- 12 and you left the decisions about how to respond to
- 13 that up to him?
- 14 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Well, we monitored
- 15 it as well, yes.
- 16 MS. KATE MCGRANN: How did you monitor
- 17 it?
- 18 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Just in terms of
- 19 what his activities were going forward.
- 20 He didn't work for us, I mean other
- 21 than the -- the heritage dinner, I'm trying to
- 22 recollect what happened in the 2012 to 2013 period.
- 23 We weren't really active with him after
- 24 the deal had closed. He was trying to work through
- 25 outreach to the CHEC group, I think it was during the

1 first part of 2013 and at some point, you know, his

- 2 role just faded.
- 3 MS. KATE MCGRANN: So how did you
- 4 monitor what he was doing up until the point that his
- 5 role faded?
- 6 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: There would be
- 7 Dennis, Mr. Nolan, Mr. Glicksman, were in contact with
- 8 them, Mr. Fagen were in contact with him and
- 9 monitoring, you know, what he was doing on our behalf.
- MS. KATE MCGRANN: Was there any
- 11 change to the fees that you paid him?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No, I don't believe
- 13 so, other than when the contract changed in 2011.
- 14 MS. KATE MCGRANN: When the contract
- 15 rolled over to Collus PowerStream, did you alert the
- 16 people who were -- did you alert the people at that
- 17 company about these concerns and the steps that you
- 18 had been taking in PowerStream in monitoring Mr.
- 19 Bonwick's work?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No.
- MS. KATE MCGRANN: Why not?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: We thought we could
- 23 manage it internally and it was -- it was an optics
- 24 issue.
- 25 MS. KATE MCGRANN: Did PowerStream

- 1 continue to diminish his work even though his contract
- 2 rolled over to Collus PowerStream?
- 3 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Well, jointly
- 4 through the -- through our involvement in the Board of
- 5 Directors.
- 6 MS. KATE MCGRANN: My last question
- 7 for you is in responding to a question that Mr.
- 8 Bonwick asked you about the disclosure made at the
- 9 June 29th meeting, do you know the meeting I'm talking
- 10 about?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: Yes.
- MS. KATE MCGRANN: You referenced your
- 13 belief in your answer that Mr. Bonwick had already
- 14 made the disclosure that PowerStream required under
- 15 the contract. Do you remember that?
- MR. BRIAN BENTZ: yes.
- MS. KATE MCGRANN: Did that belief --
- 18 I'm just wondering why you referenced that in your
- 19 answer, did that belief qualify the disclosure you
- 20 made at that meeting in any way?
- 21 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: How would it qualify
- 22 it? In -- in terms of did it qualify my belief in,
- 23 sorry? I just want to understand the question.
- 24 MS. KATE MCGRANN: Did your belief
- 25 that Mr. Bonwick had already made the disclosure that

193 PowerStream required qualify the disclosure that you made at the June 29th meeting in any way? 3 MR. BRIAN BENTZ: No. MS. KATE MCGRANN: Those are my questions. 6 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Thank 7 you very much, Mr. Bentz. 8 9 10 (WITNESS STANDS DOWN) 11 12 JOHN GLICKSMAN, AFFIRMED 13 14 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Try to 15 speak into the microphone, Mr. Glicksman. 16 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes, sir. 17 EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY MR. JOHN MATHER: 18 19 MR. JOHN MATHER: Good afternoon. 20 In the 2011 to 2012 time period, you 21 were the CFO of PowerStream, is that correct? 22 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: That is correct. 23 MR. JOHN MATHER: It's -- my 24 understanding is that you are currently retired, but 25 do some part-time consulting in the electricity

- 1 industry. Is that fair?
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes. Yes, it is.
- 3 MR. JOHN MATHER: And Mr. Glicksman,
- 4 you've provided the Inquiry with an affidavit, is that
- 5 correct?
- 6 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes, that's
- 7 correct.
- 8 MR. JOHN MATHER: Can we please pull
- 9 up AFF8? Is this the affidavit that you've provided?
- 10 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: To the best of my
- 11 ability, assuming all the pages are there that I
- 12 signed, yes.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: Okay, we're going to
- 14 scan through it and I'm going to provide a summary, so
- 15 if -- if --
- 16 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO:
- 17 There's sixty-one (61) pages, is there?
- 18 MR. JOHN MATHER: That includes
- 19 exhibits, so we're going to scan through the text of
- 20 the affidavit.
- 21 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: This
- 22 is the affidavit he signed, right?
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes.
- 24 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Fine,
- 25 let's go.

- 1 CONTINUED BY MR. JOHN MATHER
- MR. JOHN MATHER: Are there any
- 3 corrections you'd like to make to the affidavit you
- 4 signed?
- 5 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: No.
- 6 MR. JOHN MATHER: And can you confirm
- 7 it's true to the best of your ability?
- 8 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes, I can.
- 9 MR. JOHN MATHER: I'm going to provide
- 10 a brief summary of what you've spoken about in your
- 11 affidavit. I'm scrolling down.
- You've provided evidence on Mr.
- 13 Bonwick's retainer -- sorry, PowerStream's retainer
- 14 with Compenso and Mr. Bonwick. The concerns you had
- 15 about optics and how those were addressed by
- 16 disclosure to the Mayor and clerk
- 17 Continue scrolling. You've set out
- 18 your understanding of the services that Mr. Bonwick
- 19 was to provide underne -- under the retainer.
- 20 Continue scrolling.
- 21 You've provided your recollection on
- 22 PowerStream learning that Mr. Bonwick's providing
- 23 certain media monitoring services through Mr. Chadwick
- 24 and why PowerStream did not want to receive those
- 25 services, including because it may raise a conflict of

- 1 interest issue with respect to an RFP.
- 2 You've provided your recollection of
- 3 certain meetings and events, including a PowerStream
- 4 golf tournament on September 8th, 2011.
- 5 You've -- continue scrolling. You've
- 6 also provided your recollections about the nature of
- 7 the information that Mr. Bonwick provided to
- 8 PowerStream before and during the RFP process.
- 9 Continue scrolling. You've provided
- 10 information about the amended -- amendments made to
- 11 Mr. Bonwick's retainer in November of 2011.
- 12 Continue scrolling. In addition,
- 13 you've provided your recollection about the solar
- 14 attic vent project. Mr. Bonwick's involvement in the
- 15 response to the RFP. Your recollections of the
- 16 December 1st, 2011 meeting. Your recollections about
- 17 certain reports that PowerStream received on meetings
- 18 with the Town's lawyers or involvement with the CAO.
- 19 And finally, scrolling down, you
- 20 provided your recollection with respect to Mr.
- 21 Bonwick's work for Collus PowerStream after the RFP
- 22 process was complete.
- 23 So in addition to the matters set out
- 24 in your affidavit I have some additional questions
- 25 that I'm going to ask you this afternoon.

- 1 To begin, if we can go to paragraph 3
- 2 of your affidavit. In paragraph 3 of your affidavit
- 3 you indicate that you first became aware of a
- 4 potential Collus RFP process in January 2011 when Mr.
- 5 Bentz advised you about the discussions he had with
- 6 Mr. Houghton and Mr. Bonwick.
- Beginning with Mr. Houghton, what do
- 8 you recall about what Mr. Bentz said to you about his
- 9 discussions with Mr. Houghton?
- 10 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: What I rec --
- 11 what I recollect and I know some people said it might
- 12 have been -- I think some of the other witnesses might
- 13 have said December, I remember that it was January and
- 14 -- for me anyways, and that he said he'd gotten a call
- 15 from Ed about -- that they were looking at potentially
- 16 looking at options with respect to an RFP or -- or
- 17 some type of process for Collus Po -- for Collus.
- 18 MR. JOHN MATHER: Do you recall if he
- 19 told you anything else about his conversation with Mr.
- 20 Houghton?
- 21 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Not a lot of
- 22 detail.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: And with respect to
- 24 Mr. Bonwick, what do you remember that Mr. Bentz said
- 25 to you about his early conversations with Mr. Bonwick?

