

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
(ASA)

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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY STATISTICS

MEETING WITH THE
ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (EIA)

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THURSDAY,
APRIL 2, 2009

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.
in Room 8E-089 of the James Forrestal
Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW,

Washington, D.C., Ed Blair, Chair, presiding.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

EDWARD BLAIR, Chair
STEVE BROWN
MICHAEL COHEN
BARBARA FORSYTH

WALTER HILL
VINCENT IANNACCHIONE

NANCY KIRKENDALL

EDWARD KOKKELENBERG

ISRAEL MELENDEZ

MICHAEL TOMAN

JOHN WEYANT

EIA STAFF PRESENT:

STEPHANIE BROWN, Designated Federal Official,
Director, Statistics and Methods Group
(SMG)

JAMES BERRY

CAROL JOYCE BLUMBERG

TINA BOWERS

JAKE BOURNAZIAN, SMG

EUGENE BURNS

MICHAEL COLE, Office of Integrated Analysis
and Forecasting (OIAF)

JOHN CONTI

BRENDA COX, SRA

RAMESH DANDEKAR, SMG

JOHN PAUL DELEY, OIT

DEAN FENNELL

STAN FREEDMAN

CAROL FRENCH, OOG

ADRIAN GEAGLA, OIAF

LYNN GEISERT

MARK GIELECKI, Office of Coal, Nuclear,
Electricity, and Alternate Fuels (CNEAF)

HOWARD GRUENSPECHT, Deputy Administrator, EIA

LOUISE GUEY-LEE, CNEAF

STEVE HARVEY, Director, Office of Oil and Gas

TYLER HODGE, Office of Energy Markets and

End Use (EMEU)

PATRICIA HUTCHINS, CNEAF

ALETHEA JENNINGS

KATIE JOSEPH

FRED JOUTZ

MARY JOYCE, CNEAF

JAMES KENDELL

BOB KING

ANDY KYDES

TOM LECKEY

JANICE LENT, SMG

BARBARA MARINER-VOLPE

PAULA MASON, OOG

FRED MAYES

PRESTON McDOWNEY, SMG

RENEE MILLER

EIA STAFF PRESENT: (cont.)

EILEEN O'BRIEN, Consumption Data Management
Team, Office of Energy Markets and End
Use (EMEU)

KOBI PLATT

ANTHONY RADICH, CNEAF

MICHAEL SCHAAL, OIAF

ELIZABETH SENDICH, OIAF

SCOTT SITZER

HOWARD STONE, CNEAF

GRACE SUTHERLAND, SMG

EDDIE THOMAS

PHILLIP TSENG, SMG

SHAWNA WAUGH

ALEX WOOD

JASON WORRALL

BIN ZHANG, OOG

ALSO PRESENT:

RON WASSERSTEIN, Executive Director, ASA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Open Meeting. . . . .	.6
Ed Blair, Chair, ASA Committee on Energy Statistics	
Greetings and Remarks . . . . .	.6
Howard Gruenspecht, Deputy Administrator, EIA	
Updates for the Committee Since the Fall 2008 Meeting.	12
Stephanie Brown, Director, Statistics and Methods Group (SMG), EIA	
An Inside View of ASA Committees.	36
Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director, ASA	
ASA Committee Discussion.	48
Breakout Sessions	
New Biodiesel Fuel Survey	78
Mary Joyce, Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electricity and Alternate Fuels (CNEAF), EIA	
ASA Committee Discussion. . . . .	.122
ASA Summary of New Biodiesel Fuel Survey. . .	.128
Barbara Forsyth	
ASA Summary of Economics of Coal Production and Prices. . . . .	.134
Ed Kokkelenberg	
Additional Committee discussion . . . . .	.148
Invitation for Public Comment . . . . .	.152
Ed Blair, ASA Committee Chair	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Oil and Gas Program Agenda - Two Data Collection Reviews in 2009. . . . .	.155
Steve Harvey, Office of Oil and Gas	
ASA Discussant: Nancy Kirkendall. . . . .	.178
Committee Discussion. . . . .	.181
RECS Statistical Estimations. . . . .	.197
Eileen O'Brien, EMEU, EIA	
ASA Discussant: Michael Cohen. . . . .	.219
Additional Committee Discussion . . . . .	.230
Electricity 2011. . . . .	.236
Howard Stone, CNEAF, EIA	
ASA Discussant: Israel Melendez. . . . .	.255
ASA Discussant: Stephen Brown. . . . .	.265
Additional Committee Discussion . . . . .	.266
Invitation for Public Comment . . . . .	.278
Adjourn	

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

2 9:02 a.m.

3 DR. BLAIR: We're going to go
4 ahead and convene. We won't open the meeting
5 per se. We're going to move immediately to
6 greetings and remarks from Howard because he
7 has very limited time, so he's going to speak
8 to us, then he has to run off, and then we'll
9 open the meeting.

10 MR. GRUENSPECHT: I'm actually not
11 that important. It's a long story. I want to
12 be very clear about this. And we are going to
13 have real quality time which I'm sure you'll
14 regret. But let me say first I guess that you
15 deserved to be welcomed by a real
16 administrator, not an interim one. However,
17 I must suffice for the present since a new
18 Administration fills up slowly. In fact, as
19 of today there's only one appointee in place
20 at the department and that's the Secretary.
21 So I especially want to thank the new chairman
22 of the committee and the new members of the

1 committee, some of whom I know quite well,
2 others who I will meet. And the old members
3 of the committee, actually. I was thinking of
4 veterans.

5 MS. FORSYTH: Veterans, not old.

6 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Oh. Well, I'm
7 old, but it's actually - I was trying to think
8 about this last night because I'm not going to
9 get into the things, the substantive things,
10 for taking the time really - obviously for Ed
11 to chair it and for the others to serve on the
12 committee and help guide EIA. And I was
13 thinking about this, and I was thinking about
14 when I was in academia and I was young and I
15 always marveled that anyone would be willing
16 to take on any administrative or committee
17 duties. I remember thinking specifically of
18 my dean at Carnegie Mellon who was responsible
19 for dealing with each of about 50 faculty
20 members and would go in and he'd talk about
21 salary, levels of secretarial support, and by
22 that of course, those were the days when you

1 really had secretaries who were typing things,
2 summer funding, progress on the tenure track,
3 all these wonderful things. And you know,
4 they were quite - they weren't - they were
5 cordial discussions, but they weren't exactly
6 joyful discussions. And there always seemed
7 to be some slight difference of opinion, you
8 know. And you thought gee - you were happy
9 when it was over, and you thought gee, this
10 person's job is doing this 49 more times. And
11 then for fun they go out and raise money and
12 deal with various and sundry complaints and
13 crises.

14 So of course I'm an economist. I
15 guess there's economists and statisticians in
16 the room. Economists tend to take preference
17 as a given, so I can - at least, classical
18 ones, so I attributed her willingness to
19 accept, let alone seek this position, as a
20 clear signal of aberrant tastes. You know, as
21 the French say, chacun ... son go-t, or to each
22 his own, each to this own taste. In my view

1 at the time, even service on committees was
2 something to be avoided if at all possible.
3 And then my dad who came to this country in
4 late 1941, for some reason I'm also thinking
5 of him, he's getting older, but he's still
6 kind of feisty, and he was immediately
7 drafted, kind of learned the same rules as a
8 private and later a sergeant in the U.S. Army.

9 As one of his colleagues explained
10 to him succinctly he tells me that the way
11 they do things was to keep your eyes and ears
12 open, your mouth shut, and don't volunteer.
13 Well, by definition you guys are all
14 volunteers, so obviously you didn't follow the
15 rules. And when I look back at myself, I
16 didn't follow the rules either because my role
17 at EIA is actually pretty close to that of an
18 academic administrator and one with a lot of
19 committee assignments. And again, you're all
20 volunteers.

21 So either we all have warped
22 tastes, or we've decided that there is value

1 in taking on these kinds of duties, I think
2 there really is, and in you know, really, it
3 sounds corny, I never believed it when people
4 talked about when I was young, but that you
5 influence others. You leverage your influence
6 because you're not just doing your own work,
7 but you're affecting the work of a larger
8 organization. But all those things are true.

9 So there are really few things
10 that are more important to an EIA
11 administrator, whether a real one or an
12 interim one, than interacting with this
13 committee. But I did say there are very few
14 things, but there are some things. And one of
15 them is meeting with the appropriations staff.
16 And with respect to their requests we also
17 have a simple rule, which is you call, we
18 come. And so it's bad luck for me, but maybe
19 good luck for you that the requested time for
20 me to drop by for a chat is 9:30 this morning
21 and so that, you know, it's not that I have to
22 archive my email, or deal with some massive

1 energy problem, I just said I've got to go on
2 my knees and beg for money. But the bad news
3 for you is that your reprieve is only
4 temporary.

5 We'll have opportunity to discuss
6 later in the day. I think these are very
7 interesting times for energy and very
8 interesting times for the Energy Information
9 Administration. And what else was I going to
10 say. I look forward to our discussion and I
11 want to participate as much as possible over
12 the next day and a half. And there are some
13 things I'll have to do during the time. But
14 I wouldn't take it, you know, this whole
15 lengthy monologue is an attempt to - you
16 shouldn't take it personally and really, the
17 important people are the people who actually
18 are going to be talking to you about some of
19 our specific problems and issues. But with
20 that, I'm going to go put on my knee pads and
21 go up to the Hill and beg for money. So. So
22 anyway, thank you, and again my apologies, but

1 I think lunch is when you'll hear what you
2 should have heard this morning.

3 DR. BLAIR: Thank you.

4 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Congratulations,
5 sucker.

6 (Laughter.)

7 DR. BLAIR: We'll go ahead and
8 convene the meeting. Now I have to admit as
9 the new chair -

10 MR. GRUENSPECHT: You didn't
11 expect that introduction.

12 DR. BLAIR: No, that's right.
13 I'll legally change my name to sucker.

14 (Laughter.)

15 DR. BLAIR: As new chair of the
16 meeting I have to admit I'm a little bit soft
17 on the formalities, so I have to ask do we
18 first have to have everybody announce who's
19 present?

20 MS. BROWN: Sure. I think it'll
21 help just from a logistics standpoint. We
22 have a recorder that's going over the minutes

1 and takes the - recording the minutes, and I
2 think he needs to know names, so it might be
3 helpful. Would it be helpful for you to do
4 that, for us to do that? Okay. So why don't
5 we go around the room and I'll start here, and
6 just introduce yourself, who you are, and if
7 you're a new member of the committee we'll get
8 to you later. You don't have to do a formal
9 thing now. So I'm Stephanie Brown. I'm the
10 director of the Statistics and Methods Group
11 and responsible for I'll say organizing -
12 coordinating these meetings, except that I'm
13 really not the coordinator. I will tell you
14 later who really does the work here. So
15 welcome to everybody.

16 DR. BLAIR: I'm Ed Blair. I'm at
17 the University of Houston and a committee
18 member.

19 MR. COHEN: I'm Mike Cohen and I
20 work for National Academy of Sciences.

21 MR. BROWN: I'm Steve Brown. I'm
22 with Resources for the Future and I'm located

1 in Texas.

2 MR. HILL: I'm Walter Hill. I'm
3 at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

4 MS. FORSYTH: I'm Barb Forsyth.
5 I'm with the University of Maryland.

6 MR. KOKKELENBERG: I'm Edward
7 Kokkelenberg and I'm at SUNY-Binghamton.

8 MR. WEYANT: John Weyant, Stanford
9 University.

10 MR. MELENDEZ: Israel Melendez,
11 Constellation Energy.

12 MS. KIRKENDALL: Nancy Kirkendall,
13 independent consultant.

14 MR. IANNACCHIONE: Vince
15 Iannacchione, RTI, D.C.

16 MR. WASSERSTEIN: Ron Wasserstein,
17 American Statistical Association.

18 MS. BROWN: Okay. I think we're
19 still waiting for Michael Toman and who's the
20 other? Cutler, Cutler Cleveland.

21 DR. BLAIR: I think Mike will
22 probably be late today. And I think we're now

1 obliged to have the audience members come to
2 the microphone and identify themselves.

3 MS. BROWN: Okay.

4 MS. WAUGH: Shawna Waugh,
5 Statistics and Methods Group.

6 MR. TSENG: Philip Tseng, SMG.

7 MR. CONTI: John Conti, Director
8 of Integrated Analysis and Forecasting.

9 MS. JOYCE: Mary Joyce, Coal,
10 Nuclear, Electric and Alternative Fuels.

11 MR. BOURNAZIAN: Jake Bournazian,
12 Statistics and Methods Group.

13 MR. HODGE: I'm Tyler Hodge. I
14 work on the short-term energy outlook.

15 MR. WORRALL: Jason Worrall,
16 Statistics and Methods Group.

17 MS. MILLER: Renee Miller,
18 Statistics and Methods Group, EIA.

19 MR. DELEY: John Paul Deley. I'm
20 the agency's records officer and I am chair of
21 the ASA Committee on Archives and Historical
22 Materials.

1 MS. FRENCH: Carol French, Office
2 of Oil and Gas.

3 MR. FENNELL: Dean Fennell, Office
4 of Coal, Nuclear, Electric, and Alternate
5 Fuels.

6 MR. DANDEKAR: Ramesh Dandekar,
7 SMG.

8 MR. BRADSHER-FREDERICK: Howard
9 Bradsher-Frederick, SMG.

10 MS. LENT: Janice Lent, SMG.

11 MR. MCDOWNEY: Preston McDowney,
12 SMG.

13 MR. ZHANG: Bin Zhang, Office of
14 Oil and Gas.

15 MS. JENNINGS: Alethea Jennings,
16 SMG.

17 DR. BLAIR: Thank you very much.
18 I've now been given a script and realize that
19 I'm already off-script.

20 (Laughter.)

21 DR. BLAIR: So allow me to read my
22 script. First of all, good morning. Welcome

1 to EIA's spring meeting with the ASA Committee
2 on Energy Statistics. I want to emphasize
3 that this is an ASA committee, not an EIA
4 committee, which periodically provides advice
5 to EIA. That is, the committee periodically
6 provides advice to EIA. EIA is free to choose
7 to act on that advice whenever it thinks
8 appropriate. I've already introduced myself.
9 I'm Ed Blair. I'd like to provide you with
10 some basic information. Time will be set
11 aside for comments at the end of each session.
12 We'll take a short break in the morning and
13 one in the afternoon. Restrooms are located
14 down the corridor in either direction. All of
15 our sessions will be held in this room today.
16 All attendees including guests and EIA
17 employees should sign the register in the main
18 hall. Please include your email address when
19 you sign in. Alethea Jennings is - who just
20 stepped out is EIA's liaison for the ASA and
21 she's here to assist us, along with Clarissa
22 Davis from the ASA meetings. So I guess

1 Clarissa replaced Chrissy?

2 MS. BROWN: Yes.

3 DR. BLAIR: If you have questions
4 they'll be glad to help you. The telephone
5 number to this room should you need to be
6 reached by telephone is (202)586-6273. Lunch
7 will be served in the USDA Executive Dining
8 Room so we get like USDA approved.

9 MS. BROWN: It was where we went
10 last year.

11 DR. BLAIR: Just across the
12 street. At the close of our morning session
13 we'll take the elevators down to the lobby and
14 walk over together. Please remember that we
15 have a transcriber, Eric Mullen, who is
16 recording this meeting so each person is asked
17 to speak into a microphone when commenting or
18 asking questions. Also, please state your
19 name before commenting so that he can record
20 it. Those in the audience are asked to use
21 the standing microphones and the committee
22 members and others at the head table should

1 speak clearly into the microphone closest to
2 them.

3 I'd like to welcome our new
4 committee members, Michael Cohen and Nancy
5 Kirkendall, both former EIA employees. We
6 welcome you and we appreciate your willingness
7 to serve on the committee. I think Stephanie
8 has some bigger introductions planned. Okay,
9 we've already introduced ourselves. I need to
10 inform you that Stephanie Brown is the
11 designated federal officer for the advisory
12 committee. In this capacity she may chair but
13 must attend each meeting and she is authorized
14 to adjourn the meeting if she determines this
15 to be in the public interest.

16 MS. BROWN: You'd like that,
17 wouldn't you? Forget it.

18 (Laughter.)

19 DR. BLAIR: Yes, so don't tick her
20 off. She must approve all meetings of the
21 advisory committee and every agenda. Also,
22 she may designate a substitute in her absence.

1 And finally, especially for the new members,
2 we'd like to remind the committee members to
3 please turn your tent name vertically when you
4 want to make a comment so that you can be
5 recognized for comments or questions. And at
6 this point I think since we've already had
7 Howard's remarks we turn it over to Stephanie
8 for updates since the fall 2008 meeting.

9 MS. BROWN: Well, welcome
10 everyone. And I'm not going to adjourn the
11 meeting. You're stuck with me for a day and
12 a half. You won't even get a substitute. So
13 here I am. My remarks this morning will be
14 basically addressed to update you on things
15 that happened at the last meeting and what EIA
16 has done. I'll try to remind you of what you
17 said we should do and then give you what we've
18 done.

19 First, I wanted to give our new
20 committee members a chance to say a little bit
21 about themselves, and they are Michael Cohen
22 who's the senior program officer for the

1 National Research Council's Committee on
2 National Statistics. And Nancy Kirkendall as
3 we know previously sat in this seat. I now
4 sit in her seat. And Israel Melendez who is
5 vice president at Grid Optimization, a
6 Constellation Energy commodities group. I'll
7 give each one of you a chance, if you could,
8 to please say a little bit about yourself,
9 what your interests are. Really, thank you so
10 much as Howard said for volunteering to serve
11 on the committee. It's an honor to have each
12 of you on the committee. Now with Izzy, he
13 came - you were at the meeting last time as an
14 observer so this is your first official time
15 to serve your 3-year commitment. So why don't
16 we start with Mike.

17 MR. COHEN: I'm a statistician. I
18 got my PhD at Stanford in ITD and I've had a
19 variety of jobs. Twice at EIA. I was at EIA,
20 my first job, in 1981 in the Office of Energy
21 Information Validation. Nancy Kirkendall was
22 one of the first people I met when I came to

1 Washington. She was in the Office of Oil and
2 Gas I believe at that time. And Arthur
3 Silverman was there, and Bill Winkler, but
4 then Reagan was president and decided energy
5 wasn't a going thing so I was asked to leave,
6 or encouraged to leave, and I left. Went to
7 Princeton and I went to the Committee of
8 National Statistics at the University of
9 Maryland. I went back to the Department of
10 Energy and now - OEID was called OSS I think,
11 Office of Statistical Standards. And I worked
12 there for about eight months and I transferred
13 over to the modeling group and worked with
14 Andy Kydes and some other people there for a
15 short while, six months. Went back to the
16 National Academy of Sciences and I've been
17 there since. And I'm interested in public
18 policy and statistics. I do some defense
19 work. I do some census work and I do some
20 work on micro-simulation models and model
21 values.

22 MS. BROWN: Pretty impressive.

1 I'm sure you'll add value to our group. Thank
2 you. Nancy?

3 MS. KIRKENDALL: I retired from
4 the Energy Information Administration a little
5 bit over a year ago and that was Stephanie's
6 job. So I'm really interested in seeing and
7 watching how EIA progresses over the next
8 couple of years. It's sort of fun to come
9 back and sit on the other side of the table.
10 It's a lot easier on this side of the table.

11 MS. BROWN: Thank you. I don't
12 think we gave you this opportunity last time
13 so now it's your shot at it.

14 MR. MELENDEZ: It's a hard act to
15 follow these guys. My name is Israel
16 Melendez. I work at Constellation Energy as
17 already stated. I lead a group that basically
18 does power system modeling, both in like low-
19 flow modeling and economic modeling to consult
20 our traders, portfolio managers doing deals.
21 I - my background is more - I'm a marine
22 engineer. A marine engineer goes out to sea

1 and operates ships. From there I moved on to
2 become an electrical engineer, a Johns Hopkins
3 grad, and I have a background in business and
4 finance. And my interest is - here is to
5 learn a little bit more about EIA and to
6 contribute from an industry perspective how
7 helpful this data is to the industry.

8 MS. BROWN: Thank you. Okay. Let
9 me move on to the next slide. I want to give
10 you an update on the various sessions we had
11 six months ago and what's come out of them.
12 As you might recall I believe it was Howard
13 Bradsher-Frederick gave a presentation on the
14 results of our Energy Conference. We did a
15 post-conference survey and we presented the
16 results to you. You guys recommended that we
17 use a current email list with a shortened
18 questionnaire, that we identify who the
19 employer is or what area the participants were
20 coming from. It might be interesting to find
21 out how far they traveled to get there, and
22 you suggested separating renewables from

1 alternative fuels. So what we did is we took
2 the number one advice, or number two on that
3 list, and we shortened the questionnaire which
4 was pretty long and had some information
5 probably that we weren't using to - for value-
6 added in the conference for this year.

7 So we did shorten it, and we did
8 add as you suggested the employer information,
9 where people are coming from that attend.
10 Because we shortened it we didn't actually do
11 the other things about the distance travel.
12 That would be nice, but probably not real
13 important and we took away the sections about
14 some of the fuel things. So we didn't add
15 separate renewables from alternative fuels.
16 But that questionnaire, as you may know, the
17 conference is next week. I'll give a plug for
18 that. It's on Tuesday and Wednesday of next
19 week at the Walter Washington Convention
20 Center. I think each of you received an
21 invitation to that. If you didn't, see me,
22 I'll make sure you get one. And you're

1 certainly welcome to attend. It will be
2 rather informative and we will do another
3 evaluation afterwards and have the results.

4 Okay. I believe we had a
5 presentation from Andrew Buck on the Regional
6 Short-Term Energy Model (RSTEM) forecast. You
7 guys recommended doing an extensive literature
8 review investigating other energy models and
9 the existing processes. And Andy will over
10 time implement these recommendations. I want
11 to preface my remarks for a lot of what we're
12 going to see when we say yes, we're going to
13 do it. It's sometimes hard within a 6-month
14 period to tell you yes, we took your
15 recommendation, absolutely did everything.
16 And with the Energy Conference survey it was
17 a little easy, but some of these other things
18 that I'm going to talk about now, you're not
19 going to see a lot of progress, but it's not
20 because we're not working on them or
21 considering your recommendations. It's just,
22 it takes time. So this is one of them that'll

1 take time, but we appreciated and valued the
2 comments and will move forward in that
3 direction.

4 Okay. Sensitivity analysis of EIA
5 forecasting systems. I think this was the
6 presentation by Preston McDowney and George
7 Lady. You recommended expanding the list of
8 exogenous variables that NEMS accounts for.
9 Our plan is - our current goals are to expand
10 the scope of the variables that were included.
11 You suggested establishing - to establish the
12 methodology presented and provide regular
13 reports on the forecast accuracy. And we plan
14 to implement reports on the forecast accuracy
15 when actual data for the exogenous variables
16 become available in 2010.

17 This presentation, for those of
18 you that were here, this was one of our newer
19 staff, Brian Murphy. You recommended
20 improving the renewable electricity forecast
21 by incorporating resource maps of renewable
22 resources. And again, nothing's happened with

1 this yet, but we're working on - Brian is
2 working on assessing the available map. You
3 suggested conducting multiple renewable
4 electricity forecast scenarios to account for
5 model assumptions, and I think numerous capped
6 carbon cases were run to address that
7 recommendation. So a little progress.

8 Janice Lent presented some
9 information on the Energy Consumer Price Index
10 Research that she's conducting. This is a
11 very long process. She's plugging away at it.
12 When she made her presentation last time you
13 generally favored a producer price index (PPI)
14 for solar energy equipment over a PPI for
15 fuels used in electricity generation. So what
16 she's looking now for the PPI for solar energy
17 equipment, she's investigating that as data
18 and resources permit. And when I say
19 resources permit, this is another thing that
20 sort of limits what we can do. Now, money and
21 people. So she's working on it. You also
22 suggested that EIA should measure changes and

1 cost of wind energy equipment. And she will
2 investigate the option and calculate it in a
3 synthetic PPI for wind energy equipment, but
4 it appears from her initial research that
5 useful data is very limited in that capacity.

6 Okay, this was the presentation
7 from another one of our newer staff, Emre
8 Yucel on international biofuels modeling. You
9 recommended that EIA consider the cost and
10 effect of converting idle land, crop land, and
11 Emre is incorporating a transportation and
12 food crop model that will take into
13 consideration the cost and effect of this type
14 of conversion.

15 Let's see, this was - the next
16 one, estimating monthly ethanol consumption in
17 the U.S. I think this was Carol Blumberg.
18 The committee recommended revising weekly
19 estimates of motor gasoline volume after the
20 monthly estimates of motor gasoline volume
21 were obtained. And this was a policy issue.
22 What we found out is that it seems within EIA

1 it's rare to revise weekly data unless there's
2 some compelling reason to do so. So I'm not
3 sure that that one will happen. We'll keep it
4 under consideration. And later on in today's
5 presentation Steve Harvey, the director of the
6 Office of Oil and Gas, will be talking about
7 the weekly petroleum review, so you'll get
8 some more information about that.

9 Jake Bournazian did a presentation
10 on time limits on confidential data. What you
11 recommended is that we ask various energy
12 groups how they feel about reusing their data
13 after a specific time period, and then we
14 should listen to what they say and then decide
15 whether or not we want to set a time limit for
16 releasing data. You also suggested providing
17 company-level data in the data enclave for
18 researchers. We did canvass some electric
19 power respondents and we agreed that we
20 probably won't set an agency-wide policy for
21 these time limits because we couldn't get any
22 consensus out of anybody. So we're sort of

1 leaving things alone. But we will explore
2 alternatives for expanding researcher access
3 to survey data. That's a possibility.

4 And finally, these are some things
5 that have been ongoing at EIA. I just wanted
6 to give you an update. This is just sort of
7 an agency-wide thing. To help facilitate our
8 work the agency has made a commitment to train
9 people in the use of project management tools
10 and the discipline. So we are now into our
11 second cohort of people being trained which we
12 hope will make some improvements in
13 timeliness, data quality, management cost and
14 all of the other goals that project management
15 has in that little triangle for those of you
16 that are familiar with it. This is a big step
17 because EIA had sort of unofficially used
18 project management. Everybody that's been
19 here awhile probably knows how to manage a
20 project, but this is a common set of tools and
21 we think that will create portability among
22 our staff as well.

1 And then finally I know you've
2 heard about this before, the ISMS, the
3 Internet Survey Management System. I just
4 wanted to briefly give you an update. For
5 those of you that have been around awhile or
6 have been here before this is again an agency-
7 wide tool that the goal is to use this tool
8 for appropriate surveys - and I will preface
9 this with appropriate surveys - to collect in
10 an online web environment. Now not every
11 survey that we do at EIA is appropriate to
12 that, but for those that are we are developing
13 a schedule, rolling those surveys in and with
14 the idea that it reduces respondent burden,
15 there's editing at the source, there will be
16 efficiencies, a common way of doing things.

17 So we have made great progress and
18 the plan right now is - and I'm leading up
19 this effort. I have a vested interest in this
20 one. April 20 is the target date for
21 deploying the very, very first survey and it
22 will be the bio-diesel survey that you'll hear

1 about later today in this web environment. So
2 while we've done a lot of planning and
3 meeting, I'm convinced that there will be a
4 lot of lessons learned from our first survey
5 roll-in that will improve as we deploy other
6 surveys. The next two to go, we have our 1605
7 greenhouse gas survey and electricity, the 826
8 survey for electricity. So that's the plan.
9 Okay. I think that's it. I'm happy to take
10 questions about what we've done over the past
11 six months if anybody has any.

12 MR. MELENDEZ: I've just got a
13 quick question.

14 MS. BROWN: Why don't you - can
15 you say your name?

16 MR. MELENDEZ: Sure. Israel
17 Melendez. My question is with respect to
18 process. This is a great presentation to give
19 feedback to the group. Do you have, say, a
20 database or spreadsheet that's posted to keep
21 track of all of these? Because there are
22 obviously some things that were

1 recommendations last meeting, but they haven't
2 - some of them haven't been implemented and
3 they will be implemented in the future. And
4 I was wondering how do you track all of that?

5 MS. BROWN: Well, that's a good -
6 no, we - let me. We don't have such a
7 spreadsheet. What we do have is we have a
8 recording of what goes on here so we know -
9 and we do a summary at the end of what you
10 said and what our response is later. But do
11 we keep track of that in a spreadsheet? No.
12 Could we? I mean we probably could, and it's
13 probably a pretty good idea so we can see.
14 Because when I started this and said that we -
15 it's not that we don't do things, it takes
16 time. And you're absolutely right, there
17 could be a recommendation from a year ago that
18 we don't act on until a year later or make
19 progress on till a year later, and that would
20 be one way. We could update it on a regular
21 basis and let you know what's happening.

22 MR. MELENDEZ: Would that be

1 available to the members?

2 MS. BROWN: Sure, if we do it.

3 MR. MELENDEZ: If you do it.

4 MS. BROWN: I'll add this as a
5 suggestion by the committee of things we can
6 do. I think that's a doable one, and
7 certainly we can probably create a website
8 with you guys having access to it. It should
9 be no problem. While I have - any other
10 questions? That's a great suggestion.

11 While I have the floor I just
12 wanted to say one thing. This is my third
13 time doing this. The first time I came in it
14 was about three days after I got here. This
15 is my second full time of being involved. And
16 I want to in-front while people are here
17 personally thank Alethea. Alethea, I don't
18 think people realize how much planning goes
19 into something like this. You guys are here
20 and sort of it's all happening, but believe
21 me, and after having sat through this for the
22 third time now, there's a lot of planning that

1 goes on, you know, whether it's your
2 accommodations working with ASA, or you know,
3 travel arrangements, or the agendas, or things
4 like this suggestion, or getting the dinner
5 reservations, it's amazing what Alethea does
6 behind the scenes. And she's a committee of
7 one, although I will say that the SMG staff
8 and others at EIA are very - and I want to
9 thank all of my SMG staff here - for being so
10 supportive, but it's incredible. And my
11 personal thank you Alethea.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. BROWN: If there aren't any
14 other questions I'll turn it back over to Ed
15 and we can go to next.

16 DR. BLAIR: Okay. We're running a
17 bit early, but we'll proceed to our next item
18 on the agenda, and that would be Ron
19 Wasserstein giving us a presentation on an
20 inside view of ASA committees.

21 MR. WASSERSTEIN: Thank you, Ed,
22 and I want to thank Alethea and Renee and

1 Stephanie for inviting me and for their help
2 with this. I have to say though it feels a
3 little bit like showing up at a party to watch
4 the NCAA Final Four and giving the lecture on
5 the subtleties of NCAA recruiting rule
6 compliance. So it'll be probably about that
7 level of excitement and it'll be directed to
8 the committee mostly. So to the gallery, you
9 know, if you brought your Blackberry, this is
10 the time.

11 (Laughter.)

12 MR. WASSERSTEIN: But I have been
13 asked to talk a little bit about committees
14 within the ASA and how this committee fits and
15 so on, and I will try to do that as
16 expeditiously as possible so that you can ask
17 questions if you can remember what they are by
18 the time I'm finished. We have a lot of
19 committees at the ASA. As far as I know, I
20 talked to my executive director colleagues at
21 other associations and we have way more than
22 others. And I know we have a lot because I

1 try to connect with all of them. And so we're
2 heavily dependent on volunteers in the
3 association. And I was a volunteer for ASA
4 for much longer than I've been a staff member,
5 so I'm very concerned about keeping volunteers
6 happy and making sure that people feel like
7 they're using their time in a way that they
8 feel is appropriate and important. And that's
9 especially important in committees, and I'll
10 talk more about why that is in just a little
11 bit.

12 So as a reminder, the charge of
13 your committee is to consider energy
14 statistics as they relate to energy policy
15 analysis and the framing of a comprehensive
16 energy data system, and to promote to the
17 greatest degree feasible the integration of
18 energy statistics with other statistical
19 programs and with existing bodies of national
20 statistics. So you'll observe in there that
21 the letters "EIA" don't appear anywhere in the
22 charge, okay? So you are historically and

1 very strongly connected to the EIA, but your
2 charge is broader than that. And so when I
3 think about broadening that charge or
4 activities, one of the things that comes to
5 mind to me is that one of the things that you
6 could do is to recommend to the ASA board that
7 it make an official statement or take an
8 official position on some statistical matter
9 related to energy statistics or energy policy.
10 And I can talk more about that a little bit
11 later on if you wish, or I can certainly fill
12 you in on the details of how you go about
13 doing that on another occasion. But I sure
14 invite you to think about that. And of
15 course, another important activity that
16 committees can do is to submit proposals for
17 invited sessions to joint statistical
18 meetings. Many of these invited sessions that
19 are set up by committees turn out to be very
20 good sessions.

21 One of the things I've observed
22 from talking to ASA committees over the past

1 year and a half or so that I've been onboard
2 is that committees sometimes feel that they
3 have to just sit and wait for something to
4 come to them as opposed to being able to be
5 proactive on things. And that's certainly not
6 the case. You are absolutely able to take
7 initiative and you're encouraged to do so, but
8 within I guess the confines of sort of three
9 broad constraints. One of course is your
10 committee charge. So the initiatives you take
11 obviously would be within the - what you
12 consider to be the scope of your committee's
13 work. We'd ask you to consider the ASA
14 Strategic Plan when you are taking initiative
15 as well, and that's available on our - on the
16 ASA website, and it's a quick read. It's not
17 like maybe some strategic plans that you've
18 dealt with at some point in your life or
19 another. Probably everybody has had at least
20 one bad strategic plan experience. And then
21 finally we take this initiative, we'd want to
22 make sure that through the ASA's committee

1 structure and so on that we kept in touch
2 between staff and board and committee so that
3 if you were taking an initiative that might
4 also synch up with the activities of some
5 other committee or group working within the
6 association that we could make sure that you
7 were working in tandem.

8 A little bit of history - I
9 promise to be very brief - on ASA committees
10 that work with agencies. There are two others
11 in addition to yourself that really work
12 closely with - are specifically set up in
13 fact, we're set up to work closely with
14 federal statistical agencies. The Committee
15 on Law and Justice Statistics works closely
16 with the BJS, and then there's the Census
17 Advisory Committee. The ASA has had a
18 longstanding role with the Census Advisory
19 Committee professional associations. Now that
20 latter one is particularly well-defined and
21 it's just part of the Census Bureau's overall
22 program and strategy for working with advisory

1 committees. But the Committee for Law and
2 Justice Statistics sometimes struggles with
3 similar issues to what Stephanie and Renee and
4 Alethea raised to me about this committee in
5 terms of just being - feeling certain about
6 the work and the direction of the committee.
7 This committee and the Committee on Law and
8 Justice Statistics both appear to have been
9 formed at some point because ASA leadership
10 either saw or learned of the need to provide
11 some sort of assistance to the agency. And as
12 you probably know, this - I'm not sure I've
13 traced it all the way back, but this committee
14 goes back to at least 1985. Nancy, longer
15 than that do you suppose? Okay. I certainly
16 saw minutes or whatever back to 1985. The -
17 like most committees everywhere, certainly
18 like the committees within the ASA, the
19 success of the committee depends heavily on
20 the skill and interest of the chair. That's
21 how committees work, but of course it also
22 depends on members who have a commitment to

1 the work of the committee, and this committee
2 is very much to be commended in that regard.
3 However, the primary difference between this
4 committee and the other two I mentioned, and
5 the 47 or so other ASA committees depending on
6 what you count - I'll talk a little bit more
7 about that as well - are unique in that other
8 ASA committees generally tend to be inward-
9 facing. They are pointing towards the
10 association in some business or issue of
11 direct importance to the ASA itself, whereas
12 these three committees, yours and the two
13 others, are pointed outward and generally
14 working on matters of an agency policy or
15 external policy in some way, shape, or form.
16 And so the consequence of my previous two
17 points is that sometimes it would be easy for
18 committees like that to lose their way because
19 they're an ASA committee, but they may not be
20 as connected with the ASA because they're
21 facing outward rather than in. And so when
22 that happens it's certainly - it's an

1 organizational problem. It's not a committee
2 problem, it's the responsibility of the ASA
3 and its leadership to guard against that,
4 which leads to my next comment, very briefly,
5 about what the role of the ASA is with your
6 committee, committees in general, and
7 especially board and staff.

8 The first statement is obvious.
9 It's important for committees to stay in touch
10 with the staff and board. While it's obvious
11 it's also not trivial. There are over 50 ASA
12 committees and that doesn't count at all the
13 numerous other committees to which the ASA
14 makes appointments and we have representation.
15 There's 20 or so of those as well that we need
16 to stay in contact with as well. In the
17 current committee structure you - each
18 committee has a representative to - or a
19 liaison to the Committee on Committees, a
20 dreadful and perhaps most bureaucratic
21 sounding possible name ever. We think we are
22 going to be able to part with that soon. And

1 so if you have concerns, problems, success
2 stories to share, reach out currently to your
3 committee liaison which is Al Tupek. We are -
4 as long as you've heard of him.

5 MS. BROWN: I know who he is, he's
6 in Census, but I don't think anybody here has
7 ever - well, maybe. He's never come to one of
8 our meetings.

9 MR. WASSERSTEIN: All right,
10 because typically the liaison comes at the
11 meetings at JSM, tries to hook up there.
12 We're working on a new organizational
13 structure that will not have a Committee on
14 Committees and will have more direct
15 connection between the committees and the
16 board so that in fact each committee would
17 have a direct line to a board member. We hope
18 that that will facilitate communication.
19 That's in the works and probably is likely to
20 roll out for next year.

21 There's just a couple of other
22 things that I was asked to talk about. I'll

1 do those briefly and then I'll be glad to
2 answer any questions that you might have about
3 these remarks or anything else related to the
4 ASA that I could help you with. First of all,
5 I was asked to talk about sort of what my
6 experience is with regards to other committees
7 regarding the number and length of meetings.
8 You have a very serious committee meeting
9 structure compared to what many other
10 committees have, and I know that there are
11 excellent reasons why you do what you do. I
12 would say that a great many committees have
13 tried to organize themselves so that they can
14 get their business done in one day. So at
15 most they have to come in the night before and
16 are able to fly out the next afternoon. The
17 way that's been most successfully accomplished
18 has been by having regular between-meeting
19 conference calls. There's several committees
20 that are very effective at this. They have a
21 monthly conference call, it's set at the same
22 date and time every month, and it's one hour

1 no matter what. So everybody knows that
2 that's their maximum commitment is to be on
3 that call for one hour and then they're done.
4 And that's how they get enough business done
5 between meetings so that they can shorten the
6 meeting time when they are together.

7 I also wanted to mention, I was
8 asked to talk a little bit about what some of
9 these other committees have done for the other
10 agencies. The Committee on Law and Justice
11 Statistics has worked with the ASA office on
12 a grant from the BJS to provide summer
13 fellowships and small research grants. So the
14 committee has accepted applications for the
15 fellowships and made recommendations to the
16 BJS accordingly. It's also helped administer
17 - work with the FBI to generate and evaluate
18 research proposals on a topic that was of
19 particular interest to the Bureau, and it has
20 advised the BJS on a variety of matters. The
21 Census Advisory Committee meets twice a year
22 for a day and a half - well, actually mostly

1 two days - at the Bureau and gets regular
2 updates from Bureau staff, but also does much
3 of what it sounds like you do too in terms of
4 providing - taking an active role in providing
5 guidance.

6 Then the last thing I wanted to be
7 sure to mention was that we are very pleased
8 that we have the joint statistical meetings
9 here this year as we do every 10 years have
10 them either in Washington or Baltimore. And
11 much to our surprise and delight with the
12 economy being what it is we have by far the
13 largest number of abstracts received for a JSM
14 this year. We have over 400 more than the
15 largest previous meeting which was in Seattle
16 in 2006. So we did a quick little comparison
17 of this year and last year as to where these -
18 what states had increased number of abstracts
19 over last year. You won't be surprised to
20 know that Virginia, Maryland, Washington,
21 D.C., Pennsylvania, North Carolina are all up
22 like 50 to 100 percent depending on the state

1 in terms of numbers of abstracts submitted,
2 but somewhat to my surprise I think we're up
3 15 to 20 percent or something from California
4 as well. I assume that's grant money and not
5 state money in all likelihood. So those are
6 some highly stimulating comments and I'd be
7 glad to answer any questions.

8 MS. BROWN: Stephanie Brown. Ron,
9 thank you, and I'm sorry that I didn't do a
10 more formal introduction. I'm really happy
11 that you came here. There's at least one
12 other office director from EIA in the audience
13 here, and I think one of the things that we've
14 been struggling with and why I was asking you
15 to come here, but when we have these meetings
16 we want to look for what I'll call meaningful
17 topics to discuss. And sometimes that comes
18 internally from EIA and things that we are
19 working on, but I guess I wanted to brainstorm
20 this with the committee a little bit about the
21 possibility of you guys bringing things to us,
22 things that you're working on that have

1 relevance to EIA. Some of you are economists
2 that deal regularly in the energy industry.
3 Perhaps if you have graduate students working
4 with you, or you know, some special research
5 you're doing, what about the possibility of
6 you preparing a presentation for us so we
7 could see what you were doing. Is that
8 something that would be? Or you know, like
9 Israel said, you know, he wants to - he's here
10 because he wants to see or make sure that the
11 information and recognizing the importance of
12 the information we're doing to the industry.
13 But if there was something you were working on
14 that - something important to your industry,
15 if you could bring that back to us so we know.
16 Can I hear from the committee about this? I
17 mean, that would help us in preparing for our
18 meetings, and also it's open for discussion.
19 Do you guys still want to meet twice a year
20 for a day and a half, or do you want to change
21 that in some capacity? And John Conti, the
22 other office director, feel free to chime in

1 here because I know this has been a concern of
2 yours about relevance of the material and the
3 value of what we can get from the committee.
4 There are lots of things I just threw out, so
5 feel free to comment.

6 DR. BLAIR: I'm going to go ahead
7 and acknowledge Ed. I'm going to guess you're
8 not responding directly, but -

9 MR. KOKKELENBERG: Well, partially
10 I'm responding. I guess one of the questions
11 I had for Ron was has there been a concern
12 that we are meeting too long or too
13 frequently? And I've been on this committee,
14 I don't know, 10 years on and off, on for
15 about six years and then off and then on
16 again, and I was chairman of it years ago.
17 Ancient history. But I never found in that
18 period of time that the EIA wished we went
19 away.

20 MS. BROWN: Oh no.

21 MR. KOKKELENBERG: That they were
22 striving to fill our program with something

1 just to keep us entertained. They seemed to
2 have - since we're a utilized committee, I
3 kind of felt that if EIA wanted to utilize us,
4 we should be available to be utilized and that
5 was part of the volunteering that Howard was
6 talking about. And when I was chair I
7 sometimes thought that the day and three
8 quarters was too short for all the material
9 that EIA wanted covered. I've also been on
10 other committees which tried to do what you
11 said, to meet very short, maybe two hours at
12 the JSM and then maybe one other time for a
13 half a day, and I found those committees less
14 than satisfying for me personally because we
15 were not really getting into things. We were
16 kind of doing very superficial advice or
17 analysis. The - so one of the beauties of
18 this committee is that EIA keeps coming back
19 with some of the same problems that they've
20 worked on in between our meeting times and
21 giving us two days essentially to discuss them
22 and to look at them and to continue with

1 exploring the problems and trying to help is
2 quite useful. And I know, for example, when
3 the NEMS was created and Mike had talked about
4 this, we were involved in an extracurricular
5 way too in providing an awful lot of help with
6 the documentation of the NEMS and advice on
7 the various modules. So it seems to me that
8 unless there is a compelling reason to shorten
9 the meeting time that - or EIA feels that we
10 are underfoot, that this committee should be
11 considered a commitment to a couple of days
12 meeting twice a year as a standard drill.

13 Now, getting to that other idea,
14 years ago we did have occasionally
15 presentations from the staff people, but it's
16 very rare. You're right, it's probably
17 something that may be a useful endeavor to
18 have if there is a committee -

19 MS. BROWN: Appropriate -

20 MR. KOKKELENBERG: - set forward
21 something useful.

22 DR. BLAIR: Michael?

1 MR. COHEN: Just to - this is
2 going to cost you a little bit of money, so it
3 could be ignored, but maybe expanding the idea
4 just a bit, maybe once a year to have a slot
5 where maybe not a member of the committee, but
6 an invited person external to EIA who's doing
7 something we think is exciting that EIA should
8 think more seriously about, an academic or an
9 industry person. We'd have to pay for their
10 airfare and hotel, so they could maybe stake
11 out an hour and a half for somebody that we
12 think is doing some work we should be more
13 aware of rather than just keep it to members
14 of the committee.

15 DR. BLAIR: Ron, you wanted to say
16 something?

17 MR. WASSERSTEIN: I thought I
18 might just real quickly respond to Ed's
19 comment. So just to be clear, there's no
20 concern on the board's part or on my part
21 about the length of the meetings. I was asked
22 to just talk about what some of the other

1 alternatives are. So if you go back to the
2 very first thing I said, the important thing
3 is for you all to feel that your time is well
4 spent, and as long as you're happy, then
5 that's my agenda.

6 MS. BROWN: And I want to clarify,
7 I am in no way saying that we should change
8 them. I'm giving you guys the opportunity to
9 respond. There's at least three new people on
10 the board and I just want to make the most of
11 the time we have. That's our goal. John?

12 MR. WEYANT: John Weyant. You -
13 sort of a disconnected comment. On the
14 meeting frequency, I kind of agree with Ed,
15 but when Ron described what some of the other
16 committees do, if we could kind of go the
17 other way. And I could see a rationale for
18 having maybe one conference call, just an
19 email to help you with agendas and help us up
20 here, something like that. I mean, that would
21 be - you know, we all do enough traveling that
22 in a one-hour conference call we would surely

1 be able to do that. So that may be too much
2 of an extra burden on you all, but it could
3 also be a high-leverage committee. Actually,
4 the one question I had for Ron was you didn't
5 say when the American Statistical Association
6 meetings were?

7 MR. WASSERSTEIN: Yes, it's the
8 first Sunday in August. So the second through
9 the sixth or something like that.

10 MS. BROWN: No, maybe the seventh.
11 I think the sixth is a Thursday.

12 MR. WASSERSTEIN: Yes, it ends on
13 that. It ends on that Thursday.

14 MR. WEYANT: The third thing on
15 committee member presentations. As some of
16 you know, Stephanie knows, John probably
17 knows, I did a little experiment in my
18 graduate energy modeling class where we
19 actually have historically recently let people
20 actually run existing models. And this year
21 we actually did that, so we had three or four
22 teams to it. It was kind of interesting. So

1 we're still reading through the results. We
2 could do something like that.

3 MS. BROWN: I would love to - I'm
4 sure John would like to see the results of
5 that. Absolutely. That would be a perfect
6 thing.

7 MR. WEYANT: We had some good
8 results and some bad results, but we kind of
9 took - nobody was willing to tackle anything
10 big and integrated, but we did have good
11 projects in the building and it is a
12 commercial building so transport - a lot of
13 interest in transport. In fact, we have now
14 part-time at Stanford the shippers. We get
15 that next week. His whole thing is what'll
16 ship which kind of pushes the limits of what's
17 actually done in the module.

18 The other thing that occurred to
19 me from the energy modeling forum point of
20 view is we do kind of model comparisons,
21 almost all of which are somewhat relevant. So
22 it may depend on - in fact the DLA has been,

1 thanks to John, probably the most active
2 energy efficiency study we had coordinated.
3 We have a major study we're going to go public
4 with in June, the first week of June here.
5 You see the second week of June, of course
6 that's not when the meeting is, but on
7 department transition scenarios. So we're
8 doing three parts, mostly global sessions
9 areas and EU, around the EU modeling already
10 done to develop EU proposal, and then a
11 bracketing of - my heart and admiration goes
12 out to EIA because you actually have to follow
13 the bills. We decided we didn't want to do
14 that. In our structure we can't operate that
15 quickly and effectively, so we kind of
16 bracket, you know, from the whatever you call
17 it now, the Bingaman-Spector side to the
18 McCain-Lieberman-Boxer, whatever that's going
19 to be called. Maybe it shouldn't be called
20 Waxman.

21 The final thing is just because I
22 just came from a National Academies study on

1 America's Climate Choice the last few days.
2 One thing you could do for the next meeting is
3 get someone who worked on America's Energy
4 Future. I did not work on that, but I do know
5 that there was a lot of EIA data and some
6 marketing used in that. But that might be
7 interesting just to see how that team of
8 outside people get together and stuff. It's
9 really not by EIA standards really modeling.
10 It's kind of numbers-rich, some clever
11 spreadsheets, but it is tied into some of the
12 EIA mainstream data. Thanks.

13 DR. BLAIR: Steve?

14 MR. BROWN: I just wanted to
15 mention, Resources for the Future is currently
16 working on a project to look at a variety of
17 different policies and kind of scoring them
18 for greenhouse gas emissions and energy
19 security, and then we're using them sort of as
20 - being done, NEMS work is being done by an
21 on-location. Now, I know John is familiar
22 with this because he was at the meeting a

1 couple of weeks ago over at RFF where people
2 were representing some of their preliminary
3 results.

4 MS. BROWN: What you guys have
5 just described I think is exactly what we were
6 thinking about, that there are certainly
7 things that you are involved in that would be
8 of interest to the folks at EIA. And I'm not
9 sure how we - I mean, I heard it now, but I'm
10 not sure in a - we have to put in place some
11 mechanism on a regular basis to find out what
12 it is that you're doing that would be of
13 interest to the committee. Not just what
14 we're doing that's of interest to you and the
15 broader energy community, but it's a two-way
16 street here. So I hope that we'll be able to
17 - you know, Alethea and Renee and I will try
18 to come up with some sort of mechanism. Maybe
19 that's something we should be doing in a
20 conference call once a year, brainstorming
21 appropriate topics to bring up that you guys
22 are working on as well as us.

1 MR. CONTI: John Conti, EIA. We
2 are very much intertwined, as you've heard,
3 with the modeling community, my office is at
4 least, both at the energy modeling forum as
5 well as efforts that are continuously starting
6 up and ending as their specific issues go on.
7 I always see this committee as broader than
8 the energy modeling frontier, although of
9 course it is the most interesting from my
10 perspective. This one has to deal with a lot
11 more data issues. Most of the budget of EIA
12 has to deal with data, has to deal with
13 collecting it and disseminating it, so I'm
14 always sort of questioning how much should we
15 focus in on the modeling in this setting
16 versus where we focus in on the modeling with
17 the rest of the modelers, whether they're at
18 RFF or gathering for EMF. Because certainly
19 this group appears to be a mix of both more
20 statisticians and modelers. So you know, we
21 could do more modeling things here, but there
22 seems to be other fora for that. So I'm

1 questioning you know, what do we bring to this
2 group from the expertise in those other
3 groups, and how does that benefit EIA?

4 DR. BLAIR: John?

5 MR. WEYANT: A good point. I'm
6 surprised that they hadn't actually thought of
7 that, but I do think maybe that does suggest
8 a strategy in a way, the purpose. Those are
9 background issues that have a high data
10 output. One thing I didn't mention is we have
11 several projects going on now. Patricia is
12 trying to use the RECS data. Often those are
13 allowed. It's amazing, but if only the
14 funding hadn't been cut up and the opposite.
15 It should be expanded. So maybe things like
16 that you think the expertise here would be
17 more - going through what you would do with,
18 you know, a proposal, new generation discrete
19 choice techniques and so on. That side and
20 even some of the behavioral stuff you know
21 might get into that. So if EIA wanted to make
22 an argument that - not to cut off the funding,

1 in fact expand it, I think the power of this
2 committee through both what would we do with
3 the estimates once we got them, and for this
4 group collecting the data, data quality, the
5 whole statistical part of it is really what
6 are confusing people.

7 MR. CONTI: Let me just butt in
8 for one second. John Conti again. I think
9 that's particularly relevant and that you
10 should bring that up when Howard's around the
11 table. I think you know, after he's come back
12 from being on his knees hopefully he'll have
13 some good words for us, and I think those good
14 words might be in areas like that. So we
15 might have additional funding to expand our
16 data activities and maybe you could provide us
17 some insight as to how that money might be
18 best spent.

19 MS. BROWN: Howard will be around
20 at lunchtime if not before. A couple of more
21 comments, one with RECS. We are having a
22 presentation on RECS this afternoon. You

1 mentioned that, right?