1 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: He said that he

- 2 had gotten a call from Mr. Bonwick, introducing
- 3 himself and offering his services to us.
- 4 MR. JOHN MATHER: Did Mr. Bentz say
- 5 anything to you about whether or not his conversations
- 6 with Mr. Houghton and Mr. Bonwick were related in any
- 7 way?
- 8 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: No, I don't
- 9 remember if at that time -- I know at some point in
- 10 time, Brian -- Mr. Bentz called Ed -- Mr. Houghton to
- 11 ask him if he knew who Bon -- Paul Bonwick was.
- 12 That's all I recollect that Brian would have mentioned
- 13 to us. They would have asked Mr. Houghton, who it --
- 14 if he knew who Paul Bonwick was.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: Do you recall what
- 16 Mr. Bentz told you about that conversation in terms of
- 17 what Mr. Houghton said?
- 18 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: At that -- from
- 19 what I recollect, Mr. Bentz told us that Mr. Houghton
- 20 said he -- that he -- he knew who Mr. Bonwick was, he
- 21 knew him from the community, and that he was highly
- 22 respected, and he'd been a federal MPP, and he might
- 23 be useful -- might be useful to us in some -- in some
- 24 capacity.
- 25 MR. JOHN MATHER: So if we could

- 1 scroll down to paragraph 6, which flows over the two
- 2 (2) pages. So if we could get -- thank you. So
- 3 that's paragraph 6.
- So in paragraph 6, you state that you
- 5 did not have concerns about Mr. Bonwick potentially
- 6 influencing the Mayor and -- or potentially providing
- 7 confidential information to PowerStream, and you did
- 8 not see that as a risk. But you do say:
- 9 "I was more concerned about the pros
- and cons of hir -- hiring Mr.
- 11 Bonwick, including the optics, given
- 12 the relationship."
- Other than the optics issue, which we
- 14 will discuss, what were the other pros and cons in
- 15 your mind of hiring Mr. Bonwick?
- 16 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: We had had
- 17 experience, and I had had experience with hiring
- 18 consultants before who had -- who understood the
- 19 relationships in the community and -- and actually, in
- 20 one (1) transaction, when the mayor had become aware
- 21 that we had hired a consultant who had been talking to
- 22 people at Council, that -- that, I think, led to that
- 23 transaction breaking down.
- 24 So those -- I really had a concern that
- 25 one (1), there had to be total disclosure. I didn't

- 1 want to take a risk that because we hired Mr. Bonwick,
- 2 that that could result, potentially, if there was an -
- 3 if an RFP resulted, that people on Council become
- 4 aware and say, okay, that's it. We don't want to have
- 5 anything to do with PowerStream.
- 6 So that was kind of one (1) of the --
- 7 one (1) of the cons that I had based on previous
- 8 experience that it -- that people becoming aware that
- 9 we'd hired the -- the brother of the mayor, that might
- 10 actually hurt our chances rather than help our
- 11 chances, and it -- should any potential RFP happen.
- 12 In terms of pros, there were some pros.
- 13 In terms of, we really didn't, you know, we really
- 14 didn't have knowledge of the -- of the community, and
- 15 the local Council, and in a number of transaction --
- 16 and I think Mr. Bentz and Mr. Nolan talked about it,
- 17 we'd expended a lot of effort on negotiating a deal,
- 18 or going quite far in a transaction without really
- 19 understanding that the Council was really in favour of
- 20 completing the Transaction.
- 21 And I think our -- our Board, and our
- 22 Audit and Finance committee, and our executive team
- 23 was concerned about how do we make sure that we don't
- 24 enter into this type of process again? I think Mr.
- 25 Bentz talked about -- with Orangeville Hydro. I think

- 1 prior to my joining Hydro Vaughan, I remember Brian
- 2 telling me that -- Mr. Bentz telling me that they'd
- 3 already made an off -- gone through an offer process
- 4 with Orangeville, which was a waste of time.
- 5 During my time at PowerStream. I think
- 6 there's at least twice, including meeting with the
- 7 treasurer of the Town, and -- and the president of --
- 8 of Orangeville Hydro, we expended a lot of effort in
- 9 terms of putting together a bid, and making an offer,
- 10 when -- when we really didn't -- they didn't have any
- 11 commitment from Council to -- to really seriously --
- 12 there was no commitment on their side.
- So that was one (1) of pros in terms of
- 14 trying to get a better reading before we invested a
- 15 lot of effort. There were a lot of other things that
- 16 were going on at the same time. There were other
- 17 discussions we're having with other utilities that
- 18 were significantly larger, about a potential merger.
- 19 So that was one (1) of the pros.
- 20 And then the funny thing that might
- 21 sound like a -- a pro or a con was that if Mr. -- Mr.
- 22 Bonwick obviously must have thought, based on his
- 23 understanding of what's going on in the community,
- 24 that there was a large potential that the Town might
- 25 go and sell part of the utility.

1 He came to us first. Well, if we would

- 2 say no and not hire him, he might have gone to
- 3 somebody else, like Horizon, or Veridian, who have
- 4 hired consultants in the past, and they would have
- 5 then hired him. And then not only wouldn't -- we had
- 6 his knowledge, but one (1) of our potential
- 7 competitors would have had his knowledge.
- 8 So that's kind of part of the pros and
- 9 cons.
- 10 MR. JOHN MATHER: Do you remember
- 11 having any discussions with anyone else within
- 12 PowerStream about that last item you mentioned, that
- 13 if PowerStream doesn't retain Mr. Bonwick, he may go
- 14 to a competitor?
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I can't tell you
- 16 that my recollection of a significant discussion on
- 17 that matter, but I wouldn't have been surprised if --
- 18 if I had. Fair to say we did go to the Audit and
- 19 Finance committee, and at the Audit and Finance
- 20 committee, it -- the notion was discussed about
- 21 whether or not, you know, we should engage Mr.
- 22 Bonwick. And I think generally, you know, pros and
- 23 cons, but I don't remember if that last item was disc
- 24 -- was discussed.
- 25 MR. JOHN MATHER: Understood. So then

- 1 paragraph 6, if we can continue scrolling on,
- 2 scrolling down, speaks at a high level with respect to
- 3 the certain disclosures that PowerStream obtained, and
- 4 that, what I understand from your affidavit, gave you
- 5 comfort as to some of the concerns you identified with
- 6 respect to optics.
- 7 And so I have some questions about
- 8 those disclosures, starting first with the disclosure
- 9 that was made to the clerk. So if we could pull up
- 10 ALE163.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 14 MR. JOHN MATHER: And if we could
- 15 scroll down to the bottom of the email chain.
- 16 I'm going to walk through the email
- 17 chain to assist -- you get some context before I ask
- 18 my question. So this starts with Mr. Bonwick emailing
- 19 you, sending you a copy of a proposal that he's
- 20 prepared on May 26th, 2011. And then if we scroll up.
- Then you respond to Mr. Bonwick on May
- 22 31st, and you provide a -- PowerStream's version of a
- 23 draft consulting engagement and confidentiality
- 24 agreements.
- 25 Scroll up. Mr. Bonwick then writes

back to you on the same day with respect to the document you signed, and then he says, midway through the email: 3 "There is one (1) small correction 5 required in the disclosure paragraph related to notice to the clerk. 6 This paragraph is correct in its assertion -- in it -- assertion that 9 the mayor has been informed and 10 subsequently agreed to provide a 11 written confirmation of PowerStream." 12 13 And then he says: "I have not formally engaged with 14 15 our clerk, or any other municipal 16 staff on this matter at that -- at this time." 17 18 And then we scroll up. You respond on 19 June 1st: 20 "Paul, thank you for your quick 21 reply and comments on our draft 22 letter. There still seems to be 23 some apparent misunderstanding of 24 the disclosures Brian thought you 2.5 had made to date to him with respect

205 to the mayor and the city clerk. 1 2 was under the impression that you had made disclosure to and received 3 clearance from the city clerk under 5 the Municip -- and -- and from the 6 city clerk, that under the Municipal 7 Act, there was no conflict for you to -- for you do -- to work for us, 9 leading to or on a potential RFP of 10 Collus, and that you had received 11 written confirmation from same of 12 the city clerk." 13 Can you tell me what you recall about this apparent misunderstanding with respect to Mr. 14 15 Bonwick's disclosure to Mr. Bentz? 16 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Well, the first thing is Mr. Bentz -- he was the one who had the 17 18 discussions directly with Mr. Bonwick, and then I -- I 19 worked with Dennis, and Dennis is the one (1) who had -- Mr. Nolan. I worked with Mr. Nolan, and he had the 20 pen on the engagement letter. 21 22 Now as it's been stated at this -- at this hearing before, that I was the primary contact, 24 so, I mean -- so I would get input from -- from Brian, and I'd get the material from Dennis, and then I would

- 1 go back. And so I would rev -- I rev -- we just go
- 2 back to Paul's email?
- 3 MR. JOHN MATHER: Yes, if we could
- 4 scroll down again.
- 5 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Mr. Bonwick's
- 6 email? So in that, he is saying that -- he's asking
- 7 for a correction. So I would -- then gone back to
- 8 Brian and Dennis, and I'd say, Hey, here's Paul's
- 9 email -- Mr. Bonwick's email, and is this correct?
- 10 Should we make this change or not?
- 11 And the feedback I got was, No, that's
- 12 not correct. And that's why I wrote that email,
- 13 drafted it, and would have run it by, likely, Dennis.
- 14 Brian, a lot of times, is not around, that's why I was
- 15 Mr. Bonwick's primary contact, and then sent that
- 16 email to -- you pull it up further, if you just don't
- 17 mind going back to the top. And you notice Dennis
- 18 Nolan is copied, and Brian Bentz is copied.
- 19 So Dennis would have seen my email and
- 20 help me draft that in terms of sending that back to
- 21 Mr. Nolan -- Mr. Bonwick.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: Do you recall -- do
- 23 you specifically recall having a conversation with Mr.
- 24 Bentz after you received the email from Paul about
- 25 what -- what Mr. Bentz understood had been done to

- 1 date with respect to disclosure to the clerk?
- 2 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Can we see the
- 3 dates on those too?
- 4 MR. JOHN MATHER: Yes. So if we
- 5 scroll down, Mr. Bonwick's email is May 31st, 2 --
- 6 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: At 5 -- at 5:40.
- 7 And the next one is?
- MR. JOHN MATHER: June 1st.
- 9 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: At -- so that's --
- 10 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Did
- 11 you want to go down?
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes. I just want
- 13 to see. So that was May 31st at 5:40 and the other
- 14 one is 11:20.
- So, Brian -- Mr. Bentz is a very busy
- 16 person. He had -- he had been involved in drafting
- 17 the engagement letter with Mr. -- from -- with Mr.
- 18 Bonwick, that asked for specific disclosure with the
- 19 clerk. Mr. Nolan and myself would have had that
- 20 discussion with Ms. -- Mr. Bentz. I would say that
- 21 probably it's better than a 50 percent chance that Mr.
- 22 Bentz was not in the office that morning, and the only
- 23 person I would have talked to would have been Mr.
- 24 Nolan.
- MS. BELINDA BAIN: Your Honour, just

1 again to obviously avoid any conversations that might

- 2 bring up solicitor-client privilege information.
- 3 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: yes.
- 4 MR. JOHN MATHER: Under -- understood.

5

- 6 CONTINUED BY MR. JOHN MATHER:
- 7 MR. JOHN MATHER: My question is
- 8 specifically, do you recall speaking to Mr. Bentz,
- 9 just Mr. Bentz. Whether Mr. Nolan was present or not
- 10 -- but I want to know if you recall speaking to Mr.
- 11 Bentz about what Mr. Bonwick had told him prior to
- 12 this email chain about disclosure to the --
- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Well --
- MR. JOHN MATHER: -- -- clerk.
- 15 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Well,
- 16 you -- we should be careful though because if Mr.
- 17 Bentz and Mr. Nolan and Mr. Glicksman were having a
- 18 conversation --

- 20 CONTINUED BY MR. JOHN MATHER:
- 21 MR. JOHN MATHER: I'm not seeking at
- 22 any point to understand any legal advice he received.
- 23 All I'm seeking to understand is if Mr. Glicksman
- 24 recalls Mr. Bentz reporting to him about what he
- 25 recalled happened in the past with respect to

- 1 disclosure to the clerk, not any commentary Mr. Nol --
- 2 Nolan may or may not have provided.
- 3 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: If we go back to
- 4 the email I sent, to best of my recollection, whether
- 5 I talked to Mr. Bentz that morning between 6:00-7:00
- 6 in the -- He'd normally would get in around 8:00 in
- 7 the morning, between 8:00 and 11:00.
- 8 It was very clear that my direction to
- 9 Mr. Bentz had been that there should be clearance from
- 10 the city clerk. And so I reference a
- 11 misunderstanding, and then I also reference if I've
- 12 got that wrong, given that you have had direct
- 13 discussion with Brian regarding this, it may be best
- 14 for you to give him a quick call so we can sort this
- 15 wording out, meaning if I've got it wrong and Mr.
- 16 Bentz did not insist on this disclosure, then you have
- 17 to close the loop with Mr. Bentz, because I was told
- 18 by Mr. Bentz that this disclosure was required.
- 19 MR. JOHN MATHER: Do you have any
- 20 understanding about what the misunderstanding was?
- 21 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Well, he said --
- 22 Mr. Bonwick said -- go back to the email below. He
- 23 said that it wasn't required. The way I read his
- 24 email was that that was not required, disclosure to
- 25 the clerk was not -- notice to the clerk was not

- 1 required. And then on our side, what -- what -- what
- 2 we had determined and Mr. Bentz had determined, was
- 3 that we needed independent verification from the
- 4 clerk.
- 5 MR. JOHN MATHER: Do you recall having
- 6 any concerns that Mr. Bonwick, at least as I
- 7 understand your answer, was suggesting that disclosure
- 8 to the clerk was not required?
- 9 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: So, Mr. Bonwick
- 10 came to us as a highly recommended individual, very
- 11 reputable in the community. At least one (1) of our
- 12 mayors had been -- Mayor Bev -- Bevilacqua had been a
- 13 federal MPP and had known Mr. Bonwick. When we went
- 14 into the Audit and Finance Committee and then the
- 15 feedback we got afterward when Brian met with the
- 16 three (3) mayors on this, that they thought highly of
- 17 him.
- There'd be no reason why I would at
- 19 that time think that Mr. Bonwick -- I think it was
- 20 just maybe a misunderstanding on his part that he
- 21 didn't think notice to the clerk was required. And Mr.
- 22 Bentz said yes, notice to the clerk is required, and
- 23 that I wouldn't have thought that there was anything
- 24 other than that, and -- and that therefore if we had
- 25 that wrong, he would go back to Brian and clarify what

- 1 was required.
- 2 MR. JOHN MATHER: If we could scroll
- 3 up to your response to Mr. Bonwick.
- 4 One of the things you say to him is
- 5 that:
- "He was under"
- 7 And that "he" is Mr. Bentz.
- 8 "He was under the impression that
- 9 you had made disclosure to and
- 10 received clearance from the city
- 11 clerk that under the Municipal Act
- there was no conflict for you to do
- work for us, leading to or on a
- 14 potential RFP."
- 15 I take it from that that PowerStream
- 16 specifically wanted Mr. Bonwick to disclose to the
- 17 clerk that the scope of the services may include work
- 18 on a potential RFP.
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes, that's
- 20 correct.
- 21 MR. JOHN MATHER: And I take it that's
- 22 also true for -- with respect to his disclosure to the
- 23 Mayor?
- 24 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes, that is
- 25 correct.

1 MR. JOHN MATHER: So if we could go to

- 2 --
- 3 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Just
- 4 before you do that, this -- why did you put the word
- 5 "misunderstanding" in quotes?

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 9 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I -- I can't
- 10 recollect a hundred percent. Sometimes we do that
- 11 from -- put an emphasis on it, and it could have been
- 12 -- this is -- may sound strange. It could have been
- 13 in terms of advice from counsel in terms of helping me
- 14 draft it, that we could have phrased it that way, but
- 15 -- but also it was because I was not there when Mr.
- 16 Bentz and Mr. Bonwick talked directly, so I was not
- 17 there to hear what Mr. Bentz said to Mr. Bonwick, and
- 18 I'm hearing from Mr. Bentz that he said he wanted
- 19 clearance from the clerk, and I'm hearing from Mr.
- 20 Bonwick, he's saying that, no, that didn't include the
- 21 clerk. So to me that is a misunderstanding.
- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO:
- 23 Sometimes it could imply some skepticism about whether
- 24 it was a misunderstanding. Did -- did you mean that?
- 25 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I -- to the best

- 1 of my recollection, I don't think so, because at that
- 2 time we had a very high regard of Mr. Bonwick and so I
- 3 don't -- I can't -- I can't say that I thought that he
- 4 deliberately had -- had done that.
- 5 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: All
- 6 right.