2 DR. BLAIR: Yes.

3 MS. BROWN: Okay. We will have
4 one with this afternoon. The other thing,
5 this is related to something that Ron said
6 about one of the things that the committee can
7 do, and that's have a session at ASA, right?
8 And we are having a session. Is Janice here?
9 Janice, do you want to come up and talk about
10 that just for a second? We do, the committee
11 does - some of the committee have, and I
12 thought you might want to hear that.

13 MS. LENT: For this year's JSM
14 this committee will be sponsoring a technical
15 session. It's on the future of the energy
16 situation and what EIA and other federal
17 agencies are doing to try to keep up with the
18 energy situation and provide relevant data as
19 things change. For example, the change from
20 fossil fuels to more use of renewables,
21 something that we really can't predict because
22 we don't know which renewable energy sources

1 are going to become marketable in the future.
2 But the session is going to be on Monday
3 morning, I think it's at 10:00 or 10:30, and
4 the speakers will be myself and John Elting of
5 BLS and Marshall Reinsdorf of EIA. Marshall
6 will address the issue more from a
7 macroeconomic standpoint, and John and I from
8 the standpoint of federal agencies.

9 MS. BROWN: And Nagaraj is
10 involved in it also, right?

11 MS. LENT: Nagaraj is chair and Ed
12 is the discussant.

13 MS. BROWN: All right, very good.
14 So there is committee involvement with ASA.

15 MS. KIRKENDALL: This is a bunch
16 of random comments. One of them is that one
17 of the reasons behind the committee was we
18 always thought that the modelers should know
19 and identify data issues, in fact back and
20 forth between the data and the modelers. I
21 think EIA tries to do that, but maybe we're
22 not quite as good at it as we could be. And

1 then, you know, the data folks need to know
2 how their data are used. We impact the data
3 accuracy here too, so that's one of the
4 reasons we got the committee sort of polarized
5 on two sides, but there's a common ground that
6 we all need to know about.

7 Ron talked about the history of
8 this committee. It may be that the committee
9 was officially formed in '85, but there was an
10 ad hoc energy committee which was very much
11 like this that was active before that. I know
12 it was going on. I came to EIA in 1980 so it
13 was in place in like '81. There is a history
14 of the ASA energy committee available
15 somewhere. Alethea may know where it is.

16 MS. BROWN: Maybe John Paul.
17 Calvin Kent presented on this two meetings
18 ago.

19 MS. JENNINGS: It's also on the
20 home page.

21 MS. KIRKENDALL: Can we get a copy
22 or a link at least to Ron so that he can see

1 it?

2 MS. BROWN: Alethea will take care
3 of that.

4 MS. KIRKENDALL: Thank you. And
5 then the other random thought was that I
6 always thought that the idiom "justice
7 statistics" was sort of an interesting model
8 because they do basically our advanced
9 program. So the committee doesn't do things
10 like we do, they don't provide advice to the
11 agency, but they're a funnel for money from
12 BJS to fund research. So that's a thought too
13 is if we wanted to put some proposals out
14 assuming EIA had money which was always a
15 challenge when I was there. And each of us,
16 we could take a look at grant proposals and
17 say which ones we thought were the best.

18 DR. BLAIR: Ron?

19 MR. WASSERSTEIN: A couple of
20 comments, and starting with the last point
21 which is excellent, Nancy. The caveat that
22 I'm sure that maybe Howard Snyder as a former

1 chair of the Committee on Law and Justice
2 Statistics would give is that one thing about
3 having a grant program is that it's very
4 concrete, and so it's very easy to focus a lot
5 of energy on that, and over time that
6 committee began to focus a lot of energy on
7 that to the exclusion of doing some of those
8 other kinds of policy and recommendation
9 activities. So they've actually tried to move
10 back in the other direction, continue to
11 address the grant, but tried to make sure that
12 they keep their focus beyond that as well.

13 I wanted to mention - go back to
14 something I said early in my remarks about the
15 - about ASA policy statements and positions.
16 One of the things that we can do as an
17 association that and that you could help with
18 as a committee that government employees can't
19 do as individuals or whatever is to suggest
20 things that the board could speak out on. One
21 of the things that I've heard a lot over my
22 years in the ASA is that nobody listens to us.

1 They don't listen to us as a profession or us
2 as an association, and to that I say over and
3 over again well then let's say something. And
4 then people may or may not listen, but they
5 certainly won't if we're not talking. And so
6 we have been routinely now over the past year
7 and a half bringing to the board things about
8 which we'd like them to speak out. All
9 matters of policy that have a statistical
10 relationship at Friday's board meeting the
11 board will consider endorsing the new edition
12 of the Purple Book, Principles and Practices
13 for Federal Statistical Agencies, something
14 that - a step that the BSA has not taken
15 before and I think it's an important step. So
16 if you have ideas for that, individually or
17 collectively, that's something that would
18 help.

19 And then the other thing I wanted
20 to be sure to mention is that the board comes
21 to Alexandria three times a year. The
22 presidents come a day early and visit various

1 federal agencies and meet with statisticians
2 from those agencies. Later this afternoon the
3 presidents will be meeting with a small group
4 of statisticians from BLS and NASS. They'd be
5 delighted to meet with the EIA statisticians
6 and so on at a future point and I can work
7 with you to make that happen.

8 MS. BROWN: We're not doing it
9 today though, right?

10 MR. WASSERSTEIN: No, no. We
11 definitely would plan well in advance.

12 MS. BROWN: Okay.

13 DR. BLAIR: Other questions,
14 comments? Walter.

15 MR. HILL: Walter Hill. It might
16 even be too minor to mention, but there was
17 this presentation about the replica recently
18 that noted that the EIA was created in the
19 Department of Energy in the late 1970s and
20 then we - the ASA came on, became interactive
21 with the Energy Department quite soon
22 afterwards. Even this December that we had an

1 ad hoc committee, and then another ad hoc
2 committee for next year. It was a long
3 association.

4 DR. BLAIR: Thank you.

5 MR. BROWN: I actually think the
6 proposals were done by statisticians. So it
7 would make sense to do it. He was Stanford's
8 -

9 MR. WEYANT: So we're just saying
10 the same thing. I think part of the roots of
11 the process.

12 DR. BLAIR: Other comments,
13 questions? This is Ed Blair. Just - oh go
14 ahead please Vince.

15 MR. IANNACCHIONE: Thank you,
16 chairman. I just want to I guess say despite
17 none of the research I deal with deals with
18 energy in any way, shape, or form. That said,
19 I'm a sampling statistician and so I know a
20 thing or two about designing and implementing
21 household surveys, probability samples of
22 various topics, and so when the suggestion was

1 made well, do you want to present something,
2 I thought well what could I present. I mean,
3 I have a presentation about a household survey
4 at JSM, but I see -

5 MS. BROWN: We do have a household
6 survey here. The RECS.

7 MR. IANNACCHIONE: That's what I
8 was hoping you'd say, Stephanie.

9 MS. BROWN: Yes, sure.

10 MR. IANNACCHIONE: I see my role
11 more as what are you doing and how can I
12 contribute to it.

13 MS. BROWN: This is Stephanie. We
14 have a presentation this afternoon from Eileen
15 O'Brien, it's on the agenda, on RECS and I
16 think that would be an opportunity for you to
17 talk to her about what she might have that
18 might benefit from your knowledge. That would
19 be great. If we could do something here, you
20 know, for her staff at another session, the
21 next one, that would be great. That's the
22 kind of thing that I'd like to see because I'm

1 convinced that each of you is doing something
2 in your work that's meaningful to what we do
3 or you wouldn't be on the committee. You
4 wouldn't have volunteered. You must have some
5 interests that relate to what it is that we're
6 doing that you could bring back to us, and not
7 just, you know, us doing a presentation for
8 you. Not that we object to that because we
9 are continually doing work and there's a lot
10 that you're going to see today, a lot of good
11 work going on, but I think it definitely
12 should be a two-way street here. That's my
13 thought.

14 DR. BLAIR: Well, this is Ed
15 Blair. Stephanie, that last comment, I think
16 you're going back to Howard's presumption as
17 an economist that there's some sort of
18 rationality evidenced here and I don't know if
19 that's such a good assumption.

20 MR. WEYANT: Look at the stock
21 market.

22 DR. BLAIR: I've been on the

1 committee, I think this is the start of my
2 third year, something like that, so I don't
3 have the history that some people would have.
4 I don't know the last time the committee
5 considered what it does, the structure of what
6 it does, how it makes itself valuable. One
7 thing that does strike me is that it is an ASA
8 committee. Ron, you mentioned that ASA is
9 involved with the Census committee, but my
10 understanding is that that's a Census
11 committee, ASA recommends potential members,
12 but that it is a Census entity, whereas this
13 committee is an ASA entity. And then in
14 theory this committee is loyal to ASA, but as
15 you said, you know, you work with EIA all the
16 time, in effect you serve EIA. And my
17 understanding is that in fact EIA provides a
18 grant to ASA to fund the committee. So in a
19 sense, EIA pays for the advice, pays for the
20 committee, and it's a reasonable question how
21 do you get value. And I hear at least two
22 broad things being put on the table today, and

1 that is what issues does the committee take
2 up, and I think this at least surfaced last
3 time, in our last meeting, a little bit of
4 discussion. Currently we take up issues that
5 EIA brings to the committee. And I think one
6 of the ideas is in a sense one possible danger
7 you have here is insularity. And are there
8 opportunities for EIA to have value if the
9 committee brings issues sometimes to EIA.
10 Sometimes if nothing else just have an open
11 discussion session, what's going on, what are
12 issues that EIA people might want to look at.
13 John, at the last meeting you talked about
14 behavioral energy, and I think everybody
15 around the room was going wow, we're not
16 thinking about that, you know. I'm probably
17 wrong about that, but you know, it just seemed
18 like is that something we should look at?
19 Who's looking at that? You know, when -
20 what's the deal. So I think that's maybe the
21 model for something like that.

22 And then the other issue I hear

1 being discussed, not so much but being
2 discussed is how the committee organizes and
3 does its work. You know, a one-day meeting is
4 maybe cheaper than a two-day meeting. You
5 know, you save some hotel costs if nothing
6 else, as well as, you know, potentially less
7 burden on the committee. And offline, an
8 issue that I received from Stephanie prior to
9 this meeting is the idea of how soon in
10 advance EIA presenters provide their materials
11 so that the committee can be reflective in
12 responding to them. One of the things I
13 mentioned to her is that I used to serve on
14 the Census committee, though not representing
15 ASA, and there, the last session, you wrote up
16 - the various discussants wrote up remarks.
17 I mean, it was just bullet points, but you had
18 a written record of remarks. One thing that
19 strikes me in the summaries here is that the -
20 oh, you said, we should look at this, we
21 should look at this, and if you remember the
22 meeting you're thinking well, wait a minute,

1 I think there was this, this, also that, that,
2 that and the other, but the problem is with a
3 verbal discussion, you know, it's not
4 necessarily captured. I don't know if that
5 would be valuable, but I think in general
6 maybe the time has come for the committee, for
7 EIA to talk generally speaking how do we do
8 our work, what do we do, and are there any
9 ideas for how to improve value. I think
10 that's the issue that's being put on the
11 table.

12 MS. BROWN: Yes.

13 DR. BLAIR: Other comments? With
14 that I - we have ASA committee discussion
15 which I presume has been taking place. We'll
16 break. We're breaking a little bit early, but
17 there's no point in reconvening before 10:45
18 since I assume our presenters won't
19 necessarily be available before 10:45. So
20 we'll just have a longer break now and can
21 talk offline.

22 (Whereupon, the foregoing matter

1 went off the record at 10:16 a.m. and resumed
2 at 10:48 a.m.)

3 DR. BLAIR: Let's go ahead and
4 convene our next meeting. We have a
5 presentation on EIA's new biodiesel survey by
6 Mary Joyce.

7 MS. JOYCE: I'm going to continue
8 on a theme that we had this morning and Howard
9 Gruenspecht was here and he said - gave us
10 some advice from his father's days in the
11 Army. My father always said to jump up first
12 and volunteer to peel the potatoes, because he
13 said nobody will ever volunteer to do that,
14 but you should see what the other guys get
15 stuck with. So I guess I volunteered to talk
16 to the committee about the new biodiesel
17 survey, and hopefully I'm getting out of some
18 other onerous chore. Let me go ahead and get
19 my bearings here.

20 What I'm trying to do in this
21 session is to first of all provide some
22 background on biodiesel and the general

1 purpose of the survey, and second of all, I'll
2 go through and describe a little bit about the
3 survey, and thirdly I will - hopefully we'll
4 have some time at the end to discuss some
5 related data issues. So these are things you
6 might want to think about as we're going
7 through the presentation. There are issues
8 about how to measure biodiesel demand and how
9 to quantify biodiesel blending. Not too high-
10 tech.

11 So first of all, what is
12 biodiesel? Basically it's a synthetic diesel
13 fuel that's made from vegetable oils or animal
14 fats, and in the U.S. it's usually made from
15 soybean oil or recycled restaurant grease, but
16 recently mainly due to some economic reasons
17 it's been - the producers have been expanding
18 and trying to use other types of fats and oils
19 to produce the fuel. Biodiesel can be used as
20 a substitute for petroleum diesel, either
21 straight or blended with petroleum diesel, and
22 the industry has established a convention for

1 naming the blended fuels. And you will see
2 this in the form later. Basically you take
3 the uppercase letter "B" and follow it by the
4 percentage of biodiesel that's in the blend,
5 so a B20 really stands for a blend of 20
6 percent biodiesel and 80 percent petroleum
7 diesel. Or in other words, an unblended fuel
8 which would be 100 percent biodiesel would be
9 B100.

10 Biodiesel is primarily used as a
11 fuel for on-road vehicles, but it also has
12 uses in other markets. Probably two of the
13 most important are that it can be used to
14 power stationary diesel generators, and it can
15 be blended with home heating oil. And the
16 home heating oil market actually got a boost
17 in 2005 when the IRS decided that the blending
18 credits, the tax credits on blending for
19 biodiesel, did apply to the residential
20 sector. And it's important for us to from our
21 perspective to look at these different uses
22 because we can't - like ethanol, we can't

1 assume that all the biodiesel that's being
2 consumed in this country is actually going for
3 motor oil, or transportation fuel.

4 Biodiesel has been sort of brought
5 to everybody's attention recently. We've all
6 heard about some new policies and incentives
7 that will encourage the growth of domestic
8 renewable fuels to displace our imports of
9 petroleum, and biodiesel also has been found
10 to have some environmental advantages. In
11 particular, the EPA has noted that the blends
12 of biodiesel reduce three different kinds of
13 emissions. And so as a result of these sort
14 of driving factors there's been a strong
15 growth in biodiesel production in the last few
16 years, and particularly in the construction of
17 production, biodiesel production plants. And
18 as recently as September of last year there
19 were 39 biodiesel plants under construction in
20 the United States, although I think some of
21 those have been put on hold with the recent
22 economy. But the actual production of

1 biodiesel is now large enough to have some
2 impact on the whole energy picture,
3 particularly in the transportation area. And
4 it's big enough to warrant us putting it in
5 the energy accounts that EIA puts together and
6 publishes.

7 So a new survey was designed to
8 meet a few different objectives. The first
9 thing we wanted to do was be able to respond
10 to an increasing number of requests that we
11 were getting from customers about all kinds of
12 biodiesel data. These people were learning
13 about biodiesel through the media and stuff
14 and so they were asking a lot of questions.
15 The second objective of the survey was to
16 fulfill an internal need that EIA had for
17 survey-based data on biofuels that would
18 conform to the definition of "primary energy."
19 And EIA now counts the biomass inputs into
20 fuels like ethanol and biodiesel as primary
21 energy production, primary energy consumption,
22 and then the consumption of fuel itself is

1 secondary - the production of fuel itself is
2 secondary energy. But in order to put out
3 publications, and we have started putting out
4 publications with these data in them, but in
5 order to do that for biodiesel we've just had
6 to rely on assumptions and estimates from
7 secondary sources. But the main objective of
8 the survey really was to comply with the
9 Energy Policy Act of 2005 which actually
10 required EIA to collect biodiesel data.

11 And ^U 1508 of the Energy Policy
12 Act of 2005 said that EIA must collect the
13 following data for renewable motor oils. It
14 said we had to collect the quantity of fuels
15 produced, the quantity of fuels blended, the
16 quantity of fuels imported, the quantity of
17 fuels demanded, and market price data. And it
18 gave us sort of a catch-all category which
19 said if we decided we needed other analyses or
20 other evaluation we could collect that too.
21 Section 1508 specified that the data had to be
22 collected monthly, that they had to be

1 collected on a national and a regional basis,
2 but it didn't exactly tell us what regional
3 classifications we needed to use. And it also
4 said that we needed to collect or estimate the
5 information for the five years prior to the
6 implementation of this section of the Act.
7 And the Energy Policy Act indicated, and after
8 some further review and evaluation EIA
9 determined that renewable motor fuel really
10 for all practical purposes meant ethanol and
11 biodiesel, at least at this time. And we
12 already had some survey-based data on ethanol,
13 but we had nothing on biodiesel. So that was
14 one of the reasons for getting started on this
15 survey.

16 So with these objectives in mind
17 EIA developed the biodiesel production survey
18 which we're calling the EIA-22 survey, and so
19 I'm going to just describe what the survey is
20 like. And if you have a handout, there's
21 copies of the survey that should be at the
22 back of the handout. If you don't have a

1 handout there are some more on the table in
2 the hallway. So you might want to look at the
3 survey forms as we go along. The EIA-22
4 survey is built in two parts. The survey is
5 built in two parts. The main part really is
6 the monthly survey, what we call the EIA-22M,
7 and that's the ongoing survey that we're going
8 to send out every month and we'll collect data
9 for the previous calendar month. There's also
10 a supplement to the survey, and that's called
11 the EIA-22S, and that's designed to collect
12 annual data for the years 2006, `07, and `08
13 in order to fulfill that EPACT requirement of
14 going back five years and getting historical
15 data. We decided to just - we opted for the
16 three years. We felt comfortable with some
17 data that we had for 2004 and 2005 that were
18 estimated from a Department of Agriculture
19 program that ended in I think it was early
20 2006. So we really just had a gap for 2006,
21 `07, and `08, so that's what this supplement
22 is designed to fill. And this is - the

1 supplement is a one-time survey. Most
2 respondents will fill it out the first month
3 that they fill out their monthly data and
4 they'll never see it again. It's a much
5 smaller set of questions, very much smaller
6 set of questions than the monthly survey.

7 As I said, EIA-22 is a production
8 survey and the respondents are entities that
9 produce biodiesel for commercial purposes.
10 And it is mandatory for those entities to
11 submit data on this survey. There are a few -
12 we know that there are a few individuals in
13 this country who produce very small quantities
14 of biodiesel for their own personal use and
15 they're not going to be required to submit on
16 the survey. This is a plant-level survey, so
17 some companies will be filling out more than
18 one survey. It's not - the industry is
19 structured now so that there aren't very many
20 companies who have more than one plant, but of
21 course that could always change. But the idea
22 behind the plant-level survey is so that we

1 can understand the regional distribution of
2 the data. Right now biodiesel is produced in
3 about - between 150 and 200 plants across the
4 United States, depending on how you count the
5 plants. That was a manageable frame size, so
6 we decided we didn't need a sample and we
7 would just do a universe survey at this point.

8 MR. COHEN: Mary?

9 MS. JOYCE: Did I hear a question?
10 Yes.

11 MR. COHEN: How do you learn about
12 births and deaths to the frame?

13 MS. JOYCE: Well, the frame is
14 being drawn from the Environmental Protection
15 Agency list. Anyone who produces biodiesel
16 commercially or puts it into commerce has to
17 have a registration number from the
18 Environmental Protection Agency.

19 MR. COHEN: Any size? Any amount?

20 MS. JOYCE: Any amount. Any
21 amount. I'm not sure about these small ones
22 who produce it for personal use because

1 they're not really producing it in commerce,
2 but any amount, they have to have it. So we
3 got their list, and that list is updated
4 continuously, because anytime anyone wants to
5 enter in they have to get a registration. So
6 that's where we're starting and we're getting
7 - we will get our births from there. Built
8 into our system if anyone goes out of
9 business, they report that on the survey.
10 They report that to us and we will follow up
11 and find them. I think they also have to
12 report that to EPA, but I'm not quite sure how
13 the EPA list may change on the deaths.
14 Probably not. Monthly, yes. They supposedly
15 update their list weekly, but I'm not sure
16 exactly how that works.

17 So like I said, it's a two-part
18 survey, and it's a universe survey so let me
19 move on to the next slide. I just want to
20 talk a little bit about how this data is going
21 to be processed. Stephanie mentioned this
22 morning that this will be the first survey

1 that's going to use the ISMS system. And I'm
2 not going to really talk about that, but I'm
3 sure there are people around who can answer
4 questions about that system if you want to
5 know more about it. What it will have, the
6 good thing it will have is it will have
7 editing and quality checks while the
8 respondent is entering the data, and hopefully
9 that will speed up our processing of the
10 survey data. So our goal is to close out each
11 monthly survey cycle after 45 days, because
12 we'd like to be able to publish monthly data
13 in a reasonable timeframe for our customers.
14 Basically the survey will open on the first of
15 the month, the respondents will be required to
16 submit the data by the 20th of the month, and
17 then we'll spend the next 25 days doing non-
18 respondent follow-up and finally making
19 imputations before we publish. And because
20 that's a very short period of time we decided
21 to go ahead and have an annual revision. So
22 anything that comes in after that for any

1 respondent that was imputed or any
2 corrections, there might even be corrections
3 from an earlier months from respondents, those
4 will be held in a file until the end of the
5 year and then we'll go back and revise all the
6 months for that year. The responses on the
7 individual surveys will be aggregated and
8 published monthly basically in a series of
9 tables that - on EIA's renewable web page.
10 They will also go into other EIA information
11 projects such as the annual energy review and
12 monthly energy review. And they'll also be
13 used in conjunction with some other survey
14 data that EIA is going to collect to answer
15 some of the Energy Policy Act questions. I'm
16 going to talk about that in a few more minutes
17 a little bit.

18 So the survey - again, you might
19 want to look at the survey as we're talking
20 about sort of the data items on the survey.
21 The survey questions were designed basically
22 from the perspective of measuring the inputs

1 to the production plant and the outputs to the
2 production plant, fairly simple concept. Some
3 of the data on there are collected really just
4 to give us a better idea of how the industry
5 and how the plants operate so that in the
6 future we might be able to restructure the
7 form and get better data or know what we don't
8 have to collect. In addition to the
9 production capacity data we collect data for
10 just a simple volumetric balance. We ask the
11 producers how much biodiesel do they produce,
12 how much of that do they put into storage, and
13 how much do they sell out of the plant. There
14 is a losses and adjustment item where any
15 other activity - if there's any other activity
16 going on at that plant, particularly importing
17 and exporting, if the producers themselves are
18 importing and exporting, it will fall into
19 this losses and adjustments category. And
20 because we're trying to find out a little bit
21 more about the operation from the plants we've
22 asked them to identify whatever - if they put

1 a number in that losses and adjustments
2 section, we ask them to identify - describe
3 what that is. So if they're importing or
4 exporting we should be able to tell that, at
5 least get some idea. If the number is very
6 large and it looks like there's a large number
7 of imports, for instance, we will start
8 collecting import data, or export data,
9 whatever, from the producers.

10 The type and the amount of the
11 inputs into the plant and the co-products that
12 are going out of the plant have - effect the
13 economic value of the biodiesel that's
14 produced there. And the main co-product and
15 it is a significant co-product is - of
16 biodiesel plants is glycerol and glycerine.
17 And because it has a marketable value itself
18 it can sometimes be used by analysts to offset
19 the cost, the production cost, of biodiesel.
20 So the data in these sections are important
21 mainly to our forecasters and to any other
22 data users who are trying to analyze

1 production cost.

2 MR. COHEN: Are the inputs ever
3 imported?

4 MS. JOYCE: Are the inputs - we're
5 not aware of that and we're not asking that.

6 MR. COHEN: I'm just wondering if
7 there might be a seasonality to the
8 production. Otherwise if you're stuck with
9 stuff that's grown here you kind of -

10 MS. JOYCE: We may find that by
11 collecting the input. One of the things we
12 want to do is to find out some answers like
13 that. If we find out that the types of inputs
14 are changing over time, or the amounts, or
15 like you say, they're seasonal or something we
16 could expand it. Right now nobody's asked us
17 to find out anymore about the inputs other
18 than that.

19 The last page of the survey is
20 kind of the meat of the survey I call it, and
21 it was designed to collect much more detailed
22 information on the sales from the plant and to

1 help us to estimate a price like the Energy
2 Policy Act called for. So I'm going to go -
3 just sort of explain why it's designed the way
4 it is. The first thing we're trying to do is
5 to understand how much biodiesel was going
6 directly from the producers to the end user,
7 the end consumer. And so we - we know that
8 there are some producers, particularly small
9 producers in rural areas that have a fuel pump
10 right onsite or delivered directly to their
11 final consumer. And that fuel never goes
12 through the petroleum distribution system
13 where we think most of the fuel goes. So we
14 want to get an idea of how much that is, so
15 that's why we asked them to put their sales
16 volume in those two categories. We also
17 wanted to know, as I said earlier, something
18 about the final use of that biodiesel. And of
19 course, the producers probably don't have a
20 whole lot of that information, but we did
21 include a section E and we asked anyone who
22 reports that they sold directly to end users

1 to try to identify whether it was for
2 transportation use, particularly if it was
3 blended into home heating oil, or some other
4 use. And we're anxious to see how much
5 information we can really get from that
6 section. It'll tell us a little bit more
7 about what's going on, but not the final
8 answer.

9 We're also trying to find out how
10 much blending actually occurs at the
11 production plant as opposed to somewhere
12 further downstream from the production plant.
13 And for the blending at the production plant
14 we'd also like to know what's the average
15 blend. But we didn't want to ask them how
16 much B1 did you produce, how much B2, how much
17 B3, how much B4, and so on and so on, so we
18 asked them to report to us how much blended
19 fuel they sold and what was the diesel
20 content, the petroleum diesel content, and
21 we'll just calculate the average blend that
22 comes out of a production plant.

1 So probably the question that we
2 struggled with the most in trying to design
3 this survey was how to get a meaningful price,
4 how to get some meaningful price data at the
5 producer level. And one of the problems with
6 biodiesel is there's not really a retail price
7 associated with the sales of biodiesel because
8 most people are buying it as a blend. Most
9 people are going to buy a B2 or a B5 or a B20
10 that's - most of the price is determined by
11 its petroleum component, and we wouldn't know
12 what the biodiesel price was. And of course -
13 but since we had a producer survey we thought
14 we would try to attempt to get something like
15 a plant gate price for biodiesel. And but
16 even that was a little complicated and partly
17 because of the blending issue, but also partly
18 because of the tax issue. And there are tax
19 incentives that are in place for producers and
20 blenders of biodiesel, but they're structured
21 in such a way that either the producer can
22 take the tax credit and lower his price

1 basically by what he's gained, or he can not
2 take it and let the blender downstream take
3 it, in which case that would give him a
4 different price. So we knew if we just asked
5 for prices, for a straight price we would get
6 a hodgepodge of prices that we didn't really
7 know what they would represent. We didn't
8 know if they represented B100, if they
9 represented a blend, if they represented a
10 tax, you know, a price that had a tax credit,
11 one that didn't have it, or one that maybe
12 they agreed to sort of split the tax credit
13 with the next person, the next distributor.
14 So we decided on this sort of revenue per
15 gallon approach, and we decided to collect the
16 revenues and the volumes associated with them,
17 and come up with a price, and we asked them to
18 split that by whether to blend or not - and we
19 will know again the average blend - and
20 whether or not they took the credit.

21 So that's what the EIA-22
22 collects. What it won't collect is any

1 blending or biodiesel activity that goes on
2 downstream of the producer. And most
3 biodiesel, because most biodiesel is being
4 sold right now as blend, is going to at some
5 point we expect to go through the petroleum
6 supply distribution stream. And of course EIA
7 already has surveys that cover that stream,
8 and so at the same time we've developed this
9 biodiesel survey, there's also been some
10 redesign to the petroleum supply forms in
11 conjunction with it that will cover a number
12 of things, but in particular for our
13 perspective will cover some biodiesel activity
14 that's going on downstream, specifically the
15 EIA-815 is being redesigned into the Monthly
16 Bulk Terminal and Blenders Report. So all
17 bulk terminals and blenders will be covered by
18 that report. It will collect data for
19 biomass-based diesel fuel and it will monitor
20 - not just for biodiesel, but for all fuels,
21 it will monitor the stock changes and the
22 amounts blended at bulk terminals. Basically

1 what they're going to count is any inputs to
2 the terminal of these - what are now, at this
3 point after the production, are blending
4 components that come into a terminal and then
5 any of those that are input into a final
6 product that's going out of the terminal. So
7 what we won't know is the makeup of those
8 final products that are going out, so we won't
9 know if all the biodiesel that went out was
10 blended into 10 gallons or if it was all - you
11 know, if all the products that went out were
12 B2 or B5 or B20 or we just, we won't really
13 know that. But we will know how much biodiesel
14 went into the fuel stream. The one thing to
15 note about this 815 survey is that it does
16 have a size cutoff, a size threshold. So if
17 the biodiesel is being blended at some very
18 small terminals we might miss it in this 815.
19 We're not sure.

20 Likewise, the 814 which is the
21 Monthly Petroleum Imports Report is also being
22 revised and they're going to add, again among

1 other things, they're going to add biomass-
2 based diesel fuel to the questionnaire. And
3 this is a questionnaire that covers importers
4 of crude oil and petroleum products. So at
5 this point we're not entirely certain whether
6 that frame is going to capture all the
7 biodiesel that's being imported and exported.
8 We'll know more I think when we see some data
9 coming out of it.

10 So that actually leads me to some
11 of the questions that we wanted to raise for
12 the committee members, and we're hoping you
13 could help us with a little bit. I think - is
14 it better if I - I'll talk about both
15 questions and then we can just sort of open
16 the floor for discussion. And you can raise
17 any question you want. The first question I
18 had is the Energy Policy Act ^U 1508 said that
19 we had to measure the quantity - we had to
20 supply data on the quantity of renewable motor
21 fuels demanded. And since we don't have a
22 consumption-side survey, EIA will most likely

1 do the same thing we do for the other
2 petroleum products which is to use the supply
3 side data to estimate the biodiesel demand.
4 And basically we'll assume that consumption
5 equals the production plus the net imports
6 less stock change. But for biodiesel there's
7 sort of some, you know, it's never easy to do
8 these things. One of the problems we have is
9 there's missing data. For instance, we don't
10 have any exports data for biodiesel. The
11 Census Bureau does collect exports of batch
12 and oils which includes biodiesel, but we
13 don't at this point have any way to split that
14 and know exactly how much of that is
15 biodiesel. We're also - while we think the
16 814 will capture some of the imports, we're
17 not sure we're going to capture all of the
18 imports with survey data, so we're not sure
19 we're going to have a gap there. And if we
20 want to do regional demand, then we probably
21 would need some data on regional - inter-
22 regional transportation of biodiesel, and I'm

1 not sure that we have - we certainly don't
2 have that covered in the survey.

3 There's also this issue of non-
4 transportation. Because the Energy Policy Act
5 says renewable motor fuels, and so how do we -
6 if we get a good fix on even what the
7 consumption of biodiesel is, we don't know -
8 we still don't know how much is motor fuel
9 used, how to split that between motor fuel use
10 and other uses, and we think that the home
11 heating oil use is going to be kind of large,
12 so that could be a substantial - it could be
13 a substantial problem, but we're not sure at
14 this point. So we were just looking to the
15 committee to give us some ideas or suggestions
16 on what we might do in that area. I'm looking
17 forward to that.

18 And the second question is the
19 Energy Policy Act also requests that we
20 provide data on the quantity of renewable
21 motor fuels blended. One of the issues with
22 biodiesel is that blending can really occur in

1 a number of places and it can occur actually
2 more than once. You could cut a B98 into a
3 B50 and I suppose you could later cut it into
4 a B20 or a B10 or whatever. It's sort of
5 unlimited. So if we're trying to get a
6 blending it's going to be a little bit
7 difficult. We do collect - of course we will
8 have the blending that is done at the producer
9 on the EIA-22 and hopefully from the petroleum
10 supply surveys, the changes that have been
11 made to the petroleum supply surveys, we will
12 have at least partially covered what's
13 happening and all the blending that's
14 occurring in the petroleum supply chain. But
15 we believe that there are other places where
16 biodiesel can be blended. For instance, some
17 consumers, say you're a big transit agency,
18 you might buy it directly from a producer and
19 blend it yourself, or some of it may be flash-
20 blended right in the vehicle at the end of the
21 line. So we don't - we should have, when we
22 get the results from the 22 producer survey

1 and the petroleum supply survey we should be
2 able to compare them and see how big that gap
3 is, or at least have a good idea of how big
4 that gap is. But we still won't have coverage
5 of that gap. And we also - if we're going to
6 piece together sort of the blending from some
7 of these other surveys we need to make sure
8 that they're all compatible in terms of timing
9 and regionality, if they have the same
10 regional structure, they have the same
11 definitions. So the question for the
12 committee really is just, you know, suggest a
13 good approach for how to measure the quantity
14 of biodiesel that's blended.

15 So before I get started, does
16 anybody have any questions? I mean before we
17 start discussing it? Any questions?

18 MR. COHEN: Just - are you in the
19 field right now with the 22?

20 MS. JOYCE: Stephanie mentioned
21 this morning the target launch date is the
22 20th of this month.

1 MR. COHEN: So you have no idea
2 how much missing data you're going to be
3 facing.

4 MS. JOYCE: Not until we really
5 see it. We've done a little bit of testing.
6 They did go through the effort on process, so
7 we think, you know, some idea, but no, not
8 specifically.

9 MR. IANNACCHIONE: A related
10 question. You had mentioned imputation for
11 proving missing data. Any ideas on how you
12 would impute it?

13 MS. JOYCE: Well, the imputation
14 system that's built now is really simple
15 because I'm not high-tech. Basically if
16 somebody doesn't respond to the survey we put
17 in last month's data. That's the simple one.
18 We do have a little bit different system for
19 the first month if they never report data, if
20 they never report data. We do have estimated
21 capacity data for all these plants. We know
22 about what size they are and basically if they

1 don't report ever we'll look at that capacity
2 data and make some assumptions about how much
3 it will be used and perhaps not an ideal, but
4 we're hoping there won't be that many that
5 never report the first time. But after they
6 report they're stuck with - at least for now,
7 whatever they reported the previous month. We
8 might change that to a seasonal thing. After
9 we get a year's worth of data we might change
10 it so we can go back and say what'd you put in
11 March of last year, you know, if you're in
12 March. It's very simple unfortunately.

13 MR. HILL: Walter Hill. The
14 question I have, looking at this yesterday was
15 how do you get the sample framed? It's look
16 like you have it coming from EPA -

17 MS. JOYCE: Right. We started
18 with -

19 MR. HILL: - producers. The other
20 question was the size. There may be - it
21 seems like there could be producers that are
22 so small that they're under your radar. You

1 said that probably isn't - because they really
2 do have to register, but I thought later then
3 you said that there could be these small
4 producers out there.

5 MS. JOYCE: This industry really
6 at this point is dominated by small producers.
7 But that could change very quickly. There are
8 a few large companies - I don't know if I can
9 name the names - ADM for instance, and
10 Cargill, that have a biodiesel production
11 plant. But even now their plant might be
12 small, but they are a big industry. And so
13 there's always room where that could change,
14 but right now we think that it's dominated by
15 a lot of small producers. We did talk about
16 a size threshold and we might after we get
17 some data and see it, if we see that there's
18 a certain level beyond which they aren't
19 really contributing enough to the data, to
20 the, you know, if 90 percent of the small
21 producers are only producing a few gallons of
22 fuel, then we might make a size threshold

1 cutoff. But we wanted to go through at least
2 the first time and get everybody because we
3 think if you add up all the small producers
4 that's going to be a lot of the big push in
5 data. But so we'll know more later. Does
6 that kind of answer?

7 MR. HILL: You have no idea what
8 the distribution is like?

9 MS. JOYCE: We do. I don't have
10 it off the top of my head. We do because the
11 biodiesel board does have a list of all the
12 producing plants in the United States and they
13 list the capacities there. So you could look
14 - we have looked at it and - but you can look
15 at it and see where the small ones and the big
16 ones are. There aren't very many big ones,
17 but they're producing - or they may be
18 producing biofuel. Any other questions?

19 DR. BLAIR: Ed Blair. I think we
20 might as well be doing discussion along with
21 questions and I think obviously we'd like to
22 focus on your discussion questions, but if I

1 could ask just a quick background question.

2 Respond by the 20th of the month. Could they
3 respond by the 10th of the month?

4 MS. JOYCE: Oh yes. They can
5 respond as soon as the survey - on the first
6 of the month the answers will open.

7 DR. BLAIR: I understand. My
8 question is what's the earliest date by which
9 you could demand response.

10 MS. JOYCE: Oh, I don't know.

11 DR. BLAIR: Are you getting
12 pushback on that? Well, we can report
13 production pretty quick, but sales, you know,
14 takes us awhile? Just from the point of view
15 you're trying to report within 45 days. The
16 faster you close it out the faster you can
17 report it.

18 MS. JOYCE: Yes. The only - I
19 don't know what the earliest is we could
20 collect it. The only comment we got - we sent
21 this out as a Federal Register notice for
22 public comment. We only received one comment

1 that said that the 20 days was too short, that
2 they could not, you know, would not have the
3 data available. So, take that to mean that
4 everyone else - you can take that to mean that
5 everyone else says 20 days is enough. I don't
6 know. The reason for the 20 days is because
7 it's in synch with the petroleum supply
8 surveys. They also have a 20-day window.
9 Now, I think that's one of the things we're
10 going to find out, you know, but we did decide
11 after that comment that since no one else had
12 the issue that it was probably going to.

13 DR. BLAIR: Any committee thoughts
14 about these - I'm going to say imputation
15 issues, questions presented to us?

16 MS. KIRKENDALL: I just wonder if
17 you have any idea how much B100 or B98 is used
18 in consumption? Because with petroleum - how
19 much you get that, but it seems like
20 everything else is blended.

21 MS. JOYCE: You mean in total for
22 the United States?

1 MS. KIRKENDALL: Yes.

2 MS. JOYCE: No and yes. I know,
3 that's a bad answer. Probably none. Probably
4 at this point none.

5 MS. KIRKENDALL: So you think so
6 far -

7 MS. JOYCE: Maybe a little bit.
8 Maybe a little bit. Most vehicles are only
9 warranted to use up to a B20. Buses and a few
10 other vehicles that have special warranty or
11 have special design are really the only ones
12 who might use - are likely to use a B100. Or
13 if you want to risk violating your warranty or
14 whatever. But so we think probably very
15 little. We used to measure that on our 886
16 survey because it used to be that you had to
17 have a specially designed vehicle to use B100.
18 Now they've changed that a little bit and we
19 used to collect those as alternative vehicles,
20 but we don't do that anymore because it's not
21 really worth it. But we were only getting
22 three or four vehicles at the time that were

1 using B100.

2 MS. KIRKENDALL: How about if
3 somebody uses home heating oil. Is that
4 similarly constrained to require blended?

5 MS. JOYCE: I don't know. That's
6 a good question. I'd have to look into that
7 more.

8 MS. KIRKENDALL: It should be -
9 all the biodiesel.

10 MS. JOYCE: Right.

11 MS. KIRKENDALL: That way you
12 could estimate it.

13 MS. JOYCE: Right. Now, one issue
14 - I mean, that's a problem with consumers.
15 The B98 stuff, that's kind of a funny issue
16 because B98 is really just an intermediate
17 blend so they can take the tax credit, really.
18 And so everything that's come - we think that
19 maybe everything that's coming out of the
20 biodiesel plant might be B100 and going into
21 the stream, but we think it's going to be cut
22 down the stream. So I don't know if that

1 answers your question.

2 DR. BLAIR: Ed Blair. The - you
3 know, you labeled blending with regard to
4 discussion when you labeled blending as a
5 problem, then on Discussion Question 2 the
6 quantity of renewable motor fuels blended.
7 For policy reasons or however the law is
8 written, are you being asked how many gallons
9 of final product are demanded regardless of
10 the content, or I mean is this a pre-blending
11 or post-blending world we're living in? Does
12 it matter to anybody, or is it enough to
13 simply say this is how much biodiesel fuel
14 went out, or was consumed?

15 MS. JOYCE: Well, that's actually
16 one of the questions is what did they mean
17 when they said quantity of fuels blended.
18 That's the only direction. That's the
19 direction, quantity of fuels blended. And we
20 kind of interpreted - we interpreted that from
21 two sides. It's how much biodiesel is being
22 blended into the petroleum stream, and I think

1 that's kind of what they were trying to get at
2 is because the stated purpose of the ^U 1508
3 was to monitor or track, better track the
4 renewable fuel standard. I think that was -
5 something like that, the use of renewable
6 fuels in the motor fuel supply. So that's one
7 of our questions and that's kind of where
8 we're trying to track on the petroleum issues.
9 On the other hand, there were a lot of people
10 and a lot of customers who want to know what's
11 the average - what blends can I buy out there.
12 What blends are on the market, how much of
13 this blended fuel is B2, B5. The marketplace
14 seems to be converging on three or four, five
15 different standardized blends. I mean,
16 theoretically you can blend at any level
17 whatsoever, but it seems to be converging on
18 B2 which is sort of a premium diesel fuel,
19 being sold as a premium diesel fuel, and then
20 B5. B20, which is sort of the maximum limit
21 that most vehicles, and probably a couple of
22 others. So it's hard to say what's going to

1 happen, but people would like to know are we
2 just a B2 world, are we a B5 world?

3 DR. BLAIR: Well, I may really
4 profoundly misunderstand this, but it seems to
5 me that your life is just a lot easier if you
6 interpret this as how many gallons of
7 biodiesel are being produced, how many gallons
8 of biodiesel are being blended, being
9 demanded. And then if somebody later on says
10 well you know, see my concern is that
11 consumers are being sold green biodiesel which
12 is really only 2 percent, and really it should
13 be 5 percent qualified for that, you know.
14 Cross that bridge when you come to it, but it
15 just seems - unless I'm missing something,
16 your life is just a lot easier if you say how
17 many gallons of biodiesel are we talking
18 about.

19 MS. KIRKENDALL: Not a question.
20 Some of your comments have to do with what
21 consumers are actually buying, or how it's
22 provided to the consumer to buy. Has there

1 been any thoughts of revising the marketing
2 surveys to get detail on the biodiesel in the
3 market, or is that collected?

4 MS. JOYCE: I really don't know
5 from that perspective. We talked a little bit
6 about - just informally about the old
7 transportation consumption survey, but I
8 haven't heard anything. But possible.

9 DR. BLAIR: Ed Blair again. I'm
10 going to need better statisticians, you know,
11 Vince, Mike to speak to this, but is it
12 possible - would you have data sources
13 possible that with regard to your missing data
14 problems - and I'm going to include your home
15 heating oil in the missing data problems on
16 the demand side - that you measure production,
17 have some sort of periodic survey of someone,
18 something that allows you to establish ratio
19 estimators and then just sort of occasionally
20 update the ratio estimators. Am I making any
21 sense to anybody out here?

22 MR. IANNACCHIONE: This is Vince.

1 Yes, you could do that Ed. I think though
2 what Mary's talking about just using the
3 previous month's, or maybe some seasonal
4 replacement from the same - if you have the
5 prior data, that's a pretty common imputation
6 tactic.

7 DR. BLAIR: Oh, I'm not worried
8 about missing it from a particular reporter.
9 I'm worried about not knowing how much is
10 dropping out into home heating oil, not
11 knowing how much is dropping out to export,
12 not knowing how much import is coming in, some
13 of these issues.

14 MR. COHEN: Mike Cohen. One thing
15 I'm worried about is this thing could be very
16 sensitive to the price of gasoline and to
17 other kind of, you know, weather conditions,
18 et cetera. So if you're going to do this on
19 a spotty basis like every six months or year,
20 I have no idea what dynamics you might be
21 missing. So it would make me nervous to do
22 that. Though I'm not offering anything

1 better.

2 DR. BLAIR: You have to say
3 something.

4 MS. KIRKENDALL: Well, there's
5 only two of the plants so right now you can
6 survey all of them, or you've got to refine
7 those to the process later as you see what's
8 going on in the industry. I mean, a lot of
9 what they're trying to do is learn more detail
10 about what's going on in this market.

11 MR. IANNACCHIONE: I think - this
12 is Vince - to really get at what's going on
13 downstream you have to sample stuff.

14 MS. KIRKENDALL: To go downstream.

15 MR. IANNACCHIONE: Yes.

16 MS. KIRKENDALL: And that would -
17 probably not this survey. You have other
18 surveys that you can look at to try to capture
19 some of that. This one is a nice, tight
20 survey that gets at a piece of the market that
21 you can get at, and then some of the other
22 things I think you just have to keep working

1 at it. Work with the Census Bureau to see if
2 there's anything that they can do about
3 splitting up the exports.

4 MS. JOYCE: Right. We have
5 actually initiated some discussion with them
6 to see about splitting that out, getting it
7 separated. I guess it's a coding issue,
8 getting a separate code for biodiesel. We
9 have the same problem with ethanol. I mean,
10 I'm really just talking about biodiesel, but
11 a lot of these issues parallel what's going on
12 with ethanol.

13 DR. BLAIR: This is Ed Blair. I'd
14 like to follow up on a comment Mike made.
15 Okay, so the easy way to measure this is to
16 measure it at the point of production.

17 MS. JOYCE: Right.

18 DR. BLAIR: But what you're
19 charged with doing is estimating demand, not
20 production, and estimating blending. It's not
21 clear to me that that's really significantly
22 different from demand at the end of the day.

1 And you know, Vince has made the obvious point
2 that, well, if you want to know what's
3 happening downstream you have to measure
4 downstream. But that's a much more
5 complicated, much more expensive measurement
6 process, so it seems to me the issue on the
7 table is: is there a way to get from this
8 production survey which is kind of clean, not
9 that expensive, to impute, unless I'm missing
10 something. And Mike has made the point, you
11 know, there's going to be issues with that
12 imputation. And so maybe a way to put the
13 question back is what are the possible issues
14 with the imputation, and then work on solving
15 those issues. So he mentioned that relative
16 use of this could very much depend on the
17 price of petroleum, could depend on
18 seasonality issues. I don't know if this
19 stuff turns gelatinous or something like that
20 in extreme cold or whatever. Can you say what
21 the issues are, in a sense what the problems
22 are in terms of across time or across location

1 getting from upstream to downstream?

2 Estimating downstream?

3 MS. JOYCE: Oh. Well I hadn't
4 really thought that through.

5 MR. COHEN: What's going to turn
6 the crank that this is going to go into cars
7 or people's homes? What's going to impact
8 that process?

9 MS. JOYCE: I think that's a good
10 question, and one of the issues that always is
11 legislation, we don't know, and tax credits
12 and things like that which are changing all
13 the time. So the economics is part of it.
14 The - physically I'm not sure if there are any
15 barriers to putting. There is this barrier of
16 what will work in your vehicle, and there is
17 a question about cold weather use of some of
18 these fuels, so there are some physical
19 barriers toward using the vehicle. I don't
20 know if there are physical barriers for using
21 it as home heating oil. Did you want to -
22 there are some questions I think in the

1 audience, so I don't know if you want to ask
2 those?

3 DR. BLAIR: Use your microphone
4 from there.

5 PARTICIPANT: You had already
6 hinted at this, but as ethanol is part of the
7 EPACT questions what is your data source for
8 ethanol? How are you handling some of these
9 questions with ethanol and the data there, and
10 how would that impact the approach for
11 biodiesel?

12 MS. JOYCE: Well, it's interesting
13 because it's actually - ethanol has
14 traditionally been looked at as a blending
15 component for gasoline, and so actually I'm
16 not the expert on that. Our petroleum people
17 are really the expert on ethanol, but we do
18 have a production survey for ethanol which
19 similar to the - it does not collect, and we
20 talked about collecting, all the input stuff,
21 the feedstocks and things like that on the
22 ethanol side. It mostly just collects actual

1 production. They have talked about adding
2 this regional component. I know they talked
3 about that, trying to find out how much is
4 going from one region to another. The - what
5 they have is, as I said, they can assume all
6 ethanol or everything that's labeled fuel
7 ethanol is going to transportation fuel. So
8 they don't have that issue on the ethanol
9 side. A couple of the other issues - while a
10 lot of the issues are parallel, a couple of
11 them are not the same, but they're also adding
12 to the 815 and the 814 ethanol stuff just like
13 biodiesel. I just didn't mention it.

14 DR. BLAIR: Can you come to the
15 microphone, please?

16 MR. FREEDMAN: Stan Freedman. I
17 work at EIA. We've been working with Mary's
18 group going into the field and doing some
19 testing of the survey. We did some actually
20 design visits before they even constructed the
21 survey to get some idea of what was going on.
22 And so to address Dr. Cohen's concern, what we

1 found out, and we talked to a very small
2 number of people, like maybe seven or eight,
3 and they were very small producers, that the
4 price of biodiesel at least at the time we
5 were going out and talking to folks - this is
6 when the price of all petroleum products was
7 higher than it is now - was very dependent on
8 the rack price of diesel itself. And what
9 some of the - and these tended to be small
10 operations, and so they would make biodiesel
11 and hold it in the tank until the price of
12 diesel went up to offset their cost of
13 producing it, and then they'd load it on a
14 truck and take it over to the bulk terminal.
15 And it might kind of get blended on the way
16 sometimes depending on who was picking it up
17 and that kind of thing. So it was our
18 impression that because it was a relatively
19 new industry with a lot of small producers,
20 that the economics were very dependent on what
21 was going on and very closely paralleled the
22 petroleum market. Some of the people even

1 said to us if you're interested in the price
2 of biodiesel this month, look at the price,
3 the rack price of diesel and it'll be real
4 close. They couldn't give us an idea if it
5 was 5 percent more, 5 percent less, but at
6 this point it was not, you know, like a
7 separate industry that was competing. It was
8 - yes. So that's - I don't know if that
9 directly addresses your question or not, but
10 at least at this point that seemed to be what
11 was going on, and that was about a year ago
12 when we talked to those folks.

13 DR. BLAIR: We have another
14 question or comment from the audience.

15 MR. MAYES: Hello, I'm Fred Mayes.
16 I'm with the same office that Mary's with.
17 Just wanted to make one point about the market
18 for biodiesel. There's an interesting
19 coincidence between the ultra-low sulfur
20 diesel that's coming through now and biodiesel
21 because when they took the sulfur out of
22 diesel they also took out a lot of the

1 lubricant. And biodiesel is an outstanding
2 lubricant. It's not the only lubricant, but
3 there is the possibility that B2 could wind up
4 being in effect your standard diesel just in
5 order to get the lubrication value and also
6 possibly to satisfy some of the renewable fuel
7 standard credit. So we just won't know this
8 until we collect data awhile and see how
9 things shake out.

10 DR. BLAIR: Ed Blair again. Big
11 picture, Mary. Unless I'm missing something,
12 you want to measure production because that's
13 easy to measure, but you're charged with
14 estimating downstream phenomena. You're
15 charged with estimating demand. Well, you're
16 either going to have to look where you dropped
17 the key. You're either going to have to
18 measure downstream demand, or you're going to
19 have to have some form of a model that allows
20 you to estimate the demand based on
21 withdrawals from, you know, from production
22 inventory. Which is not insane. I mean, why

1 else would you send it out of inventory if you
2 didn't expect somebody to buy it? And this is
3 not the sort of thing I think that necessarily
4 sits in downstream inventories for long, long,
5 long, long periods of time. You all would
6 know that better than me. So now the question
7 is what does that model look like, and what
8 would be the relevant variables that translate
9 production into demand. Answer those
10 questions, you'll have done the best you can
11 and then periodically check the model. Again,
12 unless I'm missing something.

13 Well, I can see that our session
14 has come to an end and we'll have the other
15 group be joining us.

16 MS. JOYCE: Thank you, everyone.

17 (Applause.)

18 (Whereupon, the foregoing matter
19 went off the record at 11:45 a.m. and resumed
20 at 11:50 a.m.)