7

- 8 CONTINUED BY MR. JOHN MATHER:
- 9 MR. JOHN MATHER: I now want to look
- 10 at the -- the disclosure that was made to the clerk
- 11 and notes referenced in Exhibit C and D of your
- 12 affidavit, which are -- begin on page 15 of the
- 13 affidavit.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 17 MR. JOHN MATHER: This is referencing
- 18 Exhibit C. If we scroll down, we see it's an email
- 19 from Mr. Bonwick to Mr. Bentz and yourself, copying
- 20 Sara Almas, the clerk. And he writes:
- 21 "Hi Brian: John and I had the
- 22 opportunity to meet with the clerk
- of the Town of Collingwood, Ms. Sara
- 24 Almas, this morning."
- 25 Says:

214 "During this meeting, I described 1 the services my company would be --2 would be providing to PowerStream 3 through the region, as well as 5 specific to Collingwood." And then if we scroll down to the next 6 exhibit, Exhibit D, an email June 3rd to yourself, 7 copying a Victoria Scoffield. And then Mr. Bonwick writes: 10 "Good morning John: Further to my 11 emails from yesterday, the original 12 documents that you sent through are 13 now completely accurate and require 14 no changes." 15 And then he says: 16 "The clerk has been thoroughly briefed by me." 17 18 So in both of these emails, Mr. Bonwick 19 is reporting to you that he has spoken to the clerk and described his services. 20 21 At any point in time, did you asked Mr. Bonwick what specifically he told the -- the clerk 22 23 about what he'd be doing? 24 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: So, in the previous email that I sent to him, made it clear what

- 1 he was supposed to disclose to the clerk. So when I
- 2 got -- I think when we got the email -- I think
- 3 there's another email that said, prior to the one
- 4 that's on top, that the clerk is copied on, there's
- 5 another email that he sent to us that he had talked to
- 6 the clerk and we said that wasn't good enough, and
- 7 then that's when he sent a second email that he copied
- 8 the clerk on.
- 9 So again at that time, I would have
- 10 disclosed those two (2) emails to Mr. Bentz and Mr.
- 11 Nolan and there would have been a judgment made, was
- 12 it adequate or not, and given his reputation, we
- 13 wouldn't have felt the need to go back.
- 14 With other consultants, when they would
- 15 tell us stuff, we wouldn't necessarily go back and
- 16 double-check that -- you know, that -- that -- we have
- 17 to check that he's actually done what we've asked him
- 18 to do, to the detail.
- 19 MR. JOHN MATHER: So I take it from
- 20 your answer there that, as far as you're aware, no one
- 21 from PowerStream asked Mr. Bonwick specifically --
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Right.
- 23 MR. JOHN MATHER: -- what he had said
- 24 to the clerk. Is that correct?
- 25 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: That's correct.

- 1 MR. JOHN MATHER: Did you have any
- 2 concerns that in the two (2) emails we looked at, this
- 3 one and the one above it, there was no specific
- 4 mention of an RFP or an RFP process?
- 5 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: If we go back to
- 6 the one the clerk is copied on --
- 7 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Just -
- 8 just a minute, Mr. Glicksman.
- 9 MR. JOHN MATHER: Yeah. We can scroll
- 10 up to --
- 11 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Pull
- 12 that document up.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: Yeah. So if we just
- 14 scroll --
- 15 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Or is
- 16 it -- it's --
- 17 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I think it's just
- 18 scrolled up.
- 19 MR. JOHN MATHER: No. It's -- if you
- 20 scroll up, it's the -- the next exhibit up, yeah. So
- 21 we'll scroll up to that.
- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: I see,
- 23 yes.
- 24 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: So, on that one
- 25 (1), he talks about the work providing to the --

- 1 PowerStream and the region. And then in the one (1)
- 2 we just came to there was this notion that -- that,
- 3 later on in June, there would be a meeting that Mr.
- 4 Bentz would go to with the CAO, the mayor, Dean
- 5 Muncaster, Ed Houghton where full disclosure, Mr.
- 6 Bonwick's scope of work leading to potential RFP would
- 7 be disclosed, and I think Deputy Mayor Lloyd.
- 8 So, between those emails and the fact
- 9 that we were going to have a subsequent meeting
- 10 without Mr. Bonwick there where full disclosure of his
- 11 scope of services was going to be disclosed, that --
- 12 that, to me, that seemed to be enough. And I think
- 13 that seemed to be enough to Mr. Bentz and to Mr.
- 14 Nolan.

- 16 CONTINUED BY MR. JOHN MATHER:
- 17 MR. JOHN MATHER: The disclosure that
- 18 you were contemplating for the June 29th meeting, was
- 19 that more full than the disclosure you had understood
- 20 him to have given to the clerk and the mayor with
- 21 respect to signing the retainer?
- 22 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I think it was --
- 23 I think it was a broa -- it was to a broader audience,
- 24 but it would be the same disclosure that we understood
- 25 he'd given to the clerk and to the mayor.

218 1 2 (BRIEF PAUSE) 3 MR. JOHN MATHER: I understand from your affidavit you weren't in attendance at the meeting on June 29th. Is that correct? 7 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: That is correct. MR. JOHN MATHER: Did you receive a report from anyone about what happened at that meeting that you can recall? 10 11 12 (BRIEF PAUSE) 13 14 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: To the best of my 15 recollection, when Brian would go -- when Mr. Bentz would go to a meeting like that and he would not have 17 his execu -- member of executive team there, that he 18 would normally -- if there was anything significant on -- out of the ordinary coming out, he would meet with 20 us. 21 If there was nothing out of the ordinary coming out, he wouldn't necessarily meet with 22 us because he knew he was going to meet. And if there 24 was nothing extraordinary, he wouldn't hold a special 25 meeting.

- So, he may or may not have mentioned
- 2 that he had the meeting and it went well, and that's
- 3 all he might have said.
- 4 MR. JOHN MATHER: So, do you -- it
- 5 sounds to me from your answer you don't recall in this
- 6 instance whether this was something he told you about
- 7 afterwards or not?
- 8 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: That's correct.
- 9 I don't remember him telling us about it in -- in
- 10 detail.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: Do you have any
- 12 recollection of ever being informed whether or not a
- 13 potential RFP was discussed at the June 29th, 2011,
- 14 meeting?
- 15 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: No, I -- as I
- 16 mentioned, Mr. Bentz would go to the meeting. There
- 17 would be a discussion exactly what he -- and he
- 18 actually was going to have Ms. -- Mayor Lehman there
- 19 with him, and we were told what they were going to
- 20 discuss.
- 21 And he may have gotten back to us and
- 22 told us, but he -- there's just -- just as good a
- 23 likelihood that I cannot recollect the discussions.
- 24 MR. JOHN MATHER: And I also want to
- 25 ask you questions about the letter the mayor sent to

- 1 PowerStream. So, that's at Exhibit A. So, if we keep
- 2 scrolling up to page 11...

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 6 MR. JOHN MATHER: So, you can see this
- 7 is Exhibit A to your affidavit. And if we scroll
- 8 down, there's the letter from the mayor dated June
- 9 2nd, 2011.
- 10 And you can see in the second paragraph
- 11 the mayor writes:
- 12 "Paul has described the potential
- services his company will be
- 14 providing to -- will be providing to
- include but not limited to strategic
- 16 advice and matters related to public
- 17 relations, strategic planning,
- 18 acquisitions, and media relations."
- 19 At any point, did you or anyone at
- 20 PowerStream, to your knowledge, ask Mr. Bonwick for
- 21 more detail about what he had told the mayor about the
- 22 scope of his services other than what's set out in the
- 23 letter?
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: No, we did not.
- 25 But we -- our -- our assessment was the letter was --

- 1 was fairly complete. And it was recognized there
- 2 might be a sensitivity to -- to put in words like RFP
- 3 or potential RFP in a letter that might be done at the
- 4 -- at the Town that -- that might cause rumours to
- 5 happen if a letter from the mayor talked about a
- 6 potential RFP, so the phrase incorporated advice
- 7 related to Town of Collingwood which might have been
- 8 put in.
- 9 But, again, there was -- that would --
- 10 I'm not a lawyer. That would not have been my
- 11 assessment. That would have been something that was -
- 12 been discussed with our counsel and with Mr. Bentz.
- 13 Plus, we still also always had that June 29th meeting
- 14 coming up, too, to give full disclosure to everyone,
- 15 including the mayor.
- 16 MR. JOHN MATHER: Could we go to
- 17 paragraph 9 of your affidavit?

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 21 MR. JOHN MATHER: This paragraph
- 22 discusses your knowledge of any relationship between
- 23 Mr. Bonwick and Mr. Houghton. And you say that you
- 24 were not aware of the nature of the relationship
- 25 between them.

- 1 And you go on to say, if you had known
- 2 that Mr. Houghton had reviewed and commented on an
- 3 initial draft of Mr. Bonwick's proposal to Pos --
- 4 PowerStream, you would have been concerned about
- 5 PowerStream's retainer of Mr. Bonwick.
- 6 What would have concerned you about
- 7 that?
- 8 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: It gets back to
- 9 the point we talked earlier about, pros and cons and
- 10 optics. Here we are, and a consultant comes to us who
- 11 -- who could advise us on a potential RFP and, you
- 12 know, give us feedback as to whether or not the Town
- 13 was serious or et cetera and the CEO of that utility
- 14 is developing the terms of reference for that
- 15 engagement.
- Just -- just my gut feel is my -- I
- 17 would not -- not have been happy with that.
- 18 MR. JOHN MATHER: Do you recall that
- 19 Mr. Bonwick provided a letter of reference from Mr.
- 20 Houghton as part of the process to be retained by
- 21 PowerStream?
- 22 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes. I think --
- 23 I'm -- I recall seeing that in the foundation argument
- 24 -- in Foundation Document. I can't tell -- I can't
- 25 say if I actually recall seeing that at the time.

223 1 MR. JOHN MATHER: So, if we could pull up ALE35415. 3 (BRIEF PAUSE) 5 6 MR. JOHN MATHER: So, this is an email from Mr. Bonwick to yourself copying others within PowerStream. And he says: "Hi, John. It was a pleasure to 9 10 meet with you and Brian this past 11 Tuesday to discuss the exciting 12 future and potential of PowerStream." 13 14 And you'll see there's a series of 15 attachments --16 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yeah. 17 MR. JOHN MATHER: -- on this email, 18 including letters of reference? 19 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: 20 MR. JOHN MATHER: And the letter of reference from Mr. Houghton is ALE35415.3. 21 22 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Okay. 23 MR. JOHN MATHER: So, we'll pull that 24 up. 2.5

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 3 MR. JOHN MATHER: So, I take it from
- 4 your earlier answer you don't -- you don't recall
- 5 whether or not you were aware of this letter at -- at
- 6 the time when it was received in May 2011. Is that
- 7 fair?
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I said I don't
- 9 recall receiving it at that time. It's in my email,
- 10 so, obviously, I did receive it at that time.
- 11 MR. JOHN MATHER: Do you recall having
- 12 any concerns along the lines of what you've already
- 13 described about the CEO of the entity that may be the
- 14 subject of the RFP providing a letter of reference
- 15 with respect to Mr. Bonwick?
- 16 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Can we just
- 17 scroll down the rest of the letter, please? No, I
- 18 would not have had concerns.
- 19 MR. JOHN MATHER: Why would you have
- 20 not had concerns?
- 21 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: As we said, the
- 22 Town of Collingwood, I would think, is a fairly small
- 23 community. People know each other in the community.
- 24 I wouldn't be -- Mr. Bonwick was a federal MPP in this
- 25 community, was a formal member of council.

- 1 Mr. Houghton was a very well-known
- 2 person of the community, was very -- was involved with
- 3 -- had been the CEO for the utility for a number of
- 4 years and had also held a senior position in the City.
- 5 So, the fact that he's giving us a
- 6 reference on an individual would not have been an
- 7 issue to me. Actually, that would be -- likely be a
- 8 positive en -- endorsement of him as a individual and
- 9 character and -- and what type of knowledge this
- 10 person had.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: So, if we could
- 12 scroll up to the top of the letter. So, the email
- 13 attaching the letter was dated May 2011. And you see
- 14 this letter is dated April 20th, 2005.
- Were you aware of any discussions
- 16 between Paul Bonwick and Brian Bentz about whether or
- 17 not Mr. Houghton could provide a more current lev --
- 18 letter of reference?
- 19 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: No, I'm not aware
- 20 of.
- 21 MR. JOHN MATHER: Other than -- so you
- 22 mentioned earlier that Mr. Bentz phoned Mr. Houghton
- 23 after Mr. Bonwick reached out about pote --
- 24 potentially providing services. And we've seen that
- 25 Mr. Hou -- Mr. Bonwick provided letters of reference.

- 1 Do you know if there was any other
- 2 diligence or inquiries made about Mr. Bonwick prior to
- 3 him being retained?
- 4 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I think there was
- 5 a reference not in the finance committee that
- 6 potentially Mr. Bentz should call Mr. McFadden. I
- 7 don't know -- I don't know if he ever did call Mr.
- 8 McFadden.
- 9 I also know that there was a discussion
- 10 with a three (3) mayors, and the mayors had a meeting
- 11 in -- in Mr. Bentz's office with Mr. Bonwick where
- 12 they interviewed him. And as a result of that
- 13 meeting, they determined that -- you know, subject to
- 14 adequate disclosure, we should go ahead.
- 15 And so part again of the checking or
- 16 verification of whether or not we should use
- 17 Mr. Bonwick was that meeting and also the
- 18 relationships likely that at least Mr. Bevilacqua and
- 19 possibly Mr. Lehman had had with Mr. Bonwick or
- 20 knowledge of him in the past.
- 21 MR. JOHN MATHER: Did you or to your
- 22 knowledge anyone at PowerStream make any enquiries as
- 23 to the nature of the relationship between Mr. Bonwick
- 24 and Mayor Cooper, other than the fact that they were
- 25 siblings?

1 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Not that I'm

- 2 aware of.
- 3 MR. JOHN MATHER: Do you know if
- 4 anyone made any enquiries about whether or not
- 5 Mr. Bonwick acted as an advisor in any capacity to
- 6 Ms. Cooper in terms of her political career?
- 7 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Not that I'm
- 8 aware of.
- 9 MR. JOHN MATHER: Do you know if there
- 10 was any discussions about whether or not further
- 11 enquiries should be made about the nature of the
- 12 relationship between the two of them?
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Not -- not that
- 14 I'm aware of.
- The only thing I can say on that is
- 16 that in terms of disclosure and what should be done,
- 17 it -- it would have been very likely that Mr. Bentz
- 18 and Mr. Nolan would have had potential direct
- 19 discussions on that without me present because that
- 20 would have been Mr. Nolan's area of responsibility.
- 21 He may have given some solicitor advice to -- to
- 22 Mr. Bentz.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: Can we pull up
- 24 ALE218?
- 2.5

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 3 MR. JOHN MATHER: So, Mr. Glicksman,
- 4 this is a PowerPoint presentation that was prepared
- 5 for -- at least as we understand it a Board strategic
- 6 retreat for PowerStream in June 2011.
- 7 Do you recognize this slide deck based
- 8 on the slide in front of you?
- 9 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yeah. This will
- 10 be -- well, the cover page is -- is a cover page of a
- 11 slide deck that my staff and I would normally prepare
- 12 in combination with the executive team.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: And if we could go
- 14 to slide 8 of this slide deck.
- 15 So this is a section of the slide that
- 16 dealt with Collus and Collingwood, and this is one of
- 17 those slides. And the first bullet point with respect
- 18 to next steps says:
- 19 "Continue informal meetings with the
- 20 president of Collus concerning the
- 21 status of their plans regarding a
- 22 potential M&A opportunity."
- Do you recall what was meant to
- 24 "continue informal meetings with the president of
- 25 Collus"?

- 1 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Can we just --
- 2 would it be possible to walk through the slides up --
- 3 before slide 8?
- 4 MR. JOHN MATHER: You can direct our
- court operator to the extent you need to see more in a
- 6 document. So if we could scroll up.
- 7 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Could we scroll
- 8 up through -- 1 through 8, please.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Next, please.
- 13 Next, please. Okay. Sorry about that.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 17 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Next, please.
- 18 Next, please. Now, we're down to the slide that you
- 19 were referring to.
- 20 So by this time, I think Mr. Bentz had
- 21 mentioned that he had had discussions with -- with
- 22 Mr. Houghton in December when he was first approached.
- 23 I think he also mentioned that he had got a call
- 24 from -- or email from Mr. Bonwick asking if he had
- 25 lists of people who might be able to do a valuation.