21 DR. BLAIR: Well, let's go ahead
22 and reconvene and for the next half hour what

1 we have is summaries of the two preceding
2 sessions, the breakout sessions and additional
3 committee discussion. And Ed, you're going to
4 fill in for Cutler on summarizing? Okay.

5 Well, why don't we go ahead and reverse order
6 and let Barb start us off on the biodiesel
7 session summary while Ed's getting organized.

8 MS. FORSYTH: Okay. Well, our
9 session met on the New Biodiesel Survey. And
10 I'm not an economist, I don't know anything
11 about energy, so I'm just going to throw out
12 some memory cues for the rest of the
13 discussants to pitch in when I confuse their
14 answers. The biodiesel survey is designed to
15 estimate basically I think five quantities:
16 the quantity of biodiesel produced, the
17 quantity blended, the quantity imported, the
18 quantity demanded and then the price. And
19 it's a survey that'll be collecting these data
20 on a monthly basis and reporting out monthly
21 quantities and prices. And there's a
22 supplementary component to get retrospective

1 data for the past three years I guess. But
2 that is the general purpose. And the agency
3 had two questions for us. There are likely to
4 be various kinds of missing data, and I think
5 both the questions had to do with what do we
6 do about missing data and estimating in the
7 absence of data. And the first is - the first
8 question is what is the most effective way to
9 make use of supply data to estimate demand
10 since we won't have demand data directly, and
11 the second question was how do we go about
12 estimating blends since some of them occur at
13 the producer, but blending also occurs further
14 downstream and we don't necessarily know the
15 amount of it from the survey anyway. So those
16 are the two questions, how do we estimate
17 demand and how do we estimate blends. And it
18 seemed like the answers to both questions were
19 similar. If you want to measure it then
20 measure it, and if you want to estimate it
21 then either select an imputation or modeling
22 strategy and do it with careful eyes on

1 factors likely to influence the outputted
2 imputed or modeling results so that you can
3 select an imputation or modeling strategy that
4 takes those variables into account and adapts
5 to them. So for example, if you want to -
6 well, and - I'm sorry, before I go on. And a
7 corollary to what a guest said, you know,
8 either impute or model, is keep the survey
9 simple. The survey right now is relatively
10 simple. The questions are relatively simple,
11 how much did you produce and what types and
12 where did they go. Keep the survey simple and
13 use the statistics to overcome these
14 complications, rather - or make the survey
15 complicated and make it more expensive. And
16 I think the discussion kind of oriented toward
17 the former, keep the survey simple and use
18 statistical approaches to address the missing
19 data issues.

20 DR. BLAIR: Very fine summary,
21 thank you Barb.

22 MS. FORSYTH: Additions? Yes, I

1 have lots of notes, but.

2 DR. BLAIR: Any quick comments on
3 that before we summarize the other session?

4 Okay, Ed.

5 MR. KOKKELENBERG: Quick question.

6 DR. BLAIR: Oh sure.

7 MR. KOKKELENBERG: I don't know
8 how to phrase it exactly, but let's argue and
9 ask the question. BTUs, how big is the BTU on
10 biodiesel, the BTU market? Or in terms of
11 gallons, or in terms of tons, or in terms of -
12 how big is this market?

13 DR. BLAIR: It's a question of
14 order of magnitude?

15 MR. KOKKELENBERG: One-tenth of 1
16 percent. Okay. So now you're mandated to do
17 these things by a number of congressional and
18 public interest groups, this production. But
19 that may play into how complicated the survey
20 should be in - to get all the other - other
21 99.9 percent. Even if this triples every
22 fortnight it's going to be awhile before it's

1 going to be driving the energy economy. So I
2 would underscore your statement about keeping
3 it modest at this point. Doing it because you
4 have to do it, recognizing that the interest
5 groups and Congress is interested, and that's
6 what you're paid for. Recognizing that there
7 are other results also.

8 MS. BROWN: This is Stephanie.
9 I'm sure Mary probably told the folks here
10 that this is a brand new survey, right? You
11 mentioned that? First time, brand new. Mary,
12 you need the microphone.

13 MS. JOYCE: Yes, I just want to
14 add in answer to your question about how big
15 is the market. We are starting to publish
16 these data, and if you look at the Annual
17 Energy Review Table 10-3 and I think it's
18 Table 10-4, the Monthly Energy Review, you can
19 get an idea of that. But just - the 2007
20 number is 63 trillion BTUs for consumption of
21 biodiesel. That's the estimate for 2007.

22 MR. WEYANT: Actually, so this -

1 biodiesel I think fits in the congressionally
2 mandated part of it, is that right? So even
3 the target which is for some future
4 production, that's still a really small
5 percentage which I think most people as kind
6 of a stretch goal, is that correct?

7 MS. JOYCE: Yes, I think the
8 target for 2022 is like 36 billion gallons,
9 and that includes both ethanol and biodiesel.
10 So I'm not sure how that compares to the
11 total.

12 MR. WEYANT: But that percentage
13 should give - is still probably only a
14 percentage. It doesn't make the politics any
15 less.

16 DR. BLAIR: Ed, can we go ahead
17 and proceed with the summary of your session?

18 MR. KOKKELENBERG: Sure. We heard
19 a very interesting study about EIA actually,
20 and they talked about trying to model coal
21 production, coal activity. The objectives -
22 and coal mines. The objective here was to

1 look at technical progress, labor
2 productivity. They were concerned about
3 resource depletion as it affects the cost of
4 production, and trying to develop a
5 methodology for projecting labor productivity
6 and how this might tie into regional issues on
7 productivity. The presentation was well
8 received, but we had some issues. One of the
9 basic issues, I suppose, was statistical.
10 Now, there are questions that Steven brought
11 up about stationarity of time series. And we
12 are looking at both time series and aggregate
13 time series in individual mine data. There
14 were problems with the Durbin Watson statistic
15 which indicated that the dynamics of this
16 model haven't quite captured correctly yet.
17 And there's issues of frequency of data. Some
18 of the data is weekly, most of the data is
19 annual, although it used to be more frequent
20 and there was some issue about quarterly data
21 as well.

22 One of the problems that they

1 discovered was that they were getting negative
2 coefficients on variables that they thought
3 should be positive. Now, if after they had
4 done adjusting the dynamics of these models,
5 Jim Wagner, AR processes, they still find
6 these kinds of coefficients, then they're
7 worried they're maybe really not modeling a
8 supply function, but modeling the intersection
9 of supply and demand, or maybe just the demand
10 function. And so some suggestions were made
11 to use proxies to model the demand, such as
12 the price of electricity and electrical
13 reduction issues. The - another issue that
14 came up and we were talking about was the -
15 we've got a short run and a long run issue.
16 Market bond prices are very short-run and some
17 of the analysis is done with that, but most of
18 the analysis is done with long-run issues and
19 how a plant may do on a short-run cost curve
20 is one of the issues of productivity questions
21 here, and it's not clear that we really - the
22 models that we've developed so far can handle

1 it. And particularly in terms of modeling
2 questions of economies of scale. So that was
3 discussed at some issue. Inventories and
4 their changes were brought into the picture
5 also by our comments. Some of the comments
6 include coal is not coal is not coal. That
7 was the plant issue, it's not homogenous. And
8 so this becomes like almost anything you do
9 with census-level or plant-level data. It's
10 very dirty data, and that doesn't have
11 anything to do with coal. The data has
12 nuances that we don't pick up in aggregation,
13 and yet are important to the decision-making
14 of the individual mine, in this case, as to
15 what it can do.

16 Some other issues that were raised
17 were we had a rather full discussion about
18 econometrics data, modeling mines, the issue
19 of substance fuels. The bottom line was I
20 think as we pointed out at the end, the
21 objectives of the study had to do a lot with
22 labor productivity and we really didn't come

1 around to addressing that. And so the
2 suggestion was made that perhaps this should
3 be on the docket to be revisited at a future
4 meeting after they had a chance to look at
5 what we were talking about on this. Now with
6 that said, Izzy, do you have any further
7 comments, you or John?

8 MR. WEYANT: I just thought of
9 something totally different, but kind of it's
10 reflective of one of the issues within EIA.
11 And so the question, was this analysis done
12 primarily to feed into NEMS or STEO or is
13 there a separate way? Because this seems
14 parallel.

15 MS. BROWN: Phil?

16 MR. TSENG: Philip Tseng. One of
17 the intentions of this exercise is help with
18 NEMS input assumptions. Some of the
19 assumption in terms of labor productivity or
20 capacity expansion need to be addressed in the
21 modeling framework. And we want to understand
22 exactly how industry actually use market

1 information to make decisions.

2 MR. BROWN: I think that was the
3 case - something where I raised a concern
4 because it seemed to me that the analysis was
5 much better - did a much better job of
6 capturing short-term phenomena than long-term
7 phenomena, even when we were looking at
8 contracted parts. And so I raised a concern
9 about that. And I think there - I also raised
10 a possibility about how to think about it in
11 terms of looking at individual mine data and
12 seeing whether there are these so-called high-
13 cost mines that kind of appear and disappear
14 and that you maybe have this underlying set of
15 mines that have a relatively constant
16 production and tend to supply the contract
17 market. And Philip indicated that they had
18 some data that would allow them to look at
19 that question.

20 MR. TSENG: Actually, we can sort
21 out those in and out coal mines, but we
22 actually also looked at the production

1 pattern. Some mines, production has probably
2 declined. Some coal mines are actually
3 increasing production year after year. So the
4 trend is all over the place. But the total
5 number of mines in each region is decreasing.
6 That's why we were making an assertion that
7 it's economies of scale. Those bigger mines
8 tend to dominate in the marketplace.

9 MR. KOKKELENBERG: I have one
10 correction. I have called Jason many names,
11 but his name is really Jason Worrall. I'm
12 sorry. I called him Randy, Randall and a few
13 other things I suppose. I apologize for that.

14 DR. BLAIR: Ed Blair. I'd like to
15 ask a question about this. The - you have
16 this negative relationship between price and
17 production, and without getting into it, one
18 thing I wondered about since I understood the
19 analysis to be across mines, I wondered if
20 basically it was the result of some sort of
21 endogeneity problem where the bigger mines are
22 more efficient and consequently they sell

1 their product at a lower price. The smaller
2 mines are less efficient, they participate in
3 special markets, you know, regional markets,
4 whatever, where for some reason they're able
5 to get a higher price. Maybe there's less
6 transportation bundled into it so the price of
7 their coal is higher, but that essentially it
8 was an endogeneity problem, that it was not
9 price influencing production, but production
10 influencing price. And I'm going to need an
11 economist to correct me on this one, but I'm
12 thinking that the solution to that is to use
13 instrumental variables of some kind so that
14 we're not putting in, in a sense, their price
15 compared to everybody else's price, but their
16 price compared to what their price should be
17 given what else we know about them, if that
18 makes any sense to you, and whether that might
19 then clear up that problem.

20 MR. KOKKELENBERG: I have an
21 observation. I wonder if mines are kind of
22 like vineyards and wineries in the sense that

1 you have a plant that cleans up the product
2 and rolls it into - and you take from various
3 mines, primarily from your own mine which has
4 an establishment or mine ID, but you might
5 take from some other mines when there's excess
6 demand. You know, the demand goes up but are
7 small or in the area, and therefore they have
8 their own mine ID, but they don't have their
9 own - shipping ID. What's the establishment?
10 Is it the mine and the beneficiating and
11 loading, or is it what?

12 MR. TSENG: Each mine arranges its
13 own system so that the reporting is - we have
14 this EIA Form 7A. Each mine ID, the MSHA ID,
15 we use that to identify coal mines and each
16 mine reports production and the price they
17 receive. So that's the way that that is
18 structured. But I'd like to respond to Ed's
19 comment. We actually ran simple correlation
20 using the cross-section panel data, time
21 series panel, looking at the mines, and we
22 found, say for example Appalachia, northern

1 Appalachia. We see the correlation between
2 production and price is negative which means
3 the way we interpret it is that it is economy
4 of scale. Larger mines will have lower prices
5 or lower costs. So that's one dimension. But
6 I think one of the - Ed's comment about the
7 negative price coefficient is we also ran
8 regression, we aggregated all the production
9 in one region and we looked at time series
10 data from '83 through 2007. So those are
11 aggregated. And we also received negative
12 price coefficient. And one of the comments
13 from Ed is because of the Durbin Watson
14 statistics, we need to address some of the
15 serial correlation problems. We need to
16 identify, clean up so-called stationarity
17 issue, and that we intend to do right away.

18 MR. BROWN: Kind of following on
19 your point. Certainly one - I don't know if
20 the data supports it, but one possibility
21 would be to see how far the coal is
22 transported from that particular mine to the

1 power plants where it's used. And it might
2 turn out to be the case that some of the
3 higher cost, smaller coal mines are closer to
4 their electric utilities than the big, lower
5 cost ones. And it might actually be the case
6 that there are some little coal seams in
7 Wyoming that no one bothers to produce because
8 it would have to be transported way too far,
9 but if you have a little tiny coal seam that's
10 really close to an electric power plant, boy
11 that - even though it's costly to produce, you
12 just carry it next door and transportation is
13 cheap so you could end up with sort of these
14 high-cost small mines that are close to the
15 big power plants. I think you have
16 transportation data of some sort. That points
17 to a more complex project, but it would be
18 another thing that could kind of identify this
19 issue.

20 MR. COHEN: This might be an
21 ignorable comment like a lot of mine today,
22 but I'm just nervous that this number could be

1 very non-linear in many ways, and taking a
2 linear approach - it would be nice just to see
3 what's going on, take a little bit more of an
4 exploratory approach and a little more
5 graphical assessment of how these things are
6 changing in time. And also, I don't have much
7 experience with regression trees, especially
8 in kind of a time dynamic environment. So
9 maybe we're talking about adding some
10 variables which are differences rather than
11 the level variables, but I think just some
12 kind of - looking at just kind of molt
13 progression, looking at a different approach
14 towards modeling might help eliminate some of
15 the ways these variables are interacting. It
16 seems just a very complicated situation, and
17 molt progression is a wonderful tool that
18 answers a lot of questions, but there's some
19 other tools out there that could be looked at
20 without too much trouble.

21 DR. BLAIR: Did you have any you
22 wanted to -

1 MR. COHEN: Well, I think
2 regression trees is one obvious thing to look
3 at, which is kind of a very, kind of non-
4 linear approach to modeling a surface.

5 DR. BLAIR: Can you explain -

6 MR. COHEN: What a regression tree
7 is? You just - you take a bunch of - on your
8 covariates you kind of have a bunch of split
9 points, and so you keep kind of - keep kind of
10 splitting your data set into different pieces.
11 In each piece you're basically taking the
12 mean, conditional mean of what's left and if
13 the splits don't do anything you stop dividing
14 the tree in those points, but other places you
15 keep adding covariates, keep adding new splits
16 to the data to see if there's any kind of
17 additional. So there's no - when you're done
18 you don't have a formula, you have this weird
19 tree structure, but you get predictions and
20 sometimes the kind of if/then assessment of
21 these splits makes some sense to analysts when
22 they interpret, sometimes.

1 DR. BLAIR: Sort of like
2 regression meets automatic interaction
3 detector.

4 MR. COHEN: Yes, yes.

5 MR. KOKKELENBERG: So you're
6 essentially sequentially partitioning -

7 MR. COHEN: Yes. Yes, exactly.

8 MR. KOKKELENBERG: - to try to
9 estimate a coefficient within each partition.

10 MR. COHEN: Yes, exactly. But the
11 time dimension bothers me. I've never seen it
12 with that window.

13 DR. BLAIR: Other comments?

14 MR. MELENDEZ: Izzy Melendez.
15 Just mine are pretty empirical. Just
16 basically I've noticed that at least with
17 statistical organizations that they typically
18 get data, they analyze and then they say okay,
19 this is what we think based on information
20 we're getting. And I was just wondering at
21 least in Philip's case, have you reached out
22 to like the industry itself and you know, made

1 some phone calls to find out whether or not at
2 least with labor productivity dropping, any of
3 your observations, do you reach out into the
4 industry and you know, say confirm some of
5 what you're finding?

6 MR. TSENG: So far we just look at
7 the data. Actually, before we started running
8 regression analysis we started looking at the
9 data. We did some plotting, scattergram, and
10 we found some anomaly and we kind of
11 addressed. We talked to in-house experts who
12 actually prepared the data and collected the
13 data and processed information. And a few of
14 them have probably like 25-30 years of
15 experience analyzing the data. So they
16 understand the industry very well. So to us
17 as a modeler we talk to our in-house expert
18 first. We haven't reached out to the industry
19 yet. But we - I think when we reach that
20 stage we'll probably try to talk to some
21 people.

22 MS. BROWN: Stephanie. Just an

1 observation that this is a point in question
2 of what you said your area of expertise is,
3 coming from industry that you would recommend
4 doing that, trying to solicit input from those
5 involved in the coal industry, right?

6 MR. MELENDEZ: Exactly.

7 MS. BROWN: Yes.

8 MR. MELENDEZ: A lot of times I go
9 to the website and I see electricity forecast,
10 and sometimes I guess there's a phenomenon
11 that's going on from an engineering
12 standpoint, from a market standpoint, that can
13 help explain some of the drivers that you give
14 in your forecast, and that's all I'm saying.

15 MS. BROWN: Well, it sounds like
16 you're also saying that maybe our in-house
17 experts aren't the ones - while they're in-
18 house experts, I'm not diminishing that in any
19 way, shape, or form, but there's another side
20 from those that are working actually in the
21 field that we probably need to hear.

22 MR. MELENDEZ: Exactly.

1 MR. HILL: You know, sometimes
2 I've noted - maybe Ed asked this question, but
3 the AR scores are very large. Did somebody -
4 I wasn't at the session, but maybe somebody
5 noted? Often that means that - sometimes that
6 means that the variable on the right-hand side
7 is really equivalent to the variable on the
8 left-hand side. They're almost too similar.

9 MR. KOKKELENBERG: Well, I don't
10 think the issue - as was pointed out, that
11 very high AR scores are probably - I don't
12 think we can verbalize them, but we recognize
13 that. The dynamic issue, the data
14 displacement issue.

15 DR. BLAIR: We just have a couple
16 of minutes before the public comment period.
17 I'd like to invite Mary or Philip, did you
18 have any questions based on subsequent
19 conversation in here?

20 MS. JOYCE: No, I didn't have any
21 - too many additional questions, but Renee and
22 I were discussing a little bit the idea of

1 modeling demand from the data that we are
2 getting from the biodiesel part. So anything
3 you can suggest on specifics on that would be
4 wonderful.

5 MR. TSENG: I think we really
6 benefit from the committee this time because
7 there are so many approaches to address the
8 issues. And I think because the data set is
9 very rich, we have cross-section and we have
10 mine-level data, so we can actually try a lot
11 of different variations in terms of analyzing
12 the industry and then probably tease out a lot
13 of useful information. That's what we plan to
14 do and I probably will get in touch with a few
15 of them in the near future because I took
16 note, but some of the stuff I tried. I think
17 I was still - I may still have some questions
18 and I'd like to continue this dialogue.

19 DR. BLAIR: Philip, can I say? Ed
20 Blair. You know, you made the comment that
21 well, you've aggregated the results so it's
22 not necessarily just mine by mine. But again,

1 I need an economist to comment on this. You
2 could still - I think you could still have an
3 endogeneity problem and you know, that there's
4 relatively simple fixes that would then fix
5 your price coefficient. But I could be wrong.
6 I usually am.

7 MR. TSENG: Actually, it's very
8 possible. If we are looking at causality
9 problem as in one of the discussion is the
10 model identification issue. Actually, Steve
11 and Ed all mentioned approaches to look at
12 both the demand side equations and supply side
13 equations, and then let the system estimate
14 those equation simultaneously. And then we
15 maybe would correct some of the negative sign
16 problems. Because if we can properly identify
17 the system we may be able to capture the
18 coefficient more properly.

19 Another thing is this stationarity
20 issue, or the dynamic issue of the time series
21 data. I think we will try that as well. And
22 I think once we get those, we probably will

1 have some more interesting results to report
2 next time.

3 DR. BLAIR: Other
4 comments? At this time we are scheduled to
5 invite public comments. Is there any member
6 of the public who would like to comment?
7 Please.

8 MR. JOUTZ: Hello. My name is
9 Fred Joutz. And I was listening to the
10 biodiesel fuel discussion. A useful data set
11 that wouldn't be costly to collect would be
12 the flex fuel sales that manufacturers are
13 putting out monthly. You get some idea of the
14 market size at least for that aspect of
15 transportation whether it's pickup trucks, or
16 what, the large semi tractor-trailer.

17 DR. BLAIR: Mary?

18 MS. JOYCE: This is Mary Joyce.
19 Just commenting on that. We do collect the
20 flex fuel vehicles, the ethanol flex fuel
21 vehicles on our 886 survey, EIA-886 survey.

22 MS. BROWN: The name of it?

1 MS. JOYCE: It is the - the Annual
2 Alternative Fuels Survey or something like
3 that. Alternative Transportation Fuels
4 Survey. And we did at one time collect B100
5 vehicles on that survey, but we weren't
6 getting more than a handful, so you might want
7 to look there for more information.

8 DR. BLAIR: Other public comments?
9 Well, in that case -

10 MS. BROWN: Can I give a couple of
11 lunch logistics?

12 DR. BLAIR: Absolutely.

13 MS. BROWN: Is that where we are
14 now?

15 DR. BLAIR: That's where we're
16 going.

17 MS. BROWN: Okay. Yes. I just
18 want to - I assume that everybody on the
19 committee is going to go to lunch with us. If
20 you don't know where it is that we're going we
21 can go as a group. We can meet downstairs and
22 give everybody restroom time, meet downstairs

1 in about 10 minutes in the lobby. But just in
2 case you get separated from us we're going to
3 cross Independence Avenue, walking towards the
4 Monument. We're going to go up to 12th Street
5 and turn right, and it's the USDA building.

6 It's the same building - if you were here last
7 year it's the same building although this time
8 we know which side of the building to go into
9 if you're a visitor. We'll go in the Mall
10 side and we'll show our badges and sign in and
11 whatever. Anybody not going so I know not to
12 wait for you downstairs? Okay, not going.

13 Okay. And then one more thing while I have
14 your attention. Is anybody not going to
15 dinner tonight? Just show - raise your hands
16 if you're not going to dinner. One, two,
17 three, four. So four not going to dinner.

18 Okay. And we'll -

19 MR. KOKKELENBERG: Are we still
20 going to -

21 MS. BROWN: Georgia Brown's is it.
22 I apologize, it was my suggestion. I do

1 apologize, it's hard to please everybody, but
2 I was trying to find someplace that was a
3 little less pricey than the place we went to
4 last year. So this one was a little bit
5 better. I'm open to suggestions. If anybody
6 wants to pick a place for the next meeting,
7 just send me a note if you know a place. I'll
8 be glad to have Alethea organize that. Okay.
9 So it's, what, 20 after. We're going to the
10 Whitten Building across the street at USDA and
11 I can - it's 20 after, so how about if we
12 assemble downstairs for the 2-3 minute walk
13 over there at about 12:30? Does that give
14 everybody time to get their stuff together?
15 Okay. See you downstairs in five.

16 (Whereupon, the foregoing matter
17 went off the record at 12:24 p.m. and resumed
18 at 2:15 p.m.)

19 DR. BLAIR: Our next agenda item
20 is a presentation on oil and gas program
21 agenda. Steve Harvey.

22 MR. HARVEY: Thank you all so

1 much. My name's Steve Harvey. I'm the
2 Director of the Office of Oil and Gas. I've
3 been here a little bit over a year, a week or
4 two longer than Stephanie has, and I very much
5 appreciate the chance to talk to you all a
6 little bit about some of the things that we're
7 doing right now. Over the course of the year
8 we have really become convinced that we need
9 to systematically look at some of the data
10 collections and management that we're doing
11 really to review first what we have in our
12 portfolio, focusing on sort of the highest
13 priority, highest profile, most significant
14 things first, either high-risk, or high
15 visibility, or some combination of both, and
16 really look at them pretty hard and figure out
17 what we need to do with regard to them. Over
18 time I think it would be really useful to
19 review the whole program and make sure we're
20 collecting what we need to be collecting, but
21 at least at this point it's going to be a
22 little bit more reactive. We've got a sort of

1 established portfolio and want to start
2 working through that, all of which is in the
3 context of why I'm glad to be talking to you
4 all, of looking to really forge I think a more
5 strategic interaction with the Office of Oil
6 and Gas with you folks to look for your
7 guidance, look for your insights as we deal
8 with some of these things. And so that's
9 really the context of why I want to talk about
10 two initiatives that we're going to be working
11 with through the course of this year. And all
12 this wireless stuff is really impressive.

13 So the two collections that we're
14 really going to take under review in a fair
15 amount of detail this year are first, the
16 Weekly Petroleum Status Report, or WPSR as we
17 know it. It's an extremely complex product.
18 It is in effect a balance of petroleum and
19 associated inputs and outputs pulled together
20 every week and published with a sort of
21 balance across that. It's based on six weekly
22 supply surveys, it's got information from two

1 weekly price surveys, and then models that
2 produce information with regard to U.S.
3 production, exports, processing gains, minor
4 products, a couple of other things, and the
5 other sources often modeled from other sources
6 like natural gas liquids coming from outside
7 in effect the division that produces this, the
8 petroleum division. As a little bit of
9 background, the six supply surveys are samples
10 of the monthly reporting with regard to
11 petroleum supply that attempts to cover the
12 entire universe as we know it. And the
13 samples of the six surveys in December 2008
14 ran from 44 respondents on the low end to 404.
15 So weekly information from each of those.

16 The key data, these balances then,
17 are released in a data form at 10:30 on
18 Wednesday morning with some adjustment for
19 holidays or other things. And what's
20 interesting about that is that you can observe
21 over time the effects on the marketplace at
22 10:30 on Wednesdays that come directly from

1 market responses to this report. Now, I
2 haven't been collecting these, but it turns
3 out sort of close to the high end last summer
4 somebody had - actually Doug had sent me this.
5 It's a little hard to read from a distance.
6 This is a Bloomberg terminal response. This
7 is 10:25-10:30 and what you see is really at
8 the instant of 10:30 when our report came out
9 a jump of between 1 and 3 percent in the
10 trading range for crude oil on the NYMEX
11 futures market. So very, very immediate
12 effect for trading right now. Actually,
13 trading above the next month's oil. So this
14 was - this was trading on May 29, 2008, would
15 have been trading July oil, about information
16 that's lagged at least a week already in the
17 first place. But there just isn't much other
18 information about these kind of fundamental
19 balances available to the marketplace, and so
20 there's a big reaction at times. If it's
21 within expectations there can be very little
22 reaction, but very often there is a pretty

1 significant reaction at that point based on
2 this particular product.

3 The other report I want to talk
4 about a little bit is what we tend to refer to
5 internally as the EIA 914 report. I think you
6 all have talked about this report at times in
7 the past. It is a monthly natural gas
8 production report. It's an estimate of gas
9 production, I say in seven states, in fact in
10 sort of seven regions, the Gulf of Mexico,
11 major producing states, and the remainder of
12 the lower 48 states. We pull Alaskan
13 information from separate sources. It's based
14 in general on what you can think of as an 85
15 percent cutoff sample. A little bit of
16 variation in terms of regions, but mainly with
17 regard to that it appears in general with some
18 variations that you pull from basically the
19 same frame as our annual report, our annual
20 survey of reserves and production, EIA-23.
21 Though those two surveys are really not
22 managed in conjunction with one another at

1 all. I believe the 23 makes some comparisons
2 to some of this kind of data, but that's it.
3 This 85 percent cutoff sample then is adjusted
4 to deal with some sample issues, and I'll come
5 back to that in a few minutes because that's
6 one of the issues, one of the reasons we're
7 looking at that today.

8 Now, just as an illustration,
9 natural gas production information is of a
10 fair amount of interest these days. I saw
11 this on my physical version in the New York
12 Times in the business section of less than two
13 weeks ago. Here's the online version which
14 again, New York Times March 20 and the focus
15 very explicitly on volumes of natural gas and
16 the effect in the overall market because of
17 the volumes of natural gas. So this is an
18 issue certainly within the industry that has
19 a lot of focus and attention, but even more
20 broadly than the industry in terms of its
21 effect on the overall energy picture in the
22 U.S.

1 Now let me back up a little bit
2 and go to sort of the general background in
3 which I'm coming to talk to you about these
4 two reviews. And I'll tell my tales of woe to
5 start with that I think many of you are
6 familiar with anyway. It's been a difficult
7 environment for the Office of Oil and Gas as
8 for EIA for a long time, and you've really got
9 two kinds of issues. For at least the last
10 decade, extremely tight budgets compared to,
11 with industry changes, additional need for
12 information collection. And the illustration
13 I've got on there is ethanol and in fact we're
14 publishing - may have already put it up - a
15 new round of monthly petroleum reports that
16 are beginning to much better and much more
17 explicitly pick up ethanol in the overall
18 balance. We kind of did that on our own
19 nickel because we kind of had to get that done
20 and how to figure out how to do that, and
21 that's been an interesting process to get that
22 done with very, very little additional

1 funding. But that's kind of the world that
2 we've been living in, that's what we've kind
3 of done. As a result over time you really -
4 and we've talked about this. We talked about
5 this with Congress. You begin to see some
6 deterioration in the quality of what's going
7 on. Cobble things together, do what you have
8 to do in order to get out a product under a
9 reasonable period of time with some reasonable
10 capabilities. And you run that forward for
11 the better part of the decade and there are
12 issues that you've got to start dealing with.
13 So we decided that we really needed to start
14 systematically looking again at some of these
15 key big data collections. We actually started
16 that last year. Worked with SMG to do a
17 review of the Natural Gas Weekly. The Natural
18 Gas Weekly is a very simple survey compared
19 certainly to the Petroleum Weekly. It's a
20 rifle-shot look at storage facilities. But
21 that review is very helpful. We found a lot
22 of new things, we made some changes in that

1 process. It was helpful even in the case of
2 a survey that was fairly simple and in fairly
3 good shape. So we decided even before our
4 Fiscal 2009 funding solidified and solidified
5 in a way that was pretty advantageous for us.
6 We've got sufficient money to actually invest
7 in these kind of efforts now. But we decided
8 to go ahead and start this process, money or
9 not, that we had to kind of look at the things
10 that were most vulnerable and deal with those.

11 But, in the world with money, the
12 place we chose to start again was the Weekly
13 Petroleum Supply Review. And the review
14 really wants to focus on kind of four things.
15 First of all, the statistical methods and
16 documentation. Is there a way we could do
17 this better. Is there a way we could think
18 about the information we're trying to convey
19 better. And then, are we explaining what
20 we're doing well? There are places where
21 certainly with the reaction of the marketplace
22 to some of this information. Do they

1 understand how much of this is collected
2 information versus how much of this is modeled
3 information? Do they understand some of the
4 implications of that? Our best defense of
5 that is to make sure we've got clear
6 documentation tied to our business processes
7 very tightly. That's one of those things
8 that's hard to hang onto when you're operating
9 on the cheap for long periods of time. So we
10 wanted to start there. Second, the business
11 processes. Again, they've been cobbled
12 together. Can we make sure that they're as
13 strong as they need to be? Tied to the
14 information technology infrastructure. These
15 are some pretty old systems at this point.
16 They've been very durable systems, but they
17 are pretty old and they may need some
18 attention as well. And then finally, there
19 are a whole set of dissemination issues.
20 Technology - information technology has
21 developed in many ways. The way we interact
22 with the folks who use this information have

1 changed in many ways. I didn't mention it
2 earlier, but I had on the slide, this report
3 is probably the largest single report accessed
4 through the internet. A large chunk of that
5 access is not by people clicking through, it's
6 by robots designed to come in and pull that
7 information out of the system automatically,
8 often into trading programs that then trade
9 automatically. So our customer base is a
10 little different, the needs are a little bit
11 different, issues come up - integrated sort of
12 issues here with regard to the security of the
13 information. The information that's going to
14 be published at 10:30 if broadly known could
15 convey advantages. We've had some issues over
16 the last year of early access that raised lots
17 of political concerns about that. So there's
18 a lot of work that needs to be done to make
19 sure we've got this really premier kind of
20 flagship product as tightly managed as we want
21 to have it managed as we go forward. Now, to
22 do this we're using a process that's kind of

1 new I think for the office, but very much in
2 terms of an initiative that Stephanie has been
3 pushing which is to use a project management
4 approach to dealing with this. And there's a
5 couple of good reasons to do it. One, project
6 management - tightly run project management is
7 a wonderful thing as a manager. The other is
8 we knew that we might have a real difference
9 in terms of how much money we had and
10 budgetarily over time, and I was looking for
11 ways to be able to expand the capability of
12 spending money when we could and to contract
13 it when we didn't. And so breaking these
14 kinds of efforts into a format that can be
15 managed sort of and expanded or contracted was
16 important. In this case our executive sponsor
17 is John Cook who runs the petroleum division,
18 very familiar with that area. We decided in
19 this case given the size and the complexity of
20 the project and the earliness in the process
21 of using this method that we wanted a very
22 qualified project manager on the job. So we

1 actually hired as a contractor David Rice
2 who's fully accredited and he has the training
3 in doing this kind of work. We've done a lot
4 of this work in the information technology
5 area. And then we've augmented some of our
6 technical staff with folks from SAIC because
7 we're of course doing this review on top of
8 producing this thing every week as well. So
9 it really is kind of a balancing act that way.

10 And then the idea is that we will
11 come back to you - this is one of the reasons
12 I'm here talking to you today - that we'll
13 come back to you in October with a set of
14 observations and recommendations of where we
15 would like to go with this, and that that will
16 then turn into hopefully additional projects
17 consistent with funding as we go into 2010.
18 Again, it's very complex, there's a lot of
19 moving pieces in it, but we're trying to staff
20 and we've - in fact I was just reviewing the
21 project plan before coming up here, and the
22 timing is very much designed to be able to

1 come back to you all and to use you all as a
2 way of getting some feedback with regard to
3 that.

4 We switch now to EIA-914 and some
5 of the issues are a little bit different here.
6 As I had shown you recently and particularly
7 recently the importance of natural gas
8 production information has been underscored as
9 the debate begins to continue of how much gas
10 is available. But in late 2008 we began to
11 kind of get a sense that we might have some
12 problems in the performance of this, different
13 folks at different times, and those concerns
14 began sort of bubbling up both inside and as
15 it turns out in retrospect outside. My
16 understanding is SERA put out an alert in late
17 2008 saying that our numbers were beginning to
18 get a little bit higher than they were
19 comfortable with and sort of put out a warning
20 on our numbers which I found out only in the
21 last couple of days. And so as a result
22 beginning to ask some questions. Well, as we

1 came to the end of 2008 and we began looking
2 at what was going to happen as we pulled a new
3 sample going into 2009, what popped out was an
4 extremely large discontinuity running from
5 December to January. And before I go in I'm
6 going to show you and talk a little bit about
7 that today. It turns out that with some
8 further research the discontinuity was not as
9 big as what I'm going to show you today, that
10 in fact there were some other methodological
11 changes that were creeping in, we were able to
12 strip that stuff back out, and it doesn't look
13 as discontinuous, but it still raises some
14 fairly serious issues. So these were the
15 numbers before we figured the other part out.
16 You see, this is Texas. These are billions of
17 cubic feet a day and months starting in
18 January '05 through January 2009. You see
19 this explosive growth in Texas. This is one
20 of the big stories about natural gas, one of
21 the really interesting things going on in the
22 natural gas industry right now. And you can

1 see some things that make a certain amount of
2 sense. Hurricanes come sweeping through Texas
3 and you have an effect on production. So it's
4 not nonsensical by any stretch of the
5 imagination. The original discontinuity was
6 on the order of 6.3 percent that didn't seem
7 to be coming from the underlying data at all.
8 In fact, what's published is more on the order
9 of 1.8 percent down. And that seems to be
10 coming from the change in these adjustments
11 that were put into place to help manage some
12 concerns about the underlying sample. Now, if
13 you can, and we're really peeling this stuff
14 out right now. If you look at the actual
15 collected data from the sample that is the
16 same in 2008 and 2009, which is a very large
17 chunk of the total, on the order of 85
18 percent, so you have an 85 percent cutoff
19 sample kind of thing. Not random, but a
20 pretty big chunk. You actually saw a slight
21 increase in production in Texas. And so this
22 movement down is clearly the result of these

1 calculations built around the outside to deal
2 with what was perceived as a problem in the
3 way that the sample was handled in the past,
4 and I think our fix might have come back and
5 kind of gotten us on the back end. So very
6 much ripe for looking at thinking about it a
7 little bit differently and handling it a
8 little bit differently. Now, because this is
9 a pretty big deal, and I don't know if you all
10 have seen it, but if you looked there was a
11 huge surgeon investment in drilling up until
12 the middle of last year, and that's really
13 come back down again. So people are looking
14 very carefully for the inflection point when
15 the reduction in drilling will make this kind
16 of production start to drop off. And we've
17 just kind of sent them a signal that looks
18 like it's dropping off when we don't
19 necessarily believe that's true. Certainly
20 probably stabilizing and not on this path
21 anymore. As a result, we felt like it was
22 very important and when this information went

1 out today, a couple of days late as we were
2 trying to pull it all together, we in fact -
3 well, I should say, I talked about the
4 problems a little bit. We in fact recognize
5 that we've got to do some work on this to
6 rebuild our confidence in what we're doing,
7 and we need to send as clear a signal as we
8 could that there were some questions around
9 this. And so as a result today we put a
10 disclaimer on our monthly natural gas
11 production language, and in fact I printed it
12 out from the site before coming up here. It's
13 the language in the box there. I'm not going
14 to go through it in a bunch of detail, but it
15 does point out the fact that there is a
16 discontinuity kind of issue with regard to the
17 methodology, that we will be reviewing that
18 and that we will be making adjustments at some
19 point to resolve that issue. Not - I'm
20 looking at Howard sitting over there - not a
21 position any of us want to be in, and
22 certainly the position we want to work

1 ourselves out of as quickly as we possibly
2 can.

3 So quickly, the review scope in
4 this case is first of all to really review
5 what the current processes are and to document
6 them as clearly as we can. We need to make
7 sure we know what we're doing and that we can
8 support all of those and make sure that that's
9 going. Second, to really review and assess
10 the methodology and these issues with regard
11 to market coverage and the potential for that
12 to be a bit of a problem over time. I'm also
13 asking that they look at the broader
14 production program. Is it reasonable for us
15 to be operating sort of the monthly - is in
16 effect a different thing than an annual data
17 collection, or do we need to be looking at
18 that more programmatically to make sure that
19 they fit together in an effective way. And
20 related to that is also the question that
21 there are different ways of extracting
22 information about this, and several of them

1 have come up in this process. Data collection
2 is one way to do it. There are other ways of
3 getting at information about what's going on
4 productively in the United States, and we want
5 to examine some of those. We've got the money
6 to be able to do some pieces of this. We can
7 look at pipeline flow information, contracts
8 for pipeline flow information. There is some
9 work and some of the motivation for the
10 concern about where we were, but we can look
11 at state tax data and in fact a lot of the
12 concern came with regard to forecasting state
13 tax data and that began to look very different
14 than what we were collecting. But to me
15 there's an opportunity as we lay these pieces
16 out to say, you know, maybe these different
17 sources of information give you different
18 kinds of information and that if we can lay
19 them out in a coherent way, if they start
20 diverging from one another that's an important
21 signal that it would be good for EIA to be
22 developing, working on and then talking to

1 people about as we go forward. So then what
2 we'll do is identify options that could fall
3 into a number of those categories and try to
4 start implementing them as soon as possible.

5 I will say the other issue is - we
6 need to verify this - but structurally this
7 approach to gathering this information seems
8 to be working really well. The issues don't
9 seem to be coming from the data collection
10 themselves, and so the opportunity to use that
11 part of what we're doing and apply it to oil
12 where we use much more antiquated means to
13 look at monthly production, and to look at
14 more areas in the United States as the
15 Hainesville develops in Arkansas or some of
16 the other interesting shales in the Northeast,
17 are there more places that we can do this
18 rather than less?

19 We're also going to handle this as
20 a project. We're still trying to kind of pull
21 that together. The executive sponsor of the
22 project will be Charlie Whitmore who's a SL

1 reporting to me. This is in part to deal with
2 the fact that I have learned this week that
3 John Wood I think may have talked to you
4 before is going to retire, and so we needed to
5 keep moving, and so we're going to put
6 together the process to make that happen
7 otherwise. Our intention is to give you a
8 report when you meet again in October, but I'm
9 going to tell you in all honesty I hope to
10 have implemented some changes by then because
11 I sure don't want to live with that disclaimer
12 any longer than I have to, so I can't
13 guarantee to you that there will be a lot of
14 opportunity at that time to give as much
15 feedback other than to decide whether you like
16 what we did or we didn't. But having said
17 that, I want to come back and kind of end on
18 this theme of strategically engaging more with
19 you all, and that can really fall to me I
20 think in a couple of categories. One is your
21 advice which really is related to your level
22 of interest, the other is actual consultation

1 which is related to even more level of
2 interest as we're going to start launching
3 into this. If you all want to be very
4 involved, then again, we're really looking for
5 ways to stabilize and strengthen what it is
6 we're doing and so many good strong viewpoints
7 is important to us that way. And then at very
8 least we'll be reviewing this material with
9 you in October so you won't lose the story of
10 that. And that's what I wanted to talk to you
11 about.

12 DR. BLAIR: Thank you very much.
13 Discussant is Nancy Kirkendall.

14 MS. KIRKENDALL: Okay. Well, I'd
15 like to - I'm really pleased to hear about
16 these initiatives. One of the things that
17 Harvey told me on the phone was that he thinks
18 that EIA needs to say what we do and do what
19 we say which I think is definitely the right
20 direction on both of these projects. They're
21 both really different. The first one would be
22 petroleum - it used to be called the

1 statistics report, so that's probably what
2 I'll call it. That one, the methodology was
3 developed in about 1983. I worked on it I
4 believe when I was a new employee at EIA. And
5 so that goes to show that it's probably time
6 for a fresh look at it. Not that it's bad,
7 but the situation has really changed. The
8 survey is much more important. It drives
9 markets now. Nobody would have thought that
10 that would happen when the thing was developed
11 that long ago.

12 MR. GRUENSPECHT: There were no
13 markets.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MS. KIRKENDALL: Yes. So its
16 importance has certainly changed. Some of the
17 technologies is probably still fine, but it's
18 sort of interesting that the documentation for
19 the methodology was written in 1983. So, and
20 it's not clear that the people who worked on
21 the survey really understood the methodology
22 because the people who developed it moved onto

1 other jobs. So everybody tried to do the
2 right thing and continue doing everything
3 right, but you got new surveys, new data
4 elements added to the surveys. People did the
5 best they could to put things together when
6 you had to change the software because the old
7 software was going away and you had to put it
8 in a new system they recorded it. So there's
9 all sorts of opportunities for the
10 improvements and enhancements to the system.
11 So I'm really looking forward to that. It'll
12 be great to see.

13 The natural gas production survey
14 was much more recent. You can see the data
15 only started in '85 - 2005. And we did work
16 on it, and part of the problem with that one
17 was the frame data. Somebody in SMG did a
18 simulation study and they looked at different
19 kinds of sampling and it was just a challenge.
20 Probability sampling ended up not doing very
21 well partially because you found all these
22 companies that changed drastically in size.

1 And the cutoff sample did just as well as - it
2 did better than anything. It protected you
3 from bigger errors. But if you can get a
4 better handle on the frame data, maybe you can
5 do something different, or maybe a cutoff
6 sample is fine, but it's really great to take
7 a fresh look and pick a methodology and stay
8 with it. So, that's - I look forward to
9 whatever we come up with that in October or
10 before.

11 DR. BLAIR: Other comments?

12 MS. BROWN: Actually I have a
13 question.

14 MS. KIRKENDALL: Stephanie?

15 MS. BROWN: For the committee, as
16 Steve begins this research project and he's
17 seeking your advice, is there something that
18 you would recommend particularly that he look
19 at? Anything off the top? I know you haven't
20 seen anything yet, but if there's some area
21 that you think that we should focus on, or
22 some type of documentation that would help you

1 that they should focus on?

2 DR. BLAIR: Vince may give an
3 opinion. Vince?

4 MR. IANNACCHIONE: I think that
5 this may be just a question, or it may be a
6 recommendation, but I look at the
7 discontinuity very often and I wonder about a
8 margin of error. I mean, you just publish the
9 point estimate, or is there some indication of
10 how volatile things are?

11 MR. HARVEY: As far as I
12 understand, and I think I do - I think I can
13 actually answer that question. I'm learning
14 every minute on this one. We did not develop
15 any kind of error estimate or concern around
16 that that we discussed. And again, it would
17 be hard to do that I think given the current
18 methodology because there are these - in fact,
19 it's really trying to deal with the frames
20 issue and trying to deal with the movement of
21 these companies within that I think does some
22 strange things. I think we've seen did some

1 strange things in 2008 pretty clearly and
2 would make it very difficult to do that. Now,
3 that's again under the current methodology.
4 I will admit, I mean, my bias is to simplify
5 things and then be clear about where your
6 uncertainty is as a general matter. And so I
7 think there may well be some opportunities to
8 make corrections like that.

9 MR. IANNACCHIONE: Yes, some sort
10 of methodology where you have - it's between -
11 there's some upper and lower bound kind of
12 thing that would give you a little bit of
13 tolerance.

14 MR. HARVEY: Right. No, exactly.
15 Well and, you know, I'll say when I talk to
16 folks about the 914 the argument is it was
17 important because it brought us two months
18 closer in terms of information. And to me -
19 so you know, really, it was released January
20 to today, and that's pretty good, that's a
21 pretty good turnaround for this kind of thing
22 given the history. The problem is if you're

1 doing that you're really looking for signals
2 that trends might have changed. And if you're
3 building in a bunch of kind of controls based
4 on historical trends which is really what was
5 going on there, you're going to miss that.
6 You're going to beat that out of the number
7 that comes out of the other end. And so I
8 think either ranges or perhaps looking at the
9 problem in a couple of different ways that
10 would give you different kinds of information
11 and then seeing how things relate to one
12 another. I guess at the end of the day you
13 still have to have one series where someone
14 comes in and says I just want to grab this in
15 my model. You have to kind of give them
16 something that looks like that. But that
17 doesn't mean you couldn't break a couple of
18 approaches down and then talk about how they
19 relate to one another.

20 MS. KIRKENDALL: What they have
21 done, at least they used to periodically do
22 graphs that would show what the 914 data

1 looked like compared to the best data that
2 came in. So this is after the fact that you
3 can get mean squared errors or something that
4 would give you a feel for how far off they
5 are. And EIA has published those in the past
6 as an indication they were related. So that
7 could certainly be done.

8 MR. KOKKELENBERG: To me the most
9 interesting problem right now is this what you
10 call benchmark-driven change. And I know you
11 listed potential problems, and you probably
12 said about how you're going to investigate
13 each one of these, but it probably eluded me
14 to some extent, but the - do you have any feel
15 now for how much of this is a real change and
16 how much of it is a change that was induced by
17 benchmark changes or statistical noise as was
18 asked about earlier? Do you have any?

19 MR. HARVEY: One of the things we
20 started to do and just kind of started is we
21 did look at what the results were from the
22 overlap samples, basically.

1 MR. KOKKELENBERG: Right.

2 MR. HARVEY: Which is sort of like
3 the cutoff sample, pretty close, and is also
4 very large. It's about 85 percent, both Texas
5 and in the lower 48. So it's a good size. In
6 fact, what just the survey responses from
7 those folks were showed a small increase in
8 production, both in the lower 48 and in Texas.
9 So to me that suggests we probably have a
10 couple of percent of sort of a benchmarking
11 issue in there. Now, having said that the
12 methodology, the adjustments that were being
13 made were being applied on a monthly basis and
14 we're basically looking at historical data
15 that indicates that over time that 85 percent
16 cutoff sample deteriorates and becomes
17 smaller. And so it's grossing up a little
18 higher with every month. So some of that may
19 just be a kind of tilt we put in on top of
20 everything else based on that, which when it
21 comes back out of the system for the next year
22 and starts over again. But for that to be

1 true, it means that trend that's in the past
2 has to have gone the other direction. Now,
3 I'll admit - I mean, I don't have much
4 statistical experience. I have a great deal
5 of experience in the oil and gas, and that
6 trend in the past doesn't completely - I'm not
7 completely comfortable with. I know it's been
8 looked at a fair amount. I want it to be
9 looked at a little bit more. But it does
10 strike me that thinking about what happened in
11 the last couple of years with regard to the
12 industrial organization of oil and gas
13 exploration, and assuming that will continue
14 into a period of time like we've just seen in
15 2008 where prices went way up and then came
16 back down, it was a very discontinuous year
17 and so that kind of an adjustment could really
18 throw you off and I think that's probably what
19 happened.

20 MR. KOKKELENBERG: One - well
21 actually, it's a compound question. If you
22 smooth this over time you won't see such a

1 discontinuity, but it looks to me like you'd
2 still see a discontinuity. Now, the second
3 thing is that unless you have, you know, like
4 a light year of smoothing -

5 MR. HARVEY: Right.

6 MR. KOKKELENBERG: And what about
7 geographical smoothing? Because when you have
8 a hurricane in Texas and Louisiana, then
9 doesn't Oklahoma spring to the breach and
10 supply more natural gas or what?

11 MR. HARVEY: Not really. I mean,
12 to a certain degree it's possible, but in
13 general traditionally once you drill a well
14 you try to produce it as fast as you can, and
15 so if you get knocked out, you get knocked
16 out. This is where the storage information we
17 collect and publish becomes so important
18 because really the market is swinging off that
19 storage.

20 MR. BROWN: I think you partially
21 answered this in the sense of what you were -
22 in response to Ed, but you were sort of saying

1 you had some discomfort with the rate of
2 growth of gas that you projected for the end
3 of 2008, and you're thinking that maybe what
4 happened is that some of the firms that
5 dropped out of the sample and you just kind of
6 said well, they probably were growing the same
7 as everyone else, gross them up. Maybe they
8 dropped out because they stopped producing or
9 something. Do you have any sense, has there
10 been any follow-up work with any of these
11 firms that dropped out to find out whether
12 they still exist?

13 MR. HARVEY: Yes. The way to
14 think about it is we would expect based on
15 drilling that at some point this growth in gas
16 in Texas is going to flatten out and it may
17 even actually decline. The problem is then
18 you're going to be linearly related to
19 drilling because you put the old rigs out of
20 commission first, and you've got the new high-
21 tech ones going, and you're still adding a
22 whole lot more per process. But everybody is

1 looking for the place where this crests and
2 then starts coming back down again which they
3 assume will happen at some point. This is a
4 number which takes that 85 percent cutoff
5 sample, assumes that over the course of the
6 year it's become like an 83 percent cutoff
7 sample and grosses it up a little bit more.
8 So it doesn't actually touch the real behavior
9 of companies coming or going, it models what
10 you think that overall picture is going to
11 look like and grosses it up based on that.
12 The problem was that it looked like - if I'm
13 understanding the math and we're just digging
14 into it, what that did was that didn't happen,
15 that sort of deterioration you expected didn't
16 happen. And so that meant that what we were
17 showing was showing a faster ramp-up, was
18 grossing up when it really shouldn't have been
19 grossed up. So when you take the new sample,
20 it dropped it back down again to where it
21 should have been. So, should there have been
22 growth in Texas in 2008 which would be from

1 here to here? Yes, but it wouldn't have been
2 this. It would have been something more like
3 this and we wouldn't have had the
4 discontinuity coming up here. Is that - am I
5 getting close to answering your question, or
6 is it?

7 MR. BROWN: Well, I'm better
8 understanding now.

9 MR. HARVEY: Okay.

10 MR. BROWN: So, you said that the
11 firms didn't drop out of the sample?

12 MR. HARVEY: It's not really about
13 firms dropping out of the sample. It's about
14 assuming that the sample represents less than
15 the total of the time it did in the past. It
16 looks like - whatever 85 percent cutoff sample
17 always within a year is represented.

18 MR. BROWN: Okay, so the fact that
19 gas prices were extremely volatile in the last
20 couple of years wouldn't be taken into
21 account.

22 MR. HARVEY: We would have paid no

1 attention. We were looking in effect at what
2 I would call industrial organization
3 information from the preceding several years.