- 1 And Mr. Bentz had had asked me if I -- to come give
- 2 him some names. And the date of this presentation is
- 3 July -- June --
- 4 MR. JOHN MATHER: June, I believe,
- 5 15th and 16th.
- 6 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: June 15th and
- 7 16th. And I -- I think to my best recollection, those
- 8 would have been the two (2) informal discussions they
- 9 had. I don't recollect if there were other informal
- 10 discussions at that time that he made us aware of.
- 11 MR. JOHN MATHER: Do you know if there
- 12 continued to be informal discussions after the --
- 13 after the middle of June 2011 as this contemplates?
- 14 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Well, one there
- 15 would have been that June 29th meeting. And I'm
- 16 trying to remember, but I think -- I think I saw in
- 17 the Foundation Document, there might have been a
- 18 meeting that Dean Muncaster and Ed Houghton had
- 19 with -- with Mr. Bentz in July.
- 20 MR. JOHN MATHER: Do you recall
- 21 Mr. Bentz and yourself having meetings after that
- 22 date, separate and apart from what you might have read
- 23 in the Foundation Document?
- 24 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: So definitely I
- 25 did not have any meetings with Mr. -- with

1 Mr. Houghton. With -- yeah. I can't remember even

- 2 having any meetings with or without Mr. Bentz.
- 3 And during the summer, I know there was
- 4 a -- there were a series of meetings that Mr. Bentz
- 5 and Mr. Bonwick had regarding the solar air vents with
- 6 Mr. Houghton, and that's the only ones that I -- I can
- 7 recollect was on the solar air vent project.
- 8 MR. JOHN MATHER: If we could just go
- 9 to the first slide of this presentation.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

- MR. JOHN MATHER: Just to -- for the
- 14 benefit of the record --
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: M-hm.
- 16 MR. JOHN MATHER: -- the date's
- 17 June 16th and 17th.
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: M-hm.
- 19 MR. JOHN MATHER: I think I said 15th
- 20 and 16th.
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Okay.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: Can we go to
- 23 paragraph 10 of your affidavit, please.

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

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1 MR. JOHN MATHER: So in this
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- 2 paragraph, you set out what you understood Mr. Bonwick
- 3 would be doing with respect to Collus and a potential
- 4 RFP as a result of his retainer.
- 5 And the second item -- so (ii) -- you
- 6 write that you understand he -- his services would
- 7 include:
- 8 "Providing intelligence on Town
- 9 Council's concerns and
- 10 considerations regarding a potential
- 11 sale."
- 12 At the time Mr. Bonwick was retained,
- 13 how did you understand he would go about gathering the
- 14 intelligence contemplated here?
- 15 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: So in terms of
- 16 this item that these things from what I recollect were
- 17 taken straight out of the engagement letter, and these
- 18 items that were in the engagement letter was taken
- 19 straight out of Mr. Bonwick's proposal. So to the
- 20 degree that there -- I just wanted to reference where
- 21 they came from and how they were developed. They
- 22 weren't words that we had developed.
- I think in terms of our understanding,
- 24 intelligence on the Town's concerns and consideration,
- 25 I think we're -- we're talking about at the time when

- 1 he engaged Mr. Bonwick was the concerns that I think I
- 2 had talked about earlier. If the -- if the view of
- 3 Council is that they're not really interested in
- 4 selling their utility or they are interested in
- 5 selling that we would hear something about that.
- 6 MR. JOHN MATHER: And how did you
- 7 expect that he would go about to gather that
- 8 information?
- 9 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I -- maybe
- 10 through speaking -- reviewing stuff that goes on at
- 11 public meeting -- public Council meetings. I -- I
- 12 can't tell you. We hadn't gotten in the detail of
- 13 that.
- 14 MR. JOHN MATHER: Did you expect that
- 15 he would be speaking to members of Town Council?
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Potentially.
- 17 MR. JOHN MATHER: Did you expect that
- 18 he'd be speaking to his sister, the mayor?
- 19 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I did not expect,
- 20 given all the disclosure, that he would be -- he would
- 21 go and speak to the mayor on any issue related to this
- 22 at all.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: Sorry. And why
- 24 would you not expect that?
- 25 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Because we had

- 1 made it very clear the disclosure between the mayor
- 2 and Mr. Bonwick about the scope of his services. And
- 3 if I had been a mayor, I would then have been very
- 4 careful about doing anything that might jeopardize.
- 5 Then it wouldn't be worth it.
- 6 So I think the disclosure to the mayor
- 7 to me would have put -- would have said to us that we
- 8 don't have -- that we -- we wouldn't expect to receive
- 9 any information from Mr. Bonwick related -- like,
- 10 would come from the mayor.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: Do you know if
- 12 anyone said what you just said directly to the mayor
- 13 that you did not expect the mayor to provide
- 14 Mr. Bonwick any information about anything he might be
- 15 looking for?
- 16 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: No, I do not.
- 17 But Mr. Bentz did say again at the June 29th meeting,
- 18 they went through the scope of his services in detail
- 19 with the parties that included the mayor and the --
- 20 and the CAO for the city.
- 21 MR. JOHN MATHER: So I understand from
- 22 your answer that at least you understood in part the
- 23 purpose of the disclosure was so that the mayor would
- 24 know or be aware that she may want to be careful about
- 25 sharing information with Mr. Bonwick or speaking with

- 1 Mr. Bonwick.
- 2 Was there any restrictions put on
- 3 Mr. Bonwick by PowerStream on whether or not he should
- 4 be approaching the mayor for information?
- 5 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I cannot
- 6 recollect if we had a discussion like that. It's
- 7 possible Mr. Bentz and Mr. Nolan might have, but I did
- 8 not. I cannot recollect myself having a discussion
- 9 like that.
- 10 MR. JOHN MATHER: So, if we scroll
- 11 down.
- 12 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: You --
- 13 just before you leave, were you surprised to find out
- 14 that the mayor was on the Strategic Partner Task Team
- 15 given what you just said?
- 16 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: No. I don't know
- 17 how -- Mr. Judge, I don't know how to -- I'm supposed
- 18 to refer to you.
- 19 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Well,
- 20 they've been saying, "Your Honour."
- 21 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Your Honour,
- 22 sorry. So --
- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: At
- 24 least that's what they've been saying in public
- 25 session.

1 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: So, I think there

- 2 is a point in my affidavit that I mention that my
- 3 involvement at PowerStream had been over the period of
- 4 time that we -- you know, a number of other people
- 5 came to us.
- 6 We were kind of surprised because had
- 7 three (3) mayors on our Board. We had a number of
- 8 municipal councils on our Board. And they were
- 9 wondering that we were actually able to function in
- 10 mostly as a commercial company.
- 11 And the mayors, at one (1) discussion,
- 12 had made it very clear, because there was some
- 13 friction on an issue and it went back to council, that
- 14 when they were on our Board they acted in the best
- 15 interest, as Board of Directors members, for the
- 16 Corporation.
- 17 When they went back to the Corporation
- 18 of the City of Vaughan, City of Markham, they then had
- 19 their responsibility to those entities and that the
- 20 two (2) may not always be the same.
- So, the fact that the mayor was
- 22 involved at council and the mayor was on the Board of
- 23 Collus and on the Stra -- to me, that wouldn't be any
- 24 more of a conflict than when our mayors have had to be
- 25 on both sides.

- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: No,
- 2 but I was following up, I guess, on your statement
- 3 that, if the disclosure was made --
- 4 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Right.
- 5 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: --
- 6 that it would affect the mayor in -- in terms of what
- 7 the mayor would do. And so, I was wondering then
- 8 whether you were surprised that the mayor was on the
- 9 Strategic Partner Task Team given that you had assumed
- 10 that the disclosure that you were expecting had been
- 11 made.
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Though I -- I'm
- 13 not sure when we found out, Your Honour, that she was
- 14 on the -- on the team. But being a member of a board
- 15 and didn't -- I'm not sure we knew that at the time,
- 16 wouldn't have been surprised.
- 17 We would have still felt that when
- 18 she's on that Strategic Task Team, the eventual
- 19 decision has to come back to council. What we found
- 20 over time at -- at PowerStream was the fact that we
- 21 had -- we had council members on the Board meant that,
- 22 by the time we went back to council for a decision,
- 23 they understood the business case much better than if
- 24 they hadn't been involved on PowerStream, and then an
- 25 issue just came up at council for approval.

- 1 And, actually, one (1) of our
- 2 shareholders, the City of Vaughan, one (1) of the CAOs
- 3 said to me, John, when -- when we go back to council,
- 4 six (6) of my nine (9) councillors have already been
- 5 brief by you and already bought into your
- 6 recommendation.
- 7 So, he says, you know, In some ways,
- 8 you're making it easier or harder for them because
- 9 they understand -- they've understood it. Well, we
- 10 found talking to some of our utility partners or
- 11 whatever, that when they would go have a decision at
- 12 their utility, and then go back to council, there was
- 13 a real need to educate the council members because
- 14 they were starting from scratch.
- So, the mayor being on the Strategic
- 16 Task Force and being a director of Collus would mean
- 17 that by the time any recommendation or decision would
- 18 come back to council, she would have a much better
- 19 understanding of what had been done, what steps had
- 20 gone through, and any rationale for the decision than
- 21 if she had not been on -- on cou -- on -- on the Board
- 22 or on the Strategic Task Force.
- 23 So, that would have been the way I --
- 24 that would have been the way I would have viewed it
- 25 based on -- on my experience with PowerStream.

- 2 CONTINUED BY MR. JOHN MATHER:
- 3 MR. JOHN MATHER: So, if we continue
- 4 to paragraphs 11 and 12, just scrolling down a little
- 5 bit, you say in your affidavit that you were Mr.
- 6 Bonwick's primary point of contact with PowerStream.
- 7 And then, in paragraph 12:
- 8 "During his time working for
- 9 PowerStream Mr. Bonwick contacted me
- 10 to set meetings with and pass
- 11 information on to PowerStream."
- 12 While Mr. Bonwick was working for
- 13 PowerStream, how frequently would you communicate with
- 14 him?
- 15 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: That's -- that's
- 16 a very good question, and I was trying to think of
- 17 that myself. So, I was trying to think of the period
- 18 we hired him in June and that we would have had an --
- 19 so we had that introductory meeting that Ed didn't
- 20 recall, but I could think about exactly what that was
- 21 when he brought Mr. Houghton to meet with us because I
- 22 did remember after -- I did remember that Ed had never
- 23 -- had mentioned that he had never seen our head
- 24 office kind of before.
- 25 I don't -- I think that was the first

- 1 time. And Mr. Henderson gave him a tour of our
- 2 control room operation that we were very proud of.
- 3 And then Mr. Bonwick also inquired -- would also
- 4 inquire what he could do for us or, you know, when
- 5 should we have a meeting to get together to talk about
- 6 -- so he -- so he might -- I might have talked to him
- 7 on the phone occasionally, maybe once every couple
- 8 weeks or so.
- 9 And then there were things he was doing
- 10 with Brian in terms of arranging golf or the solar air
- 11 vents or something that he might have done with him.
- 12 But we didn't -- he didn't -- he would come in for
- 13 meetings when there was something specific, like, when
- 14 we started to work on the presentation. This was
- 15 September.
- 16 He would come and give us feedback or
- 17 input or sit around the table while we're developing
- 18 it and review slides. Those would be the type of
- 19 things. Most of the time, it would be a conversation.
- 20 He'd ask is there something I could -- he could do for
- 21 us or inquire about meeting with Brian or someone.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: In your answer, you
- 23 referenced, I think, a meeting with Mr. Houghton that
- 24 involved a tour of your operation centre. Is -- do
- 25 you -- what meeting are you referring to?

- 1 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I think that's
- 2 the one (1) on June -- that's under point 13.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: So, the one (1)
- 4 that's described in paragraph 13 --
- 5 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes.
- 6 MR. JOHN MATHER: -- the June 15th,
- 7 2011, meeting?
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes.
- 9 MR. JOHN MATHER: Okay.
- 10 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I -- what I said
- 11 was I didn't recall that meeting in particular, but if
- 12 that meeting occurred, likely that would have been --
- 13 because I do seem to recall him -- a comment, thinking
- 14 more about it, that he might have said that's the
- 15 first time he'd been.
- 16 And I know we'd given people tours of
- 17 our control room operations that have been pretty
- 18 impressed.
- 19 MR. JOHN MATHER: So, it sounds like
- 20 you spoke with Mr. Bonwick on the phone. It sounds
- 21 like he attended for meetings at PowerStream. We've
- 22 seen in the documents that Mr. Bonwick would also send
- 23 emails?
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: What would you say

- 1 was the primary form of communication with Mr.
- 2 Bonwick?
- 3 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I would say the
- 4 primary form likely was emails.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

- 8 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Let me just...
- 9 So, that's when we weren't in a process. So, for
- 10 example, when we were preparing the RFP or preparing
- 11 our presentation, then he would -- then it wouldn't
- 12 just be emails, he would actually come in in person.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: When you say, "We
- 14 were preparing a presentation," are you referring to
- 15 the presentation that was made in September 2011?
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes.
- 17 MR. JOHN MATHER: Okay.
- 18 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: And --
- 19 and the RFP?
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes.
- THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Yes.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: If we could pull up
- 23 ALE244.

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 1 CONTINUED BY MR. JOHN MATHER:
- 2 MR. JOHN MATHER: So, this is an email
- 3 from Mr. Bonwick to Mr. Bentz. I appreciate you're
- 4 not on this email, Mr. Glicksman, but you'll see
- 5 you're referenced in it, or I believe you're
- 6 referenced in it. So, Mr. Bonwick says:
- 7 "Hi, Brian. If you have time
- 8 available today, please give Ed
- 9 Houghton a call. I met with him
- 10 this morning after my briefing with
- John Glickman (sic)."
- 12 Which I believe is you, John Glicksman.
- 13 Do you recall having a briefing with Mr. Bonwick in or
- 14 around July 22nd, 2011?
- 15 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I don't
- 16 specifically recall this meeting. I might be able to
- 17 intimate what it might have been on, but I -- but I
- 18 would just be guessing. It could have been on --
- 19 related to the broader strategy, starting some
- 20 thinking on that.
- 21 It could have been related to the solar
- 22 air vents. I --
- MR. JOHN MATHER: And I -- and I don't
- 24 want you -- I don't want you to guess. Do you -- when
- 25 -- and I appreciate this is not your email. But when

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1 Mr. Bonwick says, "After my briefing with John
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- 2 Glicksman," do you know what he means by, "Briefing"?
- 3 Does he mean a phone call? Does he mean a meeting?
- 4 Do you know?
- 5 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: It -- it could
- 6 have been either.
- 7 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: And --
- 8 and were there regular briefings?
- 9 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: I'd say there
- 10 were -- I said there would be -- there -- Your Honour,
- 11 there would have been calls maybe every week or two
- 12 (2), and that's -- that would be all. I wouldn't have
- 13 a regular briefing. There wouldn't be anything
- 14 scheduled, to the best of my roc -- recollection.
- MR. JOHN MATHER: Can we go to
- 16 paragraph 23 of your affidavit?

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 20 CONTINUED BY MR. JOHN MATHER:
- 21 MR. JOHN MATHER: So -- scroll up.
- 22 So, paragraph 23 discusses some of the information
- 23 that PowerStream received from Mr. Bonwick about the
- 24 strategic partnership and the RFP process. And I have
- 25 a couple questions about some of the items in the

- 1 subparagraphs.
- 2 Turning first to subparagraph (b), you
- 3 say that you:
- 4 "Do not recall receiving any version
- of a memorandum."
- That was dated September 14th, 2011
- 7 that Mr. Bonwick sent to Mr. Houghton. And you say
- 8 you do not recall Mr. Bonwick providing you or anyone
- 9 at PowerStream with the information contained in that
- 10 memorandum.
- 11 And if we could just go to Exhibit H,
- 12 which is page 28 of the affidavit. Exhibit H
- 13 scrolling down. This is the memorandum that is
- 14 referred to in your affidavit.
- Mr. Bentz said in his testimony that
- 16 although he also had no recollection of receiving this
- 17 memorandum, the information contained in it might have
- 18 been otherwise passed on, and he gave a specific
- 19 example of a -- of Veridian suggestion for a community
- 20 gifting fund.
- 21 Would you agree with Mr. Bentz that
- 22 it's possible that even though this information was
- 23 not delivered to PowerStream in this format that some
- 24 of it may have been passed on?
- 25 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Can you just --

- 1 could we just scroll through the whole --
- MR. FREDERICK CHENOWETH: Your Honour,
- 3 is that a useful question? I mean, it's a somewhat
- 4 dangerous question. Anything's possible. I mean,
- 5 what's the utility of casting aspersion with respect
- 6 to this information if we had no information other
- 7 than it might be probable?
- 8 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Right.
- 9 I think that goes to weight. I'll let the witness
- 10 answer.
- 11 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Just scroll the
- 12 rest of it.