4 MR. BROWN: And yet we know, at
5 least those of us living in Texas know that in
6 fact the industry responded pretty sharply.
7 In the Barnett Shale for instance we know that
8 landmen have been let go. Of course,
9 production is going to be slower coming down -

10

11 MR. HARVEY: Right.

12 MR. BROWN: - but landmen were let
13 go, rigs are stacked.

14 MR. BROWN: Well, that's why to me
15 one of the important questions here - it turns
16 out our guys are really comfortable that they
17 can look at for example Texas tax information
18 that begins to roll in, and it rolls in over
19 a certain period of time. They feel real
20 comfortable that they can forecast that and
21 within a few months of rolled-in information
22 from Texas they can tell you where they think

1 the Texas tax information will come out. And
2 they have a lot of comfort sort of in that,
3 and that's one of the reasons this seemed kind
4 of different. But that's the kind of number
5 that has some information content to it, but
6 it also has a lot of modeling about how the
7 Texas bureaucracy works in terms of tax
8 information. And as long as that works pretty
9 much the same way that's fine.

10 There's also in the underlying
11 methodology here a similar kind of assumption
12 that says big companies tend to get smaller.
13 The biggest companies tend to get smaller
14 relative to overall production over time,
15 which is about a percent a year based on
16 information. That's also a behavioral kind of
17 model, and that kind of behavior model
18 wouldn't work very well in a year like last
19 year where prices did this and drilling did
20 this and everything came off on the other side
21 of it. That raises the fundamental question
22 which is if we're going out and collecting

1 from 85 percent of production equivalent real
2 information, submitted information about what
3 they're doing, that would have high value to
4 me about learning about when trends might
5 change, certainly out of what's going on in
6 the sample. But if we're going to go back in
7 and undo that in effect based on previous
8 year's industrial information, the changes
9 that we would gross that up, we're going to
10 lose that signal. So the question becomes how
11 do we sort of separate out the different kinds
12 of information that we have confidence in
13 coming to different places and start thinking
14 about how to use that, and not - my concern -
15 model away in effect the data that's actually
16 coming in and that could be useful to people
17 because they would receive the national
18 potential.

19 DR. BLAIR: Mike, yours will be
20 the last question of the session.

21 MR. COHEN: Well, my recollection
22 of this is pretty hazy because this research

1 was done in the late `70s, early `80s, but
2 Richard Royal and some of his colleagues did
3 some work where you've basically got a cutoff
4 sample, but you did some minor sub-sample
5 little guys, and you would model the little
6 guys and if the little guys tended to be
7 different, had a different dynamic than big
8 guys did you could kind of build that into
9 your survey. And I think now it's been
10 developed by the Swedes, it's now called model
11 system survey sampling and I think that one of
12 the things you might look at is the work that
13 Richard Royal did with Keith Eberhaus, one of
14 his co-authors. I think, Nancy, you're pretty
15 familiar with some of the work he's done.
16 It's a good place to start.

17 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Don't we do
18 something similar to that in the natural gas
19 storage survey?

20 PARTICIPANT: What we do is we use
21 a - we use a cutoff sample and then we do a
22 proportion probability to size sample of the

1 remainder. So we get a 90 percent coverage of
2 natural gas storage volumes and then we -
3 overall that's what we get in our sample, and
4 I can't remember how much a proportion of the
5 total the large companies are, but it's
6 significant. It's probably about 90 percent
7 of the 90 percent, and then we estimate for
8 the remaining 10 percent using a medium based
9 estimator.

10 MR. GRUENSPECHT: But you don't
11 use the whole sample to estimate the smalls.
12 You use a sample, a sub-sample to estimate the
13 - right?

14 PARTICIPANT: Well, yes. I mean,
15 we do use everyone, but we use a median
16 estimator to kind of control for the outliers
17 because we were having trouble in the
18 beginning when we first rolled out this
19 survey. We were having trouble with just
20 using a fixed estimator and trying to update
21 the estimator on a monthly basis. And we
22 would wind up having discrete jumps. So we

1 would up having to do what is using a median
2 estimator, trying to target our end-of-month
3 stored volumes which were going to be
4 published two months after the weekly came
5 out. And using the median-based estimator
6 somehow just made everything work a little
7 better because we were able to throw out the
8 outliers and the overly small and overly big
9 companies and get something that captured how
10 the population behaved.

11 DR. BLAIR: Sounds like that may
12 be a story in itself. We have to call time
13 and move on to the next session which is RECS
14 Statistical Estimations. We started off this
15 session about 15 minutes behind, we're
16 laboring to stay 15 minutes behind, and then
17 we'll have a question whether to crater the
18 break or run a little past 4:30 at the end of
19 the day.

20 MS. O'BRIEN: It occurred to me
21 during the last talk that one of the major
22 difference between establishment surveys and

1 demographic surveys is that establishment
2 surveys use numbers to refer to them and
3 demographic surveys use letters. So to help
4 you as I work through the acronyms I'm going
5 to put these up here because I'm not going to
6 - once I get going I'm not going to slow down.
7 And I'll take up the distinguishing word in
8 each. Let's see if I can spell. You probably
9 can't tell that I messed it up. Okay. I don't
10 know - keep the bio in there? I'm Eileen
11 O'Brien. I'm the team leader with the -
12 what's the word, not the programs, but Gene is
13 on the Methodology and Analysis Team and I'm
14 on the - sort of I run the projects. I have
15 some survey managers working for me and all
16 the people that work for them. Let's see.
17 You probably had a weak title coming into this
18 session, but the one I came up with since then
19 which I've only been thinking about this for
20 four weeks. Using the American community
21 survey as the benchmark, the RECS and other
22 EIA efforts. The American Community Survey is

1 the second survey listed there, the American
2 Housing Survey, Housing Vacancy Survey, the
3 current population survey and our survey is
4 the Residential Energy Consumption Survey, the
5 RECS.

6 So, we design surveys to provide
7 precise estimates of population means and
8 totals to build models for things not
9 measured, such as consumption by end uses and
10 areas, and use in forecast here at EIA. We
11 also expect these survey estimates to be
12 unbiased if they're designed well. But the
13 smaller the sample, and believe me the RECS is
14 a very small sample, about 5,000 households,
15 the more likely our sample with high variances
16 could look like a bias sample. So what we do
17 is we do post-stratification to reduce this
18 bias. It answers the question what if we drew
19 a bad example, i.e., one that gave us the
20 wrong answer, what would we have? A post-
21 stratification brings us in line with the
22 correlated characteristics of the variables

1 unique to our study.

2 So the questions I have for you
3 are which benchmark should we use for our
4 demographic survey? We have choices now and
5 what should be the criteria for choosing and
6 monitoring the impact of our choice in
7 benchmark? I'll cover some basics about the
8 Residential Energy Consumption Energy Survey,
9 I won't go into that ad nauseam, and I'll
10 discuss the new data sources for benchmarks
11 and how we might use them in the future and
12 appeal to you for guidance.

13 So post-stratification. I got
14 this from the Standards and Guidelines for
15 Statistical Surveys, something put out by OMB
16 in September of 2006. So this talk is going
17 to focus on the last part of that sentence and
18 that's the control totals, our source for
19 control totals. And in those guidelines they
20 say that agencies must ensure that the frames
21 are evaluated against the target population
22 for quality and that we evaluate the quality

1 of the estimates and projections using them,
2 and that when we use auxiliary data to improve
3 precision we have to reevaluate that and the
4 error associated with it.

5 RECS basics. In your handout
6 you've got on the appendices a list of the 27
7 self-representing PSUs, 148 non-self
8 representing from which we drew randomly, and
9 a total of 175 PSUs for the RECS sample. We
10 use a stratified multi-stage area probability
11 sample drawn from the last census with
12 addressed updates or segments selected. It's
13 designed to produce estimates of energy
14 expenditures for households within the
15 following RSEs. I'm new to EIA and I'm new to
16 this survey relatively compared to the people
17 who worked on it who are still at EIA, but I
18 probably wouldn't have chosen that to control
19 RSEs for the year 2005, energy expenditures
20 for household. We know the energy prices were
21 very volatile that year. I'd probably have
22 preferred a consumption per household as a

1 control variable. And we make several
2 adjustments to the sample weights to
3 compensate for unequal probabilities of
4 selection and responding. By the way, our
5 Northeast region, census region, did not meet
6 its target for RSEs largely because there's a
7 lot of variability in New York State,
8 naturally high because of the heterogeneity of
9 the features that we measure there. Just in
10 case you don't know, this is how the Census
11 defines the country in terms of regions and
12 divisions. Other agencies use different
13 demarcations so the Bureau of Labor Statistics
14 would have economic regions and so on. But
15 these are the domains under which we control
16 our sampling error.

17 So what are the estimates that we
18 do to the RECS weights? So we adjust for
19 unequal selection of the PSUs to calculate
20 what we call a base weight. We use a half
21 open interval technique when we go to a
22 segment which means if we go to an address and

1 find that there's an apartment building there
2 that we sub-sample and we have to adjust the
3 base weights to reflect that. We adjust for
4 ineligible units. We thought the house was
5 occupied, we thought it was a house and it's
6 not. We thought there wasn't a house and
7 there was so we make those adjustments at the
8 base weight level and we also adjust for unit
9 non-response. Those are household-level
10 adjustments to the weights, but when we're
11 done with all of that we have what we call a
12 pre-weight. And the thing that this talk is
13 about is what do we do once we go from the
14 pre-weight to the final weight, that is, we're
15 using external data, data external to our
16 survey, to sort of - it's like when a woman
17 walks around and finds out her zipper's on the
18 wrong side and she has to adjust it. So it's
19 this major adjustment after you've done all
20 your surveys, you're turning your survey
21 around and lining it up with these external
22 benchmarks.

1 To do that for post-stratification
2 needs two ratio adjustments. The first stage
3 ratio adjustment used the decennial 2000 data.
4 We adjusted the RECS estimates sub-housing
5 units by type, and that would be single family
6 detached, detached mobile homes, multi-
7 families two to four, multi-families five or
8 more units per building. We also adjusted for
9 the main space heating data that's available
10 from the decennial census. When we did the
11 second stage ratio adjustment, we're taking
12 the estimates for the sample domains that we
13 have and we are adjusting for the total number
14 of housing units and the differential non-
15 response probabilities depending on the type
16 of household it is. By "household" I mean is
17 it a one-person household, and we make
18 separate adjustments whether it's a one-person
19 female household or a one-person male
20 household because they have different
21 probabilities of being available to be
22 interviewed. And then the other group is

1 everybody else that has, you know, more than
2 one person there.

3 For this we have in 2005 -
4 actually, this took place in 2006 or '07, we
5 had to decide whether to continue to use the
6 current population survey which till then was
7 the only source of intercensal data about
8 housing units and those sorts of adjustments,
9 or to use the new American Community Survey.
10 Well, if you take two measurements they're
11 never going to line up. Steve's not here, but
12 that's the cruel fact of survey-taking. You
13 take three surveys, you'll have three
14 measurements. So we're using a very large
15 external data source. The current population
16 survey in March samples about 100,000 people
17 and whatever number of households that takes.
18 The American Community Survey or the ACS
19 samples annually 3 million households and is
20 of course more current than the last census
21 when we're conducting our residential survey
22 mid-decade. Once we made those adjustments we

1 got our final sample weight. We called it n
2 weight. It's always been called n weight.
3 And we can get sort of a crude assessment of
4 the effect of that final adjustment by
5 comparing our pre-weight, or pre- and post-
6 stratification adjustments to the final
7 adjustments.

8 Before I do that, I want to talk
9 about things that are affecting our
10 adjustments overall. Imagine that, vacancy
11 rates are changing very dynamically. They're
12 unequal across regions and the trends are
13 diverging, and the reasons for vacancy are
14 different. You know, there's vacation homes
15 which we don't survey, there are people who
16 have homes that are built and not yet
17 occupied, people who abandon their homes. And
18 we are really looking forward with trepidation
19 in 2009 given the effect of the housing crisis
20 and market conditions on our ability to find
21 people at their addresses.

22 Response rates, everyone knows

1 federal demographic survey response rates have
2 been declining for about two decades, so the
3 net effect is that we have bigger non-response
4 adjustments, bigger adjustments for single-
5 person households. People are less at home,
6 they're working multiple jobs or whatever the
7 case they may be, they're just - we have an
8 increasing refusal rate, we have an increasing
9 inaccessibility rate, and these things
10 interact with our final adjustments. So the
11 ultimate question is should we continue to use
12 our current population survey, or our final
13 adjustment or the American Community Survey?
14 The 2005 documentation for the RECS, just to
15 make sure - this is sort of subtle, the first
16 stage ratio adjustment for post-stratification
17 was using the decennial data to adjust for
18 type of housing unit and main space heating,
19 and the second stage was using it to adjust
20 for differential accessibility and response by
21 type of household. These choices affect not
22 just our main estimates, but all of the

1 analysis we're doing in the tails of these
2 distributions because there are relationships
3 between these measures and the things that
4 drive energy consumption. So just to give you
5 a picture of what's going on with these
6 vacancy rates, these are averages from the
7 Housing Vacancy Survey. So if you look at the
8 South, 20 years ago around 10 or 11 percent.
9 We're going to out to the field where the
10 average vacancy rate is over 16 and I'll bet
11 you in Florida that's much higher. And the
12 West is having its own issues. Midwest is
13 surprisingly leading the West. We don't know
14 what 2009 is going to show us. We'll be out
15 in the field later in the year, earlier next
16 year. This is driving effort and the cost of
17 doing this survey, so 30 years ago when we
18 went to a household we had to talk to about -
19 or we had to knock on about 20 percent more
20 doors then to get one household. Now it's
21 about 50 percent more. And the net effect is
22 you're knocking on doors that are less

1 eligible and the cooperation rate, meaning
2 accessibility and the willingness to
3 participate is lower now.

4 So, you know, we are concerned
5 about the effect on the ratio adjustments
6 using new control totals because these surveys
7 are operationalized in very different ways.
8 The American Community Survey gives you three
9 strikes to get out. You don't respond by
10 mail, you don't respond by telephone, they
11 knock on your door the third month. The other
12 survey instrument is done in a very tight
13 timeframe, it's the current population survey,
14 and it's done by telephone most of the time.
15 Now, what did we do before we had to consider
16 the American Community Survey? We used the
17 CPS and when I looked at the documentation for
18 the post-stratification adjustment procedures,
19 the first step in that just really kind of
20 floored me. There's - it's literally like
21 switching your skirt around. You take these
22 numbers from March of the previous year and

1 March of the current year and you take some
2 estimate of year-to-year change and you apply
3 some factor of one-third to get you to July 1.
4 That factor of one-third seems very arbitrary.
5 Things that happen between March and July are
6 so different than happen between October and
7 March. You know, new construction, people
8 move from the South to the North, all these
9 things would affect occupancy and eligibility
10 rates. So that in a sense, it's a little too
11 quirky for my taste. You go to all this
12 trouble to do a very complex, expensive sample
13 design, and then you do this right before you
14 turn it into your national totals. So that
15 alone was one thing that sort of furrowed my
16 brow.

17 But when we went to the American
18 Community Survey I wasn't too concerned. The
19 reason we did was because we had a lot more
20 data so we were going to lower the variances
21 of the things we were ratcheting up to. And
22 RECS does a poor job of estimating housing

1 unit totals. I mean, it's a small sample
2 survey. In itself, it can give us an estimate
3 of housing units. It's just that it's so
4 small that the variance is going to be so
5 large. So we're always a little bit under,
6 like by several million each time. But in
7 2005 we found 2 million more housing units,
8 occupied housing units, and this is a
9 distinction I should make right now is we
10 don't estimate total housing units, we're only
11 estimating occupied housing units, and that
12 necessarily by Census definition excludes
13 vacant homes, group homes, dormitories, sort
14 of tertiary housing. And just for
15 convenience's sake we don't interview military
16 on bases that would have like a single-family
17 home. We account for that in our post-
18 stratification adjustment. RECS is low in
19 these three examples, so it's biased downward
20 maybe, but a gap did grow in 2005 as we
21 applied the American Community Survey to our
22 adjustment procedure. So something about the

1 ACS is clearly having a different impact.

2 Here's this alphabet soup of
3 federal demographic surveys and the estimates
4 that they create for all housing units. So
5 the population estimating program at Census
6 incidentally creates an all-housing unit
7 estimate. Well, the story here is that most
8 of these things wind up pretty close. That
9 orange line is just - that shows what the
10 estimates for the vacancies, total housing
11 unit from the vacancy survey was prior to this
12 post-decennial adjustment. You see that all
13 these different surveys line up pretty much on
14 that. But when you get to the estimates of
15 occupied housing units, that is there's this
16 gap, this clear gap that emerges between - for
17 the decennial current population survey,
18 American Housing Survey-based estimates and
19 this new American Community Survey, and you
20 see that we're the blue triangle on RECS and
21 we're jumping on that black line. So that's
22 a big deal for us because energy intensities

1 per housing unit depend on that denominator,
2 and if we start saying different things about
3 energy intensities that has real effect on
4 programs and program monies in the billions.
5 But we chose ACS in 2005.

6 I wanted to talk about the
7 advantages and disadvantages just in a general
8 sense. One of the advantages of choosing the
9 ACS is that the ACS measures several key
10 concepts that align better than the long-form
11 census did. So if you're into the labor
12 market estimates, you're going to like the ACS
13 a lot better because it actually has real
14 measures that relate to your concepts. The
15 long form, you know, had just sort of a
16 generic labor estimate. The ACS provides
17 direct estimates for occupied housing units.
18 When we did the CPS we derived them from -
19 because the CPS is really counting people and
20 backing into housing units. The ACS provides
21 direct estimates of occupied housing units.
22 And they also publish relative standard errors

1 with those benchmarks which we do not have
2 when we are backing into them from the CPS.
3 And we have more variables at the county
4 level. All intercensal data that come out are
5 mostly about people and housing units, but not
6 the other variables that we care about from an
7 energy perspective.

8 So the concepts agree. We have
9 the same target population, occupied housing
10 units, as our concept. We have the same
11 sample population. But my concerns started
12 with - well, I always knew that there was this
13 disconnect between the residency rules, the
14 current residence is the concept in the
15 American Community Survey. So you either have
16 lived there for two months or you probably
17 will live there for two months, or it's your
18 usual residence which is the decennial, the
19 long-form concept and the CPS concept, and the
20 American Housing Survey concept. And the ACS
21 is a period of time estimate whereas the other
22 surveys, the traditional surveys were a point

1 in time estimate. So we're capturing people
2 differently which is creating this over-
3 estimate, they believe, in occupied housing
4 units and the ACS are a benchmark. Fred
5 Eggers who was with HUD for many years
6 published a comparison of the American Housing
7 Survey and the American Community Survey, and
8 he said well, looks like the ACS is
9 overestimating occupied housing units because
10 they get three strikes to get excluded, so
11 it's not random, and it's falling in the line
12 of that they're estimating more single-family
13 detached housing units than single-family - or
14 then multifamily two to four. So there's some
15 shifting of the distribution which has
16 implications for energy characteristics.

17 There's this literature that
18 started accumulating much to my chagrin around
19 2007 after they released the data where they
20 started talking about use the ACS with
21 caution, or some things that haven't been
22 resolved. It sort of became clear to me that

1 Census wasn't really going to worry about it
2 till it started hovering around the decennial
3 period. But these concepts that they had been
4 arguing about internally and started
5 publishing data, they were still sorting out.
6 I heard a talk in the spring of 2007 where the
7 key mathematical statisticians on the project
8 were saying, 'Oh, we noticed this problem
9 where the number of people who report being
10 married is not equal to the number of people
11 who have spouses.' You know, so there's this
12 kind of - those are the things you'd expect to
13 get right if you are the Census Bureau. And
14 so to fix that they started messing with the
15 occupied housing units. And I said, well,
16 you've got to go back and fix 2005 because
17 you're changing your statistical methodology.
18 And they said, no, we're not going to do that.
19 So that's our benchmark. We only do this once
20 every four years. And that essentially is one
21 of the problems with the ACS is that the
22 intercensal population estimating program is

1 always making adjustments to housing unit
2 totals and the ACS isn't doing that, isn't
3 using those adjustments. They're not making
4 any revisions at all. That's very nice for
5 everyone else. But the net impact is that we
6 do have reduced variances as our benchmark,
7 but are we incorporating a bias which
8 economists hate, right? They'd rather sort of
9 have some random error than something that
10 says it's always a little bit wrong. So for
11 modeling we need to use - oh, and upward bias
12 on single-family homes.

13 Uncertainty - there's still some
14 uncertainty about the 2010 methods. GAO has
15 this nice report that says Key Unresolved
16 Issues, and one of them is what are you going
17 to do about the long-form - the virtual long-
18 form that ACS is supposed to provide, and they
19 hadn't sorted it out at the time of that
20 publication. The choice for the control
21 totals, again, affects our intensity
22 estimates, but we do use this in very

1 important other EIA programs. The - John
2 Symbalski's AEO makes use of the ACS through
3 the RECS. He's capturing our division-level
4 estimates. The STEO, the Short-Term Energy
5 Forecast, makes direct use of the ACS. These
6 are fairly subtle issues that I barely
7 understand, and if you are a secondary data
8 user even in a sophisticated group as EIA you
9 just have to go a few generations away from
10 that before you wonder how this is affecting
11 major estimates and forecasts. So the AEO
12 uses this for modeling housing counts,
13 appliance counts and end use intensities, but
14 they supplement it with numerous outside
15 sources, so maybe they're a little
16 desensitized from the impact. The STEO uses
17 this in estimating the number of households
18 that consume natural gas, propane and other
19 major fuels and the trans - annual household
20 data as explanatory variables in the
21 forecasting models of residential consumption.

22 My questions remain. What

1 criteria should we use before we look at the
2 sources of data, and how do we use and monitor
3 the impact of that choice over time? It's not
4 constant to the decade clearly as you get
5 further away from the decennial census. And
6 this kind of emerged because I think we may be
7 capturing some vacation homes and you know,
8 should we be trying to measure that component
9 of residential consumption in some way? These
10 were totally excluding anything that's not
11 occupied by definition. So I look forward to
12 your questions and comments now and in the
13 future on this topic.

14 DR. BLAIR: Thank you. Mike,
15 you're our discussant.

16 MR. COHEN: Thanks. I'm going to
17 talk for about six minutes, but I don't think
18 I'm going to answer your questions, Eileen.

19 MS. O'BRIEN: Okay, that's fine.

20 MR. COHEN: It's not that fine. I
21 want to - whoever decides who gets to discuss
22 what papers I want to thank them because this

1 is a paper on a topic that I'm interested in,
2 I know a little bit about, so. So I got the
3 presentation slides on Tuesday morning and
4 since I didn't work on RECS when I was at EIA,
5 I'm not that familiar with it, I downloaded
6 the 1997 and 2001 data quality papers, and the
7 1997 and 2001 survey methods papers, all of
8 which were by Eileen O'Brien, so you have been
9 here a little while.

10 MS. O'BRIEN: No, I think that's
11 an artifact of let's put someone's name on it.
12 But I have read much of that.

13 MR. COHEN: Oh. They're very
14 well-written and I also - I also skimmed the
15 RECS quality profile.

16 MS. O'BRIEN: That was excellent.

17 MR. COHEN: A lot of people here
18 had something to do with those written, maybe
19 Tom Divine who does superlative work
20 obviously. And all these sources were really
21 well-written and they were very helpful to me.
22 I think it's probably not too strong a

1 statement that I think the three most
2 important surveys in the federal government
3 over the next 20 years are very likely to be
4 NAEP, National Assessment of Educational
5 Progress, NEPS, the HRQ's survey on health
6 costs, and RECS and its energy consumption
7 siblings. Obviously some of the main
8 interests of the current Administration and
9 understanding energy consumption at a fairly
10 detailed level is going to be crucially
11 important and RECS will be the vehicle for
12 helping us do that. In fact, I wonder if -
13 and this might be the wrong time to raise this
14 issue, or maybe it's always wrong - but
15 thinking of RECS as supporting some type of
16 micro-simulation model would be a really
17 interesting idea, but RECS would have to
18 change kind of dramatically. It would have to
19 really be a much longer survey, we'd get more
20 detailed information on people's economics and
21 demographics, et cetera, et cetera. But
22 anyhow, one should and could make a very good

1 argument for increasing the sample size for
2 RECS. It's only 5,000 housing units for a
3 very important part of our economy, so maybe
4 that's something to think about a few years
5 from now.

6 Let's see. I want to make a
7 straight comment. I think this is Tom
8 Divine's, and maybe this is without - but I
9 thought it said somewhere that there are a lot
10 of answers that change dramatically in RECS as
11 a result of fairly modest changes in the way
12 the questions were posed. And if that's the
13 case I think it might be useful for EIA at
14 some point to bring in someone like Nora Cate
15 Schaeffer - these are cognitive survey experts
16 - to see whether there are re-wordings that
17 might reduce confusion of the respondents.
18 I'm also a little concerned about - I mean, I
19 know nothing about - when I was a renter, I
20 had no idea if I had gas or electric heat, to
21 tell you the truth, and I wonder if - if you
22 had foreign language difficulties I wonder if

1 there is some problems there. And if you had
2 an internet alternative, I was happy to see
3 the ISMS idea raised this morning. I think
4 some people would probably prefer not to have
5 an interviewer in their house and on the
6 internet you could motivate the survey, you
7 could say why these questions are being asked
8 and you could also put in help online for
9 those struggling to answer some of the
10 questions. You could also include foreign
11 language questionnaires or foreign language
12 help for answering some questions. But sorry
13 I got off topic, I just wanted to throw that
14 out there.

15 The question at hand deals with
16 post-stratification which is used for three
17 purposes: sample variance reduction, and
18 reduction of non-response bias, and reduction
19 of under-coverage bias. These are all really
20 important to address and post-stratification
21 is a classic approach. If anybody else wants
22 to get into this business besides Eileen, the

1 best paper is by Holt and Smith called Post-
2 Stratification which is a good title for it.
3 It's in JRSSA 1979. But there's a lot of more
4 recent work that should be looked at a little.
5 I'm not quite sure it's relevant, but there's
6 work on what's called calibration and
7 generalized regression estimates. I'm not
8 quite sure what the data requirements are, but
9 you do need to have some information on the
10 entire population which may not be available
11 here. But it would be worthwhile inviting
12 Phil Cobb or Bob Day to lunch. They are both
13 in the area and they're two of the best people
14 in the world in this area, and just ask them
15 if they think there's something there that I'm
16 not seeing.

17 Now, the main issue at hand is
18 that you're using the - replacing the CPS
19 controls with ACS controls and I have a few
20 comments, but I don't think they're going to
21 be that helpful. The first thing, you're
22 worried about the change in residency rules

1 from the census to the CPS. I've talked to
2 people like Kirsten West of the Census Bureau.
3 There aren't a lot of people that that
4 changes, it's a fairly small fraction of the
5 population, so I kind of think that's
6 ignorable, but you know, certainly check up on
7 that. But they said it was something like, I
8 don't know what, half a percent or a percent
9 of the population where that would make a
10 difference. The census had been promising for
11 a long time that it actually asked both
12 questions of a sub-sample like the ACS.
13 They're not doing it as far as I know so maybe
14 pressure them to do that, really help us out.

15 You mentioned that one problematic
16 aspect of the ACS is that it does not provide
17 point estimates, it provides period estimates,
18 and you know, the obvious thing that it could
19 do, I'm not sure it'd be all that helpful, is
20 you can ask the Census Bureau to provide the
21 annual estimates to you, given you're a
22 government agency. And then you could just

1 perform exponential smoothing on those and get
2 something that's closer to a contemporaneous
3 estimate. I think that would be better for
4 your purposes than period estimates. It's a
5 trivial calculation.

6 The second thing you raised which
7 is a very serious issue is that there will be
8 a 2010 discontinuity. When we get to 2010 the
9 ACS controls and the Census has not justified
10 this in any real - any methodological sense.
11 They control to major demographic groups at
12 the county level. If you talk to any of the
13 people in the population estimates division
14 they're unhappy that they do this because the
15 estimates at that level are really unreliable.
16 They should be controlling in some kind of
17 smooth way, but it just - they have a lot on
18 their plate and they're just trying to get
19 the, you know, the trains to run on time and
20 so they can't really handle any changes at
21 this point. But what you're going to have is
22 you're going to have estimates from ACS that

1 are kind of roughly smoothed be going on
2 towards 2010 and obviously drastically change
3 the controls after the census because the
4 population estimates they're controlling are
5 going to change dramatically as a result of
6 the 2010 census. And there will be a big gap
7 either up or down in your series and there
8 won't be an explanation for it. So somebody
9 has to pressure the Census Bureau to issue a
10 before and after estimates, before and after
11 the change of the controls, so you can help
12 your users both with a contemporaneous
13 estimate and a change estimate at the same
14 time. Otherwise you're going to have some
15 unexplained jump. So that is something that
16 you should plan for in advance and lobby the
17 Census Bureau to help you with it.

18 Now, one problem you have is
19 you're making use of these I think very good
20 ratio adjustments, but you never really know
21 if they're helping you or not because there's
22 no real true values right now to make

1 comparisons. One thing that you could do
2 though and I think would be a little bit
3 interesting is I think you could. If the
4 Census Bureau is nice they could give you
5 individual household data for your respondents
6 and your non-respondents, and you could do
7 some checking to see how different they are
8 and on what covariates they differ on, and see
9 if those covariates - you know, one thing you
10 do is you do a geographic control, controlling
11 the use of demographic controlling for the
12 second phase. You know, maybe there's other
13 variables that would be as valuable or more
14 valuable to include in the ratio adjustment
15 process. And you could probably - ACS is a
16 fairly rich questionnaire. It seemed like it
17 had 40 questions on it in different areas.
18 Maybe that would be - could be valuable to see
19 if some kind of - this is a partial answer to
20 one of your questions - to see if you're doing
21 a good job with the ratio adjustments. But
22 there is this difficulty of knowing when you

1 have made an improvement in RECS and I think
2 one thing that Tom Divine error profile was it
3 had a lot of nice comparisons with kind of
4 national and high-level data for a lot of
5 different administrative sources and survey
6 sources. That should be done. I'm not sure
7 if it is, it probably is, but those kind of
8 comparisons should be done as often as
9 possible. They're really incredibly valuable.

10 And the last question I guess you
11 asked was - I'm not really sure how to answer,
12 but there's this - you have an increasing rate
13 of vacant houses and you have got a decreasing
14 response rate, and you're worried that those
15 two things together are I guess resulting the
16 gap you have between RECS and the HAS
17 estimates. I don't know enough about, you
18 know - one thing is RECS might be getting it
19 right and the Census might be getting it
20 wrong. The math is what's used to set up the
21 frame for the ACS. The math has tons of
22 duplicates in it. The Census doesn't take

1 duplicates out unless they really know they're
2 a duplicate, and so there's a lot of
3 duplicates that are kind of not completely
4 sure duplicates in the math. The math doesn't
5 really get enough black eyes for how, you
6 know, it was not a very high-quality operation
7 in 2000. So, but I don't know where that
8 leaves you, but I'm just not as concerned
9 about it maybe as you are because the gap
10 might be in the other direction. Also, the
11 ACS is controlled to addresses that they get
12 from these demographic address estimates, kind
13 of a demographic analysis in the housing
14 division, and I don't know what the quality of
15 those Division of Housing estimates are
16 either. And so they may be kind of a little
17 bit - so there's a lot of errors here and they
18 may not all be on your side of the equation.
19 So that's all I have.

20 DR. BLAIR: Other comments?

21 MR. KOKKELENBERG: It seemed to me
22 that in about the last 12 months, maybe even

1 only the last six months, this data has been
2 changing dramatically, and anything like the
3 ACS which is the base on housing data from
4 even three years ago is not going to pick this
5 up as fast as you might in the RECS. The
6 other thing though that you might pick up is
7 that these people who are now vacating these
8 units are going somewhere, and so you should
9 see household sizes increasing. And I don't
10 know if you have any indication of that or
11 finding that, but if that's the case then
12 energy usage per household that is occupied
13 may be going up, and that could make a
14 difference in how you proceed with this.
15 Beyond that I would toss it back to Mike who
16 knows more about these surveys than I do.

17 MR. COHEN: The Census is quite
18 worried about a lot of people living in
19 foreclosed homes illegally also. So they're
20 causing a lot of dynamics.

21 DR. BLAIR: John?

22 MR. WEYANT: On the energy side,

1 I'm not an expert in survey design or
2 evaluation so I appreciate Michael's comments
3 on that, but one thing that you said I would
4 support is I think this is going to be a very
5 important area in the next 5, 10, 15, 20 years
6 I think we have to work through. At the
7 Precourt Center we're finding a couple of
8 projects even with the existing data using
9 advanced econometric means. It hates traces
10 like that. I actually know what that means
11 and it took me about six months to figure it
12 out. But there's a couple on different
13 appliance sets. I have a student that's doing
14 insulation retrofits and things like that.
15 But - so the challenge may be things are
16 changing fast on the energy side. In
17 California we have these million - roofs. We
18 probably won't get to that. Scheduled, but
19 we'll get to that. We have smart meters. So
20 smart meters as defined in California allow
21 you to immediately do different pricing. Of
22 course the total can be important to consider,

1 but so-called HANs, home area networks
2 internally, and if they need stuff which could
3 enable you doing realtime control and affects
4 the ability on pricing. Not saying everybody
5 is going to be struggling to study that, but
6 looking ahead if you have more budget then it
7 would be good things to do.

8 And then finally, I think this was
9 Michael's point. If you look at the stimulus
10 package, there's these things like
11 weatherization that seems to be billions of
12 billions of dollars, so that's going to
13 potentially change this series. You know, how
14 they do the wallboard and they're kind of a
15 poster child of the Administration. They've
16 opened six factories in the last year or so.
17 They've become very highly efficient in bar
18 values from 6 to 15 or something like that.
19 We used to think 3 was good, the higher the
20 better. So I think you're going to - there's
21 going to be a huge need, so a lot of these
22 things will be done I think without much

1 analysis, just kind of rough, you know,
2 strategic rules of thumb, but then I think as
3 we go along there will be an opportunity and
4 perhaps a large benefit for being able to - to
5 be able to analyze that. So I know this is
6 probably adding a lot more to your plate, but
7 I think looking at that a little bit as you
8 get into the next stage of design and so on.
9 So I could say I didn't know a lot, but I know
10 something about the econometric methods and
11 those are being proved pretty rapidly. You
12 know, back in my day we used to have the kind
13 of combination of diffusion models and
14 conjoined survey type things all continuous
15 and you had discrete choice and you had these
16 kind of nested maximum likelihood fixed point
17 things. And now they're working on the
18 dynamic version of that. I think the data
19 probably isn't enough yet, but could be enough
20 to do the dynamics well, but the methods are
21 being improved, so I actually know a couple of
22 people working on - at a dynamic version of

1 the fixed point interface which are very
2 computationally grained. But I just think
3 this is going to be a huge - I actually know
4 the new Assistant Secretary for Energy
5 Efficiency Renewables. I think she's going to
6 be really interested in this. Inclining to
7 Howard - if they would put some money into
8 this, at least moral support if not money
9 would help. That's my little speech.

10 DR. BLAIR: Other comments? I
11 think we're going to make this the last one
12 just because of time.

13 MR. IANNACCHIONE: This is a short
14 comment. On your second question about does
15 the Census monitor the impact in the future,
16 why don't you use two different sets of
17 weighs, one that's used as the CPS and one
18 that's used as the ACS? Just kind of track
19 them along -

20 MS. O'BRIEN: Sure. Yes. And I
21 would have done that for you today, but I was
22 sort of a latecomer to your program, so. But

1 that's something I will be doing with the
2 2005, because that's the year we'll be using
3 both, so.

4 DR. BLAIR: Time-wise we're due
5 for a break. Strictly speaking - yes,
6 exactly, we're due to be back from break and
7 five minutes into the next presentation. I
8 think as a practical matter we have to take
9 some kind of break. Ten minutes which will
10 leave us, unless we shorten the last
11 presentation, will leave us finishing at 4:45
12 instead of 4:30. Well, maybe a bit later with
13 public comments.

14 (Whereupon, the foregoing matter
15 went off the record at 3:39 p.m. and resumed
16 at 3:55 p.m.)

17 DR. BLAIR: Our next session is
18 Electricity 2011 from Howard Stone.

19 MR. STONE: Good afternoon. My
20 name's Howard Stone. I'm an industry analyst
21 with the Electric Power Division in the Office
22 of Coal, Nuclear and Alternative Fuels. My

1 presentation today is to provide you more of
2 a for-your-information presentation on the
3 process that we're just really starting in the
4 last month to update the forms that our
5 division collects that feed into a lot of the
6 other analyses done by our forecasting office
7 on the electricity side and other parts of the
8 agency. So I'll move right along. Just
9 briefly, an overview of my presentation.

10 Our process for renewing the forms
11 is subject to clearance by the Office of
12 Management and Budget. There's a formal
13 regulatory process that we have to go through
14 that requires notice and comment through the
15 Federal Register that gives the public,
16 industry the opportunity to comment on the
17 scope of the data that we're collecting,
18 address confidentiality issues, comments on
19 whether we're collecting the right things,
20 things ought to be removed from the surveys,
21 or whether they're burdensome. And as part of
22 that process we first go through sort of a

1 collegial process internally and then consult
2 with the public to issue a Federal Register
3 notice, respond to the public's comments and
4 then develop a package and pass it on to the
5 Office of Management and Budget who then also
6 puts it out in the Federal Register for notice
7 and comment. And they weigh in on it, taking
8 into account the public's comments and their
9 obligations as well as ours under the
10 Paperwork Reduction Act to minimize the burden
11 on respondents.

12 We go through this process every
13 three years. Our surveys that just opened up
14 this year reflect our Electricity 2008 process
15 which was a herculean effort by my colleagues
16 in consolidating a number of forms. We have
17 a new form now, the EIA-923 which covers power
18 plant operations. As part of that process
19 we've consolidated a number of forms. The
20 Monthly Cost and Quality of Fuel Report -
21 public utilities regulated by the Federal
22 Energy Regulatory Commission filed their fuel

1 data on a monthly basis with the FERC.
2 They're editing and quality assurance on the
3 data are somewhat different than ours. We had
4 a similar form. The two data sets were merged
5 for purposes of coming up with a national time
6 series of monthly and annual data on cost and
7 quality of fuel. In the EIA-906, the power
8 plant reports at the unit level so if there's
9 more than one unit at a power plant there
10 would be multiple units described in that.
11 And the 920 dealt with combined heating power
12 cogeneration facilities. All those forms as
13 well as elements of electric plant design that
14 had a requirement for environmental reporting
15 information were all consolidated into a
16 single form. We believe it improved the
17 quality of data, particularly with respect to
18 combining and giving us complete control over
19 the cost and quality of the fuel collection.
20 FERC has terminated their collection of that
21 data and has been turned over exclusively to
22 EIA. And we also address some confidentiality

1 issues in matters relating to precluding the
2 disclosure of market-sensitive data,
3 particularly in the markets that are
4 deregulated either at the retail or wholesale
5 level.

6 Our approach for revising the
7 forms falls into four phases and we're right
8 now in Phase I. We're just in the beginning
9 audit where we're internally developing what's
10 the key issues that we have observed going
11 through the recent survey cycle and events in
12 the industry, legislative events, regulatory
13 events, changes in technology and so forth.
14 And once we come up with an initial cut of
15 what the forms and changes will be we'll have
16 informal dialogue with the industry and then
17 issue the first Federal Register notice for
18 comment. We expect to have that completed in
19 February 2010. We'll move that package on to
20 OMB for clearance and have that completed by
21 December 2010 and open the surveys in 2011 to
22 collect annual data found in the year 2010.

1 Go through our normal quality control and
2 editing of the data, and move into the
3 publication phase, and then have our 2010 data
4 go through publication, and then the various
5 data sets that we put out on our website,
6 September 2011.

7 I'm briefly going to go over some
8 of the significant changes that we're thinking
9 about with each of the forms. The first form
10 that I'll discuss is the 861 which is our
11 annual Electric Power Industry Report. By and
12 large the respondents on this form are
13 utilities of all ownership class that are
14 serving retail customers. And one element on
15 the form that we currently collect data on is
16 net metering which is done typically at the
17 state level under regulated tariffs in which
18 customers who may have installed distributor
19 generation, solar facilities, and so forth,
20 have the ability to use self-power out onto
21 the grid. We have currently been collecting
22 kilowatt hours net and gross with the utility

1 providing an estimate of in effect what was
2 avoided by what's put back out onto these
3 grids. So now we're also going to be getting
4 a little bit more detail to determine exactly
5 what the megawatt amount of capacity is by
6 fuel type that's actually a fine meter, so to
7 speak.

8 One of the problems from a
9 definitional standpoint and that's affected in
10 some instances our time series is we
11 historically instructed companies to try and
12 report between the four major customer
13 projects, residential, commercial, industrial
14 and transportation or electric traction for
15 the subways and railroads basically. But the
16 NAICS code as opposed to utility tariff data
17 is - you've found at times the companies have
18 gone back and forth as they've used the
19 eligibility criteria in their tariffs,
20 particularly when they've transitioned from a
21 regulated market to a deregulated market, and
22 we see for some companies, one in particular

1 in Maryland that kind of the 1 percent of the
2 nation's industrial load and it suddenly went
3 from industrial to commercial because they
4 went from the NAICs code over a 3-year period
5 to the eligibility provisions in the tariff
6 which were based on the characteristics in the
7 load. So we're looking at how can we better
8 clarify our definitions and better standardize
9 how the companies report their customer sales
10 and revenue data by customer class.

11 On Schedule 4, Part D, I'm sure
12 you're aware that a number of states have
13 deregulated their retail markets where
14 individual customers have the ability to
15 choose their energy supplier and have that
16 energy delivered to them over the distribution
17 of wires connected to their home. And we have
18 broken out our customer sales and revenue data
19 right now into four parts, one called full-
20 service customers, those that you had a
21 bundled product and since we haven't chosen.
22 Parts B and C are the energy-only sale and the

1 distribution component. In theory the two
2 should match. Part D because Texas adopted a
3 different form of billing mechanisms. We
4 actually had to set up a separate schedule for
5 Texas to report even though they deregulated.
6 It's the actual energy market that does the
7 billing as opposed to the distribution
8 companies. So we had to make an accommodation
9 on the form for that. But one of the things
10 that's gone on at the state level where there
11 has been deregulation is that for those
12 customers who've chosen not to go out and do
13 the comparison shopping so to speak to pick an
14 energy supplier remain on the system of the
15 traditional utility that they've been hooked
16 up with and historically taking service.
17 Those entities in most instances now move on
18 to their own generation. They were required
19 under state law to divest. The public service
20 commissions hold a competitive solicitation so
21 those customers are actually getting a
22 competitive generation component in their

1 energy supply and as if they were making the
2 choice. So we want to segment them out so we
3 get a better picture of those customers that
4 are choosing on their own as well as those
5 that are having the choice made for them.
6 Those who are getting paid market-based
7 generation as opposed to those who are getting
8 a true cost-based component in their rate. So
9 we're trying to clarify the sample a little
10 bit more as to who's getting the comparative
11 energy supply.

12 Another issue that we're dealing
13 with, as I mentioned before, we're trying to
14 make sure that we're matching up the unbundled
15 delivery service with kilowatt hour sales.
16 And while we have strived to make sure we have
17 everybody in the frame, the energy marketers
18 were not - were clearly not getting them. And
19 we had a discrepancy where we have to make an
20 imputation, an adjustment to balance what's
21 being reeled into the system relative to
22 what's being sold in some states. In some

1 states it's over, in some states it's under.
2 So we're now asking on the monthly 826 for
3 respondents to identify every power marketer
4 that's moving energy on a retail basis over
5 their system and paying distribution
6 transportation charges so we can better match
7 up, get those respondents - get those entities
8 in the frame. They may have reported. We're
9 doing that on the 861 now. We've got it on
10 the 826 which is a monthly survey. So again,
11 that's a data quality improvement feature this
12 time around.

13 Moving on to our 860 which is an
14 annual generator report at the plant level.
15 So it would be more than one, potentially more
16 than one plant at a location. There's a few
17 issues that we're addressing there. As you
18 know, there's been a great push both in the
19 stimulus bill and at the state level with
20 renewable portfolio standards. And the
21 introduction of new forms of generation that
22 are going to fit into that title and ocean

1 wave projects. Projects in that category that
2 are over a megawatt we are seeking to put in
3 more specific codes in the reporting to
4 monitor the progress of projects planned and
5 ultimately coming online. And then with the
6 expected expansion of variable generation, in
7 some there are a multitude of new technologies
8 that are evolving that will be coming onto the
9 grid and are not traditional generation. They
10 may be going on the grid to provide generation
11 services to maintain the stability of the
12 transmission system. So they may actually be
13 producing electricity for less than a minute
14 and actually storing electricity and then
15 putting it back out onto the grid. So we're
16 examining the technologies, the extent to
17 which those technologies are employed and
18 assessing whether we want to start at least
19 getting the foot in the door on the survey
20 cycle of identifying who the respondents are
21 and the type of services that they're
22 providing. So we know when we go to the next

1 cycle do we need to be expanding the form
2 because there's a whole new market of services
3 being developed and there may be a
4 requirement, an interest or the need for
5 modeling purposes to collect more detailed
6 data.

7 We've had an issue on the last go-
8 round where we work with the North American
9 Electric Reliability Council to collect data
10 on reactive power, and there seems to be some
11 ambiguity in instructions, and the results we
12 got were not what we expected, not what NERC
13 expected. We're working with NERC and I was
14 speaking to one of their colleagues before the
15 start of my presentation. He has some
16 suggestions that I think will be helpful and
17 could help us work through that issue. We're
18 going to be trying to clarify that. Reactive
19 power is a very important element of
20 maintaining stability of the grid and
21 effective utilization of generation, so it is
22 an important thing to get a handle on,

1 particularly as we move into these forms of
2 variable generation, solar and wind power in
3 particular. The 860(m) has currently a 5-year
4 planning horizon where utilities tell us five
5 years out of the estimated date of commercial
6 operation when they're going to put a plant
7 online with the expectation because of some of
8 the programs the department has put into
9 effect that nuclear plants are going to be
10 planned. Whether they ultimately become part
11 of the mix remains to be seen, but the
12 construction lead time is such that if we
13 don't account for that we're not going to pick
14 it up and we may be understating from the
15 planning standpoint. But our capacity, what
16 the fleet is going to look like in the future.
17 NERC has already changed that as a reporting
18 requirement and has been - have a reporting
19 requirement with the NERC where we seem to
20 maintain consistency with the data that
21 they're going to be relying on.

22 On the Form 923 as I alluded or

1 mentioned before, we had already made some
2 significant efforts in consolidating and
3 proving the quality of data, so at this point
4 we don't anticipate making significant changes
5 to that form. Any new technologies that we
6 add to the 860 which really deal with capacity
7 itself and the characteristics of the capacity
8 will be reflected on the 923 in terms of the
9 generation and operating characteristics, fuel
10 and efficiencies and so forth. We're also
11 going to be putting in - right now I requested
12 the respondents to identify who the supplier
13 of the natural gas is to natural gas plants.
14 There's been some disparity in what we're
15 collecting versus what the Office of Oil and
16 Gas is getting back from gas transporters at
17 various levels on the system, what they're
18 delivering to the electric power industry. So
19 we're going to try and make a modification to
20 our survey question to try and make sure both
21 sides of the agency are getting the full scope
22 of the frame for our work and for theirs, and

1 to make sure that our numbers balance out.
2 And finally, the efficiency rating on CHP.
3 It's been a number of years since we've
4 updated those numbers that we use. You're
5 calculating useful thermal output and so we're
6 going to go back and revisit the efficiency
7 formula and what we'll be collecting from
8 combined heat power producers in this next
9 cycle.

10 The final form is the EIA-411
11 which is the consolidated bulk power report.
12 NERC submits to us, as I mentioned before,
13 they're returning the 10-year data projections
14 capacity and other components in the long-term
15 planning elements that they're providing to us
16 on that form, so we're going to move into a
17 consistent framework on that. And they will
18 also be reporting - there's eight regions.
19 Some of them are not broken up into sub-
20 regions. They'll be reporting them to us at
21 that level. So over time we'll be able to
22 come up with a more disaggregate level of

1 supply and demand characteristics, reserve
2 margins types of capacity, demand response,
3 and so forth that's contributing to the
4 balance between supply and demand in each
5 region and then how they run their reserve
6 margin, what their future planning
7 requirements are going to be for their
8 capacity.

9 As I mentioned before, while we go
10 through a Federal Register process, unlike a
11 regulatory agency like the Nuclear Regulatory
12 Commission or the Federal Energy Regulatory
13 Commission or EPA we tend to meet with our -
14 try to meet with our principal stakeholders
15 both within the government and within the
16 industry on an informal basis to give them an
17 idea through similar presentation before we
18 put together our Federal Register notice. And
19 it's primarily to expedite the process. We
20 want to get this done as quickly as possible.
21 There's programming requirements involved
22 behind changes in the form. We want to try

1 and develop a consensus and move the process
2 along. So once we have finished our internal
3 federal government deliberation we - the
4 department within EIA, we'll visit with these
5 various organizations and some that are not on
6 the list to get their input on issues that
7 we're intending to address in these forms as
8 well as elicit comments from them if only to
9 submit their name to be removed from the form
10 as no longer being necessary or other things
11 that they feel are important that ought to be
12 in the form, and we'll take that into
13 consideration as we move forward, put together
14 our Federal Register notice, and put the draft
15 forms out for public comment.

16 2007 we began our internet data
17 collection process where we have now gotten to
18 the point where across the various surveys
19 forms are now roughly 37,000 forms that have
20 filed. Over 90 percent of the forms are now
21 filed electronically. We've historically
22 called internet data collection the system

1 without precedent in the government. We're
2 seeking to get people used to the concept of
3 using an e-file. One of the benefits that we
4 have found with this is in our programming of
5 the forms and the interface that the public
6 has, or the respondents have in supplying the
7 data is that we can build in edits based on
8 either industry standards or pulling in
9 calculation ratios where we've actually
10 messaged back to their historical responses to
11 come up with a range in what we would expect
12 to be a reasonable response in a particular
13 data field by the respondent. They do have
14 the ability to override a response and provide
15 a written comment. That will typically elicit
16 direct review by our staff and call-backs to
17 verify the changes that they had made are
18 appropriate. It's reduced our time and how
19 we've been able to significantly have timing.
20 A lot of the time it's taking products out to
21 our customers, both documentary reports as
22 well as to historical time series data that's

1 out in a spreadsheet.

2 And that concludes our summary of
3 our process, and I would - I know my other
4 colleagues from the agency have asked you to
5 respond to specific questions. We are
6 providing this more as an informational thing,
7 and we welcome your comments now based on your
8 experience in dealing with our survey data as
9 to what you believe might be appropriate, and
10 welcome comments now and your participation in
11 the Federal Register process once we move into
12 that stage. I'd be happy to answer any
13 questions you have at this point.

14 DR. BLAIR: Thank you, Howard.
15 Our first discussant is Izzy.

16 MR. MELENDEZ: Okay. Howard, can
17 you go back to Slide 6? I only have - 6, yes,
18 that one. Okay. Just a couple of comments,
19 just suggestions for you. Right now with the
20 influx of grid integration one of the big
21 concerns in the industry is regulation
22 service, right? The regulation market is

1 starting to become very important and because
2 of these intermittent resources, developers,
3 plant developers are now starting to try to
4 understand do you build plants because of the
5 ancillary requirements that are - not so much
6 for the energy, but the ancillary portions of
7 it. The storage devices that you have there,
8 battery, flywheel, they also will play a role
9 in mitigating some of the problems that you'll
10 see with regulation service. So my suggestion
11 is are you look at like perhaps including
12 something with regard to ramp rate capability
13 of power plants, and especially with these new
14 like flywheel, what kind of response rates can
15 they get back?

16 MR. STONE: Well, we are
17 considering it and we are very much aware that
18 this is an emerging technology. There was -
19 in the Energy Independence and Security Act
20 there was a mandate to the department as part
21 of the smart grid to deal with energy
22 electricity storage and a report was prepared

1 by the advisory committee for Secretary Bodman
2 that generally addresses this issue. We're
3 also aware that some of these things are on
4 the grid already. There's a 1-megawatt
5 flywheel on the Yankee P system now. The
6 department in fact has just approved the
7 environmental assessment for a 20-megawatt
8 project that's going in upstate New York and
9 it's in a loan guarantee program which is when
10 the EPA was formed. The Federal Energy
11 Regulatory Commission has required the
12 independent system operators to modify their
13 tariffs and regulation service to accommodate
14 these demands, non-generating - they're
15 generating, these sources, but they're not
16 generators in the typical sense. So yes,
17 we're working through the issues as to what
18 the technology is, particularly flywheels
19 clearly play an element for regulation service
20 because they can turn on a dime. The ones
21 that I've looked at from a technology
22 standpoint, they can be taking energy off the

1 grid and putting it back on in less than four
2 seconds. So there's a tremendous capability
3 there. It improves the use of fossil-fired
4 generation, kind of making it available for
5 energy production, for sale, improves the
6 efficiency of operation of fossil plants
7 because they're not being held back so to
8 speak to provide some element of voltage
9 regulation. The batteries present a different
10 issue because depending on the battery
11 technology, for instance the sodium sulphur
12 batteries tend to put the tandem of the one
13 plant, and put power back out onto the grid at
14 full capacity for seven hours and basically
15 increase the capacity factor for the given
16 amount of installed capacity. So we're
17 working through these issues to try and
18 understand at this point how much is out
19 there, what services are going to be and is
20 this the time to sort of get ahead of the
21 curve and - or are we still internally
22 deliberating as to how we're going to address

1 those issues.

2 MR. MELENDEZ: I have a couple of
3 other comments. Basically are you keeping
4 track of NRs and ERs, network resources and
5 energy-only resources? A network resource can
6 sell capacity which is another market that's
7 out there and I think that information would
8 be useful to the industry.

9 MR. STONE: Well, and we collected
10 in the context of by fuel type. So if you
11 were to take wind, solar, those right now are
12 energy-only. I think the bigger question is
13 going to be particularly as battery storage
14 comes into play and the multi - facilities,
15 thermal storage for solar, do they start to
16 get capacity accreditation? NERC does have a
17 formulation where for wind that you provide
18 some of the barriers around the capacity
19 credit for variable generation. So in the
20 sense that we tabulate by fuel type and really
21 by renewables we keep track of it that way.
22 We're not asking at this point on our surveys

1 how much of the credit actually comes in on
2 the 411 in aggregate for the regions that have
3 data on the 411.

4 MR. MELENDEZ: I guess one comment
5 on the 5- to 10-year horizon. I was on a team
6 that visited with PJM, the plant for
7 interconnection, the nuclear plant at Calvert
8 Cliffs. This is all public information. One
9 of the interesting things there was PJM at the
10 time only had a 5-year planning horizon. They
11 were really one of the first nukes to submit
12 for an interconnection request, PJM, and
13 through our conversation it came out that they
14 needed to expand their planning horizon to
15 accommodate nuclear. So I'm glad to see that
16 that's in there. I think it's very
17 appropriate.

18 And one question on Slide 8. Why
19 do you - when you report the data, do you
20 report the data by market? Because one of the
21 frustrating situations on our end, at least on
22 the industry end, is that we get the data, a

1 NERC reliability footprint and not a market
2 footprint. And a lot of these RTO/ICOs are
3 becoming - they're becoming responsible for
4 the regional planning aspect of things. So I
5 was just wondering if you could at least
6 report on a market region versus on a NERC
7 region. It would be useful.

8 MR. STONE: I guess the simple
9 answer to that question is much of the data,
10 certainly wholesale transactions, because we
11 are precluded, or part of our approval process
12 is to ensure that there's no imputation data,
13 at least with respect to public utilities and
14 cooperatives and municipals that are in -
15 cooperatives that are in ISOs. Much of that
16 data is collected by NERC. So if we were to
17 go in and seek all the power data from an ISO,
18 while that may be a different respondent, the
19 transactional data itself is actually being
20 collected by the NERC. For most of the
21 generation and transmission cooperatives that
22 are RUM borrowers, they report to RUS, so

1 again we're getting imputation data, albeit
2 it's not in the market form that you want.
3 The only other thing is to the extent we would
4 collaborate and collect data, and budget
5 constraints play a role in our ability to take
6 that data, analyze it, vet it, before we'd be
7 able to put it into the market format. That
8 was something our office was granted the
9 resources to be able to perform.

10 MR. MELENDEZ: And just the last
11 point is on Region 9 your list of
12 stakeholders. I just wanted to - a data
13 vendor was trying to get us to submit comments
14 on a change that EIA requested to survey data,
15 or to some of their forms, and I just thought
16 that you may want to include third party data
17 providers in this list of stakeholders.

18 MR. STONE: Yes, I can understand
19 what their motivation is and they're certainly
20 free to comment.

21 MR. MELENDEZ: Well, what they do
22 - it just seemed like a process. What they do

1 is they go contact all their clients, right,
2 and then their clients then submit, you know,
3 they make them aware that this is data that's
4 no longer made and no longer being collected,
5 and they disseminate that to their customers,
6 and then the customers submit. So just to
7 smooth out your process, if you were able to
8 just go and talk to them also I think you
9 might get a smoother ride.

10 MR. STONE: I agree with that.
11 There's a second element to that, is that
12 there are a number of organizations out there,
13 vendors that collect the information that are
14 sanctioned by the FERC because they enter into
15 agreements with say power marketeers where in
16 confidence contract data is provided and those
17 contracts are used for appendices, and are
18 actually - those vendors are basically given
19 pre-grant approval including also power
20 marketing contracts and any adjustments
21 reasonable. So that's sort of the basis. In
22 many instances there's obviously compensation

1 going back to the limited disclosure that the
2 information. Respondents aren't identified to
3 the public, but it's warehoused by individual
4 entities who are in the business to collect
5 money and get a royalty so to speak for having
6 to pay to use their contract.

7 MR. MELENDEZ: It was just a
8 suggestion.

9 MR. STONE: No, I understand. I
10 mean, you know, and there are, you know,
11 people are free to use our data and there are
12 firms out there that have developed some
13 imaginative tools both collecting with our
14 data as well as data from other federal
15 agencies, the RUS to the extent they get their
16 data on electric cooperatives, and doing the
17 things that you're suggesting, actually going
18 out and actually acquiring the data under some
19 degree of confidentiality before they make it
20 available to the public. So yes, they've got
21 some greater insight, I agree with that. They
22 also have a different motivation as well, an

1 economic motivation that for us to go out and
2 get things that, you know, people out in the
3 market want. And there's a natural tension
4 there because people - the players in the
5 market don't want to provide a lot of this
6 information, and that all gets worked through
7 in our process in the Federal Register. You
8 know, is it undermining current transactions
9 in the wholesale or retail competitive markets
10 if for instance were we to put something other
11 than average revenue data at the state level
12 saying - that something more than transaction-
13 specific and saying RSO or sub-region of RSO
14 or something like that. People get a little
15 bit concerned about that, how much - it's the
16 tension of how much should be out there for
17 price discovery versus how much the people who
18 are actually selling this stuff don't want to
19 have it discovered.

20 DR. BLAIR: Thank you. Steve is
21 also a discussant.

22 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Ed. And

1 I'm glad that convention - sort of this is
2 more of a presentation than something you need
3 a lot of comments on. Because when I looked
4 at it I really sort of didn't see something
5 that was looking for comments, so I really
6 only have a few. And one of them is I think
7 actually this is an important time to get
8 ahead of the curve when we're looking at the
9 electricity markets because we're seeing an
10 unprecedented push of new technology through
11 legislation, and most of that is because of
12 new ways or different ways of generating
13 electricity, and it's going to be - if you're
14 not ahead of the curve this year it will be
15 easy to be behind the curve next year. So I
16 think that's really important.

17 And so I would encourage you in
18 that direction. And one of the things that is
19 unclear to me, and I have to admit some lack
20 of familiarity with the forms in their current
21 format, is to what extent you're capable of
22 distinguishing between let's say purchased

1 electricity under what are now called
2 renewable electricity standards instead of
3 regional portfolio standards, versus what we
4 might call distributed generation.

5 MR. STONE: On the Form 861 we
6 collect information on distributed and
7 disbursed generation, how much is on the
8 meter, how much that meter is going to run.
9 This cycle one of the things that we are
10 contemplating changing is for that generation
11 behind the meter to have it broken out by fuel
12 type so we know how much is renewable, how
13 much is microturbines using natural gas, how
14 much is solar, wind.

15 MR. BROWN: I think that is
16 important because if you look out west, you
17 know, you go to like Arizona State University
18 they have solar photovoltaics sitting on the
19 roofs of all the parking lots at the
20 university and they're selling electricity to
21 APS. And that's I think very different than
22 Apple Computer in the Bay Area having a diesel

1 power plant that they're going to switch on if
2 the grid goes down. I think these are very,
3 very different things.

4 MR. STONE: And we are seeking -
5 this time around we will be proposing, we
6 anticipate, requirements. Respondents did
7 provide that data at that level as expected,
8 but comment -

9 MR. BROWN: And also I guess for
10 this distributed - what I'll call distributed
11 generation capacity which I will distinguish
12 from let's say stuff purchased under renewable
13 portfolio standards, are you going to be
14 collecting that kind of information too, or
15 only to the extent that the utilities are
16 actually making use of it?

17 MR. STONE: We are going to be -
18 we're having internal discussions now on
19 looking at collecting RPS data in terms of
20 what the components of the utilities
21 compliance with RPS. How much of the RPS
22 renewable capacity that they purchased, how

1 much of it is only that they build themselves.
2 How much of it are they meeting the state
3 requirement by using renewable energy
4 certificates. So they're not necessarily
5 selling green power, but somebody else is
6 because they've entered into a financial
7 transaction under a state program that allows
8 them to say, okay, you've brought green power
9 that's generated - and so we'll be, we're
10 looking at developing construction questions,
11 an element that can conform itself in the 861.
12 We'd seek to capture that.

13 MR. BROWN: But to distribute
14 generation that's not renewable and may be
15 coming from diesel or natural gas, I think one
16 thing that would be important to know is
17 whether an EPA regulator is going to operate
18 the power plant there. Because some of these
19 power plants sitting in Los Angeles don't meet
20 clean air standards, but they could be turned
21 on if there was some sort of power emergency.
22 I think it's also - the metering may be

1 important because if you don't have time of
2 day metering, or time of year metering, some
3 of this distributed generation may not be
4 turned off because if you can't sort of sell
5 it when there's really a shortage of power to
6 get a premium price, that distributed
7 generation is probably less potentially useful
8 to the grid.

9 MR. STONE: Well, you know, on the
10 metering side we do now collect data on a
11 number of customers that have AMI and AMR, and
12 the way the question is worded that the more
13 intelligent AMI users do not necessarily use
14 in that capacity because they clearly don't
15 necessarily have the -

16 MR. BROWN: Time of day tariffs.

17 MR. STONE: - time of day tariffs
18 to take advantage of it. But over time so
19 will we. We're collecting data on that. I
20 would point out that as a general matter we
21 are collecting that data and elements of it
22 right now. The statutory authority survey was

1 done on that. It's done by the FERC. They do
2 a survey every other year and report to
3 Congress annually. One year is sort of on a
4 policy basis and the next year a report based
5 on the most recent survey that they've
6 conducted. But we are in consultation with
7 them in terms of providing some of the
8 metering data that we collect, and they then
9 have additional information that they've put
10 together to show what the status is, the
11 progress of advanced metering technologies are
12 and how the distribution can also power
13 operations.

14 MR. BROWN: Then one last comment
15 or question would be I don't know that it's
16 going to happen, but a lot of people are
17 talking about there being a transition to this
18 kind of nationally integrated grid, getting
19 away from NERCs, not necessarily for the
20 purposes of planning, but for the purposes of
21 generating electricity in places like North
22 Dakota and moving it to Chicago. And I'm

1 wondering to what extent the current set of
2 forms would be able to create a transition to
3 collecting the data looking forward to the
4 next 20 years if such technology emerges.

5 MR. STONE: Well, right now we had
6 a form that for budget reasons that did
7 collect some transmission data from in fact -
8 from government-owned entities. In fact, two
9 of the entities that received considerable
10 funding in the stimulus bill. Because of
11 budget constraints that form was suspended.
12 We're hoping that at some point in time we'll
13 have sufficient budget authority to possibly
14 resume that data collection. But it's
15 something we're certainly aware of, and doing
16 the best we can to deal with it in the budget
17 plan.

18 MR. BROWN: Okay. Those are all
19 my questions.

20 DR. BLAIR: Ed?

21 MR. KOKKELENBERG: I have a couple
22 of comments here. First of all, flywheels in

1 one sense aren't any different than coal piles
2 so you're looking at a method of storing the
3 energy as opposed to generating the energy.
4 So capacitors, pump storage, compressed air
5 storage, these are all into the storing as
6 opposed to the generating. So if you're
7 collecting power supply data at the generating
8 level, then you might have to have separate
9 ways of looking at this energy storage thing
10 and include coal piles.

11 That comes to this whole idea of
12 dynamic smoothing, and that I understand,
13 particularly in short time spans you want to
14 be able to smooth production, smooth
15 consumption and have this storage in my
16 flywheel as it were. And I would suggest you
17 look at the airlines who go into dynamic road
18 models and pricing models which are the reason
19 that if 20 of us got on an airplane today to
20 go from here to New York City, we'd have 40
21 different prices for that flight. They're
22 really good at doing that, and you might want

1 to check into how they model this dynamic
2 smoothing thing.

3 MR. STONE: The tariffs that have
4 been earning in the centralized wholesale
5 markets where there's - they span multiple
6 states, multiple utilities and generations
7 where the services are unbundled so regulation
8 is an unbundled generation-related ancillary
9 service that's required to be purchased,
10 potential purchase and transmission service.
11 The pricing for a flywheel providing
12 regulation service, it follows exactly
13 conceptually the model that you're talking
14 about. They usually refer to it as location-
15 based margin of cost.

16 MR. KOKKELENBERG: So a good idea
17 two years from now. Okay. The second thing
18 that, and this is just a longer term one, if
19 we're now going to re-regulate the financial
20 industry, are we going to re-regulate sectors
21 of electricity and energy industry? Nancy
22 just reacted to that quite a bit, and I don't

1 know, but I would think this current
2 Administration might feel that that's
3 necessary. That goes beyond the ken of your
4 work at this point, but it is something I
5 think that in long-term, because you've
6 mentioned deregulation at the state level and
7 so forth, and those things 10 years out might
8 be something you have to think about.

9 MR. STONE: I can give you two
10 comments on that. The President has just
11 appointed John Wellinghoff as chairman of the
12 FERC managing department, and I would urge you
13 to go on the FERC's website. He just
14 expressed his views on competition and I'll
15 let those speak for themselves.

16 MR. KOKKELENBERG: Well, what are
17 they basically?

18 MR. STONE: He's pro competition.

19 MR. KOKKELENBERG: More
20 competition. Wait till Congress looks at it.

21 MR. STONE: Well, you know, the
22 second element of that on the retail side some

1 states are re-regulating. Virginia repealed
2 their deregulation status, Maryland is
3 considering a bill now, Delaware has reversed
4 it, Ohio has reversed it. The issue that
5 you're dealing with where the original
6 deregulation bills resulted in divestiture is
7 how do you put Humpty Dumpty back together
8 again into a cost of these regulations. And
9 if you look at the bills that have been passed
10 for instance in Illinois, they have created a
11 state agency that will be the buyer for the
12 customers from all the utilities that have
13 more than 100,000 customers, and it will be
14 done in the wholesale market on a competitive
15 solicitation basis, so it is still going to be
16 - the retail component of generation is still
17 going to be market-based which is one of the
18 reasons why we want to make that modification
19 in the form.

20 MR. KOKKELENBERG: The third point
21 I want to make is that the terms of your
22 potential stakeholders, I think in a sense

1 that you might have misinterpreted what Izzy
2 was saying here. These are stakeholders who
3 are people who are interested in the product
4 that you're going to deliver ultimately and
5 the changes that you are suggesting to be
6 made, at least that's the way I understood it.
7 And if that's the case, then the addition of
8 those people that he suggested is certainly I
9 think well within it. It's certainly not
10 screwing up competition. And I would add that
11 you should probably throw Congress in there as
12 well as some of the large financial firms that
13 have big energy sector units. Now, those may
14 have changed so much in the last few years
15 that they don't exist, but there were banks
16 that used to really follow energy or brokerage
17 houses.

18 And finally I would say that I
19 suspect that perfect is the enemy of efficient
20 here in terms of taking two and a half years
21 to get a change in the forms through this
22 whole process and out, the end result. And

1 yes, there are all these steps. I don't know
2 if you've done a critical path on these steps,
3 but the bottom line is that if you really need
4 to make changes, why does it take two and a
5 half years to get the change done? This is
6 appalling. So on that note I step back.

7 DR. BLAIR: Mike and Steve, if you
8 still have something? Since we're running
9 late on the public comment, let me just ask
10 this. Is there any member of the public who
11 wished to make comment at scheduled time?

12 (No response.)

13 DR. BLAIR: All right.

14 DR. TOMAN: Do I need to do
15 something with this or is it on?

16 MS. BROWN: Just speak loud
17 because they're not working real well.

18 DR. TOMAN: Okay. I'm also one of
19 the folks who doesn't know the details in
20 these forms, so these may be naive questions
21 but so be it. Do you have the ability in the
22 forms now or could it be easily introduced to

1 measure whether a utility is essentially
2 obligated to run that conservation or
3 efficiency program, the displaced demand, the
4 megawatts, pardon the term?

5 MR. STONE: On the metering that's
6 done under state-approved rate schedules. We
7 ask them to provide an estimate of how many
8 megawatts of generation that they've afforded,
9 how the load is.

10 DR. TOMAN: I understand that, but
11 I'm thinking of the case which could become -
12 could be the way that the utility industry is
13 regulated as opposed to the more traditional
14 utility regulation. The utility is told go
15 out and install compact fluorescent bulbs in
16 all of your, you know, customers'
17 establishments.

18 MR. STONE: Demands like that -

19 DR. TOMAN: Yes, well, ESM.

20 MR. STONE: Well, I mean we
21 collect data on DSM on kilowatts, kilowatt
22 hours achieved incrementally cumulatively

1 under various programs and you know, at this
2 point say what, you know, is it, what the
3 nature -

4 DR. TOMAN: No, no, I understand.

5 But you are measuring -

6 MR. STONE: Yes, we are.

7 DR. TOMAN: Okay.

8 MR. STONE: And the FERC is also
9 doing it at the wholesale level on what they
10 refer to as demand response. And a lot of
11 what historically has been done at the retail
12 level is now being aggregated from individual
13 customers to be bid into the wholesale market
14 to provide some of these services. So right
15 now the FERC is - the wholesale level is
16 collecting it.

17 DR. TOMAN: I think it was that
18 last part I didn't know. I thought maybe
19 these things were only being recorded in
20 individual states. The other thing I wanted
21 to ask is you mentioned a couple of times the
22 competitive pricing, including your example in

1 Illinois. Does anybody keep track of how many
2 bidders there were in these different
3 solicitations?

4 MR. STONE: The state commissions
5 have regulations under which they - the
6 solicitations they've done under their
7 control.

8 DR. TOMAN: Right. So you don't
9 directly -

10 MR. STONE: We don't directly
11 control it. The regional trade - they
12 generally disclose how many bidders there are.
13 In fact, Maryland has terminated because they
14 didn't have any bidders in their solicitation.

15 DR. TOMAN: That was one of the
16 reasons I was asking. I know these are state
17 functions, but I wondered if there was any way
18 that as part of a more comprehensive EIA
19 measurement assessment of what's going on in
20 electricity whether there would be an ability
21 to pull together information to give insight
22 about how much activity there is in these

1 markets.

2 MR. STONE: That's a question that
3 we can certainly entertain.

4 DR. BLAIR: Is that it? Other
5 comments, questions? Well, at this time we'll
6 formally ask if there are any public comments.

7 (No response.)

8 DR. BLAIR: Hearing none I believe
9 we're adjourned. Have a good day.

10 (Whereupon, the above-entitled
11 matter was adjourned for the day at 4:50 p.m.)

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A				
abandon 206:17	46:17	250:6 277:10	92:1 171:10	70:2 72:14 236:19
aberrant 8:20	account 28:4 130:4	added 25:6 180:4	173:18 186:12	agencies 41:10,14
ability 206:20	191:21 211:17	adding 123:1,11	202:2 203:7,10	47:10 64:17 65:8
233:4 241:20	238:8 249:13	144:9 145:15,15	204:2,18 205:8,22	69:13 70:1,2
243:14 254:14	accounts 27:8 82:5	189:21 234:6	206:6,7,10 207:4	200:20 202:12
262:5 278:21	accreditation	addition 41:11 91:8	207:4,10 209:5	264:15
281:20	259:16	277:7	217:1,3 227:20	agency 31:8 32:6
able 40:4,6 44:22	accredited 168:2	additional 4:21 5:9	228:21 263:20	42:11 43:14 67:11
46:16 56:1 60:16	accumulating	5:17 63:15 128:2	ADM 107:9	87:15,18 103:17
82:9 89:12 91:6	215:18	145:17 149:21	administer 47:16	129:2 225:22
92:4 104:2 140:4	accuracy 27:13,14	162:11,22 168:16	Administration 1:5	237:8 250:21
151:17 167:11	66:3	271:9	6:18 11:9 23:4	252:11 255:4
168:22 170:11	achieved 279:22	Additions 130:22	221:8 233:15	276:11
175:6 197:7 234:4	acknowledge 51:7	address 17:18 28:6	275:2	agency's 15:20
234:5 251:21	acquiring 264:18	65:6 68:11 123:22	administrative	agency-wide 30:20
254:19 262:7,9	acronyms 198:4	130:18 142:14	7:16 229:5	31:7
263:7 272:2	ACS 205:18 212:1	150:7 202:22	administrator 2:14	agenda 5:2 19:21
273:14	213:5,9,9,12,16	223:20 230:12	4:5 6:16 9:18	36:18 55:5 72:15
above-entitled	213:20 214:20	237:18 239:22	10:11	155:19,21
282:10	215:4,8,20 216:21	253:7 258:22	admiration 58:11	agendas 36:3 55:19
absence 19:22	217:2,18 218:2,5	addressed 20:14	admit 12:8,16	aggregate 134:12
129:7	224:19 225:12,16	137:20 147:11	183:4 187:3	260:2
absolutely 26:15	226:9,22 228:15	201:12	266:19	aggregated 90:7
34:16 40:6 57:5	229:21 230:11	addresses 125:9	adopted 244:2	142:8,11 150:21
153:12	231:3 235:18	206:21 230:11	ADRIAN 2:12	280:12
abstracts 48:13,18	act 17:7 23:14	257:2	advance 70:11	aggregation 136:12
49:1	34:18 83:9,12	addressing 137:1	76:10 227:16	ago 23:5 24:11
academia 7:14	84:6,7 90:15 94:2	246:17	advanced 67:8	34:17 51:16 53:14
academic 9:18 54:8	100:18 102:4,19	adjourn 5:22 19:14	232:9 271:11	60:1 66:18 125:11
Academies 58:22	168:9 238:10	20:10	advantage 270:18	161:13 179:11
Academy 13:20	256:19	adjourned 282:9	advantageous	208:8,17 231:4
22:16	active 48:4 58:1	282:11	164:5	agree 55:14 214:8
accept 8:19	66:11	adjust 202:18	advantages 81:10	263:10 264:21
accepted 47:14	activities 39:4 41:4	203:2,3,8,18	166:15 213:7,8	agreed 30:19 97:12
access 31:2 35:8	63:16 68:9	207:17,19	advice 17:4,6,7	agreements 263:15
166:5,16	activity 39:15	adjusted 161:3	25:2 52:16 53:6	Agriculture 85:18
accessed 166:3	91:15,15 98:1,13	204:4,8	67:10 74:19 78:10	ahead 6:4 12:7 51:6
accessibility 207:20	133:21 281:22	adjusting 135:4	177:21 181:17	71:14 78:3,18
209:2	actual 27:15 81:22	204:13	advised 47:20	89:21 127:21
accommodate	122:22 171:14	adjustment 91:14	advisory 19:11,21	128:5 133:16
257:13 260:15	177:22 244:6	158:18 187:17	41:17,18,22 47:21	164:8 233:6
accommodation	ad 66:10 71:1,1	203:19 204:3,11	257:1	258:20 266:8,14
244:8	200:9	206:4 207:13,16	AEO 218:2,11	air 269:20 273:4
accommodations	adapts 130:4	209:18 211:18,22	affect 207:21 210:9	airfare 54:10
36:2	add 23:1 25:8,14	212:12 228:14	afforded 279:8	airlines 273:17
accomplished	35:4 99:22 100:1	245:20	afternoon 17:13	airplane 273:19
	108:3 132:14	adjustments 91:19	46:16 63:22 64:4	Al 45:3

Alaskan 160:12	AMR 270:11	223:12	appointments 44:14	Army 9:8 78:11
albeit 262:1	analyses 83:19	answers 93:12	appreciate 19:6	arrangements 36:3
alert 169:16	237:6	109:6 113:1	156:5 232:2	arranges 141:12
Alethea 2:17 16:15	analysis 2:6 15:8	128:14 129:18	appreciated 27:1	Arthur 22:2
17:19 35:17,17	27:4 38:15 52:17	144:18 199:18	approach 97:15	artifact 220:11
36:5,11,22 42:4	135:17,18 137:11	222:10	104:13 122:10	ASA 1:1 3:22 4:2,9
60:17 66:15 67:2	138:4 139:19	ANTHONY 3:5	144:2,4,13 145:4	4:10,11,16,17,19
155:8	147:8 198:13	anticipate 250:4	167:4 176:7	4:22 5:4,8,13,15
ALEX 3:15	208:1 230:13	268:6	223:21 240:6	15:21 17:1,3,20
Alexandria 69:21	234:1	antiquated 176:12	approaches 130:18	17:22 36:2,20
align 213:10	analyst 236:20	anxious 95:4	150:7 151:11	37:14,19 38:3
allow 16:21 138:18	analysts 92:18	anybody 30:22	184:18	39:6,22 40:13,16
232:20	145:21	33:11 45:6 104:16	appropriate 17:8	41:9,17 42:9,18
allowed 62:13	analyze 92:22	113:12 116:21	32:8,9,11 38:8	43:5,8,11,19,20
allows 116:18	146:18 234:5	154:11,14 155:5	53:19 60:21	44:2,5,11,13 46:4
126:19 269:7	262:6	223:21 281:1	254:18 255:9	47:11 64:7 65:14
alluded 249:22	analyzing 147:15	anymore 93:17	260:17	66:14 68:15,22
all-housing 212:6	150:11	111:20 172:21	appropriations	70:20 74:7,8,11
alphabet 212:2	Ancient 51:17	anytime 88:4	10:15	74:13,14,18 76:15
Alternate 2:13 4:14	ancillary 256:5,6	anyway 11:22	approval 261:11	77:14
16:4	274:8	129:15 162:6	263:19	ASA's 40:22
alternative 15:10	Andrew 26:5	apartment 203:1	approve 19:20	aside 17:11
25:1,15 111:19	Andy 2:21 22:14	apologies 11:22	approved 18:8	asked 18:16,20
153:2,3 223:2	26:9	apologize 139:13	257:6	22:5 37:13 45:22
236:22	Angeles 269:19	154:22 155:1	April 1:8 32:20	46:5 47:8 54:21
alternatives 31:2	animal 79:13	Appalachia 141:22	APS 267:21	91:22 93:16 94:15
55:1	announce 12:18	142:1	AR 135:5 149:3,11	94:21 95:18 97:4
amazing 36:5 62:13	annual 85:12 89:21	appalling 278:6	ARbitrary 210:4	97:17 113:8 149:2
ambiguity 248:11	90:11 132:16	appeal 200:12	archive 10:22	185:18 223:7
American 1:1	134:19 153:1	appear 38:21 42:8	Archives 15:21	225:11 229:11
14:17 56:5 198:20	160:19,19 174:16	138:13	area 24:19 82:3	255:4
198:22 199:1	218:19 225:21	appears 29:4 61:19	102:16 141:7	asking 18:18 49:14
205:9,18 207:13	239:6 240:22	160:17	148:2 167:18	82:14 93:5 174:13
209:8,16 210:17	241:11 246:14	appendices 201:6	168:5 181:20	246:2 259:22
211:21 212:18,19	annually 205:19	263:17	201:10 224:13,14	281:16
214:15,20 215:6,7	271:3	Applause 36:12	232:5 233:1	aspect 152:14
248:8	anomaly 147:10	127:17	267:22	225:16 261:4
America's 59:1,3	answer 46:2 49:7	Apple 267:22	areas 58:9 63:14	assemble 155:12
AMI 270:11,13	89:3 90:14 95:8	appliance 218:13	94:9 176:14	assertion 139:6
amount 87:19,20	108:6 111:3 127:9	232:13	199:10 228:17	assess 174:9
87:21 88:2 92:10	132:14 182:13	applications 47:14	argue 131:8	assessing 28:2
129:15 157:15	199:20 219:18	applied 186:13	arguing 216:4	247:18
161:10 171:1	223:9 228:19	211:21	argument 62:22	assessment 144:5
187:8 242:5	229:11 255:12	apply 80:19 176:11	183:16 222:1	145:20 206:3
258:16	261:9	210:2	Arizona 267:17	221:4 257:7
amounts 93:14	answered 188:21	appointed 275:11	Arkansas 176:15	281:19
98:22	answering 191:5	appointee 6:19		assignments 9:19

assist 17:21	28:2 35:1 40:15	109:1 158:9 162:2	186:14 195:3	186:10
assistance 42:11	52:4 66:14 77:19	backing 213:20	242:15 258:14	benchmarks
Assistant 235:4	110:3 159:19	214:2	259:3 263:18	200:10 203:22
associated 96:7	169:10 204:9,21	bad 10:18 11:2	275:17	214:1
97:16 157:19	224:10 258:4	40:20 57:8 111:3	basics 200:7 201:5	benchmark-driven
201:4	264:20	179:6 199:19	basis 34:21 60:11	185:10
association 1:1	Avenue 1:11 154:3	badges 154:10	84:1 117:19	beneficiating
14:17 38:3 41:6	average 95:14,21	balance 91:10	128:20 186:13	141:10
43:10 56:5 68:17	97:19 114:11	157:18,21 162:18	196:21 239:1	benefit 62:3 72:18
69:2 71:3	208:10 265:11	245:20 251:1	246:4 252:16	150:6 234:4
associations 37:21	averages 208:6	252:4	263:21 271:4	benefits 254:3
41:19	avoided 9:2 242:2	balances 158:16	276:15	BERRY 2:4
assume 49:4 77:18	aware 54:13 93:5	159:19	batch 101:11	best 63:18 67:17
81:1 101:4 123:5	243:12 256:17	balancing 168:9	batteries 258:9,12	127:10 165:4
153:18 190:3	257:3 263:3	Baltimore 48:10	battery 256:8	180:5 185:1 224:1
assumes 190:5	272:15	banks 277:15	258:10 259:13	224:13 272:16
assuming 67:14	awful 53:5	bar 233:17	Bay 267:22	bet 208:10
187:13 191:14	awhile 31:19 32:5	Barb 14:4 128:6	bearings 78:19	better 91:4,7
assumption 73:19	109:14 126:8	130:21	beat 184:6	100:14 114:3
137:19 193:11	131:22	Barbara 1:15 2:22	beauties 52:17	116:10 118:1
assumptions 28:5	a.m 1:10 6:2 78:1,2	4:18	becoming 261:3,3	127:6 138:5,5
83:6 106:2 137:18	127:19,20	barely 218:6	beg 11:2,21	155:5 162:16
assurance 239:2		Barnett 192:7	began 68:6 169:10	163:11 164:17,19
attempt 11:15	B	barrier 121:15	169:14 170:1	181:2,4 191:7
96:14	B 80:3 243:22	barriers 121:15,19	175:13 253:16	197:7 213:10,13
attempts 158:11	back 9:15 22:9,15	121:20 259:18	beginning 162:16	226:3 233:20
attend 19:13 25:9	23:9 36:14 42:13	base 166:9 202:20	169:17,22 196:18	243:7,8 245:3
26:1	42:14,16 50:15	203:3,8 231:3	240:8	246:6
attendees 17:16	52:18 55:1 63:11	based 100:2 126:20	begins 169:9	between-meeting
attention 81:5	65:19 68:10,13	146:19 149:18	181:16 192:18	46:18
154:14 161:19	73:6,16 84:22	157:21 160:1,13	behaved 197:10	beyond 68:12
165:18 192:1	85:14 90:5 106:10	184:3 186:20	behavior 190:8	107:18 231:15
attributed 8:18	120:13 161:5	189:14 190:11	193:17	275:3
audience 15:1	162:1 168:11,13	193:15 194:7	behavioral 62:20	bias 183:4 199:16
18:20 49:12 122:1	169:1 170:12	196:8 243:6 254:7	75:14 193:16	199:18 217:7,11
125:14	172:4,5,13 177:17	255:7 271:4	believe 22:2 24:12	223:18,19
audit 240:9	186:21 187:16	274:15	26:4 35:20 103:15	biased 211:19
augmented 168:5	190:2,20 194:6	bases 211:16	161:1 172:19	bid 280:13
August 56:8	216:16 231:15	basic 17:10 134:9	179:4 199:13	bidders 281:2,12
authority 270:22	234:12 236:6	basically 20:14	215:3 239:16	281:14
272:13	242:2,18 247:15	23:17 67:8 79:12	255:9 282:8	big 31:16 57:10
authorized 19:13	250:16 251:6	80:2 89:14 90:8	believed 10:3	82:4 103:17 104:2
automatic 146:2	254:10 255:17	90:21 97:1 98:22	benchmark 185:17	104:3 107:12
automatically	256:15 258:1,7,13	101:4 105:15,22	198:21 200:3,7	108:4,15,16
166:7,9	264:1 276:7 278:6	128:15 139:20	215:4 216:19	126:10 131:9,12
auxiliary 201:2	background 23:21	145:11 146:16	217:6	132:14 143:4,15
available 27:16	24:3 62:9 78:22	160:18 185:22	benchmarking	159:20 163:15

170:9,20 171:20 172:9 193:12 195:7 197:8 212:22 227:6 255:20 277:13 bigger 19:8 139:7 139:21 181:3 207:3,4 259:12 biggest 193:13 bill 22:3 246:19 272:10 276:3 billing 244:3,7 billion 133:8 billions 170:16 213:4 233:11,12 bills 58:13 276:6,9 Bin 3:17 16:13 Bingaman-Spector 58:17 bio 198:10 biodiesel 4:13,17 78:5,16,22 79:8,9 79:12,19 80:4,6,8 80:10,19 81:1,4,9 81:12,15,17,19 82:1,12,13,20 83:5,10 84:11,13 84:17 86:9,14 87:2,15 91:11 92:13,16,19 94:5 94:18 96:6,7,12 96:15,20 98:1,3,3 98:9,13,20 99:9 99:13,17 100:7 101:3,6,10,12,15 101:22 102:7,22 103:16 104:14 107:10 108:11 112:9,20 113:13 113:21 115:7,8,11 115:17 116:2 119:8,10 122:11 123:13 124:4,10 125:2,18,20 126:1 128:6,9,14,16 131:10 132:21 133:1,9 150:2	152:10 biofuel 108:18 biofuels 29:8 82:17 biomass 82:19 100:1 biomass-based 98:19 bio-diesel 32:22 births 87:12 88:7 bit 12:16 20:20 21:8 23:5 24:5 36:17 37:3,13 38:11 39:10 41:8 43:6 47:8 49:20 54:2,4 75:3 77:16 79:2 88:20 90:17 91:20 95:6 100:13 103:6 105:5,18 111:7,8,18 116:5 144:3 149:22 155:4 156:3,6,22 158:8 160:4,15 162:1 166:10 169:5,18 170:6 172:7,8 173:4 174:12 183:12 187:9 190:7 211:5 217:10 220:2 228:2 230:17 234:7 236:12 242:4 245:10 265:15 274:22 BJS 41:16 47:12,16 47:20 67:12 black 212:21 230:5 Blackberry 37:9 Blair 1:12,14 4:2 4:22 6:3 12:3,7,12 12:15 13:16,16 14:21 16:17,21 17:9 18:3,11 19:19 36:16 51:6 53:22 54:15 59:13 62:4 64:2 67:18 70:13 71:4,12,13 73:14,15,22 77:13 78:3 108:19,19	109:7,11 110:13 113:2,2 115:3 116:9,9 117:7 118:2 119:13,13 119:18 122:3 123:14 125:13 126:10,10 127:21 130:20 131:2,6,13 133:16 139:14,14 144:21 145:5 146:1,13 149:15 150:19,20 152:3 152:17 153:8,12 153:15 155:19 178:12 181:11 182:2 194:19 197:11 219:14 230:20 231:21 235:10 236:4,17 255:14 265:20 272:20 278:7,13 282:4,8 blend 80:4,5 95:15 95:21 96:8 97:9 97:18,19 98:4 103:19 112:17 114:16 blended 79:21 80:1 80:15 83:15 95:3 95:18 98:22 99:10 99:17 102:21 103:16,20 104:14 110:20 112:4 113:6,17,19,22 114:13 115:8 124:15 128:17 blender 97:2 blenders 96:20 98:16,17 blending 79:9 80:17,18 95:10,13 96:17 98:1 99:3 102:22 103:6,8,13 104:6 113:3,4 119:20 122:14 129:13 blends 81:11	114:11,12,15 129:12,17 Bloomberg 159:6 BLS 65:5 70:4 blue 212:20 Blumberg 2:4 29:17 board 39:6 41:2 44:7,10 45:16,17 55:10 68:20 69:7 69:10,11,20 108:11 board's 54:20 Bob 2:20 224:12 bodies 38:19 Bodman 257:1 bond 135:16 Book 69:12 boost 80:16 borrowers 261:22 bothers 143:7 146:11 bottom 136:19 278:3 bound 183:11 Bournazian 2:5 15:11,11 30:9 BOWERS 2:5 box 173:13 boy 143:10 bracket 58:16 bracketing 58:11 Bradsher-Freder... 16:8,9 24:13 brainstorm 49:19 brainstorming 60:20 brand 132:10,11 breach 188:9 break 17:12 77:16 77:20 184:17 197:18 236:5,6,9 breaking 77:16 167:13 breakout 4:12 128:2 BRENDA 2:8	Brian 27:19 28:1 bridge 115:14 brief 41:9 briefly 32:4 44:4 46:1 237:9 241:7 bring 50:15 60:21 62:1 63:10 73:6 222:14 bringing 49:21 69:7 brings 75:5,9 199:21 broad 40:9 74:22 broadening 39:3 broader 39:2 60:15 61:7 174:13 broadly 161:20 166:14 broken 243:18 251:19 267:11 brokerage 277:16 brought 37:9 81:4 134:10 136:4 183:17 269:8 brow 210:16 Brown 1:14 2:2 4:8 5:15 12:20 13:9 13:21,21 14:18 15:3 18:2,9 19:10 19:16 20:9 22:22 23:11 24:8 33:14 34:5 35:2,4 36:13 45:5 49:8,8 51:20 53:19 55:6 56:10 57:3 59:14 60:4 63:19 64:3 65:9 65:13 66:16 67:2 70:8,12 71:5 72:5 72:9,13 77:12 132:8 137:15 138:2 142:18 147:22 148:7,15 152:22 153:10,13 153:17 154:21 181:12,15 188:20 191:7,10,18 192:4 192:12,14 265:22
--	--	--	---	--

267:15 268:9	Buses 111:9	197:12 202:20	carry 143:12	172:19 173:22
269:13 270:16	business 24:3 43:10	203:11 267:4	cars 121:6	179:16 185:7
271:14 272:18	46:14 47:4 88:9	268:10	case 40:6 97:3	194:5 225:6
278:16	161:12 165:6,10	called 22:10 58:19	136:14 138:3	261:10 262:19
Brown's 154:21	223:22 264:4	58:19 85:10 94:2	143:2,5 146:21	272:15 277:8,9
BSA 69:14	butt 63:7	139:10,12 178:22	153:9 154:2 164:1	282:3
BTU 131:9,10	buy 96:9 103:18	195:10 206:1,2	167:16,19 174:4	certificates 269:4
BTUs 131:9 132:20	114:11 115:22	224:1,6 243:19	202:10 207:7	cetera 117:18
bubbling 169:14	127:2	253:22 267:1	222:13 231:11	221:21,21
Buck 26:5	buyer 276:11	calling 84:18	277:7 279:11	chacun 8:21
budget 61:11 233:6	buying 96:8 115:21	calls 46:19 147:1	cases 28:6	chagrin 215:18
237:12 238:5	B1 95:16	call-backs 254:16	catch-all 83:18	chain 103:14
262:4 272:6,11,13	B10 103:4	Calvert 260:7	Cate 222:14	chair 1:12,14 4:2
272:16	B100 80:9 97:8	Calvin 66:17	categories 94:16	4:22 7:11 12:9,15
budgetarily 167:10	110:17 111:12,17	canvass 30:18	176:3 177:20	15:20 19:12 42:20
budgets 162:10	112:1,20 153:4	capabilities 163:10	category 83:18	52:6 65:11 68:1
build 195:8 199:8	B2 95:16 96:9	capability 167:11	91:19 247:1	chairman 6:21
254:7 256:4 269:1	99:12 114:13,18	256:12 258:2	causality 151:8	51:16 71:16
building 1:11 57:11	115:2 126:3	capable 266:21	causing 231:20	275:11
57:12 154:5,6,7,8	B20 80:5 96:9	capacities 108:13	caution 215:21	challenge 67:15
155:10 184:3	99:12 103:4 111:9	capacitors 273:4	caveat 67:21	180:19 232:15
203:1 204:8	114:20	capacity 19:12 29:5	census 22:19 41:16	chance 20:20 21:7
built 85:4,5 88:7	B3 95:17	50:21 91:9 105:21	41:18,21 45:6	137:4 156:5
105:14 172:1	B4 95:17	106:1 137:20	47:21 74:9,10,12	change 12:13 50:20
206:16	B5 96:9 99:12	242:5 249:15	76:14 101:11	55:7 64:19,19
bulbs 279:15	114:13,20 115:2	250:6,7 251:14	119:1 201:11	86:21 88:13 101:6
bulk 98:16,17,22	B50 103:3	252:2,8 258:14,15	202:5,10 204:10	106:8,9 107:7,13
124:14 251:11	B98 103:2 110:17	258:16 259:6,16	205:20 211:12	171:10 180:6
bullet 76:17	112:15,16	259:18 268:11,22	212:5 213:11	185:10,15,16
bunch 65:15 145:7		270:14	216:1,13 219:5	194:5 210:2
145:8 173:14	C	capped 28:5	225:1,2,10,20	221:18 222:10
184:3	C 243:22	capture 100:6	226:9 227:3,6,9	224:22 227:2,5,11
bundled 140:6	calculate 29:2	101:16,17 118:18	227:17 228:4	227:13 233:13
243:21	95:21 202:19	151:17 269:12	229:19,22 231:17	262:14 277:21
burden 32:14 56:2	calculating 251:5	captured 77:4	235:15	278:5
76:7 238:10	calculation 226:5	134:16 197:9	census-level 136:9	changed 111:18
burdensome	254:9	capturing 138:6	Center 25:20 232:7	166:1 179:7,16
237:21	calculations 172:1	215:1 218:3 219:7	centralized 274:4	180:22 184:2
Bureau 47:19 48:1	calendar 85:9	carbon 28:6	certain 42:5 100:5	249:17 277:14
48:2 101:11 119:1	calibration 224:6	care 67:2 214:6	107:18 171:1	changes 28:22
202:13 216:13	California 49:3	careful 129:22	188:12 192:19	98:21 103:10
225:2,20 227:9,17	232:17,20	carefully 172:14	certainly 26:1 35:7	136:4 162:11
228:4	call 10:17 46:21	Cargill 107:10	39:11 40:5 42:15	163:22 170:11
bureaucracy 193:7	47:3 49:16 55:18	Carnegie 7:18	42:17 43:22 60:6	177:10 185:17
bureaucratic 44:20	55:22 58:16 60:20	Carol 2:4,11 16:1	61:18 69:5 102:1	194:8 222:11
Bureau's 41:21	85:6 93:20 179:2	29:17	142:19 161:18	225:4 226:20
BURNS 2:6	185:10 192:2	Carolina 48:21	163:19 164:21	240:13,15 241:8

250:4 252:22 254:17 277:5 278:4 changing 93:14 121:12 144:6 206:11 216:17 231:2 232:16 267:10 characteristics 199:22 215:16 243:6 250:7,9 252:1 charge 38:12,22 39:2,3 40:10 charged 119:19 126:13,15 charges 246:6 Charlie 176:22 chat 10:20 cheap 143:13 165:9 cheaper 76:4 check 127:11 225:6 274:1 checking 228:7 checks 89:7 Chicago 271:22 child 233:15 chime 50:22 choice 59:1 62:19 200:6 217:20 219:3 234:15 245:2,5 choices 200:4 207:21 choose 17:6 243:15 choosing 200:5 213:8 245:4 chore 78:18 chose 164:12 213:5 chosen 201:18 243:21 244:12 CHP 251:2 Chrissy 18:1 chunk 166:4 171:17,20 City 273:20 clarify 55:6 243:8	245:9 248:18 Clarissa 17:21 18:1 class 56:18 241:13 243:10 classic 223:21 classical 8:17 classifications 84:3 clean 120:8 142:16 269:20 cleans 141:1 clear 6:12 8:20 54:19 119:21 135:21 140:19 165:5 173:7 179:20 183:5 212:16 215:22 clearance 237:11 240:20 clearly 19:1 171:22 174:6 183:1 212:1 219:4 245:18 257:19 270:14 Cleveland 14:20 clever 59:10 clicking 166:5 clients 263:1,2 Cliffs 260:8 Climate 59:1 close 9:17 18:12 89:10 109:16 125:4 143:10,14 159:3 186:3 191:5 212:8 closely 41:12,13,15 124:21 closer 143:3 183:18 226:2 closest 19:1 CNEAF 2:13,14,17 2:19 3:5,9 4:14 5:11 coal 2:13 4:14,19 15:9 16:4 133:20 133:21,22 136:6,6 136:6,11 138:21 139:2 140:7 141:15 142:21	143:3,6,9 148:5 236:22 273:1,10 Cobb 224:12 Cobble 163:7 cobbled 165:11 code 119:8 242:16 243:4 codes 247:3 coding 119:7 coefficient 142:7 142:12 146:9 151:5,18 coefficients 135:2,6 cogeneration 239:12 cognitive 222:15 Cohen 1:15 5:8 13:19,19 19:4 20:21 21:17 54:1 87:8,11,19 93:2,6 104:18 105:1 117:14,14 121:5 143:20 145:1,6 146:4,7,10 194:21 219:16,20 220:13 220:17 231:17 Cohen's 123:22 coherent 175:19 cohort 31:11 coincidence 125:19 cold 120:20 121:17 COLE 2:6 collaborate 262:4 colleagues 9:9 37:20 195:2 238:15 248:14 255:4 collect 32:9 83:10 83:12,14,20 84:4 85:8,11 90:14 91:8,9 93:21 97:15,22 98:18 101:11 103:7 109:20 111:19 122:19 126:8 152:11,19 153:4 188:17 240:22	241:15 248:5,9 262:4 263:13 264:4 267:6 270:10 271:8 272:7 279:21 collected 83:22 84:1 91:3 116:3 147:12 165:1 171:15 259:9 261:16,20 263:4 collecting 61:13 63:4 92:8 93:11 122:20 128:19 156:20,20 159:2 175:14 193:22 237:17,19 241:21 250:15 251:7 264:13 268:14,19 270:19,21 272:3 273:7 280:16 collection 5:2 162:12 174:17 175:1 176:9 239:19,20 253:17 253:22 272:14 collections 156:10 157:13 163:15 collectively 69:17 collects 97:22 122:22 237:5 College 14:3 collegial 238:1 combination 156:15 234:13 combined 239:11 251:8 combining 239:18 come 10:18 15:1 23:8 24:11 40:4 45:7 46:15 49:15 60:18 63:11 64:9 69:22 77:6 97:17 99:4 112:18 115:14 123:14 127:14 136:22 158:22 161:4 166:6,11 168:11	168:13 169:1 171:2 172:4,13 175:1 177:17 181:9 193:1 214:4 240:14 251:22 254:11 comes 39:4 45:10 49:17 69:20 89:22 95:22 184:7,14 186:21 259:14 260:1 273:11 comfort 193:2 comfortable 85:16 169:19 187:7 192:16,20 coming 24:20 25:9 52:18 100:9 106:16 112:19 117:12 125:20 148:3 158:6 162:3 168:21 171:7,10 173:12 176:9 190:2,9 191:4 192:9 194:13,16 198:17 239:5 247:5,8 269:15 commended 43:2 comment 4:22 5:19 20:4 44:4 51:5 54:19 55:13 73:15 109:20,22,22 110:11 119:14 125:14 141:19 142:6 143:21 149:16 150:20 151:1 152:6 222:7 235:14 237:14,16 238:7 240:18 253:15 254:15 260:4 262:20 268:8 271:14 278:9,11 commenting 18:17 18:19 152:19 comments 17:11 20:5 27:2 49:6 63:21 65:16 67:20
--	--	---	--	---