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: So I know it may
- 17 sound strange, but in preparing, I tried to go through
- 18 this memo in a lot of detail just to see where it may
- 19 have actually -- if at all possible come in directly
- 20 because Mr. Bonwick, even though we never saw this.
- 21 And to the best of my recollection, we
- 22 didn't see it. We couldn't find any reference to it
- 23 in our documents with all the meta data that you guys
- 24 -- every -- we did and you guys did on our -- on our
- 25 computers.

1 The only item that might have come in

- 2 on here was this community fund, but it's -- that
- 3 Veridian talks about because it wasn't our RFP. Funny
- 4 enough, we didn't use, you know, in our RFP the \$2 per
- 5 customer that is referenced here. So it would have
- 6 come in from it indirectly. But PowerStream spent a
- 7 lot of money in communities.
- 8 It also didn't come in the way it's
- 9 even mentioned here. I think if we go back up a
- 10 little bit, it somewhere talks about a community fund
- 11 of \$2 a customer to be approved gifting on behalf of
- 12 the mayor or Council.
- In our RFP, we didn't say mayor and
- 14 Council. It would be it's a -- it's a fund for Collus
- 15 PowerStream where we would review that with the Town
- 16 and -- with the mayor and Council kind of thing.
- 17 So it was not a gifting of them to give
- 18 them some money, which was very similar to what we do
- 19 in the other communities that we serve. So that might
- 20 have come in partial and directly.
- 21 And I -- I can't say that -- that
- 22 when -- I can't recollect if that idea was generated
- 23 totally by ourselves or Mr. Bonwick had some way of
- 24 influencing that to come in. That's the only thing I
- 25 could see at all in this memo that might have filtered

1 its way into our RFP submission.

2

- 3 CONTINUED BY MR. JOHN MATHER:
- 4 MR. JOHN MATHER: So if we could go
- back to paragraph 23 of the affidavit.

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 9 MR. JOHN MATHER: And we're looking at
- 10 subparagraph (c) now, so if we could scroll down.
- 11 So in subparagraph (c), you reference a
- 12 September 20th, 2011 email that you received from
- 13 Mr. Bonwick with respect to the September presentation
- 14 to the Strategic Task Team which we've already touched
- 15 on.
- One of the things you say in there is:
- 17 "I didn't know where Mr. Bonwick had
- 18 obtained the information in this
- 19 email. I didn't think much about it
- 20 other than thinking it might have
- come from one of the Collingwood
- Town councillors who sat on the
- 23 Collus Board."
- 24 At that point in time, do you recall
- 25 who you understood to be the Collingwood councillors

- 1 who sat on the Collus Board?
- 2 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: So clarification
- 3 and the -- Alectra lawyers were warning it -- about
- 4 tense. So I didn't think much about it at that time,
- 5 and when I'm saying other than thinking today that it
- 6 might have come from one (1) of the councillors who
- 7 sat on -- and that would have included, I think,
- 8 Deputy Mayor Lloyd.
- 9 Just for -- so referring to in -- in
- 10 looking at the Foundation Document, there was, I
- 11 think, one (1) email we got back from -- we got a copy
- 12 of from Deputy Lloyd where after the deal was
- 13 approved, he sent a home run comment.
- 14 There were other references in the
- 15 material to Deputy Lloyd, and he was on the
- 16 strategic -- so in retrospect, my -- he might have
- 17 been one (1) who gave that information to Mr. Bonwick.
- 18 MR. JOHN MATHER: At the time, did you
- 19 have any understanding whether or not Deputy
- 20 Mayor Lloyd or anyone else from Council was providing
- 21 the information that's in the September 20th, 2011
- 22 email?
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: So at the time --
- 24 so firstly, my focus was on the valuation and getting
- 25 that done and starting to work on the RFP, although

- 1 the RFP was more of a team effort. I think one of my
- 2 staff, in thinking about it, was likely working with
- 3 Mr. Fagen to do the words on the RFP. Also the RFP
- 4 hadn't come out yet.
- 5 So in looking at the feedback from the
- 6 presentation -- can we pull up the feed -- the email,
- 7 please?
- 8 MR. JOHN MATHER: Yeah. So it's
- 9 Exhibit I, and it begins on page 35 of the affidavit.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

- MR. JOHN MATHER: Oh, sorry. Scroll
- 14 up. This is it. It begins on page 33. My apologies.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 18 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: So definitely in
- 19 retrospect, we should not have been receiving any
- 20 feedback indirectly on our presentation. How
- 21 Mr. Bonwick got that information is a good question.
- 22 Likely somebody breached confidentiality. Well,
- 23 somebody must have breached confidentiality.
- 24 At that time, we, you know, had been
- 25 reminded that we already had signed a disclosure

- 1 agreement when we got the letter inviting us to the
- 2 presentation.
- 3 So realizing that today, it's quite
- 4 obvious that we should not -- and we should have -- we
- 5 should have given that feedback to Mr. Bonwick at that
- 6 time that we're not to get this type of information,
- 7 whether any of the information here was very useful.
- 8 I think Mr. Nolan has said that there really wasn't
- 9 anything in here that was useful or used in our -- in
- 10 our RFP submission.
- 11 The RFP would be the RFP. The RFP
- 12 asked for 50 percent. If we can scroll down a little
- 13 bit more.
- 14 And so did the RFP that would -- the
- 15 biggest issue here in this email is that Horizon is
- 16 going to submit a 50 percent ownership scenario. I
- 17 think Mr. Nolan's testified anything in this email
- 18 would have been irrelevant other than the fact when
- 19 the RFP comes out what ownership scenario are they
- 20 calling for.
- We already had known that they
- 22 wanted -- they only wanted a partial sale; that had
- 23 been made clear to Brian and -- and us earlier on, and
- 24 we'd offered something of partial sale without giving
- 25 a number, I think, in the earlier -- when Brian -- in

- 1 Mr. Bentz's presentation.
- 2 So in the end, we probably didn't take
- 3 appropriate attention to the fact that we were getting
- 4 feedback. And likely because in other engagements
- 5 that we had, it wasn't unusual for us to get feedback
- 6 on a presentation we'd given to Council or some --
- 7 that someone would -- a CAO or someone would normally
- 8 get back to us and say, here's some feedback on your
- 9 presentation.
- 10 MR. JOHN MATHER: So I understand from
- 11 your answer that much of what you said is in
- 12 retrospect looking back.
- MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: Yes.
- 14 MR. JOHN MATHER: At the time, do you
- 15 recall being aware of any of the issues that you --
- 16 you've just identified, including that Mr. Bonwick was
- 17 providing feedback from the STT and whether or not he
- 18 should have had that feedback. Do you recall that
- 19 issue coming to your consciousness at the time?
- 20 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: To the best of my
- 21 ability, I don't know why it wouldn't have, but it did
- 22 not. And I think partly because I don't -- I think we
- 23 might have thought we weren't in our RFP process yet.
- 24 I think your co -- your co-counsel asked me. We had
- 25 never been through an RFP process. I don't think I

253

1 read the disclosure letter that came from the

- 2 invitation with Mr. -- from Mr. Muncaster.
- 3 And so I might not have -- it might not
- 4 have clued in to me that we were getting information
- 5 that was confidential that we should not have got.
- 6 And likely did not clue in on this email -- can we
- 7 just see who's also copied in on it?
- 8 MR. JOHN MATHER: Scroll up.
- 9 MR. JOHN GLICKSMAN: So Mr. Bentz,
- 10 Mr. Henderson, and Mr. Nolan. And I was feeling that
- 11 none of us really clued in on that at that time.
- 12 MR. JOHN MATHER: Your Honour, I'm
- 13 just looking at the time.
- 14 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: How
- 15 much longer are you going to be?
- MR. JOHN MATHER: I expect that I
- 17 probably need another 20 to 30 minutes.
- 18 THE HONOURABLE FRANK MARROCCO: Well,
- 19 we'll break tomorrow (sic) till 9:00.
- 20 And Mr. Glicksman, your counsel will
- 21 instruct you as to how -- in terms of discussing your
- 22 evidence, you mostly should not discuss it between now
- 23 and tomorrow with anyone to avoid any
- 24 misunderstanding.

2.5

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254
 1
                         (WITNESS RETIRES)
 2
3 --- Upon adjourning at 3:50 p.m.
 5
 6 Certified Correct,
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11 Wendy Woodworth, Ms.
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