70:14 71:12 77:13 115:20 131:2 136:5,5 137:7 142:12 146:13 152:4,5 153:8 181:11 219:12 224:20 230:20 232:2 235:10 236:13 237:18 238:3,8 253:8 255:7,10,18 259:3 262:13 266:3,5 272:22 275:10 282:5,6 commerce 87:16 88:1 commercial 57:12 86:9 242:13 243:3 249:5 commercially 87:16 commission 189:20 238:22 252:12,13 257:11 commissions 244:20 281:4 commitment 21:15 31:8 42:22 47:2 53:11 committee 1:4,13 4:2,6,11,16,21,22 5:5,9,17 6:22 7:1 7:3,12,16 9:19 10:13 13:7,17 15:21 17:1,3,4,5 18:21 19:4,7,12 19:21 20:2,20 21:1,11,12 22:7 29:18 35:5 36:6 37:8,14 38:13 40:10,22 41:2,5 41:14,17,19 42:1 42:4,6,7,7,13,19 43:1,1,4,19 44:1,6 44:17,18,19 45:3 45:13,16 46:8 47:10,14,21 49:20	50:16 51:3,13 52:2,18 53:10,18 54:5,14 56:3,15 60:13 61:7 63:2 64:6,10,11,14 65:14,17 66:4,8,8 66:10,14 67:9 68:1,6,18 71:1,2 73:3 74:1,4,8,9,11 74:13,14,18,20 75:1,5,9 76:2,7,11 76:14 77:6,14 78:16 100:12 102:15 104:12 110:13 128:3 150:6 153:19 181:15 257:1 committees 4:9 9:1 36:20 37:13,19 38:9 39:16,19,22 40:2 41:9 42:1,17 42:18,21 43:5,8 43:12,18 44:6,9 44:12,13,19 45:14 45:15 46:6,10,12 46:19 47:9 52:10 52:13 55:16 committee's 40:12 commodities 21:6 common 31:20 32:16 66:5 117:5 communication 45:18 community 60:15 61:3 198:20,22 205:9,18 207:13 209:8,16 210:18 211:21 212:19 214:15 215:7 compact 279:15 companies 86:17 86:20 107:8 180:22 182:21 190:9 193:12,13 196:5 197:9 242:11,17,22 243:9 244:8	company-level 30:17 comparative 245:10 compare 104:2 compared 46:9 140:15,16 162:10 163:18 185:1 201:16 compares 133:10 comparing 206:5 comparison 48:16 215:6 244:13 comparisons 57:20 161:1 228:1 229:3 229:8 compatible 104:8 compelling 30:2 53:8 compensate 202:3 compensation 263:22 competing 125:7 competition 275:14 275:18,20 277:10 competitive 244:20 244:22 265:9 276:14 280:22 complaints 8:12 complete 239:18 completed 240:18 240:20 completely 187:6,7 230:3 complex 143:17 157:17 168:18 210:12 complexity 167:19 compliance 37:6 268:21 complicated 96:16 120:5 130:15 131:19 144:16 complications 130:14 comply 83:8 component 96:11	122:15 123:2 128:22 219:8 244:1,22 245:8 276:16 components 99:4 251:14 268:20 compound 187:21 comprehensive 38:15 281:18 compressed 273:4 computationally 235:2 Computer 267:22 concept 91:2 214:10,14,19,19 214:20 254:2 concepts 213:10,14 214:8 216:3 conceptually 274:13 concern 51:1,11 54:20 115:10 123:22 138:3,8 175:10,12 182:15 194:14 concerned 38:5 134:2 209:4 210:18 222:18 230:8 265:15 concerns 45:1 166:17 169:13 171:12 214:11 255:21 concludes 255:2 concrete 68:4 conditional 145:12 conditions 117:17 206:20 conducted 271:6 conducting 28:3,10 205:21 conference 24:14 25:6,17 26:16 46:19,21 55:18,22 60:20 confidence 173:6 194:12 263:16	confidential 30:10 confidentiality 237:18 239:22 264:19 confines 40:8 confirm 147:4 conform 82:18 269:11 confuse 128:13 confusing 63:6 confusion 222:17 Congratulations 12:4 Congress 132:5 163:5 271:3 275:20 277:11 congressional 131:17 congressionally 133:1 conjoined 234:14 conjunction 90:13 98:11 160:22 connect 38:1 connected 39:1 43:20 243:17 connection 45:15 consensus 30:22 253:1 consequence 43:16 consequently 139:22 conservation 279:2 consider 29:9 38:13 40:12,13 69:11 209:15 232:22 considerable 272:9 consideration 29:13 30:4 253:13 considered 53:11 74:5 considering 26:21 256:17 276:3 consistency 249:20 consistent 168:17 251:17
--	--	--	---	--

consolidated 238:19 239:15 251:11	CONTENTS 4:1 5:1	79:22 266:1	Council 248:9	213:19 214:2,19
consolidating 238:16 250:2	context 157:3,9 259:10	converging 114:14 114:17	Council's 21:1	224:18 225:1 235:17
constant 138:15 219:4	Conti 2:8 15:7,7 50:21 61:1,1 63:7 63:8	conversation 149:19 260:13	count 43:6 44:12 87:4 99:1	crank 121:6
Constellation 14:11 21:6 23:16	continually 73:9	conversion 29:14	counting 213:19	crater 197:17
constrained 112:4	continue 52:22 68:10 78:7 150:18	converting 29:10	country 9:3 81:2 86:13 202:11	create 31:21 35:7 212:4 272:2
constraints 40:9 262:5 272:11	169:9 180:2 187:13 205:5 207:11	convey 164:18 166:15	counts 82:19 218:12,13	created 53:3 70:18 276:10
constructed 123:20	continuous 234:14	convinced 33:3 73:1 156:8	county 214:3 226:12	creates 212:6
construction 81:16 81:19 210:7 249:12 269:10	continuously 61:5 88:4	Cook 167:17	couple 23:8 45:21 53:11 60:1 63:20 67:19 114:21 123:9,10 149:15 153:10 158:4 167:5 169:21 173:1 177:20 184:9,17 186:10 187:11 191:20 232:7,12 234:21 255:18 259:2 272:21 280:21	creating 215:2
consult 23:19 238:1	contract 138:16 167:12 263:16 264:6	cooperation 209:1	course 7:22 8:14 39:15 40:9 42:21 58:5 61:9 86:21 94:19 96:12 98:6 103:7 156:7 157:11 168:7 190:5 192:8 205:20 232:22	credit 96:22 97:10 97:12,20 112:17 126:7 259:19 260:1
consultant 14:13	contracted 138:8 167:15	cooperatives 261:14,15,21 264:16	crests 170:11	credits 80:18,18 121:11
consultation 177:22 271:6	contractor 168:1	coordinated 58:2	crises 8:13	critical 278:2
consume 218:18	contracts 175:7 263:17,20	coordinating 13:12	crisis 206:19	crop 29:10,12
consumed 81:2 113:14	contribute 24:6 72:12	coordinator 13:13	criteria 200:5 219:1 242:19	cross 115:14 154:3
consumer 28:9 94:7,11 115:22	contributing 107:19 252:3	copies 84:21	crucially 221:10	cross-section 141:20 150:9
consumers 103:17 112:14 115:11,21	control 196:16 200:18,19 201:18 202:1,15 209:6 217:20 226:11 228:10 233:3 239:18 241:1 281:7,11	copy 66:21	crude 100:4 159:10 206:3	crucially 221:10
consumption 3:2 29:16 82:21,22 101:4 102:7 110:18 116:7 132:20 199:4,9 200:8 201:22 208:4 218:21 219:9 221:6,9 273:15	controlling 226:16 227:4 228:10,11	cordial 8:5	cruel 205:12	cubic 170:17
consumption-side 100:22	controls 184:3 224:19,19 226:9 227:3,11	corny 10:3	cues 128:12	cumulatively 279:22
cont 3:1	convene 6:4 12:8 78:4	corollary 130:7	currently 45:2 59:15 75:4 241:15	
contact 44:16 263:1	convened 1:10	correct 133:6 140:11 151:15		
contemplating 267:10	convenience's 211:15	correction 139:10		
contemporaneous 226:2 227:12	convention 25:19	corrections 90:2,2 183:8		
content 95:20,20 113:10 193:5		correctly 134:16		
		correlated 199:22		
		correlation 141:19 142:1,15		
		corridor 17:14		
		cost 29:1,9,13 31:13 54:2 92:19 92:19 93:1 124:12 134:3 135:19 138:13 143:3,5 208:16 238:20 239:6,19 274:15 276:8		
		costly 143:11 152:11		
		costs 76:5 142:5 221:6		
		cost-based 245:8		
			covered 52:9 98:17 102:2 103:12	
			covers 100:3 238:17	
			COX 2:8	
			co-authors 195:14	
			co-product 92:14 92:15	
			co-products 92:11	
			CPS 209:17 213:18	

deploy 33:5	determines 19:14	235:16 239:3	discipline 31:10	displace 81:8
deploying 32:21	develop 58:10	244:3 258:9	disclaimer 173:10	displaced 279:3
Deputy 2:14 4:5	134:4 182:14	261:18 264:22	177:11	displacement
deregulated 240:4	238:4 253:1	266:12 267:21	disclose 281:12	149:14
242:21 243:13	developed 84:17	268:3 273:1,21	disclosure 240:2	disseminate 263:5
244:5	98:8 135:22	281:2	264:1	disseminating
deregulation	165:21 179:3,10	differential 204:14	discomfort 189:1	61:13
244:11 275:6	179:22 195:10	207:20	disconnect 214:13	dissemination
276:2,6	248:3 264:12	differently 172:7,8	disconnected 55:13	165:19
derived 213:18	developers 256:2,3	215:2	discontinuity 170:4	distance 25:11
describe 79:2 84:19	developing 32:12	difficult 103:7	170:8 171:5	159:5
92:2	175:22 240:9	162:6 183:2	173:16 182:7	distinction 211:9
described 55:15	269:10	difficulties 222:22	188:1,2 191:4	distinguish 268:11
60:5 239:10	develops 176:15	difficulty 228:22	226:8	distinguishing
desensitized 218:16	devices 256:7	diffusion 234:13	discontinuous	198:7 266:22
deserved 6:15	dialogue 150:18	digging 190:13	170:13 187:16	distribute 269:13
design 96:2 111:11	240:16	dime 257:20	discovered 135:1	distributed 267:4,6
123:20 199:6	diesel 79:12,20,21	dimension 142:5	265:19	268:10,10 270:3,6
210:13 232:1	80:7,14 95:19,20	146:11	discovery 265:17	distribution 87:1
234:8 239:13	98:19 100:2	diminishing 148:18	discrepancy 245:19	94:12 98:6 108:8
designate 19:22	114:18,19 124:8	Dining 18:7	discrete 62:18	215:15 243:16
designated 2:2	124:12 125:3,20	dinner 36:4 154:15	196:22 234:15	244:1,7 246:5
19:11	125:22 126:4	154:16,17	discuss 11:5 49:17	271:12
designed 82:7	267:22 269:15	direct 43:11 45:14	52:21 79:4 200:10	distributions 208:2
85:11,22 90:21	differ 228:8	45:17 213:17,21	219:21 241:10	distributor 97:13
93:21 94:3 111:17	difference 8:7 43:3	218:5 254:16	discussant 5:4,8,13	241:18
128:14 166:6	167:8 197:22	directed 37:7	5:15 65:12 178:13	diverging 175:20
168:22 199:12	225:10 231:14	direction 17:14	219:15 255:15	206:13
201:13	differences 144:10	27:3 42:6 68:10	265:21	divest 244:19
designing 71:20	different 59:17	113:18,19 178:20	discussants 76:16	divestiture 276:6
despite 71:16	80:21 81:12 82:8	187:2 230:10	128:13	dividing 145:13
detached 204:6,6	97:4 105:18	266:18	discussed 76:1,2	Divine 220:19
215:13	114:15 119:22	directly 51:8 94:6	136:3 182:16	229:2
detail 116:2 118:9	137:9 144:13	94:10,22 103:18	discussing 104:17	Divine's 222:8
157:15 173:14	145:10 150:11	125:9 129:10	149:22	division 158:7,8
242:4	166:10,11 169:5	158:22 281:9,10	discussion 4:11,16	167:17 226:13
detailed 93:21	169:12,13 174:16	director 2:2,15	4:21 5:5,9,17	230:14,15 236:21
221:10,20 248:5	174:21 175:13,16	3:22 4:8,10 13:10	11:10 50:18 75:4	237:5
details 39:12	175:17 178:21	15:7 30:5 37:20	75:11 77:3,14	divisions 202:12
278:19	180:18 181:5	49:12 50:22 156:2	100:16 108:20,22	division-level 218:3
detector 146:3	184:9,10 193:4	dirty 136:10	113:4,5 119:5	DLA 57:22
deteriorates 186:16	194:11,13 195:7,7	disadvantages	128:3 130:16	doable 35:6
deterioration 163:6	202:12 204:20	213:7	136:17 151:9	docket 137:3
190:15	206:14 209:7	disaggregate	152:10	document 174:5
determine 242:4	210:6 212:1,13	251:22	discussions 8:5,6	documentary
determined 84:9	213:2 228:7,17	disappear 138:13	268:18	254:21
96:10	229:5 232:12,21	disbursed 267:7	disparity 250:14	documentation

53:6 164:16 165:6 179:18 181:22 207:14 209:17 doing 8:10 10:6 23:20 26:7 32:16 35:13 39:13 50:5 50:7,12 52:16 54:6,12 58:8 60:12,14,19 64:17 68:7 70:8 72:11 73:1,6,7,9 89:17 108:20 119:19 123:18 132:3 148:4 156:7,10 164:20 168:3,7 173:6 174:7 176:11 178:6 180:2,20 184:1 194:3 208:1,17 217:2 225:13 228:20 232:13 233:3 236:1 246:9 264:16 272:15 273:22 280:9 dollars 233:12 domains 202:15 204:12 domestic 81:7 dominate 139:8 dominated 107:6 107:14 door 143:12 209:11 247:19 doors 208:20,22 dormitories 211:13 Doug 159:4 downloaded 220:5 downstairs 153:21 153:22 154:12 155:12,15 downstream 95:12 97:2 98:2,14 118:13,14 120:3,4 121:1,2 126:14,18 127:4 129:14 downward 211:19 Dr 6:3 12:3,7,12,15	13:16 14:21 16:17 16:21 18:3,11 19:19 36:16 51:6 53:22 54:15 59:13 62:4 64:2 67:18 70:13 71:4,12 73:14,22 77:13 78:3 108:19 109:7 109:11 110:13 113:2 115:3 116:9 117:7 118:2 119:13,18 122:3 123:14,22 125:13 126:10 127:21 130:20 131:2,6,13 133:16 139:14 144:21 145:5 146:1,13 149:15 150:19 152:3,17 153:8,12,15 155:19 178:12 181:11 182:2 194:19 197:11 219:14 230:20 231:21 235:10 236:4,17 255:14 265:20 272:20 278:7,13,14,18 279:10,19 280:4,7 280:17 281:8,15 282:4,8 draft 253:14 drafted 9:7 dramatically 221:18 222:10 227:5 231:2 drastically 180:22 227:2 drawn 87:14 201:11 dreadful 44:20 drew 199:18 201:8 drill 53:12 188:13 drilling 172:11,15 189:15,19 193:19 drive 208:4 drivers 148:13	drives 179:8 driving 81:14 132:1 208:16 drop 10:20 172:16 191:11 dropped 126:16 189:5,8,11 190:20 dropping 117:10 117:11 147:2 172:18 191:13 DSM 279:21 due 79:16 236:4,6 Dumpty 276:7 duplicate 230:2 duplicates 229:22 230:1,3,4 durable 165:16 Durbin 134:14 142:13 duties 7:17 10:1 dynamic 144:8 149:13 151:20 195:7 234:18,22 273:12,17 274:1 dynamically 206:11 dynamics 117:20 134:15 135:4 231:20 234:20 D.C 1:12 14:15 48:21	easy 26:17 43:17 68:4 101:7 119:15 126:13 266:15 Eberhaus 195:13 econometric 232:9 234:10 econometrics 136:18 economic 23:19 79:16 92:13 202:14 265:1 economics 4:19 121:13 124:20 221:20 economies 136:2 139:7 economist 8:14 73:17 128:10 140:11 151:1 economists 8:15,16 50:1 217:8 economy 48:12 81:22 132:1 142:3 222:3 Ed 1:12 4:2,20,22 7:10 13:16 17:9 36:14,21 51:7 55:14 65:11 71:13 73:14 108:19 113:2 116:9 117:1 119:13 126:10 128:3 131:4 133:16 139:14 142:13 149:2 150:19 151:11 188:22 265:22 272:20 EDDIE 3:12 editing 32:15 89:7 239:2 241:2 edition 69:11 edits 254:7 Educational 221:4 Edward 1:14,19 14:6 Ed's 54:18 128:7 141:18 142:6	effect 29:10,13 74:16 92:12 126:4 157:18 158:7 159:12 161:16,21 171:3 174:16 192:1 194:7,15 206:4,19 207:3 208:21 209:5 213:3 242:1 249:9 effective 46:20 129:8 174:19 248:21 effectively 58:15 effects 158:21 efficiencies 32:16 250:10 efficiency 58:2 235:5 251:2,6 258:6 279:3 efficient 139:22 140:2 233:17 277:19 effort 32:19 105:6 208:16 238:15 efforts 61:5 164:7 167:14 198:22 250:2 Eggers 215:5 EIA 1:5 2:1,14 3:1 4:5,8,15 5:7,11 7:12 9:17 10:10 15:18 17:3,5,6,6 17:16 19:5 20:15 21:19,19 23:7 24:5 27:4 28:22 29:9,22 31:5,17 32:11 36:8 38:21 39:1 49:12,18 50:1 51:18 52:3,9 52:18 53:9 54:6,7 58:12 59:5,9,12 60:8 61:1,11 62:3 62:21 64:16 65:5 65:21 66:12 67:14 70:5,18 74:15,16 74:17,19 75:5,8,9 75:12 76:10 77:7
---	---	---	---	--

E

E 94:21
earlier 90:3 94:17
166:2 185:18
208:15
earliest 109:8,19
earliness 167:20
early 36:17 68:14
69:22 77:16 85:19
166:16 195:1
earning 274:4
ears 9:11
easier 23:10 115:5
115:16
easily 278:22

82:5,16,19 83:10 83:12 84:8,17 90:10,14 98:6 100:22 123:17 133:19 137:10 141:14 160:5 162:8 175:21 178:18 179:4 185:5 198:22 199:10 201:15,17 218:1,8 220:4 222:13 239:22 253:4 262:14 281:18 EIA's 17:1,20 78:5 90:9 EIA-22 84:18 85:3 86:7 97:21 103:9 EIA-22M 85:6 EIA-22S 85:11 EIA-23 160:20 EIA-411 251:10 EIA-815 98:15 EIA-886 152:21 EIA-906 239:7 EIA-914 169:4 EIA-923 238:17 eight 22:12 124:2 251:18 Eileen 3:2 5:7 72:14 198:10 219:18 220:8 223:22 either 9:16,21 17:14 42:10 48:10 79:20 96:21 126:16,17 129:21 130:8 156:14 184:8 214:15 227:7 230:16 240:4 254:8 electric 15:10 16:4 30:18 143:4,10 222:20 236:21 239:13 241:11 242:14 248:9 250:18 264:16	electrical 24:2 135:12 electricity 2:13 4:14 5:10 27:20 28:4,15 33:7,8 135:12 148:9 236:18 237:7 238:14 247:13,14 256:22 266:9,13 267:1,2,20 271:21 274:21 281:20 electronically 253:21 element 241:14 248:19 257:19 258:8 263:11 269:11 275:22 elements 180:4 239:13 251:15 270:21 elevators 18:13 elicit 253:8 254:15 eligibility 210:9 242:19 243:5 eligible 209:1 eliminate 144:14 ELIZABETH 3:7 else's 140:15 Elting 65:4 eluded 185:13 email 10:22 17:18 24:17 55:19 emerged 219:6 emergency 269:21 emerges 212:16 272:4 emerging 256:18 EMEU 2:16 3:3 5:7 EMF 61:18 emissions 59:18 81:13 emphasize 17:2 empirical 146:15 employed 247:17 employee 179:4 employees 17:17 19:5 68:18	employer 24:19 25:8 Emre 29:7,11 enable 233:3 enclave 30:17 encourage 81:7 266:17 encouraged 22:6 40:7 endeavor 53:17 ended 85:19 180:20 endogeneity 139:21 140:8 151:3 endorsing 69:11 ends 56:12,13 end-of-month 197:2 enemy 277:19 energy 1:4,5 2:15 3:2 4:2 11:1,7,8 14:11 15:14 17:2 21:6,20 22:4,10 23:4,16 24:14 26:6,8,16 28:9,14 28:16 29:1,3 30:11 38:13,14,16 38:18 39:9,9 50:2 56:18 57:19 58:2 59:3,18 60:15 61:4,8 64:15,18 64:22 66:10,14 68:5,6 70:19,21 71:18 75:14 82:2 82:5,18,21,21 83:2,9,11 84:7 90:11,12,15 94:1 100:18 102:4,19 128:11 132:1,17 132:18 161:21 199:4 200:8,8 201:13,19,20 208:4 212:22 213:3 214:7 215:16 218:4 221:6,9 231:12,22 232:16 235:4 238:22 243:15,16	244:6,14 245:1,11 245:17 246:4 252:12 256:6,19 256:21 257:10,22 258:5 269:3 273:3 273:3,9 274:21 277:13,16 energy-only 243:22 259:5,12 engaging 177:18 engineer 23:22,22 24:2 engineering 148:11 enhancements 180:10 ensure 200:20 261:12 enter 88:5 263:14 entered 269:6 entering 89:8 entertain 282:3 entertained 52:1 entire 158:12 224:10 entirely 100:5 entities 86:8,10 244:17 246:7 264:4 272:8,9 entity 74:12,13 environment 32:10 33:1 144:8 162:7 environmental 81:10 87:14,18 239:14 257:7 EPA 81:11 88:12 88:13 106:16 252:13 257:10 269:17 EPACT 85:13 122:7 equal 216:10 equals 101:5 equation 151:14 230:18 equations 151:12 151:13 equipment 28:14	28:17 29:1,3 equivalent 149:7 194:1 Eric 18:15 error 182:8,15 201:4 202:16 217:9 229:2 errors 181:3 185:3 213:22 230:17 ERs 259:4 ESM 279:19 especially 6:21 20:1 38:9 44:7 144:7 256:13 essentially 52:21 140:7 146:6 216:20 279:1 establish 27:11 116:18 established 79:22 157:1 establishing 27:11 establishment 141:4,9 197:22 198:1 establishments 279:17 estimate 84:4 94:1 101:3 112:12 126:20 128:15 129:9,16,17,20 132:21 146:9 151:13 160:8 182:9,15 196:7,11 196:12 210:2 211:2,10 212:7 213:16 214:21 215:1,3 226:3 227:13,13 242:1 279:7 estimated 85:18 105:20 249:5 estimates 29:19,20 63:3 83:6 199:7 199:11 201:1,13 202:17 204:4,12 207:22 212:3,10
---	---	--	--	---

212:14,18 213:12 213:17,21 217:22 218:4,11 224:7 225:17,17,21 226:4,13,15,22 227:4,10 229:17 230:12,15 estimating 29:16 119:19,20 121:2 126:14,15 129:6 129:12 210:22 211:11 212:5 215:12 216:22 218:17 Estimations 5:6 197:14 estimator 196:9,16 196:20,21 197:2,5 estimators 116:19 116:20 et 117:18 221:21,21 ethanol 29:16 80:22 82:20 84:10 84:12 119:9,12 122:6,8,9,13,17 122:18,22 123:6,7 123:8,12 133:9 152:20 162:13,17 EU 58:9,9,10 EUGENE 2:6 evaluate 47:17 200:22 evaluated 200:21 evaluation 26:3 83:20 84:8 232:2 events 240:11,12 240:13 everybody 12:18 13:15 31:18 40:19 47:1 75:14 108:2 140:15 153:18,22 155:1,14 180:1 189:22 205:1 233:4 245:17 everybody's 81:5 evidenced 73:18 evolving 247:8	exactly 8:5 60:5 84:2 88:16 101:14 131:8 137:22 146:7,10 148:6,22 183:14 236:6 242:4 274:12 examine 175:5 examining 247:16 example 53:2 64:19 130:5 141:22 192:17 199:19 280:22 examples 211:19 excellent 46:11 67:21 220:16 excess 141:5 excitement 37:7 exciting 54:7 excluded 215:10 excludes 211:12 excluding 219:10 exclusion 68:7 exclusively 239:21 executive 3:22 4:10 18:7 37:20 167:16 176:21 exercise 137:17 exist 189:12 277:15 existing 26:9 38:19 56:20 232:8 exogenous 27:8,15 expand 27:9 63:1 63:15 93:16 167:11 260:14 expanded 62:15 167:15 expanding 27:7 31:2 54:3 79:17 248:1 expansion 137:20 247:6 expect 12:11 98:5 127:2 189:14 199:11 216:12 240:18 254:11 expectation 249:7 expectations	159:21 expected 190:15 247:6 248:12,13 268:7 expedite 252:19 expeditiously 37:16 expenditures 201:14,19 expensive 120:5,9 130:15 210:12 experience 40:20 46:6 144:7 147:15 187:4,5 255:8 experiment 56:17 expert 122:16,17 147:17 232:1 expertise 62:2,16 148:2 experts 147:11 148:17,18 222:15 explain 94:3 145:5 148:13 explained 9:9 explaining 164:19 explanation 227:8 explanatory 218:20 explicitly 161:15 162:17 exploration 187:13 exploratory 144:4 explore 31:1 exploring 53:1 explosive 170:19 exponential 226:1 export 92:8 117:11 exported 100:7 exporting 91:17,18 92:4 exports 101:10,11 119:3 158:3 expressed 275:14 extensive 26:7 extent 185:14 247:16 262:3 264:15 266:21 268:15 272:1 external 43:15 54:6	203:15,15,21 205:15 extra 56:2 extracting 174:21 extracurricular 53:4 extreme 120:20 extremely 157:17 162:10 170:4 191:19 eyes 9:11 129:22 230:5 e-file 254:3 <hr/> F <hr/> facilitate 31:7 45:18 facilities 163:20 239:12 241:19 259:14 facing 43:9,21 105:3 fact 6:18 41:13 45:16 57:13,22 63:1 65:19 74:17 160:9 162:13 168:20 170:10 171:8 173:2,4,11 173:15 175:11 177:2 182:18 185:2 186:6 191:18 192:6 205:12 221:12 257:6 272:7,8 281:13 factor 210:3,4 258:15 factories 233:16 factors 81:14 130:1 faculty 7:19 fair 157:14 161:10 187:8 fairly 91:2 164:2,2 170:14 218:6 221:9 222:11 225:4 228:16 fall 4:6 20:8 91:18	176:2 177:19 falling 215:11 falls 240:7 familiar 31:16 59:21 162:6 167:18 195:15 220:5 familiarity 266:20 families 204:7 family 204:5 far 24:21 37:19 48:12 111:6 135:22 142:21 143:8 147:6 182:11 185:4 225:13 fast 188:14 231:5 232:16 faster 109:16,16 190:17 father 78:11 father's 78:10 fats 79:14,18 favored 28:13 FBI 47:17 feasible 38:17 feature 246:11 features 202:9 February 240:19 federal 2:2 19:11 41:14 64:16 65:8 69:13 70:1 109:21 207:1 212:3 221:2 237:15 238:2,6,21 240:17 252:10,12 252:18 253:3,14 255:11 257:10 264:14 265:7 feed 137:12 237:5 feedback 33:19 169:2 177:15 feedstocks 122:21 feel 30:12 38:6,8 40:2 50:22 51:5 55:3 185:4,14 192:19 253:11 275:2
--	--	---	---	---

feeling 42:5	finding 147:5 231:11 232:7	flatten 189:16	218:21 237:6	130:22
feels 37:2 53:9	finds 203:17	fleet 249:16	forecasts 218:11	forth 65:20 240:13
feet 170:17	fine 130:20 179:17 181:6 193:9	flex 152:12,20,20	foreclosed 231:19	241:19 242:18
feisty 9:6	finished 37:18 219:19,20 242:6	flight 273:21	foregoing 77:22 127:18 155:16	250:10 252:3
fellowships 47:13 47:15	finishing 236:11	floor 35:11 100:16	236:14	275:7
felt 52:3 85:16 172:21	firms 189:4,11 191:11,13 264:12	floored 209:20	foreign 222:22 223:10,11	fortnight 131:22
female 204:19	first 6:14 12:18 16:22 20:19 21:14	Florida 208:11	forge 157:4	forum 57:19 61:4
Fennell 2:10 16:3,3	fly 46:16	flow 23:19 175:7,8	Forget 19:17	forward 11:10 27:2
FERC 239:1,20 263:14 271:1	flywheel 256:8,14 257:5 273:16	fluorescent 279:15	form 43:15 71:18 80:2 91:7 126:19	53:20 102:17
275:12 280:8,15	flywheels 257:18 272:22	focus 61:15,16 68:4 68:6,12 108:22	141:14 148:19	163:10 166:21
FERC's 275:13	focus 61:15,16 68:4 68:6,12 108:22	161:14,19 164:14	158:17 213:15	176:1 180:11
field 104:19 123:18 148:21 208:9,15	88:22 89:14 94:4	181:21 182:1	217:18 238:17	181:8 206:18
254:13	100:17 105:19	200:17	239:4,16 241:9,12	219:11 253:13
figure 156:16 162:20 232:11	106:5 108:2 109:5	focusing 156:12	241:15 244:3,9	272:3
figured 170:15	129:7,7 132:11	folks 60:8 66:1 124:5 125:12	248:1 249:22	for-your-inform...
file 90:4	147:18 156:11,14	132:9 157:6	250:5 251:10,16	237:2
filed 238:22 253:20 253:21	157:15 159:17	165:22 168:6	252:22 253:9,12	fossil 64:20 258:6
fill 39:11 51:22 85:22 86:2,3	164:15 174:4	169:13 183:16	262:2 267:5 272:6	fossil-fired 258:3
128:4	178:21 189:20	186:7 278:19	272:11 276:19	found 29:22 51:17
filling 86:17	196:18 204:2	follow 9:14,16 23:15 58:12 80:3	formal 13:8 49:10 237:12	52:13 81:9 124:1
fills 6:18	207:15 209:19	88:10 119:14	237:12	141:22 147:10
final 37:4 58:21 94:11,18 95:7	224:21 237:22	277:16	formalities 12:17	163:21 169:20
99:5,8 113:9	240:17 241:9	following 83:13 142:18 201:15	formally 282:6	180:21 211:7
203:14 206:1,4,6	255:15 260:11	follows 274:12	format 167:14 262:7 266:21	240:22 242:17
207:10,12 251:10	Fiscal 164:4	follow-up 89:18 189:10	formed 42:9 66:9 257:10	254:4
finally 20:1 31:4 32:1 40:21 89:18	fit 174:19 246:22	food 29:12	former 19:5 67:22 130:17	four 37:4 56:21
165:18 233:8	fits 37:14 133:1	foot 247:19	forms 85:3 98:10 237:4,10 238:16	111:22 114:14
251:2 277:18	five 84:5 85:14 114:14 128:15	footprint 261:1,2	238:19 239:12	154:17,17 164:14
finance 24:4	155:15 204:7	fora 61:22	240:7,15 241:9	198:20 204:7
financial 269:6 274:19 277:12	236:7 249:4	forecast 26:6 27:13 27:14,20 28:4	246:21 249:1	215:14 216:20
find 24:20 60:11 88:11 91:20 93:10	fix 102:6 151:4 172:4 216:14,16	148:9,14 192:20	253:7,15,19,19,20	240:7 242:12
93:12,13,17 95:9	fixed 196:20 234:16 235:1	199:10 218:5	254:5 262:15	243:19 258:1
110:10 123:3	fixes 151:4	forecasters 92:21	266:20 272:2	fraction 225:4
135:5 147:1 155:2	flagship 166:20	forecasting 2:7 15:8 27:5 175:12	277:21 278:20,22	frame 87:5,12,13
189:11 203:1	flash 103:19		formula 145:18 251:7	100:6 160:19
206:20			formulation 259:17	180:17 181:4
			Forrestal 1:10	229:21 245:17
			Forsyth 1:15 4:18 7:5 14:4,4 128:8	246:8 250:22
				framed 106:15
				frames 182:19 200:20
				framework 137:21 251:17
				framing 38:15
				Fred 2:18,23 125:15 152:9
				215:4

free 17:6 50:22 51:5 262:20 264:11	functions 281:17	191:19 195:18	geographic 228:10	13:5 33:6 36:15
Freedman 2:10	fund 67:12 74:18	196:2 218:18	geographical 188:7	39:12 51:6 55:1
123:16,16	fundamental	222:20 250:13,13	George 27:6	55:16 58:3 61:6
French 2:11 8:21	159:18 193:21	250:16,16 267:13	Georgia 154:21	68:13 71:13 78:3
16:1,1	funding 8:2 62:14	269:15	getting 9:5 36:4	78:18 79:2 85:3
frequency 55:14	62:22 63:15 163:1	gasoline 29:19,20	52:15 53:13 78:17	89:21 90:5,10
134:17	164:4 168:17	117:16 122:15	82:11 84:14 85:14	94:2 98:5 105:6
frequent 134:19	272:10	gate 96:15	88:6 109:11	106:10 108:1
frequently 51:13	funnel 67:11	gathering 61:18	111:21 119:6,8	118:14 121:6
fresh 179:6 181:7	funny 112:15	176:7	121:1 128:7 135:1	127:21 128:5
Friday's 69:10	furrowed 210:15	GEAGLA 2:12	139:17 146:20	129:11 130:6,12
frontier 61:8	further 84:8 95:12	gee 8:8,9	150:2 153:6 169:2	133:16 148:8
frustrating 260:21	129:13 137:6	GEISERT 2:12	175:3 191:5	153:19,21 154:4,8
fuel 4:13,17 25:14	170:8 219:5	gelatinous 120:19	229:18,19 242:3	154:9 162:2 164:8
79:13,19 80:7,11	future 13:22 34:3	Gene 198:12	244:21 245:6,7,10	166:21 168:15,17
81:3 82:22 83:1	59:4,15 64:15	general 44:6 77:5	245:18 247:19	170:5 173:14
84:9 94:9,11,13	65:1 70:6 91:6	78:22 129:2	250:16,21 262:1	176:1 192:8,13
95:19 98:19 99:14	133:3 137:3	160:14,17 162:2	271:18	194:6 200:9
100:2 102:8,9	150:15 200:11	183:6 188:13	GIELECKI 2:13	202:21,22 203:13
107:22 113:13	219:13 235:15	213:7 270:20	give 20:17,19 21:7	210:11 216:16
114:4,6,13,18,19	249:16 252:6	generalized 224:7	24:9 25:17 31:6	218:9 234:3
123:6,7 126:6	futures 159:11	generally 28:13	32:4 33:18 68:2	237:13,22 238:12
152:10,12,20,20	<hr/> G <hr/>	43:8,13 77:7	91:4 97:3 102:15	241:1,4,7 244:12
238:20,22 239:7	gained 97:1	257:2 281:12	125:4 133:13	247:22 248:7
239:19 242:6	gains 158:3	generate 47:17	148:13 153:10,22	251:6 252:9
250:9 259:10,20	gallery 37:8	generated 269:9	155:13 175:17	255:17 261:17
267:11	gallon 97:15	generating 257:15	177:7,14 182:2	263:1,8 265:1
fuels 2:13 4:14	gallons 99:10	266:12 271:21	183:12 184:10,15	267:17 273:17,20
15:10 16:5 25:1	107:21 113:8	273:3,6,7	185:4 208:4 211:2	275:13 279:14
25:15 28:15 64:20	115:6,7,17 131:11	generation 28:15	228:4 252:16	goal 32:7 55:11
80:1 81:8 82:20	133:8	62:18 241:19	275:9 281:21	89:10 133:6
83:14,15,16,17	GAO 217:14	244:18,22 245:7	given 8:17 16:18	goals 27:9 31:14
98:20 100:21	gap 85:20 101:19	246:21 247:6,9,10	140:17 167:19	goes 23:22 34:8
102:5,21 113:6,17	104:2,4,5 211:20	248:21 249:2	182:17 183:22	35:18 36:1 42:14
113:19 114:6	212:16,16 227:6	250:9 258:4	206:19 225:21	58:11 88:8 94:11
121:18 136:19	229:16 230:9	259:19 261:21	258:15 263:18	94:13 98:1 141:6
153:2,3 218:19	gas 2:15 5:2,3 16:2	267:4,7,10 268:11	gives 209:8 237:15	179:5 268:2 275:3
236:22	16:14 22:2 30:6	269:14 270:3,7	giving 36:19 37:4	going 6:3,5,7,12 7:8
fulfill 82:16 85:13	33:7 59:18 155:20	276:16 279:8	52:21 55:8 239:18	11:9,18,20 12:22
full 35:15 136:17	156:2 157:6 158:6	generations 218:9	glad 18:4 46:1 49:7	20:10 22:5 26:12
243:19 250:21	160:7,8 161:9,15	274:6	155:8 157:3	26:12,18,19 44:22
258:14	161:17 162:7	generation-related	260:15 266:1	51:6,7 54:2 58:3
fully 168:2	163:17,18 169:7,9	274:8	global 58:8	58:18 62:11,17
fun 8:11 23:8	170:20,22 173:10	generator 246:14	glycerine 92:16	65:1,2 66:12
function 135:8,10	180:13 187:5,12	generators 80:14	glycerol 92:16	73:10,11,16 75:11
	188:10 189:2,15	257:16	go 6:3 7:20 8:11	75:15 78:7 79:6
		generic 213:16	11:1,20,21 12:7	81:2 84:19 85:7

85:14 86:15 88:20	248:18 249:6,9,13	graphs 184:22	4:5 6:10 7:6 12:4	172:7
89:1,2 90:14,16	249:16,21 250:11	grease 79:15	12:10 78:9 179:12	handout 84:20,22
91:16 92:12 94:2	250:19 251:6,16	great 32:17 33:18	195:17 196:10	85:1 201:5
94:5 95:7 96:9	252:7 257:8	35:10 46:12 72:19	guarantee 177:13	hands 154:15
98:4,14 99:1,6,8	258:19,22 259:13	72:21 180:12	257:9	hang 165:8
99:22 100:1,6	264:1,17 266:13	181:6 187:4	guard 44:3	HANs 233:1
101:17,19 102:11	267:8 268:1,13,17	246:18	guess 6:14 8:15	happen 30:3 70:7
103:6 104:5 105:2	269:17 271:16	greater 264:21	17:22 40:8 49:19	115:1 170:2 177:6
108:4 110:10,12	274:19,20 276:15	greatest 38:17	51:7,10 71:16	179:10 190:3,14
110:14 112:20,21	276:17 277:4	green 115:11 269:5	78:15 119:7 129:1	190:16 210:5,6
114:22 116:10,14	281:19	269:8	148:10 184:12	271:16
117:18 118:8,10	good 10:19 16:22	greenhouse 33:7	229:10,15 260:4	happened 20:15
118:12 119:11	34:5,13 39:20	59:18	261:8 268:9	27:22 187:10,19
120:11 121:5,6,7	57:7,10 62:5	greetings 4:4 6:6	guest 130:7	189:4
123:4,7,18,21	63:13,13 65:13,22	grid 21:5 241:21	guests 17:16	happening 34:21
124:5,21 125:11	73:10,19 89:6	247:9,10,15	GUEY-LEE 2:14	35:20 103:13
126:16,17,18	102:6 104:3,13	248:20 255:20	guidance 48:5	120:3
128:3,11 131:22	112:6 121:9 164:3	256:21 257:4	157:7 200:12	happens 43:22
132:1 140:10	167:5 175:21	258:1,13 268:2	guide 7:12	happy 8:8 33:9
144:3 148:11	178:6 183:20,21	270:8 271:18	guidelines 200:14	38:6 49:10 55:4
153:16,19,20	186:5 195:16	grids 242:3	200:19	223:2 255:12
154:2,4,11,12,14	221:22 224:2	gross 189:7 194:9	Gulf 160:10	hard 23:14 26:13
154:16,17,20	227:19 228:21	241:22	guys 9:13 23:15	114:22 155:1
155:9 156:21	233:7,19 236:19	grossed 190:19	24:16 26:7 35:8	156:16 159:5
157:10,14 163:6	273:22 274:16	grosses 190:7,11	35:19 49:21 50:19	165:8 182:17
166:13 170:2,3,6	282:9	grossing 186:17	55:8 60:4,21	Harvey 2:15 5:3
170:9,21 173:13	gotten 172:5	190:18	78:14 192:16	30:5 155:21,22
174:9 175:3	253:17	ground 66:5	195:5,6,6,8	156:1 178:17
176:19 177:4,5,9	government 68:18	group 2:2 4:8 13:10		182:11 183:14
178:2 180:7 184:5	221:2 225:22	15:5,12,16,18	H	185:19 186:2
184:5,6 185:12	252:15 253:3	21:6 22:13 23:1	Hainesville 176:15	188:5,11 189:13
189:16,18,21	254:1	23:17 33:19 41:5	half 11:12 20:12	191:9,12,22
190:9,10 192:9	government-own...	61:19 62:2 63:4	40:1 47:22 50:20	192:11
193:22 194:5,6,9	272:8	70:3 123:18	52:13 54:11 69:7	hate 217:8
197:3 198:4,5,6,6	go-t 8:21	127:15 153:21	127:22 202:20	hates 232:9
200:16 205:11	grab 184:14	204:22 211:13	225:8 277:20	hazy 194:22
208:5,9,14 210:20	GRACE 3:10	218:8	278:5	head 18:22 108:10
211:4 213:12	grad 24:3	groups 30:12 62:3	hall 17:18	health 221:5
216:1,18 217:16	graduate 50:3	131:18 132:5	hallway 85:2	hear 12:1 32:22
219:16,18 221:10	56:18	226:11	hand 114:9 223:15	50:16 64:12 74:21
224:20 226:21,22	grained 235:2	grow 211:20	224:17	75:22 87:9 148:21
227:1,5,14 231:4	grant 47:12 49:4	growing 189:6	handful 153:6	178:15
231:8,13 232:4	67:16 68:3,11	grown 93:9	handle 135:22	heard 12:2 32:2
233:5,12,20,21	74:18	growth 81:7,15	176:19 181:4	45:4 60:9 61:2
235:3,5,11 240:10	granted 262:8	170:19 189:2,15	226:20 248:22	68:21 81:6 116:8
241:7 242:3	grants 47:13	190:22	handled 172:3	133:18 216:6
246:22 247:10	graphical 144:5	Gruenspecht 2:14	handling 122:8	Hearing 282:8

heart 58:11	high-quality 230:6	hoping 72:8 100:12	255:16	idle 29:10
heat 222:20 251:8	high-risk 156:14	106:4 272:12	Howard's 20:7	if/then 145:20
heating 80:15,16	high-tech 105:15	Hopkins 24:2	63:10 73:16	ignorable 143:21
95:3 102:11 112:3	Hill 1:16 11:21	horizon 249:4	HRQ's 221:5	225:6
116:15 117:10	14:2,2 70:15,15	260:5,10,14	HUD 215:5	ignored 54:3
121:21 204:9	106:13,13,19	hotel 54:10 76:5	huge 172:11 233:21	illegally 231:19
207:18 239:11	108:7 149:1	hour 46:22 47:3	235:3	Illinois 276:10
heavily 38:2 42:19	hinted 122:6	54:11 127:22	Humpty 276:7	281:1
held 17:15 90:4	hired 168:1	245:15	hurricane 188:8	illustration 161:8
258:7	historical 15:21	hours 52:11 241:22	Hurricanes 171:2	162:12
Hello 125:15 152:8	85:14 184:4	258:14 279:22	HUTCHINS 2:17	imagination 171:5
help 7:12 12:21	186:14 254:10,22	house 148:18 203:4		imaginative 264:13
18:4 31:7 37:1	historically 38:22	203:5,6 223:5	I	Imagine 206:10
46:4 50:17 53:1,5	56:19 242:11	household 71:21	Iannacchione 1:17	immediate 159:11
55:19,19 68:17	244:16 253:21	72:3,5 201:20,22	14:14,15 71:15	immediately 6:5
69:18 94:1 100:13	280:11	204:16,16,17,19	72:7,10 105:9	9:6 232:21
137:17 144:14	history 41:8 51:17	204:20 207:21	116:22 118:11,15	impact 66:2 82:2
148:13 171:11	66:7,13 74:3	208:18,20 218:19	182:4 183:9	121:7 122:10
181:22 198:3	183:22	228:5 231:9,12	235:13	200:6 212:1 217:5
223:8,12 225:14	hoc 66:10 71:1,1	households 199:14	ID 141:4,8,9,14,14	218:16 219:3
227:11,17 235:9	Hodge 2:15 15:13	201:14 205:17,19	idea 32:14 34:13	235:15
248:17	15:13	207:5 218:17	53:13 54:3 76:9	implement 26:10
helped 47:16	hodgepodge 97:6	household-level	86:21 91:4 92:5	27:14
helpful 13:3,3 24:7	hold 81:21 124:11	203:9	94:14 104:3 105:1	implementation
163:21 164:1	244:20	houses 229:13	105:7 108:7	84:6
220:21 224:21	holidays 158:19	277:17	110:17 117:20	implemented 34:2
225:19 248:16	Holt 224:1	housing 199:2,2	123:21 125:4	34:3 177:10
helping 221:12	home 66:20 80:15	204:14 205:8	132:19 149:22	implementing
227:21	80:16 95:3 102:10	206:19 207:18	152:13 168:10	71:20 176:4
herculean 238:15	112:3 116:14	208:7 210:22	221:17 222:20	implications 165:4
heterogeneity	117:10 121:21	211:3,7,8,10,11	223:3 252:17	215:16
202:8	207:5 211:17	211:14 212:4,10	273:11 274:16	import 92:8 117:12
he'll 63:12	233:1 243:17	212:15,18 213:1	ideal 106:3	importance 43:11
high 62:9 79:9	homes 121:7 204:6	213:17,20,21	ideas 69:16 75:6	50:11 169:7
138:12 149:11	206:14,16,17	214:5,9,20 215:3	77:9 102:15	179:16
156:14 159:3	211:13,13 217:12	215:6,9,13 216:15	105:11	important 6:11
189:20 194:3	219:7 231:19	217:1 218:12	identification	10:10 11:17 25:13
199:15 202:8	homogenous 136:7	222:2 230:13,15	151:10	38:8,9 39:15 44:9
higher 124:7 140:5	honesty 177:9	231:3	identified 264:2	50:14 55:2 69:15
140:7 143:3	honor 21:11	Houston 13:17	identify 15:2 24:18	80:13,20 92:20
169:18 186:18	hook 45:11	hovering 216:2	65:19 91:22 92:2	136:13 167:16
208:11 233:19	hooked 244:15	Howard 2:14 3:9	95:1 141:15	172:22 175:20
highest 156:12,13	hope 31:12 45:17	4:5 5:11 6:6 16:8	142:16 143:18	178:7 179:8
highly 49:6 233:17	60:16 177:9	21:10 24:12 52:5	151:16 176:2	183:17 188:17
high-cost 143:14	hopefully 63:12	63:19 67:22 78:8	246:3 250:12	192:15 218:1
high-level 229:4	78:17 79:3 89:8	173:20 235:7	identifying 247:20	221:2,11 222:3
high-leverage 56:3	103:9 168:16	236:18,20 255:14	idiom 67:6	223:20 232:5,22

248:19,22 253:11 256:1 266:7,16 267:16 269:16 270:1 imported 83:16 93:3 100:7 128:17 importers 100:3 importing 91:16,18 92:3 imports 81:8 92:7 99:21 101:5,16,18 impression 124:18 impressive 22:22 157:12 improve 33:5 77:9 201:2 improved 234:21 239:16 improvement 229:1 246:11 improvements 31:12 180:10 improves 258:3,5 improving 27:20 imputation 105:10 105:13 110:14 117:5 120:12,14 129:21 130:3 245:20 261:12 262:1 imputations 89:19 impute 105:12 120:9 130:8 imputed 90:1 130:2 inaccessibility 207:9 incentives 81:6 96:19 incidentally 212:6 Inclining 235:6 include 17:18 94:21 116:14 136:6 223:10 228:14 262:16 273:10 included 27:10 includes 101:12	133:9 including 17:16 256:11 263:19 280:22 incorporating 27:21 29:11 217:7 increase 171:21 186:7 258:15 increased 48:18 increasing 82:10 139:3 207:8,8 222:1 229:12 231:9 incredible 36:10 incredibly 229:9 incrementally 279:22 Independence 1:11 154:3 256:19 independent 14:13 257:12 index 28:9,13 indicated 84:7 134:15 138:17 indicates 186:15 indication 182:9 185:6 231:10 individual 90:7 134:13 136:14 138:11 228:5 243:14 264:3 280:12,20 individually 69:16 individuals 68:19 86:12 induced 185:16 industrial 187:12 192:2 194:8 242:13 243:2,3 industry 24:6,7 50:2,12,14 54:9 79:22 86:18 91:4 107:5,12 118:8 124:19 125:7 137:22 146:22 147:4,16,18 148:3 148:5 150:12	161:18,20 162:11 170:22 192:6 236:20 237:16 240:12,16 241:11 250:18 252:16 254:8 255:21 259:8 260:22 274:20,21 279:12 ineligible 203:4 inflection 172:14 influence 10:5,5 130:1 influencing 140:9 140:10 influx 255:20 inform 19:10 informal 240:16 252:16 informally 116:6 information 1:5 11:8 17:10 21:21 23:4 25:4,8 28:9 30:8 50:11,12 84:5 90:10 93:22 94:20 95:5 138:1 146:19 147:13 150:13 153:7 157:22 158:2,15 159:15,18 160:13 161:9 162:12 164:18,22 165:2,3 165:14,20,22 166:7,13,13 168:4 169:8 172:22 174:22 175:3,7,8 175:17,18 176:7 183:18 184:10 188:16 192:3,17 192:21 193:1,5,8 193:16 194:2,2,8 194:12 221:20 224:9 239:15 259:7 260:8 263:13 264:2 265:6 267:6 268:14 271:9 281:21	informational 255:6 informative 26:2 infrastructure 165:14 initial 29:4 240:14 initiated 119:5 initiative 40:7,14 40:21 41:3 167:2 initiatives 40:10 157:10 178:16 input 93:11 99:5 122:20 137:18 148:4 253:6 inputs 82:19 90:22 92:11 93:2,4,13 93:17 99:1 157:19 insane 126:22 inside 4:9 36:20 169:14 insight 63:17 264:21 281:21 insights 157:7 install 279:15 installed 241:18 258:16 instance 92:7 101:9 103:16 107:9 192:7 258:11 265:10 276:10 instances 242:10 244:17 263:22 instant 159:8 instructed 242:11 instructions 248:11 instrument 209:12 instrumental 140:13 insularity 75:7 insulation 232:14 integrated 2:6 15:8 57:10 166:11 271:18 integration 38:17 255:20 intelligent 270:13 intend 142:17	intending 253:7 intensities 212:22 213:3 218:13 intensity 217:21 intention 177:7 intentions 137:17 inter 101:21 interact 165:21 207:10 interacting 10:12 144:15 interaction 146:2 157:5 interactive 70:20 intercensal 205:7 214:4 216:22 interconnection 260:7,12 interest 19:15 24:4 32:19 42:20 47:19 57:13 60:8,13,14 131:18 132:4 161:10 177:22 178:2 248:4 interested 22:17 23:6 125:1 132:5 220:1 235:6 277:3 interesting 11:7,8 24:20 56:22 59:7 61:9 67:7 122:12 125:18 133:19 152:1 158:20 162:21 170:21 176:16 179:18 185:9 221:17 228:3 260:9 interests 21:9 73:5 221:8 interface 235:1 254:5 interim 6:16 10:12 intermediate 112:16 intermittent 256:2 internal 82:16 253:2 268:18 internally 49:18
---	---	--	---	---

160:5 216:4 233:2 238:1 240:9 258:21 international 29:8 internet 32:3 166:4 223:2,6 253:16,22 interpret 115:6 142:3 145:22 interpreted 113:20 113:20 intersection 135:8 intertwined 61:2 interval 202:21 interview 211:15 interviewed 204:22 interviewer 223:5 introduce 13:6 introduced 17:8 19:9 278:22 introduction 12:11 49:10 246:21 introductions 19:8 inventories 127:4 136:3 inventory 126:22 127:1 invest 164:6 investigate 29:2 185:12 investigating 26:8 28:17 investment 172:11 invitation 4:22 5:19 25:21 invite 39:14 149:17 152:5 invited 39:17,18 54:6 inviting 37:1 224:11 involved 35:15 53:4 60:7 65:10 74:9 148:5 178:4 252:21 involvement 65:14 inward 43:8 in-front 35:16	in-house 147:11,17 148:16 IRS 80:17 ISMS 32:2 89:1 223:3 ISO 261:17 ISOs 261:15 Israel 1:20 5:13 14:10 21:4 23:15 33:16 50:9 issue 29:21 43:10 65:6 75:22 76:8 77:10 96:17,18 102:3 110:12 112:13,15 119:7 120:6 123:8 134:20 135:13,15 136:3,7,18 142:17 143:19 149:10,13 149:14 151:10,20 151:20 161:18 173:16,19 176:5 182:20 186:11 221:14 224:17 226:7 227:9 238:2 240:17 245:12 248:7,17 257:2 258:10 276:4 issues 11:19 42:3 61:6,11 62:9 65:19 75:1,4,9,12 79:5,7 102:21 110:15 114:8 117:13 119:11 120:11,13,15,18 120:21 121:10 123:9,10 130:19 134:6,8,9,17 135:13,18,20 136:16 137:10 150:8 161:4,6 162:9 163:12 165:19 166:11,12 166:15 169:5 170:14 174:10 176:8 208:12 217:16 218:6	237:18 240:1,10 246:17 253:6 257:17 258:17 259:1 ITD 21:18 item 36:17 91:14 155:19 items 90:20 it'd 225:19 it'll 12:20 37:6,7 95:6 125:3 180:11 Izzy 21:12 137:6 146:14 255:15 277:1 i.e 199:19 <hr/> J <hr/> Jake 2:5 15:11 30:9 James 1:10 2:4,19 Janice 2:22 16:10 28:8 64:8,9 January 170:5,18 170:18 183:19 Jason 3:16 15:15 139:10,11 Jennings 2:17 16:15,15 17:19 66:19 Jim 135:5 job 8:10 21:20 23:6 138:5 167:22 210:22 228:21 jobs 21:19 180:1 207:6 John 1:22 2:8,9 14:8 15:7,19 50:21 55:11,12 56:16 57:4 58:1 59:21 61:1 62:4 63:8 65:4,7 66:16 75:13 137:7 167:17 177:3 218:1 231:21 275:11 Johns 24:2 joining 127:15 joint 39:17 48:8	JOSEPH 2:18 Joutz 2:18 152:8,9 Joyce 2:4,19 4:14 15:9,9 78:6,7 87:9 87:13,20 93:4,10 104:20 105:4,13 106:17 107:5 108:9 109:4,10,18 110:21 111:2,7 112:5,10,13 113:15 116:4 119:4,17 121:3,9 122:12 127:16 132:13 133:7 149:20 152:18,18 153:1 joyful 8:6 JRSSA 224:3 JSM 45:11 48:13 52:12 64:13 72:4 July 159:15 210:3,5 jump 78:11 159:9 227:15 jumping 212:21 jumps 196:22 June 58:4,4,5 justice 41:15 42:2,8 47:10 67:6 68:1 justified 226:9 <hr/> K <hr/> KATIE 2:18 keep 9:11 30:3 33:20 34:11 52:1 54:13 64:17 68:12 118:22 130:8,12 130:17 145:9,9,15 145:15 177:5 198:10 259:21 281:1 keeping 38:5 132:2 259:3 keeps 52:18 Keith 195:13 ken 275:3 KENDELL 2:19 Kent 66:17	kept 41:1 key 126:17 158:16 163:15 213:9 216:7 217:15 240:10 kilowatt 241:22 245:15 279:21 kilowatts 279:21 kind 9:6,7 52:3,16 55:14,16 56:22 57:8,16,20 58:15 59:10,17 72:22 93:9,20 102:11 108:6 112:15 113:20 114:1,7 117:17 120:8 124:15,17 130:16 133:5 137:9 138:13 140:13,21 142:18 143:18 144:8,12,12 145:3 145:3,8,9,9,16,20 147:10 159:18 161:2 162:18,19 163:1,2 164:7,9 164:14 166:19,22 168:3,9 169:11 171:19 172:5,15 172:17 173:16 176:20 177:17 182:15 183:11,21 184:3,15 185:20 186:19 187:17 189:5 193:3,4,11 193:16,17 195:8 196:16 209:19 216:12 219:6 221:18 225:5 226:16 227:1 228:19 229:3,7 230:3,12,16 233:14 234:1,12 234:16 235:18 236:9 243:1 256:14 258:4 268:14 271:18 kinds 10:1 68:8
---	--	---	---	--

81:12 82:11 129:4 135:6 162:9 167:14 175:18 180:19 184:10 194:11 KING 2:20 Kirkendall 1:18 5:4 14:12,12 19:5 21:2,21 23:3 65:15 66:21 67:4 110:16 111:1,5 112:2,8,11 115:19 118:4,14,16 178:13,14 179:15 181:14 184:20 Kirsten 225:2 knee 11:20 knees 11:2 63:12 knew 97:4 167:8 214:12 knock 208:19 209:11 knocked 188:15,15 knocking 208:22 know 7:1 8:3,8,20 10:2,21 11:14 13:2 21:3 25:16 32:1 34:8,21 36:1 36:2 37:9,19,22 42:12 45:5 46:10 48:20 50:4,8,9,15 51:1,14 53:2 55:21 56:16 58:16 59:4,21 60:17 61:20 62:1,18,20 63:11 64:22 65:18 66:1,1,6,11,15 71:19 72:20 73:7 73:18 74:4,15 75:16,17,19 76:3 76:5,6 77:3,4 86:12 89:5 91:7 94:7,17 95:14 96:11 97:7,8,10 97:19 99:7,9,11 99:13,13 100:8 101:7,14 102:7,8	104:12 105:7,21 106:11 107:8,20 108:5 109:10,13 109:19 110:2,6,10 111:2 112:5,22 113:3 114:10 115:1,10,13 116:4 116:10 117:17 120:1,2,11,18 121:11,20 122:1 123:2 125:6,8 126:7,21 127:6 128:10 129:14 130:7 131:7 140:3 140:17 141:6 142:19 146:22 147:4 149:1 150:20 151:3 153:20 154:8,11 155:7 157:17 158:12 172:9 174:7 175:16 181:19 183:15,19 185:10 187:7 188:3 192:4,5,7 198:10 201:20 202:10 205:1 206:14 208:13 209:4 210:7 213:15 216:11 219:7 220:2 222:19 225:6,8,13 225:18 226:19 227:20 228:9,12 229:17,18 230:1,6 230:7,14 231:10 232:10 233:13 234:1,5,9,9,12,21 235:3 246:18 247:22 255:3 263:2 264:10,10 265:2,8 267:12,17 269:16 270:9 271:15 275:1,21 278:1,19 279:16 280:1,2,18 281:16 knowing 117:9,11	117:12 228:22 knowledge 72:18 known 166:14 knows 31:19 47:1 56:16,17 206:22 231:16 KOBI 3:4 Kokkelenberg 1:19 4:20 14:6,7 51:9 51:21 53:20 131:5 131:7,15 133:18 139:9 140:20 146:5,8 149:9 154:19 185:8 186:1 187:20 188:6 230:21 272:21 274:16 275:16,19 276:20 Kydes 2:21 22:14	<hr/> L <hr/> labeled 113:3,4 123:6 labor 134:1,5 136:22 137:19 147:2 202:13 213:11,16 laboring 197:16 lack 266:19 Lady 27:7 lagged 159:16 land 29:10,10 landmen 192:8,12 language 173:11,13 222:22 223:11,11 large 82:1 92:6,6 102:11 107:8 149:3 152:16 166:4 170:4 171:16 186:4 196:5 205:14 211:5 234:4 241:12 277:12 largely 202:6 larger 10:7 142:4 largest 48:13,15 166:3	late 9:4 14:22 70:19 169:10,16 173:1 195:1 278:9 latecomer 235:22 Laughter 12:6,14 16:20 19:18 37:11 179:14 launch 104:21 launching 178:2 law 41:15 42:1,7 47:10 68:1 113:7 244:19 lay 175:15,18 lead 23:17 249:12 leader 198:11 leadership 42:9 44:3 leading 32:18 208:13 leads 44:4 100:10 learn 24:5 87:11 118:9 learned 9:7 33:4 42:10 177:2 learning 82:12 182:13 194:4 leave 22:5,6 236:10 236:11 leaves 230:8 leaving 31:1 LECKEY 2:21 lecture 37:4 left 22:6 145:12 left-hand 149:8 legally 12:13 legislation 121:11 266:11 legislative 240:12 length 46:7 54:21 lengthy 11:15 Lent 2:22 16:10,10 28:8 64:13 65:11 lessons 33:4 letter 80:3 letters 38:21 198:3 let's 29:15 69:3 78:3 127:21 131:8	198:8,16 220:11 222:6 266:22 268:12 level 37:7 96:5 107:18 114:16 144:11 177:21 178:1 203:8 214:4 221:10 226:12,15 239:8 240:5 241:17 244:10 246:14,19 251:21 251:22 265:11 268:7 273:8 275:6 280:9,12,15 levels 7:21 250:17 leverage 10:5 liaison 17:20 44:19 45:3,10 life 40:18 115:5,16 light 188:4 likelihood 49:5 234:16 Likewise 99:20 limit 30:15 114:20 limited 6:7 29:5 264:1 limits 28:20 30:10 30:21 57:16 line 45:17 103:21 136:19 199:21 205:11 212:9,13 212:21 215:11 278:3 linear 144:2 145:4 linearly 189:18 lining 203:21 link 66:22 liquids 158:6 list 24:17 25:3 27:7 87:15 88:3,3,13 88:15 108:11,13 201:6 253:6 262:11,17 listed 185:11 199:1 listen 30:14 69:1,4 listening 152:9 listens 68:22
---	---	--	---	--	--

literally 209:20	153:11	122:14 138:22	163:21 166:18	249:20
literature 26:7	long 6:11 25:4	142:9 144:19	168:3,18 175:11	maintaining
215:17	28:11 45:4 51:12	172:10 180:18	177:13 189:22	248:20
little 12:16 20:20	55:4 71:2 127:4,4	185:1 187:8,9	193:2,6 202:7	major 58:3 160:11
21:8 23:4 24:5	127:5,5 135:15	190:12 209:17	210:19 213:13	197:21 203:19
26:17 28:7 31:15	162:8 165:9	224:4 257:21	220:17 222:9	218:11,19 226:11
37:3,13 38:10	179:11 193:8	266:3	224:3 225:3	242:12
39:10 41:8 43:6	213:15 217:17	looking 28:16	226:17 229:3,4	makeup 99:7
47:8 48:16 49:20	225:11	75:19 102:14,16	230:2,17 231:18	making 38:6 89:18
54:2 56:17 75:3	longer 38:4 42:14	106:14 134:12	231:20 233:21	116:20 139:6
77:16 79:2 88:20	77:20 156:4	138:7,11 141:21	234:6,9 237:5	173:18 217:1,3
90:17 91:20 95:6	177:12 221:19	144:12,13 147:8	254:20 261:2	227:19 245:1
96:16 100:13	253:10 263:4,4	151:8 157:4 161:7	265:5 266:3	250:4 258:4
103:6 105:5,18	274:18	163:14 167:10	271:16 280:10	268:16
111:7,8,15,18	longstanding 41:18	170:1 172:6,13	lots 51:4 131:1	male 204:19
116:5 143:6,9	long-form 213:10	173:20 174:17	166:16 267:19	Mall 154:9
144:3,4 149:22	214:19 217:17	178:4 180:11	loud 278:16	manage 31:19
155:3,4 156:3,6	long-run 135:18	184:1,8 186:14	LOUISE 2:14	171:11
156:22 158:8	long-term 138:6	190:1 192:1	Louisiana 188:8	manageable 87:5
159:5,21 160:4,15	251:14 275:5	206:18 233:6	love 57:3	managed 160:22
162:1,22 166:10	look 9:15 11:10	234:7 243:7 266:5	low 23:18 158:14	166:20,21 167:15
166:10 169:5,18	49:16 52:22 59:16	266:8 268:19	211:18	management 3:2
170:6 172:7,8	67:16 73:20 75:12	269:10 272:3	lower 96:22 140:1	31:9,13,14,18
173:4 183:12	75:18 76:20,21	273:2,9	142:4,5 143:4	32:3 156:10 167:3
186:17 187:9	80:21 85:2 90:19	looks 92:6 172:17	160:12 183:11	167:6,6 237:12
190:7 195:5,5,6	106:1,15 108:13	184:16 188:1	186:5,8 209:3	238:5
197:6,18 210:10	108:14 112:6	191:16 215:8	210:20	manager 167:7,22
211:5 217:10	118:18 125:2	275:20	loyal 74:14	managers 23:20
218:15 220:2,9	126:16 127:7	Los 269:19	lubricant 126:1,2,2	198:15
222:18 224:4	132:16 134:1	lose 43:18 178:9	lubrication 126:5	managing 275:12
228:2 230:16	137:4 138:18	194:10	luck 10:18,19	mandate 256:20
234:7 235:9 242:4	145:2 147:6	losses 91:14,19	lunch 12:1 18:6	mandated 131:16
245:9 265:14	151:11 153:7	92:1	153:11,19 224:12	133:2
live 177:11 214:17	156:9,16 157:6,7	lot 9:18 23:10	lunchtime 63:20	mandatory 86:10
lived 214:16	163:20 164:9	26:11,19 33:2,4	LYNN 2:12	manufacturers
living 113:11 163:2	170:12 171:14	35:22 37:18,22		152:12
192:5 231:18	174:13 175:7,10	53:5 57:12 59:5	M	map 28:2
load 124:13 243:2,7	175:13 176:13,13	61:10 68:4,6,21	macroeconomic	maps 27:21
279:9	179:6 181:7,8,18	73:9,10 82:14	65:7	March 106:11,12
loading 141:11	182:6 185:21	94:20 107:15	magnitude 131:14	161:14 205:16
loan 257:9	190:11 192:17	108:4 114:9,10	mail 209:10	209:22 210:1,5,7
lobby 18:13 154:1	195:12 199:16	115:5,16 118:8	main 17:17 83:7	margin 182:8
227:16	208:7 219:1,11	119:11 123:10	85:5 92:14 204:9	252:6 274:15
located 13:22 17:13	233:9 249:16	124:19 125:22	207:18,22 221:7	margins 252:2
location 120:22	256:11 267:16	136:21 143:21	224:17	marine 23:21,22
246:16 274:14	273:17 276:9	144:18 148:8	mainstream 59:12	MARINER-VO...
logistics 12:21	looked 108:14	150:10,12 161:19	maintain 247:11	2:22

MARK 2:13	276:2 281:13	149:6 176:12	76:22 78:4 137:4	met 21:22 128:9
market 73:21	Mary's 14:3 117:2	187:1 199:7	155:6 269:2	meter 242:6 267:8
80:16 83:17	123:17 125:16	202:22 232:9,10	meetings 13:12	267:8,11
114:12 116:3	MASON 2:23	meant 84:10	17:22 19:20 39:18	metering 241:16
118:10,20 124:22	massive 10:22	190:16	45:8,11 46:7 47:5	269:22 270:2,2,10
125:17 131:10,12	match 244:2 246:6	measure 28:22	48:8 49:15 50:18	271:8,11 279:5
132:15 135:16	matching 245:14	79:8 100:19	54:21 56:6 66:17	meters 232:19,20
137:22 138:17	material 51:2 52:8	104:13 111:15	meets 47:21 146:2	method 167:21
148:12 152:14	178:8	116:16 119:15,16	megawatt 242:5	273:2
159:1,11 161:16	materials 15:22	120:3 126:12,13	247:2	methodological
174:11 188:18	76:10	126:18 129:19,20	megawatts 279:4,8	170:10 226:10
206:20 213:12	math 190:13	202:9 219:8 279:1	Melendez 1:20 5:13	methodology 27:12
242:21,21 244:6	229:20,21 230:4,4	measured 199:9	14:10,10 21:4	134:5 173:17
248:2 255:22	mathematical	measurement	23:14,16 33:12,16	174:10 179:2,19
259:6 260:20	216:7	120:5 281:19	33:17 34:22 35:3	179:21 181:7
261:1,6 262:2,7	matter 39:8 47:1	measurements	146:14,14 148:6,8	182:18 183:3,10
265:3,5 276:14	77:22 113:12	205:10,14	148:22 255:16	186:12 193:11
280:13	127:18 155:16	measures 208:3	259:2 260:4	198:13 216:17
marketable 65:1	183:6 236:8,14	213:9,14	262:10,21 264:7	methods 2:2 4:8
92:17	270:20 282:11	measuring 90:22	Mellon 7:18	13:10 15:5,12,16
marketeers 263:15	matters 43:14	280:5	member 13:7,18	15:18 164:15
marketer 246:3	47:20 69:9 240:1	meat 93:20	38:4 45:17 54:5	217:14 220:7
marketers 245:17	maximum 47:2	mechanism 60:11	56:15 152:5	234:10,20
marketing 59:6	114:20 234:16	60:18	278:10	Mexico 160:10
116:1 263:20	Mayes 2:23 125:15	mechanisms 244:3	members 1:13 6:22	Michael 1:15,21
marketplace	125:15	media 82:13	7:2,20 15:1 18:22	2:6 3:6 5:8 14:19
114:13 139:8	McCain-Lieber...	median 196:15	19:4 20:1,2,20	19:4 20:21 53:22
158:21 159:19	58:18	197:1	35:1 42:22 54:13	Michael's 232:2
164:21	McDOWNEY 2:24	median-based	74:11 100:12	233:9
markets 2:15 3:2	16:11,11 27:6	197:5	memory 128:12	microphone 15:2
80:12 140:3,3	mean 34:12 50:17	medium 196:8	mention 47:7 48:7	18:17 19:1 122:3
179:9,13 240:3	55:20 60:9 72:2	meet 7:2 50:19	59:15 62:10 68:13	123:15 132:12
243:13 265:9	76:17 104:16	52:11 70:1,5 82:8	69:20 70:16	microphones 18:21
266:9 274:5 282:1	110:3,4,21 112:14	153:21,22 177:8	123:13 166:1	microturbines
market-based	113:10,16 114:15	202:5 252:13,14	mentioned 43:4	267:13
245:6 276:17	118:8 119:9	269:19	64:1 74:8 76:13	micro-simulation
market-sensitive	126:22 145:12,12	meeting 1:5,10 4:2	88:21 104:20	22:20 221:16
240:2	182:8 183:4	4:7 6:4,9 10:15	105:10 120:15	middle 172:12
married 216:10	184:17 185:3	12:8,16 17:1	132:11 151:11	Midwest 208:12
Marshall 65:5,5	187:3 188:11	18:16 19:13,14	225:15 245:13	mid-decade 205:22
marveled 7:15	196:14 204:16	20:8,11,15 21:13	250:1 251:12	Mike 13:19 14:21
Mary 2:19 4:14	211:1 222:18	33:3 34:1 46:8	252:9 275:6	21:16 53:3 116:11
15:9 78:6 87:8	264:10 279:20	47:6 48:15 51:12	280:21	117:14 119:14
126:11 132:9,11	meaning 209:1	52:20 53:9,12	merged 239:4	120:10 194:19
149:17 152:17,18	meaningful 49:16	55:14 58:6 59:2	messed 254:10	219:14 231:15
Maryland 14:3,5	73:2 96:3,4	59:22 69:10 70:3	messed 198:9	278:7
22:9 48:20 243:1	means 142:2 149:5	75:3,13 76:3,4,9	messing 216:14	military 211:15

Miller 2:25 15:17 15:17	133:20 134:16 135:11 151:10	month 46:22 85:8,9 86:2 89:15,16 104:22 105:19 106:7 109:2,3,6 125:2 186:18 209:11 237:4	210:8 237:8 240:19 241:2 244:17 249:1 251:16 253:1,13 255:11	national 13:20 21:1 21:2 22:8,16 38:19 58:22 84:1 194:17 210:14 221:4 229:4 239:5
million 205:19 211:6,7 232:17	184:15 193:17,17 194:15 195:5,10 221:16 274:1,13	monthly 29:16,20 46:21 83:22 85:6 86:3,6 88:14 89:11,12 90:8,12 98:15 99:21 128:20,20 132:18 152:13 158:10 160:7 162:15 173:10 174:15 176:13 186:13 196:21 238:20 239:1,6 246:2,10	moved 24:1 179:22 movement 171:22 182:20 moving 168:19 177:5 246:4,13 271:22	nationally 271:18 nation's 243:2 natural 158:6 160:7 161:9,15,17 163:17,17 169:7 170:20,22 173:10 180:13 188:10 195:18 196:2 218:18 250:13,13 265:3 267:13 269:15
mind 39:5 84:16	modeled 158:5 165:2	months 22:12,15 24:11 33:11 90:3 90:6 117:19 170:17 183:17 192:21 197:4 214:16,17 230:22 231:1 232:11	MSHA 141:14 Mullen 18:15 multi 204:6 259:14 multifamily 215:14 multiple 28:3 207:6 239:10 274:5,6	naturally 202:8 nature 280:3 nauseam 200:9 NCAA 37:4,5 near 150:15 necessarily 77:4,19 127:3 129:14 150:22 172:19 211:12 269:4 270:13,15 271:19
mine 134:13 136:14 138:11 141:3,4,8,10,12 141:14,16 142:22 143:21 146:15 150:22,22	modeler 147:17 modelers 61:17,20 65:18,20 modeling 22:13 23:18,19,19 29:8 56:18 57:19 58:9 59:9 61:3,4,8,15 61:16,21 129:21 130:2,3 135:7,8 136:1,18 137:21 144:14 145:4 150:1 193:6 217:11 218:12 248:5	month's 105:17 117:3 159:13 Monument 154:4 moral 235:8 morning 10:20 12:2 16:22 17:12 18:12 20:13 65:3 78:8 88:22 104:21 158:18 220:3 223:3	Murphy 27:19	needed 83:19 84:3 84:4 163:13 177:4 260:14 needs 13:2 166:10 166:18 178:18
mines 133:22 136:18 138:13,15 138:21 139:1,2,5 139:7,19,21 140:2 140:21 141:3,5,15 141:21 142:4 143:3,14	models 22:20 26:8 56:20 135:4,22 158:1 190:9 199:8 218:21 234:13 273:18,18	motivate 223:6 motivation 175:9 262:19 264:22 265:1	MSHA 141:14 Mullen 18:15 multi 204:6 259:14 multifamily 215:14 multiple 28:3 207:6 239:10 274:5,6 multitude 247:7 multi-families 204:7 multi-stage 201:10 municipals 261:14 Murphy 27:19	near 150:15 necessarily 77:4,19 127:3 129:14 150:22 172:19 211:12 269:4 270:13,15 271:19
mine-level 150:10	modest 132:3 222:11	motor 29:19,20 81:3 83:13 84:9 100:20 102:5,8,9 102:21 113:6 114:6	multi-stage 201:10 municipals 261:14 Murphy 27:19	n 206:1,2 NAEP 221:4 Nagaraj 65:9,11 NAICs 242:16 243:4 naive 278:20 name 12:13 18:19 20:3 23:15 33:15 44:21 107:9 139:11 152:8,22 220:11 253:9 names 13:2 107:9 139:10 name's 156:1 236:20 naming 80:1 Nancy 1:18 5:4 14:12 19:4 21:2 21:21 23:2 42:14 67:21 178:13 195:14 274:21 NASS 70:4
minimize 238:10	modification 250:19 276:18	motivate 223:6 motivation 175:9 262:19 264:22 265:1	multi-stage 201:10 municipals 261:14 Murphy 27:19	N
minor 70:16 158:3 195:4	modify 257:12	morning 10:20 12:2 16:22 17:12 18:12 20:13 65:3 78:8 88:22 104:21 158:18 220:3 223:3	multi-stage 201:10 municipals 261:14 Murphy 27:19	n 206:1,2 NAEP 221:4 Nagaraj 65:9,11 NAICs 242:16 243:4 naive 278:20 name 12:13 18:19 20:3 23:15 33:15 44:21 107:9 139:11 152:8,22 220:11 253:9 names 13:2 107:9 139:10 name's 156:1 236:20 naming 80:1 Nancy 1:18 5:4 14:12 19:4 21:2 21:21 23:2 42:14 67:21 178:13 195:14 274:21 NASS 70:4
minute 76:22 155:12 182:14 247:13	module 57:17	morning 10:20 12:2 16:22 17:12 18:12 20:13 65:3 78:8 88:22 104:21 158:18 220:3 223:3	multi-stage 201:10 municipals 261:14 Murphy 27:19	n 206:1,2 NAEP 221:4 Nagaraj 65:9,11 NAICs 242:16 243:4 naive 278:20 name 12:13 18:19 20:3 23:15 33:15 44:21 107:9 139:11 152:8,22 220:11 253:9 names 13:2 107:9 139:10 name's 156:1 236:20 naming 80:1 Nancy 1:18 5:4 14:12 19:4 21:2 21:21 23:2 42:14 67:21 178:13 195:14 274:21 NASS 70:4
minutes 12:22 13:1 42:16 90:16 149:16 154:1 161:5 197:15,16 219:17 236:7,9	modules 53:7	morning 10:20 12:2 16:22 17:12 18:12 20:13 65:3 78:8 88:22 104:21 158:18 220:3 223:3	multi-stage 201:10 municipals 261:14 Murphy 27:19	n 206:1,2 NAEP 221:4 Nagaraj 65:9,11 NAICs 242:16 243:4 naive 278:20 name 12:13 18:19 20:3 23:15 33:15 44:21 107:9 139:11 152:8,22 220:11 253:9 names 13:2 107:9 139:10 name's 156:1 236:20 naming 80:1 Nancy 1:18 5:4 14:12 19:4 21:2 21:21 23:2 42:14 67:21 178:13 195:14 274:21 NASS 70:4
misinterpreted 277:1	molt 144:12,17	morning 10:20 12:2 16:22 17:12 18:12 20:13 65:3 78:8 88:22 104:21 158:18 220:3 223:3	multi-stage 201:10 municipals 261:14 Murphy 27:19	n 206:1,2 NAEP 221:4 Nagaraj 65:9,11 NAICs 242:16 243:4 naive 278:20 name 12:13 18:19 20:3 23:15 33:15 44:21 107:9 139:11 152:8,22 220:11 253:9 names 13:2 107:9 139:10 name's 156:1 236:20 naming 80:1 Nancy 1:18 5:4 14:12 19:4 21:2 21:21 23:2 42:14 67:21 178:13 195:14 274:21 NASS 70:4
missing 101:9 105:2,11 115:15 116:13,15 117:8 117:21 120:9 126:11 127:12 129:4,6 130:18	Monday 65:2	morning 10:20 12:2 16:22 17:12 18:12 20:13 65:3 78:8 88:22 104:21 158:18 220:3 223:3	multi-stage 201:10 municipals 261:14 Murphy 27:19	n 206:1,2 NAEP 221:4 Nagaraj 65:9,11 NAICs 242:16 243:4 naive 278:20 name 12:13 18:19 20:3 23:15 33:15 44:21 107:9 139:11 152:8,22 220:11 253:9 names 13:2 107:9 139:10 name's 156:1 236:20 naming 80:1 Nancy 1:18 5:4 14:12 19:4 21:2 21:21 23:2 42:14 67:21 178:13 195:14 274:21 NASS 70:4
misunderstand 115:4	money 8:11 11:2,21 28:20 49:4,5 54:2 63:17 67:11,14 164:6,8,11 167:9 167:12 175:5 235:7,8 264:5	morning 10:20 12:2 16:22 17:12 18:12 20:13 65:3 78:8 88:22 104:21 158:18 220:3 223:3	multi-stage 201:10 municipals 261:14 Murphy 27:19	n 206:1,2 NAEP 221:4 Nagaraj 65:9,11 NAICs 242:16 243:4 naive 278:20 name 12:13 18:19 20:3 23:15 33:15 44:21 107:9 139:11 152:8,22 220:11 253:9 names 13:2 107:9 139:10 name's 156:1 236:20 naming 80:1 Nancy 1:18 5:4 14:12 19:4 21:2 21:21 23:2 42:14 67:21 178:13 195:14 274:21 NASS 70:4
mitigating 256:9	monies 213:4	morning 10:20 12:2 16:22 17:12 18:12 20:13 65:3 78:8 88:22 104:21 158:18 220:3 223:3	multi-stage 201:10 municipals 261:14 Murphy 27:19	n 206:1,2 NAEP 221:4 Nagaraj 65:9,11 NAICs 242:16 243:4 naive 278:20 name 12:13 18:19 20:3 23:15 33:15 44:21 107:9 139:11 152:8,22 220:11 253:9 names 13:2 107:9 139:10 name's 156:1 236:20 naming 80:1 Nancy 1:18 5:4 14:12 19:4 21:2 21:21 23:2 42:14 67:21 178:13 195:14 274:21 NASS 70:4
mix 61:19 249:11	monitor 98:19,21 114:3 219:2 235:15 247:4	morning 10:20 12:2 16:22 17:12 18:12 20:13 65:3 78:8 88:22 104:21 158:18 220:3 223:3	multi-stage 201:10 municipals 261:14 Murphy 27:19	n 206:1,2 NAEP 221:4 Nagaraj 65:9,11 NAICs 242:16 243:4 naive 278:20 name 12:13 18:19 20:3 23:15 33:15 44:21 107:9 139:11 152:8,22 220:11 253:9 names 13:2 107:9 139:10 name's 156:1 236:20 naming 80:1 Nancy 1:18 5:4 14:12 19:4 21:2 21:21 23:2 42:14 67:21 178:13 195:14 274:21 NASS 70:4
mobile 204:6	monitoring 200:6	morning 10:20 12:2 16:22 17:12 18:12 20:13 65:3 78:8 88:22 104:21 158:18 220:3 223:3	multi-stage 201:10 municipals 261:14 Murphy 27:19	n 206:1,2 NAEP 221:4 Nagaraj 65:9,11 NAICs 242:16 243:4 naive 278:20 name 12:13 18:19 20:3 23:15 33:15 44:21 107:9 139:11 152:8,22 220:11 253:9 names 13:2 107:9 139:10 name's 156:1 236:20 naming 80:1 Nancy 1:18 5:4 14:12 19:4 21:2 21:21 23:2 42:14 67:21 178:13 195:14 274:21 NASS 70:4
model 22:20 26:6 28:5 29:12 57:20 67:7 75:21 126:19 127:7,11 130:8	monologue 11:15	morning 10:20 12:2 16:22 17:12 18:12 20:13 65:3 78:8 88:22 104:21 158:18 220:3 223:3	multi-stage 201:10 municipals 261:14 Murphy 27:19	n 206:1,2 NAEP 221:4 Nagaraj 65:9,11 NAICs 242:16 243:4 naive 278:20 name 12:13 18:19 20:3 23:15 33:15 44:21 107:9 139:11 152:8,22 220:11 253:9 names 13:2 107:9 139:10 name's 156:1 236:20 naming 80:1 Nancy 1:18 5:4 14:12 19:4 21:2 21:21 23:2 42:14 67:21 178:13 195:14 274:21 NASS 70:4

204:2	144:2 217:4,15	92:1,5,6 98:11	263:22	Ohio 276:4
negative 135:1	228:4 229:3	103:1 124:2	occasion 39:13	OIAF 2:7,12 3:6,7
139:16 142:2,7,11	nickel 162:19	131:17 132:20	occasionally 53:14	oil 2:15 5:2,3 16:2
151:15	night 7:8 46:15	139:5 143:22	116:19	16:14 22:1 30:6
NEMS 27:8 53:3,6	nobody's 93:16	176:3 184:6 190:4	occupancy 210:9	79:15 80:15,16
59:20 137:12,18	noise 185:17	193:4 204:13	occupied 203:5	81:3 95:3 100:4
NEPS 221:5	non 89:17 102:3	205:17 216:9,10	206:17 211:8,11	102:11 112:3
NERC 248:12,13	145:3 204:14	218:17 238:16,19	212:15 213:17,21	116:15 117:10
249:17,19 251:12	nonsensical 171:4	243:12 251:3	214:9 215:3,9	121:21 155:20
259:16 261:1,6,16	non-generating	263:12 270:11	216:15 219:11	156:2 157:5
261:20	257:14	numbers 49:1	231:12	159:10,13,15
NERCs 271:19	non-linear 144:1	169:17,20 170:15	occur 102:22 103:1	162:7 176:11
nervous 117:21	non-respondents	198:2 209:22	129:12	187:5,12 250:15
143:22	228:6	251:1,4	occurred 57:18	oils 79:13,18 83:13
nested 234:16	non-response	numbers-rich	197:20	101:12
net 101:5 207:3	203:9 207:3	59:10	occurring 103:14	OIT 2:9
208:21 217:5	223:18	numerous 28:5	occurs 95:10	okay 13:4 14:18
241:16,22	non-self 201:7	44:13 218:14	129:13	15:3 19:8 24:8
network 259:4,5	Nora 222:14	NYMEX 159:10	ocean 246:22	26:4 27:4 29:6
networks 233:1	normal 241:1		October 168:13	33:9 36:16 38:22
never 10:3 45:7	North 48:21 210:8	O	177:8 178:9 181:9	42:15 64:3 70:12
51:17 86:4 94:11	248:8 271:21	object 73:8	210:6	119:15 128:4,8
101:7 105:19,20	Northeast 176:16	objective 82:15	OEID 22:10	131:4,16 146:18
106:5 146:11	202:5	83:7 133:22	offering 117:22	153:17 154:12,13
205:11 227:20	northern 141:22	objectives 82:8	office 2:6,13,15,15	154:18 155:8,15
new 4:13,17 6:17	note 99:15 150:16	84:16 133:21	3:2 4:14 5:3 16:1	178:14 191:9,18
6:21,22 12:9,15	155:7 278:6	136:21	16:3,13 21:20	198:9 219:19
13:7 19:3 20:1,19	noted 70:18 81:11	obligated 279:2	22:1,11 30:6	255:16,18 269:8
45:12 55:9 62:18	149:2,5	obligations 238:9	47:11 49:12 50:22	272:18 274:17
69:11 78:5,16	notes 131:1	obliged 15:1	61:3 125:16 156:2	278:18 280:7
81:6 82:7 124:19	nothing's 27:22	observation 140:21	157:5 162:7 167:1	Oklahoma 188:9
128:9 132:10,11	notice 109:21	148:1	236:21 237:6,11	old 7:2,5,7 116:6
145:15 161:11,14	237:14 238:3,6	observations 147:3	238:5 250:15	165:15,17 180:6
162:15 163:22	240:17 252:18	168:14	262:8	189:19
167:1 170:2 179:4	253:14	observe 38:20	officer 15:20 19:11	older 9:5
180:3,3,8 189:20	noticed 146:16	158:20	20:22	OMB 200:15
190:19 200:10	216:8	observed 39:21	official 2:2 21:14	240:20
201:15,15 202:7	NRs 259:4	240:10	39:7,8	onboard 40:1
205:9 209:6 210:7	nuances 136:12	observer 21:14	officially 66:9	once 54:4 60:20
212:19 235:4	nuclear 2:13 4:14	obtained 29:21	offline 76:7 77:21	63:3 103:2 151:22
238:17 246:21	15:10 16:4 236:22	obvious 44:8,10	offset 92:18 124:12	188:13 198:6
247:7 248:2 250:5	249:9 252:11	120:1 145:2	off-script 16:19	203:13 205:22
256:13 257:8	260:7,15	225:18	oh 7:6 51:20 71:13	216:19 240:14
266:10,12 273:20	nukes 260:11	obviously 7:10 9:14	76:20 109:4,10	253:2 255:11
newer 27:18 29:7	number 18:5 25:2	33:22 40:11	117:7 121:3 131:6	onerous 78:18
news 11:2	25:2 46:7 48:13	108:21 220:20	216:8 217:11	ones 8:18 67:17
nice 25:12 118:19	48:18 82:10 87:17	221:7 227:2	220:13	87:21 108:15,16

108:16 111:11 143:5 148:17 189:21 257:20 one-day 76:3 one-hour 55:22 one-person 204:17 204:18,19 One-tenth 131:15 one-third 210:3,4 one-time 86:1 ongoing 31:5 85:7 online 32:10 161:13 223:8 247:5 249:7 onsite 94:10 on-location 59:21 on-road 80:11 OOG 2:11,23 3:17 open 4:2 6:4,9 9:12 50:18 75:10 89:14 100:15 109:6 155:5 202:21 240:21 opened 233:16 238:13 operate 58:14 91:5 269:17 operates 24:1 operating 165:8 174:15 250:9 operation 91:21 230:6 249:6 258:6 operationalized 209:7 operations 124:10 238:18 271:13 operators 257:12 opinion 8:7 182:3 opportunities 75:8 180:9 183:7 opportunity 11:5 23:12 55:8 72:16 175:15 176:10 177:14 234:3 237:16 opposed 40:4 95:11 242:16 244:7	245:7 273:3,6 279:13 opposite 62:14 opted 85:15 Optimization 21:5 option 29:2 options 176:2 orange 212:9 order 83:2,5 85:13 126:5 128:5 131:14 163:8 171:6,8,17 organization 10:8 187:12 192:2 organizational 44:1 45:12 organizations 146:17 253:5 263:12 organize 46:13 155:8 organized 128:7 organizes 76:2 organizing 13:11 oriented 130:16 original 171:5 276:5 OSS 22:10 ought 237:20 253:11 outliers 196:16 197:8 outlook 15:14 output 62:10 251:5 outputs 91:1 157:19 outputted 130:1 outside 59:8 158:6 169:15 172:1 218:14 outstanding 126:1 outward 43:13,21 overall 41:21 161:16,21 162:17 190:10 193:14 196:3 206:10 overcome 130:13	overestimating 215:9 overlap 185:22 overly 197:8,8 override 254:14 overview 237:9 ownership 241:13 O'Brien 3:2 5:7 72:15 197:20 198:11 219:19 220:8,10,16 235:20 <hr/> P <hr/> P 257:5 package 233:10 238:4 240:19 pads 11:20 page 66:20 90:9 93:19 paid 132:6 191:22 245:6 panel 141:20,21 paper 220:1 224:1 papers 219:22 220:6,7 Paperwork 238:10 parallel 119:11 123:10 137:14 paralleled 124:21 pardon 279:4 parking 267:19 part 41:21 44:22 52:5 54:20,20 63:5 71:10 85:5 121:13 122:6 133:2 150:2 163:11 170:15 176:11 177:1 180:16 200:17 222:3 237:21 238:18 243:11 244:2 249:10 256:20 261:11 280:18 281:18 partial 228:19 partially 51:9	103:12 180:21 188:20 PARTICIPANT 122:5 195:20 196:14 participants 24:19 participate 11:11 140:2 209:3 participation 255:10 particular 47:19 81:11 98:12 117:8 142:22 160:2 242:22 249:3 254:12 particularly 41:20 63:9 81:16 82:3 91:16 94:8 95:2 136:1 169:6 181:18 239:17 240:3 242:20 249:1 257:18 259:13 273:13 partition 146:9 partitioning 146:6 partly 96:16,17 parts 58:8 85:4,5 138:8 237:7 243:19,22 party 37:3 262:16 part-time 57:14 pass 238:4 passed 276:9 path 172:20 278:2 Patricia 2:17 62:11 pattern 139:1 Paul 2:9 15:19 66:16 PAULA 2:23 pay 54:9 264:6 paying 246:5 pays 74:19,19 peel 78:12 peeling 171:13 Pennsylvania 48:21 people 10:3 11:17	11:17 21:22 22:14 25:9 28:21 31:9 31:11 35:16,18 38:6 53:15 55:9 56:19 59:8 60:1 63:6 69:4 74:3 75:12 82:12 89:3 96:8,9 114:9 115:1 122:16 124:2,22 133:5 147:21 166:5 172:13 176:1 179:20,22 180:4 194:16 198:16 201:16 205:16 206:15,17,21 207:5 210:7 213:19 214:5 215:1 216:9,10 220:17 223:4 224:13 225:2,3 226:13 231:7,18 234:22 254:2 264:11 265:2,4,14 265:17 271:16 277:3,8 people's 121:7 221:20 perceived 172:2 percent 48:22 49:3 80:6,6,8 107:20 115:12,13 125:5,5 131:16,21 159:9 160:15 161:3 171:6,9,18,18 186:4,10,15 190:4 190:6 191:16 193:15 194:1 196:1,6,7,8 208:8 208:19,21 225:8,8 243:1 253:20 percentage 80:4 133:5,12,14 perfect 57:5 277:19 perform 226:1 262:9 performance
---	---	---	---	---

169:12	Philip 15:6 137:16	249:10	87:7 98:5 99:3	156:12 157:1
period 26:14 30:13	138:17 149:17	planning 33:2	100:5 101:13	246:20 267:3
51:18 89:20	150:19	35:18,22 249:4,15	102:14 107:6	268:13
149:16 163:9	Philip's 146:21	251:15 252:6	109:14 111:4	portions 256:6
187:14 192:19	PHILLIP 3:13	260:10,14 261:4	119:16 120:1,10	posed 222:12
214:21 216:3	phone 147:1	271:20	125:6,10,17 132:3	position 8:19 39:8
225:17 226:4	178:17	plans 40:17	142:19 148:1	173:21,22
243:4	photovoltaics	plant 86:20 91:1,2	156:21 160:1	positions 68:15
periodic 116:17	267:18	91:13,16 92:11,12	165:15 172:14	positive 135:3
periodically 17:4,5	phrase 131:8	93:22 95:11,12,13	173:15,19 182:9	possibility 31:3
127:11 184:21	physical 121:18,20	95:22 96:15	189:15 190:3	49:21 50:5 126:3
periods 127:5	161:11	107:11,11 112:20	214:22 222:14	138:10 142:20
165:9	physically 121:14	135:19 136:7	225:17 226:21	possible 9:2 11:11
permit 28:18,19	pick 136:12 155:6	141:1 143:10	233:9 234:16	37:16 44:21 75:6
person 18:16 54:6	162:17 181:7	238:18 239:8,9,13	235:1 250:3	116:8,12,13
54:9 97:13 205:2	231:4,6 244:13	246:14,16 249:6	253:18 255:13	120:13 151:8
207:5	249:13	256:3 258:13	258:18 259:22	176:4 188:12
personal 36:11	picking 124:16	260:6,7 268:1	262:11 270:20	229:9 252:20
86:14 87:22	pickup 152:15	269:18	272:12 275:4	possibly 126:6
personally 11:16	picture 82:2 126:11	plants 81:17,19	276:20 280:2	174:1 272:13
35:17 52:14	136:4 161:21	87:3,5 91:5,21	pointed 43:13	post 199:20 206:5
person's 8:10	190:10 208:5	92:16 105:21	136:20 149:10	211:17 224:1
perspective 24:6	245:3	108:12 118:5	pointing 43:9	posted 33:20
61:10 80:21 90:22	piece 104:6 118:20	143:1,15 249:9	points 43:17 76:17	poster 233:15
98:13 116:5 214:7	145:11	250:13 256:4,13	143:16 145:9,14	post-blending
petroleum 30:7	pieces 145:10	258:6 269:19	polarized 66:4	113:11
79:20,21 80:6	168:19 175:6,15	plant-level 86:16	policies 59:17 81:6	post-conference
81:9 94:12 95:20	piles 273:1,10	86:22 136:9	policy 22:18 29:21	24:15
96:11 98:5,10	pipeline 175:7,8	plate 226:18 234:6	30:20 38:14 39:9	post-decennial
99:21 100:4 101:2	pitch 128:13	PLATT 3:4	43:14,15 68:8,15	212:12
103:9,11,14 104:1	PJM 260:6,9,12	play 131:19 256:8	69:9 83:9,11 84:7	post-stratification
110:7,18 113:22	place 6:19 60:10	257:19 259:14	90:15 94:2 100:18	199:17 200:13
114:8 120:17	66:13 77:15 96:19	262:5	102:4,19 113:7	204:1 207:16
122:16 124:6,22	139:4 155:3,6,7	players 265:4	271:4	209:18 223:16,20
157:16,18 158:8	159:17 164:12	please 17:18 18:14	political 166:17	potatoes 78:12
158:11 162:15	171:11 190:1	18:18 20:3 21:8	politics 133:14	potential 74:11
163:19 164:13	195:16 205:4	71:14 123:15	poor 210:22	174:11 185:11
167:17 178:22	places 103:1,15	152:7 155:1	popped 170:3	194:18 274:10
phase 228:12 240:8	145:14 164:20	pleased 48:7	population 197:10	276:22
241:3	176:17 194:13	178:15	199:3,7 200:21	potentially 76:6
phases 240:7	271:21	plotting 147:9	205:6,15 207:12	233:13 246:15
PhD 21:18	plan 27:9,13 32:18	plug 25:17	209:13 212:5,17	270:7
phenomena 126:14	33:8 40:14,20	plugging 28:11	214:9,11 216:22	power 23:18 30:19
138:6,7	70:11 150:13	plus 101:5	224:10 225:5,9	63:1 80:14 143:1
phenomenon	168:21 227:16	point 20:6 40:18	226:13 227:4	143:10,15 236:21
148:10	272:17	42:9 57:19 62:5	portability 31:21	238:17 239:7,9,11
Phil 137:15 224:12	planned 19:8 247:4	67:20 70:6 77:17	portfolio 23:20	241:11 246:3

250:18 251:8,11 256:13 258:13 261:17 263:15,19 268:1 269:5,8,18 269:19,21 270:5 271:12 273:7 PPI 28:13,14,16 29:3 practical 84:10 236:8 Practices 69:12 pre 206:5 precedent 254:1 preceding 128:1 192:3 precise 199:7 precision 201:3 precluded 261:11 precluding 240:1 Precourt 232:7 predict 64:21 predictions 145:19 preface 26:11 32:8 prefer 223:4 preference 8:16 preferred 201:22 preliminary 60:2 premier 166:19 premium 114:18 114:19 270:6 prepared 147:12 256:22 preparing 50:6,17 present 1:13 2:1 3:1,20 6:17 12:19 72:1,2 258:9 presentation 24:13 26:5 27:6,17 28:12 29:6 30:5,9 33:18 36:19 50:6 63:22 70:17 72:3 72:14 73:7 78:5 79:7 134:7 155:20 220:3 236:7,11 237:1,2,9 248:15 252:17 266:2 presentations	53:15 56:15 presented 24:15 27:12 28:8 66:17 110:15 presenters 76:10 77:18 president 21:5 22:4 275:10 presidents 69:22 70:3 presiding 1:12 pressure 225:14 227:9 Preston 2:24 16:11 27:6 presume 77:15 presumption 73:16 pretty 9:17 22:22 25:4 34:13 109:13 117:5 146:15 156:16 159:22 164:5 165:15,17 171:20 172:9 183:1,20,21 186:3 192:6 193:8 194:22 195:14 212:8,13 234:11 previous 43:16 48:15 85:9 106:7 117:3 194:7 209:22 previously 21:3 pre-blending 113:10 pre-grant 263:19 pre-weight 203:12 203:14 206:5 price 28:9,13 83:17 94:1 96:3,4,6,10 96:12,15,22 97:4 97:5,10,17 117:16 120:17 124:4,6,8 124:11 125:1,2,3 128:18 135:12 139:16 140:1,5,6 140:9,10,14,15,16 140:16 141:16	142:2,7,12 151:5 158:1 265:17 270:6 prices 4:19 97:5,6 128:21 135:16 142:4 187:15 191:19 193:19 201:20 273:21 pricey 155:3 pricing 232:21 233:4 273:18 274:11 280:22 primarily 80:10 137:12 141:3 252:19 primary 43:3 82:18 82:20,21 Princeton 22:7 principal 252:14 Principles 69:12 printed 173:11 prior 76:8 84:5 117:5 212:11 priority 156:13 private 9:8 pro 275:18 proactive 40:5 probabilities 202:3 204:15,21 probability 71:21 180:20 195:22 201:10 probably 14:22 25:5,12 30:20 31:19 34:12,13 35:7 37:6 40:19 42:12 45:19 53:16 56:16 58:1 75:16 80:12 88:14 94:19 96:1 101:20 107:1 110:12 111:3,3,14 114:21 118:17 132:9 133:13 139:1 147:14,20 148:21 149:11 150:12,14 151:22 166:3 172:20	179:1,5,17 185:11 185:13 186:9 187:18 189:6 196:6 198:8,17 201:18,21 214:16 220:22 223:4 228:15 229:7 232:18 234:6,19 270:7 277:11 problem 11:1 35:9 44:1,2 77:2 102:13 112:14 113:5 119:9 139:21 140:8,19 151:3,9 172:2 174:12 180:16 183:22 184:9 185:9 189:17 190:12 216:8 227:18 problematic 225:15 problems 11:19 45:1 52:19 53:1 96:5 101:8 116:14 116:15 120:21 134:14,22 142:15 151:16 169:12 173:4 185:11 216:21 223:1 242:8 256:9 procedure 211:22 procedures 209:18 proceed 36:17 133:17 231:14 process 28:11 33:18 71:11 105:6 118:7 120:6 121:8 162:21 164:1,8 166:22 167:20 175:1 177:6 189:22 228:15 237:3,10,13,22 238:1,12,14,18 252:10,19 253:1 253:17 255:3,11 261:11 262:22	263:7 265:7 277:22 processed 88:21 147:13 processes 26:9 135:5 165:6,11 174:5 processing 89:9 158:3 produce 79:19 86:9 86:13 87:22 91:11 95:16 130:11 143:7,11 158:2 188:14 201:13 produced 83:15 87:2 92:14 115:7 128:16 producer 28:13 96:5,13,21 98:2 103:8,18,22 129:13 producers 79:17 91:11,17 92:9 94:6,8,9,19 96:19 106:19,21 107:4,6 107:15,21 108:3 124:3,19 251:8 produces 87:15 158:7 producing 88:1 107:21 108:12,17 108:18 124:13 160:11 168:8 189:8 247:13 product 99:6 113:9 140:1 141:1 157:17 160:2 163:8 166:20 243:21 277:3 production 4:19 81:15,17,17,22 82:21 83:1 84:17 86:7 91:1,2,9 92:19 93:1,8 95:11,12,13,22 99:3 101:5 107:10 109:13 116:16
---	--	---	--	--

119:16,20 120:8 122:18 123:1 126:12,21 127:9 131:18 133:4,21 134:4 138:16,22 139:1,3,17 140:9 140:9 141:16 142:2,8 158:3 160:8,9,20 161:9 169:8 171:3,21 172:16 173:11 174:14 176:13 180:13 186:8 192:9 193:14 194:1 258:5 273:14 productively 175:4 productivity 134:2 134:5,7 135:20 136:22 137:19 147:2 products 99:8,11 100:4 101:2 124:6 158:4 254:20 profession 69:1 professional 41:19 profile 156:13 220:15 229:2 profoundly 115:4 program 5:2 20:22 41:22 51:22 67:9 68:3 85:19 155:20 156:19 174:14 212:5 213:4 216:22 235:22 257:9 269:7 279:3 programmatically 174:18 programming 252:21 254:4 programs 38:19 166:8 198:12 213:4 218:1 249:8 280:1 progress 8:2 26:19 28:7 32:17 34:19 134:1 221:5 247:4	271:11 progresses 23:7 progression 144:13 144:17 project 31:9,14,18 31:20 59:16 143:17 167:3,5,6 167:20,22 168:21 176:20,22 181:16 216:7 257:8 projected 189:2 projecting 134:5 projections 201:1 251:13 projects 57:11 62:11 90:11 168:16 178:20 198:14 232:8 242:13 247:1,1,4 promise 41:9 promising 225:10 promote 38:16 propane 218:18 properly 151:16,18 proportion 195:22 196:4 proposal 58:10 62:18 proposals 39:16 47:18 67:13,16 71:6 proposing 268:5 protected 181:2 Protection 87:14 87:18 proved 234:11 provide 17:9 27:12 42:10 47:12 63:16 64:18 67:10 76:10 78:21 102:20 199:6 217:18 225:16,20 237:1 247:10 254:14 258:8 259:17 265:5 268:7 279:7 280:14 provided 115:22	263:16 providers 262:17 provides 17:4,6 74:17 213:16,20 225:17 providing 30:16 48:4,4 53:5 242:1 247:22 251:15 255:6 271:7 274:11 proving 105:11 250:3 provisions 243:5 proxies 135:11 PSUs 201:7,9 202:19 public 4:22 5:19 19:15 22:17 58:3 109:22 131:18 149:16 152:5,6 153:8 236:13 237:15 238:2,21 244:19 253:15 254:5 260:8 261:13 264:3,20 278:9,10 282:6 publication 217:20 241:3,4 publications 83:3,4 public's 238:3,8 publish 89:12,19 132:15 182:8 188:17 213:22 published 90:8 157:20 166:14 171:8 185:5 197:4 215:6 publishes 82:6 publishing 162:14 216:5 pull 160:12,18 166:6 173:2 176:20 281:21 pulled 157:19 170:2 pulling 254:8 pump 94:9 273:4	purchase 274:10 purchased 266:22 268:12,22 274:9 Purple 69:12 purpose 62:8 79:1 114:2 129:2 purposes 84:10 86:9 223:17 226:4 239:5 248:5 271:20,20 push 108:4 246:18 266:10 pushback 109:12 pushes 57:16 pushing 167:3 put 11:20 60:10 67:13 74:22 77:10 81:21 83:2 91:12 91:22 94:15 105:16 106:10 120:12 162:14 169:16,19 171:11 173:9 177:5 180:5 180:7 186:19 189:19 198:5 200:15 220:11 223:8 235:7 241:5 242:2 247:2 249:6 249:8 252:18 253:13,14 258:12 258:13 262:7 265:10 271:9 276:7 puts 82:5 87:16 238:6 putting 82:4 83:3 121:15 140:14 152:13 247:15 250:11 258:1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-... 6:1 p.m 155:17,18 236:15,16 282:11	quality 6:13 31:13 63:4 89:7 163:6 200:22,22 220:6 220:15 230:14 238:20 239:2,7,17 239:19 241:1 246:11 250:3 quantify 79:9 quantities 86:13 128:15,21 quantity 83:14,15 83:16,16 100:19 100:20 102:20 104:13 113:6,17 113:19 128:16,17 128:17,18 quarterly 134:20 quarters 52:8 question 33:13,17 56:4 74:20 87:9 96:1 100:17,17 102:18 104:11 105:10 106:14,20 109:1,8 112:6 113:1,5 115:19 120:13 121:10,17 125:9,14 127:6 129:8,11 131:5,9 131:13 132:14 137:11 138:19 139:15 148:1 149:2 174:20 181:13 182:5,13 187:21 191:5 193:21 194:10,20 197:17 199:18 207:11 223:15 229:10 235:14 250:20 259:12 260:18 261:9 270:12 271:15 282:2 questioning 61:14 62:1 questionnaire 24:18 25:3,16 100:2,3 228:16
--	---	---	--	---

questionnaires 223:11	raised 42:4 136:16 138:3,8,9 166:16 223:3 226:6	159:5 220:12	216:1 220:20 221:16,19 223:19 225:14 226:15,20 227:20 229:9,11 230:1,5 235:6 237:3 250:6 259:20 260:11 266:4,5,16 270:5 273:22 277:16 278:3	recommended 24:16 26:7 27:7 27:19 29:9,18 30:11 recommends 74:11 reconvene 127:22 reconvening 77:17 record 18:19 76:18 78:1 127:19 155:17 236:15 recorded 180:8 280:19 recorder 12:22 recording 13:1 18:16 34:8 records 15:20 recruiting 37:5 RECS 5:6 62:12 63:21,22 72:6,15 197:13 198:21 199:5,13 201:5,9 202:18 204:4 207:14 210:22 211:18 212:20 218:3 220:4,15 221:6,11,15,17 222:2,10 229:1,16 229:18 231:5 recycled 79:15 redesign 98:10 redesigned 98:15 reduce 81:12 199:17 222:17 reduced 217:6 254:18 reduces 32:14 reduction 135:13 172:15 223:17,18 223:18 238:10 reeled 245:21 reevaluate 201:3 refer 160:4 198:2 274:14 280:10 refine 118:6 reflect 203:3 238:14 reflected 250:8
questions 18:3,18 20:5 33:10 35:10 36:14 37:17 46:2 49:7 51:10 70:13 71:13 82:14 86:5 86:6 89:4 90:15 90:21 100:11,15 104:16,17 108:18 108:21,22 110:15 113:16 114:7 121:22 122:7,9 127:10 129:3,5,16 129:18 130:10 134:10 135:20 136:2 144:18 149:18,21 150:17 169:22 173:8 192:15 200:2 218:22 219:12,18 222:12 223:7,10 223:12 225:12 228:17,20 255:5 255:13 269:10 272:19 278:20 282:5	raises 170:13 193:21 Ramesh 2:9 16:6 ramp 256:12 ramp-up 190:17 ran 141:19 142:7 158:14 Randall 139:12 random 65:16 67:5 171:19 215:11 217:9 randomly 201:8 Randy 139:12 range 159:10 254:11 ranges 184:8 rapidly 234:11 rare 30:1 53:16 ratcheting 210:21 rate 189:1 207:8,9 208:10 209:1 229:12,14 245:8 256:12 279:6 rates 206:11,22 207:1 208:6 210:10 256:14 rating 251:2 ratio 116:18,20 204:2,3,11 207:16 209:5 227:20 228:14,21 rationale 55:17 rationality 73:18 ratios 254:9 reach 45:2 147:3 147:19 reached 18:6 146:21 147:18 reacted 274:22 reaction 159:20,22 160:1 164:21 reactive 156:22 248:10,18 read 16:21 40:16	reading 57:1 Reagan 22:4 real 6:13,15 10:11 25:12 54:18 125:3 167:8 185:15 190:8 192:19 194:1 213:3,13 226:10 227:22 278:17 realize 16:18 35:18 really 7:10 8:1 10:2 10:2,9 11:16 13:13,14 21:9 23:6 41:11 49:10 52:15 59:9,9 63:5 64:21 80:5 83:8 84:9 85:5,20 88:1 89:2 91:3 95:5 96:6 97:6 99:12 102:22 104:12 105:4,14 107:1,5 107:19 111:11,21 112:16,17 115:3 115:12,12 116:4 118:12 119:10,21 121:4 122:17 133:4 135:7,21 136:22 139:11 143:10 149:7 150:5 156:8,11,16 156:18 157:4,9,12 157:14 159:7 160:21 162:8 163:3,13 164:14 166:19 168:9 170:21 171:13 172:12 174:4,9 176:8 177:19,21 178:4,15,21 179:7 179:21 180:11 181:6 182:19 183:19 184:1,4 187:17 188:11,18 190:18 191:12 192:16 206:18 209:19 213:19	realtime 233:3 reason 9:4 30:2 53:8 110:6 140:4 210:19 273:18 reasonable 74:20 89:13 163:9,9 174:14 254:12 263:21 reasons 46:11 65:17 66:4 79:16 84:14 113:7 161:6 167:5 168:11 193:3 206:13 272:6 276:18 281:16 rebuild 173:6 recall 24:12 receive 141:17 194:17 received 25:20 48:13 76:8 109:22 134:8 142:11 272:9 recognize 149:12 173:4 recognized 20:5 recognizing 50:11 132:4,6 recollection 194:21 recommend 39:6 148:3 181:18 recommendation 26:15 28:7 34:17 68:8 182:6 recommendations 26:10,21 34:1 47:15 168:14	
quick 33:13 40:16 48:16 109:1,13 131:2,5 quickly 54:18 58:15 107:7 174:1 174:3 252:20 quirky 210:11 quite 7:1 8:4 53:2 65:22 70:21 88:12 134:16 224:5,8 231:17 274:22	R			
rack 124:8 125:3 radar 106:22 RADICH 3:5 railroads 242:15 raise 8:11 100:11 100:16 154:15 221:13				

reflective 76:11 137:10	255:22 256:10 257:13,19 258:9	76:18	reporting 128:20 141:13 158:10	residence 214:14 214:18
refusal 207:8	274:7,12 279:14	remember 7:17 18:14 37:17 76:21	177:1 239:14	residency 214:13 224:22
regard 43:2 113:3 116:13 156:17	regulations 276:8 281:5	196:4	247:3 249:17,18	residential 80:19 199:4 200:8
158:2,10 160:17	regulator 269:17	remind 20:2,16	251:18,20	205:21 218:21
166:12 169:2	regulatory 237:13 238:22 240:12	reminder 38:12	reports 27:13,14	219:9 242:13
173:16 174:10	252:11,11,12	removed 237:20 253:9	94:22 141:16	resolve 173:19
175:12 187:11	257:11	Renee 2:25 15:17 36:22 42:3 60:17	162:15 239:8	resolved 215:22
256:12	Reinsdorf 65:5	149:21	254:21	resource 27:21 134:3 259:5
regarding 46:7	relate 38:14 73:5 184:11,19 213:14	renewable 27:20,21 28:3 64:22 81:8	represent 97:7	resources 13:22 27:22 28:18,19
regardless 113:9	related 39:9 46:3 64:5 79:5 105:9	83:13 84:9 90:9	representation 44:14	59:15 256:2 259:4
regards 46:6	174:20 177:21	100:20 102:5,20	representative 44:18	259:5 262:9
region 123:4 139:5 142:9 202:5,5	178:1 185:6	113:6 114:4,5	represented 97:8,9 97:9 191:17	respect 10:16 33:17 239:17 261:13
252:5 261:6,7	189:18	126:6 246:20	representing 60:2 76:14 201:8	respond 54:18 55:9 82:9 105:16 109:2
262:11	relating 240:1	267:2,12 268:12	represents 191:14	109:3,5 141:18
regional 26:5 84:1 84:2 87:1 101:20	relationship 69:10 139:16	268:22 269:3,14	reprieve 11:3	209:9,10 238:3
101:21,22 104:10	relationships 208:2	renewables 24:22 25:15 64:20 235:5	request 260:12	255:5
123:2 134:6 140:3	relative 120:15 193:14 213:22	259:21	requested 10:19 250:11 262:14	responded 192:6
261:4 267:3	245:21	renewing 237:10	requests 10:16 82:10 102:19	respondent 32:14 89:8,18 90:1
281:11	relatively 124:18 130:9,10 138:15	renter 222:19	require 112:4	254:13 261:18
regionality 104:9	151:4 201:16	repealed 276:1	required 83:10 86:15 89:15	respondents 30:19 86:2,8 89:15 90:3
regions 160:10,16 202:11,14 206:12	released 158:17 183:19 215:19	replaced 18:1	244:18 257:11	158:14 222:17
251:18,20 260:2	releasing 30:16	replacement 117:4	274:9	228:5 238:11
register 17:17 107:2 109:21	relevance 50:1 51:2	replacing 224:18	requirement 85:13 239:14 248:4	241:12 246:3,7
237:15 238:2,6	relevant 57:21 63:9 64:18 127:8 224:5	replica 70:17	249:18,19 269:3	247:20 250:12
240:17 252:10,18	reliability 248:9 261:1	report 88:9,10,12 95:18 98:16,18	requirements 224:8 252:7,21	254:6 264:2 268:6
253:14 255:11	rely 83:6	99:21 105:19,20	256:5 268:6	responding 51:8,10 76:12 202:4
265:7	relying 249:21	106:1,5,6 109:12	requires 237:14	response 34:10 109:9 159:6
registration 87:17 88:5	remain 218:22 244:14	109:15,17 152:1	research 21:1 28:10 29:4 47:13	188:22 204:15
regression 142:8 144:7 145:2,6	remainder 160:11 196:1	157:16 159:1,8	47:18 50:4 67:12	206:22 207:1,20
146:2 147:8 224:7	remaining 196:8	160:3,5,6,8,19	71:17 170:8	229:14 252:2
regret 6:14	remains 249:11	166:2,3 177:8	181:16 194:22	254:12,14 256:14
regular 27:12 34:20 46:18 48:1	remarks 4:4 6:6 20:7,13 26:11	179:1 216:9	researcher 31:2	278:12 280:10
60:11	46:3 68:14 76:16	217:15 238:20	researchers 30:18	282:7
regularly 50:2		241:11 242:12	reservations 36:5	responses 90:6 159:1 186:6
regulated 238:21 241:17 242:21		243:9 244:5	reserve 252:1,5	254:10
279:13		246:14 251:11	reserves 160:20	
regulation 255:21		256:22 260:19,20		
		261:6,22 271:2,4		
		reported 106:7 246:8		
		reporter 117:8		

responsibility 44:2	163:17,21 164:13	263:1 270:22	234:2	satisfying 52:14
responsible 7:18	164:13 168:7	272:5 278:13	RUM 261:22	save 76:5
13:11 261:3	174:3,4,9 254:16	280:14 281:8	run 6:8 28:6 56:20	saw 42:10,16
rest 61:17 128:12	reviewing 168:20	right-hand 149:6	135:15,15 163:10	161:10 171:20
restaurant 79:15	173:17 178:8	rigs 189:19 192:13	167:6 197:18	saying 55:7 71:9
restroom 153:22	reviews 5:2 162:4	ripe 172:6	198:14 226:19	148:14,16 169:17
Restrooms 17:13	revise 30:1 90:5	risk 111:13	252:5 267:8 279:2	188:22 213:2
restructure 91:6	revised 99:22	road 273:17	running 36:16	216:8 233:4
result 81:13 139:20	revising 29:18	robots 166:6	147:7 170:4 278:8	265:12,13 277:2
163:3 169:21	116:1 240:6	role 9:16 41:18	runs 167:17	says 102:5 110:5
171:22 172:21	revision 89:21	44:5 48:4 72:10	rural 94:9	115:9 184:14
173:9 222:11	revisions 217:4	256:8 262:5	RUS 261:22 264:15	193:12 217:10,15
227:5 277:22	revisit 251:6	roll 45:20 192:18		scale 136:2 139:7
resulted 276:6	revisited 137:3	rolled 196:18	S	142:4
resulting 229:15	re-regulate 274:19	rolled-in 192:21	SAIC 168:6	scattergram 147:9
results 24:14,16	274:20	rolling 32:13	sake 211:15	scenarios 28:4 58:7
26:3 57:1,4,8,8	re-regulating 276:1	rolls 141:2 192:18	salary 7:21	scenes 36:6
60:3 103:22 130:2	re-wordings	roll-in 33:5	sale 243:22 258:5	SCHAAL 3:6
132:7 150:21	222:16	Ron 3:22 4:10	sales 93:22 94:15	Schaeffer 222:15
152:1 185:21	RFF 60:1 61:18	14:16 36:18 49:8	96:7 109:13	schedule 32:13
248:11	Rice 168:1	51:11 54:15 55:15	152:12 243:9,18	243:11 244:4
resume 272:14	rich 150:9 228:16	56:4 64:5 66:7,22	245:15	scheduled 152:4
resumed 78:1	Richard 195:2,13	67:18 74:8	sample 87:6 106:15	232:18 278:11
127:19 155:17	ride 263:9	roofs 232:17	118:13 160:15	schedules 279:6
236:15	rifle-shot 163:20	267:19	161:3,4 170:3	Sciences 13:20
retail 96:6 240:4	right 12:12 32:18	room 1:10 8:16	171:12,15,19	22:16
241:14 243:13	34:16 45:9 53:16	13:5 17:15 18:5,8	172:3 181:1,6	scope 27:10 40:12
246:4 265:9	64:1,7 65:10,13	75:15 107:13	186:3,16 189:5	174:3 237:17
275:22 276:16	70:9 87:2 93:16	roots 71:10	190:5,7,19 191:11	250:21
280:11	94:10 98:4 103:20	rough 234:1	191:13,14,16	scores 149:3,11
retire 177:4	104:19 106:17	roughly 227:1	194:6 195:4,21,22	scoring 59:17
retired 23:3	107:14 112:10,13	253:19	196:3,11,12	SCOTT 3:8
retrofits 232:14	118:5 119:4,17	round 162:15	199:13,14,15,16	screwing 277:10
retrospect 169:15	130:9 132:10	248:8	201:9,11 202:2	script 16:18,22
retrospective	133:2 142:17	routinely 69:6	204:12 206:1	se 6:5
128:22	148:5 154:5 156:7	Royal 195:2,13	210:12 211:1	sea 23:22
returning 251:13	159:12 170:22	royalty 264:5	214:11 222:1	seam 143:9
reusing 30:12	171:14 178:19	RPS 268:19,21,21	223:17 245:9	seams 143:6
revenue 97:14	180:2,3 183:14	RSEs 201:15,19	samples 71:21	seasonal 93:15
243:10,18 265:11	185:9 186:1 188:5	202:6	158:9,13 185:22	106:8 117:3
revenues 97:16	192:11 196:13	RSO 265:13,13	205:16,19	seasonality 93:7
reverse 128:5	210:13 211:9	RSTEM 26:6	sampling 71:19	120:18
reversed 276:3,4	216:13 217:8	RTI 14:15	180:19,20 195:11	seat 21:3,4
review 26:8 30:7	227:22 229:19	RTO/ICOs 261:2	202:16	Seattle 48:15
84:8 90:11,12	237:8,19 240:7	rule 10:17 37:5	sanctioned 263:14	second 31:11 35:15
132:17,18 156:11	243:19 250:11	rules 9:7,15,16	sat 21:3 35:21	56:8 58:5 63:8
156:19 157:14	255:19,22 259:11	214:13 224:22	satisfy 126:6	64:10 79:1 82:15

102:18 129:11 165:10 174:9 188:2 199:1 204:11 207:19 226:6 228:12 235:14 263:11 274:17 275:22 secondary 83:1,2,7 218:7 seconds 258:2 secretarial 7:21 secretaries 8:1 Secretary 6:20 235:4 257:1 section 83:21 84:6 92:2 94:21 95:6 161:12 sections 25:13 92:20 sector 80:20 277:13 sectors 274:20 security 59:19 166:12 256:19 see 25:21 26:12,19 29:15 34:13 50:7 50:10 55:17 57:4 58:5 59:7 61:7 66:22 72:4,10,22 73:10 78:14 80:1 86:4 95:4 100:8 104:2 105:5 107:17,17 108:15 115:10 118:7 119:1,6 126:8 127:13 142:1,21 144:2 145:16 148:9 155:15 159:7 163:5 170:16,18 171:1 180:12,14 187:22 188:2 198:8,16 212:12,20 222:6 222:16 223:2 228:7,8,18,20 231:9 242:22 256:10 260:15 266:4	seeing 23:6 138:12 184:11 224:16 266:9 seek 8:19 261:17 269:12 seeking 181:17 247:2 254:2 268:4 seen 146:11 172:10 181:20 182:22 187:14 249:11 segment 202:22 245:2 segments 201:12 select 129:21 130:3 selected 201:12 selection 202:4,19 self-power 241:20 self-representing 201:7 sell 91:13 139:22 259:6 270:4 selling 265:18 267:20 269:5 semi 152:16 send 85:8 127:1 155:7 173:7 SENDICH 3:7 senior 20:22 sense 71:7 74:19 75:6 116:21 120:21 140:14,18 140:22 145:21 169:11 171:2 188:21 189:9 210:10 213:8 226:10 257:16 259:20 273:1 276:22 sensitive 117:16 Sensitivity 27:4 sent 109:20 159:4 172:17 sentence 200:17 separate 25:15 119:8 125:7 137:13 160:13 194:11 204:18	244:4 273:8 separated 119:7 154:2 separating 24:22 September 81:18 200:16 241:6 sequentially 146:6 SERA 169:16 sergeant 9:8 serial 142:15 series 90:8 134:11 134:12,13 141:21 142:9 151:20 184:13 227:7 233:13 239:6 242:10 254:22 serious 46:8 170:14 226:7 seriously 54:8 serve 7:11 19:7 21:10,15 74:16 76:13 served 18:7 service 9:1 243:20 244:16,19 245:15 255:22 256:10 257:13,19 274:9 274:10,12 services 247:11,21 248:2 258:19 274:7 280:14 serving 241:14 session 17:11 18:12 64:7,8,15 65:2 72:20 75:11 76:15 78:21 127:13 128:7,9 131:3 133:17 149:4 194:20 197:13,15 198:18 236:17 sessions 4:12 17:15 24:10 39:17,18,20 58:8 128:2,2 set 17:10 30:15,20 31:20 39:19 41:12 41:13 46:21 53:20 86:5,6 138:14	145:10 150:8 152:10 165:19 168:13 229:20 244:4 272:1 sets 232:13 235:16 239:4 241:5 setting 61:15 seven 124:2 160:9 160:10 258:14 seventh 56:10 shake 126:9 Shale 192:7 shales 176:16 shape 43:15 71:18 148:19 164:3 share 45:2 sharply 192:6 Shawna 3:14 15:4 shifting 215:15 ship 57:16 shippers 57:14 shipping 141:9 ships 24:1 shopping 244:13 short 17:12 22:15 52:8,11 89:20 110:1 135:15 235:13 273:13 shortage 270:5 shorten 25:7 47:5 53:8 236:10 shortened 24:17 25:3,10 short-run 135:16 135:19 short-term 15:14 26:6 138:6 218:4 shot 23:13 show 154:10,15 170:6,9 179:5 184:22 208:14 271:10 showed 186:7 showing 37:3 190:17,17 shown 169:6 shows 212:9	shut 9:12 siblings 221:7 side 23:9,10 58:17 62:19 101:3 116:16 122:22 123:9 148:19 149:6,8 151:12,12 154:8,10 193:20 203:18 230:18 231:22 232:16 237:7 270:10 275:22 sides 66:5 113:21 250:21 sign 17:17,19 151:15 154:10 signal 8:20 172:17 173:7 175:21 194:10 signals 184:1 significant 92:15 156:13 160:1 196:6 241:8 250:2 250:4 significantly 119:21 254:19 Silverman 22:3 similar 42:3 122:19 129:19 149:8 193:11 195:18 239:4 252:17 similarly 112:4 simple 10:17 91:2 91:10 105:14,17 106:12 130:9,10 130:10,12,17 141:19 151:4 163:18 164:2 261:8 simplify 183:4 simply 113:13 simulation 180:18 simultaneously 151:14 single 166:3 204:5 207:4 239:16 single-family
--	---	--	--	---

211:16 215:12,13 217:12 sit 21:4 23:9 40:3 site 173:12 sits 127:4 sitting 173:20 267:18 269:19 situation 64:16,18 144:16 179:7 situations 260:21 SITZER 3:8 six 22:15 24:11 33:11 51:15 117:19 157:21 158:9,13 219:17 231:1 232:11 233:16 sixth 56:9,11 size 87:5,19 99:16 99:16 105:22 106:20 107:16,22 152:14 167:19 180:22 186:5 195:22 222:1 sizes 231:9 skill 42:20 skimmed 220:14 skirt 209:21 SL 176:22 slide 24:9 88:19 166:2 255:17 260:18 slides 220:3 slight 8:7 171:20 slot 54:4 slow 198:6 slower 192:9 slowly 6:18 small 47:13 70:3 86:13 87:21 94:8 99:18 106:22 107:3,6,12,15,20 108:3,15 124:1,3 124:9,19 133:4 141:7 143:14 186:7 197:8 199:14 211:1,4	225:4 smaller 86:5,5 140:1 143:3 186:17 193:12,13 199:13 smalls 196:11 smart 232:19,20 256:21 SMG 2:3,5,9,22,24 3:10,13 4:8 15:6 16:7,9,10,12,16 36:7,9 163:16 180:17 Smith 224:1 smooth 187:22 226:17 263:7 273:14,14 smoothed 227:1 smoother 263:9 smoothing 188:4,7 226:1 273:12 274:2 Snyder 67:22 sodium 258:11 soft 12:16 software 180:6,7 solar 28:14,16 241:19 249:2 259:11,15 267:14 267:18 sold 94:22 95:19 98:4 114:19 115:11 245:22 solicit 148:4 solicitation 244:20 276:15 281:14 solicitations 281:3 281:6 solidified 164:4,4 solution 140:12 solving 120:14 somebody 54:11 105:16 112:3 115:9 127:2 149:3 149:4 159:4 180:17 227:8 269:5	someone's 220:11 someplace 155:2 somewhat 49:2 57:21 239:3 son 8:21 soon 44:22 70:21 76:9 109:5 176:4 sophisticated 218:8 sorry 49:9 130:6 139:12 223:12 sort 23:8 28:20 30:22 31:6,17 35:20 40:8 42:11 46:5 55:13 59:19 60:18 61:14 66:4 67:7 73:17 81:4 81:13 83:18 90:20 94:3 97:12,14 100:15 101:7 103:4 104:6 114:18,20 116:17 116:19 127:3 138:20 139:20 143:13,16 146:1 156:12,22 157:20 159:3 160:10 162:2 166:11 167:15 169:14,19 174:15 179:18 183:9 186:2,10 188:22 190:15 193:2 194:11 198:14 203:16 206:3 207:15 210:15 211:13 213:15 215:22 217:8 235:22 237:22 258:20 263:21 266:1,4 269:21 270:4 271:3 sorted 217:19 sorting 216:5 sorts 180:9 205:8 sounding 44:21 sounds 10:3 48:3 148:15 197:11	soup 212:2 source 32:15 122:7 200:18 205:7,15 sources 64:22 83:7 116:12 158:5,5 160:13 175:17 200:10 218:15 219:2 220:20 229:5,6 257:15 South 208:8 210:8 soybean 79:15 so-called 138:12 142:16 233:1 space 204:9 207:18 span 274:5 spans 273:13 speak 6:7 18:17 19:1 68:20 69:8 116:11 242:7 244:13 258:8 264:5 275:15 278:16 speakers 65:4 speaking 77:7 236:5 248:14 special 50:4 111:10 111:11 140:3 specially 111:17 specific 11:19 30:13 61:6 247:3 255:5 265:13 specifically 7:17 41:12 98:14 105:8 specifics 150:3 specified 83:21 speech 235:9 speed 89:9 spell 198:8 spend 89:17 spending 167:12 spent 55:4 63:18 split 97:12,18 101:13 102:9 145:8 splits 145:13,15,21 splitting 119:3,6 145:10	sponsor 167:16 176:21 sponsoring 64:14 spotty 117:19 spouses 216:11 spreadsheet 33:20 34:7,11 255:1 spreadsheets 59:11 spring 17:1 188:9 216:6 squared 185:3 SRA 2:8 St 14:3 stability 247:11 248:20 stabilize 178:5 stabilizing 172:20 stacked 192:13 staff 2:1 3:1 10:15 27:19 29:7 31:22 36:7,9 38:4 41:2 44:7,10 48:2 53:15 72:20 168:6 168:19 254:16 stage 147:20 204:2 204:11 207:16,19 234:8 255:12 stake 54:10 stakeholders 252:14 262:12,17 276:22 277:2 Stan 2:10 123:16 standard 53:12 114:4 126:4,7 213:22 standardize 243:8 standardized 114:15 standards 22:11 59:9 200:14 246:20 254:8 267:2,3 268:13 269:20 standing 18:21 standpoint 12:21 65:7,8 148:12,12 242:9 249:15
---	--	---	---	--

257:22	279:6	stepped 17:20	strategy 41:22 62:8 129:22 130:3	122:20 123:12 150:16 155:14 157:12 170:12 171:13 233:2 265:18 268:12
stands 80:5	stationarity 134:11 142:16 151:19	steps 278:1,2	stratification 199:21 206:6 211:18 224:2	sub 251:19
Stanford 14:8 21:18 57:14	stationary 80:14	Steve 1:14 2:15 5:3 13:21 30:5 59:13 151:10 155:21 156:1 181:16 265:20 278:7	stratified 201:10	subject 237:11
Stanford's 71:7	statistic 134:14	Steven 134:10	stream 98:6,7 99:14 112:21,22 113:22	submit 39:16 86:11 86:15 89:16 253:9 260:11 262:13 263:2,6
start 13:5 21:16 74:1 92:7 104:17 128:6 157:1 162:5 163:12,13 164:8 164:12 165:10 172:16 175:19 176:4 178:2 194:13 195:16 213:2 247:18 248:15 259:15	statistical 1:1 5:6 14:17 22:11 38:18 39:8,17 41:14 48:8 56:5 63:5 69:9,13 130:18 134:9 146:17 164:15 185:17 187:4 197:14 200:15 216:17	Steve's 205:11	street 18:12 60:16 73:12 154:4 155:10	submits 251:12
started 34:14 83:3 84:14 104:15 106:17 147:7,8 163:15 180:15 185:20,20 197:14 214:11 215:18,20 216:2,4,14	statistician 21:17 71:19	stimulating 49:6	strengthen 178:5	submitted 49:1 194:2
starting 61:5 67:20 88:6 132:15 170:17 237:3 256:1,3	statisticians 8:15 61:20 70:1,4,5 71:6 116:10 216:7	stimulus 233:9 246:19 272:10	stretch 133:6 171:4	subsequent 149:18
starts 186:22 190:2	statistics 1:4 2:2 4:3,8 13:10 15:5 15:12,16,18 17:2 21:2 22:8,18 38:14,18,20 39:9 41:15 42:2,8 47:11 67:7 68:2 130:13 142:14 179:1 202:13	stock 73:20 98:21 101:6	Strictly 236:5	substance 136:19
state 18:18 48:22 49:5 175:11,12 202:7 241:17 244:10,19 246:19 265:11 267:17 269:2,7 275:6 276:11 281:4,16	statistician 21:17 71:19	Stone 3:9 5:11 236:18,19,20 256:16 259:9 261:8 262:18 263:10 264:9 267:5 268:4,17 270:9,17 272:5 274:3 275:9,18,21 279:5,18,20 280:6 280:8 281:4,10 282:2	strike 74:7 187:10	substantial 102:12 102:13
state-approved	statisticians 8:15 61:20 70:1,4,5 71:6 116:10 216:7	stop 145:13	strikes 76:19 209:9 215:10	substantive 7:9
	statistics 1:4 2:2 4:3,8 13:10 15:5 15:12,16,18 17:2 21:2 22:8,18 38:14,18,20 39:9 41:15 42:2,8 47:11 67:7 68:2 130:13 142:14 179:1 202:13	stopped 189:8	strip 170:12	substitute 19:22 20:12 79:20
	status 157:16 271:10 276:2	storage 91:12 163:20 188:16,19 195:19 196:2 256:7,22 259:13 259:15 273:4,5,9 273:15	strived 245:16	subtle 207:15 218:6
	statutory 270:22	stored 197:3	striving 51:22	subtleties 37:5
	stay 44:9,16 181:7 197:16	stories 45:2 170:20	strong 81:14 165:13 178:6 220:22	subways 242:15
	STEO 137:12 218:4,16	storing 247:14 273:2,5	strongly 39:1	sub-housing 204:4
	step 31:16 69:14,15 209:19 278:6	story 6:11 178:9 197:12 212:7	structurally 176:6	sub-region 265:13
	Stephanie 2:2 4:8 13:9 19:7,10 20:7 37:1 42:3 49:8 56:16 72:8,13 73:15 76:8 88:21 104:20 132:8 147:22 156:4 167:2 181:14	straight 79:21 97:5 222:7	structure 41:1 44:17 45:13 46:9 58:14 74:5 104:10 145:19	sub-sample 195:4 196:12 203:2 225:12
	Stephanie's 23:5	strange 182:22 183:1	structured 86:19 96:20 141:18	success 42:19 45:1
	Stephen 5:15	strategic 40:14,17 40:20 157:5 234:2	struggled 96:2	successfully 46:17
		strategically 177:18	struggles 42:2	succinctly 9:10
			struggling 49:14 223:9 233:5	sucker 12:5,13
			stuck 20:11 78:15 93:8 106:6	suddenly 243:2
			student 232:13	suffice 6:17
			students 50:3	sufficient 164:6 272:13
			study 58:2,3,22 133:19 136:21 180:18 200:1 233:5	suggest 62:7 68:19 104:12 150:3 273:16
			stuff 59:8 62:20 82:13 93:9 112:15 118:13 120:19	suggested 24:22 25:8 27:11 28:3 28:22 30:16 277:8
				suggesting 264:17 277:5
				suggestion 35:5,10 36:4 71:22 137:2

154:22 256:10 264:8 suggestions 102:15 135:10 155:5 248:16 255:19 suggests 186:9 sulfur 125:19,21 sulphur 258:11 summaries 76:19 128:1 summarize 131:3 summarizing 128:4 summary 4:17,19 34:9 128:7 130:20 133:17 255:2 summer 8:2 47:12 159:3 Sunday 56:8 sundry 8:12 SUNY-Binghamt... 14:7 superficial 52:16 superlative 220:19 supplement 85:10 85:21 86:1 218:14 supplementary 128:22 supplier 243:15 244:14 250:12 supply 98:6,10 100:20 101:2 103:10,11,14 104:1 110:7 114:6 129:9 135:8,9 138:16 151:12 157:22 158:9,11 164:13 188:10 245:1,11 252:1,4 273:7 supplying 254:6 support 7:21 174:8 232:4 235:8 supporting 221:15 supportive 36:10 supports 142:20 suppose 42:15 103:3 134:9	139:13 supposed 217:18 supposedly 88:14 sure 6:13 12:20 23:1 25:22 30:3 33:16 35:2 38:6 39:13 40:22 41:6 42:12 48:7 50:10 57:4 60:9,10 67:22 68:11 69:20 72:9 87:21 88:12 88:15 89:3 99:19 101:17,18 102:1 102:13 104:7 121:14 131:6 132:9 133:10,18 156:19 165:5,12 166:19 174:7,8,18 177:11 207:15 224:5,8 225:19 229:6,11 230:4 235:20 243:11 245:14,16 250:20 251:1 surely 55:22 surface 145:4 surfaced 75:2 surgeon 172:11 surprise 48:11 49:2 surprised 48:19 62:6 surprisingly 208:13 survey 4:13,17 24:15 26:16 31:3 32:3,11,21,22 33:4,7,8 72:3,6 78:5,17 79:1,3 82:7,15 83:8 84:15,17,18,19,21 85:3,4,4,6,7,10 86:1,6,8,11,16,16 86:18,22 87:7 88:9,18,18,22 89:10,11,14 90:13 90:18,19,20,21 93:19,20 96:3,13	98:9 99:15 100:22 101:18 102:2 103:22 104:1 105:16 109:5 111:16 116:7,17 118:6,17,20 120:8 122:18 123:19,21 128:9,14,19 129:15 130:8,9,12 130:14,17 131:19 132:10 152:21,21 153:2,4,5 160:20 163:18 164:2 179:8,21 180:13 186:6 195:9,11,19 196:19 198:15,21 198:22 199:1,2,2 199:3,3,4,11 200:4,8 201:16 203:16,20 205:6,9 205:16,18,21 206:15 207:1,12 207:13 208:7,17 209:8,12,13,16 210:18 211:2,21 212:11,17,19 214:15,20 215:7,7 220:7 221:5,19 222:15 223:6 229:5 232:1 234:14 240:11 246:10 247:19 250:20 255:8 262:14 270:22 271:2,5 surveys 32:8,9,13 33:6 71:21 90:7 98:7 103:10,11 104:7 110:8 116:2 118:18 157:22 158:1,9,13 160:21 180:3,4 197:22 198:1,2,3 199:6 200:15 203:20 205:13 209:6 212:3,13 214:22 214:22 221:2	231:16 237:20 238:13 240:21 253:18 259:22 survey-based 82:17 84:12 212:18 survey-taking 205:12 suspect 277:19 suspended 272:11 SUTHERLAND 3:10 SW 1:11 Swedes 195:10 sweeping 171:2 swinging 188:18 switch 169:4 268:1 switching 209:21 Symbalski's 218:2 synch 41:4 110:7 synthetic 29:3 79:12 system 23:18 32:3 38:16 88:8 89:1,4 94:12 105:14,18 141:13 151:13,17 166:7 180:8,10 186:21 195:11 244:14 245:21 246:5 247:12 250:17 253:22 257:5,12 systematically 156:9 163:14 systems 27:5 165:15,16	11:14,16 17:12 18:13 27:1 29:12 33:9 39:7 40:6,10 40:21 67:2,16 75:1,4 80:2 96:22 97:2,2 110:3,4 112:17 124:14 141:2,5 144:3 145:7 157:14 181:6 190:19 198:7 205:10,13 209:21 210:1 229:22 236:8 253:12 259:11 262:5 270:18 278:4 taken 69:14 191:20 takes 13:1 26:22 34:15 109:14 130:4 190:4 205:17 tales 162:4 talk 7:20 26:18 37:13 38:10 39:10 43:6 45:22 46:5 47:8 54:22 64:9 72:17 77:7,21 78:15 88:20 89:2 90:16 100:14 107:15 147:17,20 156:5 157:9 160:3 162:3 170:6 178:10 183:15 184:18 197:21 200:16 203:12 206:8 208:18 213:6 216:6 219:17 226:12 263:8 talked 10:4 37:20 53:3 66:7 75:13 116:5 122:20 123:1,2 124:1 125:12 133:20 147:11 160:6 163:4,4 173:3 177:3 225:1
---	---	--	---	--

talking 11:18 30:6 39:22 52:6 69:5 90:19 115:17 117:2 119:10 124:5 135:14 137:5 144:9 157:3 168:12 175:22 215:20 271:17 274:13	tell 13:13 26:14 84:2 92:4 95:6 162:4 177:9 192:22 198:9 222:21 249:4 tells 9:10 temporary 11:4 Ten 236:9 tend 8:16 43:8 138:16 139:8 160:4 193:12,13 252:13 258:12	35:17 36:9,11,21 36:22 49:9 67:4 71:4,15 127:16 130:21 155:22 178:12 219:14,22 255:14 265:20,22 thanks 58:1 59:12 219:16 theirs 250:22 theme 78:8 177:18 theoretically 114:16 theory 74:14 244:1 thermal 251:5 259:15 they'd 70:4 124:13 217:8 thing 13:9 22:5 28:19 31:7 35:12 48:6 55:2,2 56:14 57:6,15,18 58:21 59:2 62:10 64:4 68:2 69:19 71:10 71:20 72:22 74:7 76:18 82:9 89:6 94:4 99:14 101:1 106:8 117:14,15 124:17 127:3 139:18 143:18 145:2 151:19 154:13 167:7 168:8 171:19 174:16 179:10 180:2 183:12,21 188:3 203:12 210:15 224:21 225:18 226:6 228:1,9 229:2,18 231:6 232:3 248:22 255:6 262:3 269:16 273:9 274:2,17 280:20	31:4 32:16 33:22 34:15 35:5 36:3 39:4,5,21 40:5 45:22 49:13,18,21 49:22 51:4 52:15 60:7 61:21 62:15 64:6,19 67:9 68:16,20,21 69:7 74:22 76:12 79:5 93:11 98:12 100:1 101:8 110:9 118:22 121:12 122:21 126:9 131:17 139:13 144:5 156:6,14 157:8 158:4,19 163:7,22 164:9,14 165:7 170:21 171:1 178:16 180:5 182:10,22 183:1,5 184:11 185:19 195:12 199:8 206:9 207:9 208:3 210:5,9,21 212:8 213:2 215:21 216:12 229:15 232:14,15 233:7,10,22 234:14,17 237:19 237:20 244:9 253:10 257:3 260:9 261:4 264:17 265:2 266:18 267:9 268:3 275:7 280:19 think 7:7 10:1 11:6 12:1,20 13:2 14:18,21,22 19:7 20:6 22:10 23:12 25:20 27:5 28:5 29:17 31:21 33:9 35:6,18 39:3,14 44:21 45:6 49:2 49:13 54:7,8,12 56:11 60:5 62:7 62:16 63:1,8,11	63:13 65:3,21 69:15 71:5,10 72:16 73:11,15 74:1 75:2,5,14,20 77:1,5,9 79:6 81:20 85:19 88:11 94:13 100:8,13 101:15 102:10 105:7 107:14 108:3,19,21 110:9 111:5,14 112:18 112:21 113:22 114:4 117:1 118:11,22 121:9 121:22 127:3 128:15 129:4 130:16 132:17 133:1,5,7 136:20 138:2,9,10 142:6 143:15 144:11 145:1 146:19 147:19 149:10,12 150:5,8,16 151:2 151:21,22 156:18 157:4 160:5,14 162:5 164:17 167:1 172:4 177:3 177:20 178:19 181:21 182:4,12 182:12,17,21,22 183:7 184:8 187:18 188:20 189:14 190:10 192:22 195:9,11 195:14 219:6,17 220:10,22 221:1 222:4,7,13 223:3 224:15,20 225:5 226:3 227:19 228:2,3 229:1 232:4,6 233:8,19 233:20,22 234:2,7 234:18 235:2,5,11 236:8 248:16 259:7,12 260:16 263:8 266:6,16 267:15,21 268:2
tandem 41:7 258:12 tank 124:11 target 32:20 104:21 133:3,8 197:2 200:21 202:6 214:9 tariff 242:16 243:5 tariffs 241:17 242:19 257:13 270:16,17 274:3 taste 8:22 210:11 tastes 8:20 9:22 tax 80:18 96:18,18 96:22 97:10,10,12 112:17 121:11 175:11,13 192:17 193:1,7 team 3:2 59:7 198:11,13 260:5 teams 56:22 tease 150:12 tech 79:10 189:21 technical 64:14 134:1 168:6 technique 202:21 techniques 62:19 technologies 179:17 247:7,16 247:17 250:5 271:11 technology 165:14 165:20,20 168:4 240:13 256:18 257:18,21 258:11 266:10 272:4 telephone 18:4,6 209:10,14	tened 124:9 195:6 tension 265:3,16 tent 20:3 tenure 8:2 term 274:18 279:4 terminal 98:16 99:2,4,6 124:14 159:6 terminals 98:17,22 99:18 terminated 239:20 281:13 terms 42:5 48:3 49:1 104:8 120:22 131:10,11,11 136:1 137:19 138:11 150:11 160:16 161:20 167:2,9 183:18 193:7 202:11 250:8 268:19 271:7 276:21 277:20 tertiary 211:14 testing 105:5 123:19 Texas 14:1 170:16 170:19 171:2,21 186:4,8 188:8 189:16 190:22 192:5,17,22 193:1 193:7 244:2,5 thank 6:21 11:22 12:3 16:17 21:9 23:1,11 24:8	219:16 theirs 250:22 theme 78:8 177:18 theoretically 114:16 theory 74:14 244:1 thermal 251:5 259:15 they'd 70:4 124:13 217:8 thing 13:9 22:5 28:19 31:7 35:12 48:6 55:2,2 56:14 57:6,15,18 58:21 59:2 62:10 64:4 68:2 69:19 71:10 71:20 72:22 74:7 76:18 82:9 89:6 94:4 99:14 101:1 106:8 117:14,15 124:17 127:3 139:18 143:18 145:2 151:19 154:13 167:7 168:8 171:19 174:16 179:10 180:2 183:12,21 188:3 203:12 210:15 224:21 225:18 226:6 228:1,9 229:2,18 231:6 232:3 248:22 255:6 262:3 269:16 273:9 274:2,17 280:20 things 7:9,9 8:1,3 9:11 10:8,9,14,14 11:13 20:14 25:11 25:14 26:17 31:1		

269:15,22 275:1,5 275:8 276:22 277:9 280:17 thinking 7:3,13,13 7:17 9:4 60:6 75:16 76:22 140:12 172:6 187:10 189:3 194:13 198:19 221:15 241:8 279:11 thinks 17:7 178:17 third 35:12,22 56:14 74:2 209:11 262:16 276:20 thirdly 79:3 THOMAS 3:12 thought 8:8,9 52:7 54:17 62:6 64:12 65:18 67:5,6,12 67:17 72:2 73:13 96:13 107:2 121:4 135:2 137:8 179:9 203:4,5,6 222:9 262:15 280:18 thoughts 110:13 116:1 three 35:14 40:8 43:12 52:7 55:9 56:21 58:8 69:21 81:12 85:16 111:22 114:14 129:1 154:17 205:13,13 209:8 211:19 215:10 221:1 223:16 231:4 238:13 threshold 99:16 107:16,22 threw 51:4 throw 128:11 187:18 197:7 223:13 277:11 thumb 234:2 Thursday 1:8 56:11,13 tick 19:19	tie 134:6 tied 59:11 165:6,13 tight 118:19 162:10 209:12 tightly 165:7 166:20 167:6 till 34:19 205:6 216:2 275:20 tilt 186:19 time 6:7,13 7:10 9:1 10:19 11:13 17:10 21:13,14 22:2 23:12 26:10 26:22 27:1 28:12 30:10,13,15,21 34:16 35:13,13,15 35:22 37:10,18 38:7 46:22 47:6 51:18 52:12 53:9 55:3,11 68:5 74:4 74:16 75:3 77:6 79:4 84:11 89:20 93:14 98:8 106:5 108:2 111:22 120:22 121:13 124:4 127:5 132:11 134:11,12 134:13 141:20 142:9 144:6,8 146:11 150:6 151:20 152:2,4 153:4,22 154:7 155:14 156:18 158:21 162:8 163:3,9 165:9 167:10 174:12 177:14 179:5 186:15 187:14,22 191:15 192:19 193:14 197:12 209:14 211:6 214:21 215:1 217:19 219:3 221:13 225:11 226:19 227:14 235:12 239:5 242:10 246:12	249:12 251:21 254:18,20,22 258:20 260:10 266:7 268:5 270:1 270:2,16,17,18 272:12 273:13 278:11 282:5 timeframe 89:13 209:13 timeliness 31:13 times 8:10 11:7,8 52:20 69:21 148:8 159:20 160:6 161:12,14 169:13 242:17 280:21 Time-wise 236:4 timing 104:8 168:22 254:19 TINA 2:5 tiny 143:9 title 198:17 224:2 246:22 today 6:19 14:22 17:15 33:1 70:9 73:10 74:22 143:21 161:7 168:12 170:7,9 173:1,9 183:20 235:21 237:1 273:19 today's 30:4 told 132:9 178:17 279:14 tolerance 183:13 Tom 2:21 220:19 222:7 229:2 Toman 1:21 14:19 278:14,18 279:10 279:19 280:4,7,17 281:8,15 tonight 154:15 tons 131:11 229:21 tool 32:7,7 144:17 tools 31:9,20 144:19 264:13 top 108:10 168:7 181:19 186:19	topic 47:18 219:13 220:1 223:13 topics 49:17 60:21 71:22 toss 231:15 total 110:21 133:11 139:4 171:17 191:15 196:5 201:9 204:13 211:10 212:10 232:22 totally 137:9 219:10 totals 199:8 200:18 200:19 209:6 210:14 211:1 217:2,21 touch 41:1 44:9 150:14 190:8 traced 42:13 traces 232:9 track 8:2 33:21 34:4,11 114:3,3,8 235:18 259:4,21 281:1 traction 242:14 tractor-trailer 152:16 trade 166:8 281:11 traders 23:20 trading 159:10,12 159:13,14,15 166:8 traditional 214:22 244:15 247:9 279:13 traditionally 122:14 188:13 train 31:8 trained 31:11 training 168:2 trains 226:19 trans 218:19 transaction 265:12 269:7 transactional 261:19	transactions 261:10 265:8 transcriber 18:15 transferred 22:12 transit 103:17 transition 58:7 271:17 272:2 transitioned 242:20 translate 127:8 transmission 247:12 261:21 272:7 274:10 transport 57:12,13 transportation 29:11 81:3 82:3 95:2 101:22 102:4 116:7 123:7 140:6 143:12,16 152:15 153:3 246:6 transportational 242:14 transported 142:22 143:8 transporters 250:16 travel 25:11 36:3 traveled 24:21 traveling 55:21 tree 145:6,14,19 trees 144:7 145:2 tremendous 258:2 trend 139:4 187:1,6 trends 184:2,4 194:4 206:12 trepidation 206:18 triangle 31:15 212:20 tried 46:13 52:10 68:9,11 150:16 180:1 tries 45:11 65:21 trillion 132:20 triples 131:21 trivial 44:11 226:5 trouble 144:20 196:17,19 210:12
---	---	--	--	--

truck 124:14	twice 21:19 47:21 50:19 53:12	unbiased 199:12	units 203:4 204:5,8 204:14 205:8 211:3,7,8,10,11 212:4,15 213:17 213:20,21 214:5 214:10 215:4,9,13 216:15 222:2 231:8 239:10 277:13	140:12 141:15 165:22 167:3 169:1 176:10,12 194:14 195:20,21 196:11,12,15,15 198:2,3 199:10 200:3,11 201:2,10 202:12,20 205:5,9 207:11 215:20 217:11,22 218:2,5 218:13 219:1,2 227:19 228:11 235:16 241:20 251:4 258:3 264:6 264:11 268:16 270:13
trucks 152:15	two 5:2 25:2 33:6 41:10 43:4,12,16 48:1 52:11,21 66:5,17 71:20 74:21 80:12 85:4 85:5 94:16 113:21 118:5 128:1 129:3 129:16 154:16 156:4 157:10,13 157:22 160:21 161:12 162:4,9 183:17 197:4 204:2,7 205:10 207:2 214:16,17 215:14 224:13 229:15 235:16 239:4 244:1 272:8 274:17 275:9 277:20 278:4	unblended 80:7	universe 87:7 88:18 158:12	useful 29:5 53:2,17 53:21 150:13 152:10 156:18 194:16 222:13 251:5 259:8 261:7 270:7
true 10:8 172:19 187:1 227:22 245:8	two-day 76:4	unbundled 245:14 274:7,8	university 13:17 14:5,9 22:8 267:17,20	user 94:6 218:8
truth 222:21	two-part 88:17	uncertainty 183:6 217:13,14	unlimited 103:5	users 92:22 94:22 227:12 270:13
try 20:16 37:15 38:1 60:17 64:17 95:1 96:14 118:18 146:8 147:20 150:10 151:21 176:3 188:14 242:11 250:19,20 252:14,22 256:3 258:17	two-way 60:15 73:12	unclear 266:19	unofficially 31:17	uses 80:12,21 102:10 112:3 199:9 218:12,16
trying 7:7 53:1 62:12 78:20 79:18 91:20 92:22 94:4 95:9 96:2 103:5 109:15 114:1,8 118:9 123:3 133:20 134:4 148:4 155:2 164:18 168:19 173:2 176:20 182:19,20 196:20 197:2 219:8 226:18 245:9,13 248:18 262:13	Tyler 2:15 15:13	underscore 132:2	unprecedented 266:10	usual 214:18
Tuesday 25:18 220:3	type 29:13 92:10 181:22 204:5,15 207:18,21 221:15 234:14 242:6 247:21 259:10,20 267:12	underscored 169:8	unresolved 217:15	usually 79:14 151:6 274:14
Tseng 3:13 15:6,6 137:16,16 138:20 141:12 147:6 150:5 151:7	types 79:18 93:13 130:11 252:2	understand 87:1 94:5 109:7 137:21 147:16 165:1,3 182:12 218:7 256:4 258:18 262:18 264:9 273:12 279:10 280:4	update 20:14 24:10 31:6 32:4 34:20 88:15 116:20 196:20 237:4	utilities 143:4 238:21 241:13 249:4 261:13 268:15,20 274:6 276:12
Tuesday 25:18 220:3	typical 257:16	understanding 74:10,17 169:16 190:13 191:8 221:9	updated 88:3 251:4	utility 241:22 242:16 244:15 279:1,12,14,14
Tupek 45:3	typically 45:10 146:17 241:16 254:15	understating 249:14	updates 4:6 20:8 48:2 201:12	utilization 248:21
turn 20:3,7 36:14 39:19 121:5 143:2 154:5 168:16 210:14 257:20	U	understood 139:18 179:21 277:6	upper 183:11	utilize 52:3
turnaround 183:21	U 83:11 100:18 114:2	under-coverage 223:19	uppercase 80:3	utilized 52:2,4
turned 239:21 269:20 270:4	ultimate 207:11	undo 194:7	upstate 257:8	U.S 9:8 29:17 79:14 158:2 161:22
turning 203:20	ultimately 247:5 249:10 277:4	unequal 202:3,19 206:12	upstream 121:1	
turns 120:19 159:2 169:15 170:7 192:15	ultra-low 125:19	unexplained 227:15	upward 217:11	
		unfortunately 106:12	urge 275:12	
		unhappy 226:14	usage 231:12	
		unique 43:7 200:1 211:1 212:6,11 213:1 217:1 239:8 239:9	USDA 18:7,8 154:5 155:10	
		unit 203:8 207:18 211:1 212:6,11 213:1 217:1 239:8 239:9	use 2:16 3:3 18:20 24:17 31:9 32:7 62:12 64:20 79:18 84:3 86:14 87:22 89:1 94:18 95:2,4 101:2 102:9,11 111:9,12,12,17 114:5 120:16 121:17 122:3 129:9 130:13,17 135:11 137:22	
		United 81:20 87:4 108:12 110:22 175:4 176:14		
				V
				vacancies 212:10

vacancy 199:2 206:10,13 208:6,7 208:10 212:11	221:11 vehicles 80:11 111:8,10,19,22 114:21 152:20,21 153:5	volunteer 9:12 38:3 78:12,13 volunteered 73:4 78:15 volunteering 21:10 52:5 volunteers 9:14,20 38:2,5 vulnerable 164:10	262:16 265:3,5,18 273:13,22 276:18 276:21 wanted 20:19 31:5 32:4 35:12 47:7 48:6 49:19 52:3,9 54:15 59:14 62:21 67:13 68:13 69:19 82:9 94:17 100:11 108:1 125:17 144:22 165:10 167:21 178:10 213:6 223:13 262:12 280:20 wants 50:9,10 88:4 155:6 164:14 223:21 warehoused 264:3 warning 169:19 warped 9:21 warrant 82:4 warranted 111:9 warranty 111:10 111:13 Washington 1:12 22:1 25:19 48:10 48:20 wasn't 22:5 149:4 203:6 210:18 216:1 Wasserstein 3:22 4:10 14:16,16 36:19,21 37:12 45:9 54:17 56:7 56:12 67:19 70:10 watch 37:3 watching 23:7 Watson 134:14 142:13 Waugh 3:14 15:4,4 wave 247:1 Waxman 58:20 way 9:10 32:16 34:20 37:21 38:7 42:13 43:15,18 46:17 53:5 55:7 55:17 62:8 71:18	94:3 96:21 101:13 112:11 119:15 120:7,12 124:15 129:8 137:13 141:17 142:3 143:8 148:19 164:5,16,17 165:21 168:9 169:2 172:3 174:19 175:2,19 178:7 187:15 189:13 193:9 202:4 219:9 222:11 226:17 259:21 270:12 277:6 279:12 281:17 ways 144:1,15 165:21 166:1 167:11 174:21 175:2 178:5 184:9 209:7 266:12,12 273:9 weak 198:17 weather 117:17 121:17 weatherization 233:11 web 32:10 33:1 90:9 website 35:7 40:16 148:9 241:5 275:13 Wednesday 25:18 158:18 Wednesdays 158:22 week 25:17,19 57:15 58:4,5 156:3 157:20 159:16 168:8 177:2 weekly 29:18 30:1 30:7 88:15 134:18 157:16,21 158:1 158:15 163:17,18 163:19 164:12	
		W			
value 9:22 23:1 25:5 51:3 74:21 75:8 77:9 92:13 92:17 126:5 194:3	versus 61:16 165:2 250:15 261:6 265:17 267:3	Wagner 135:5 wait 40:3 76:22 154:12 275:20 waiting 14:19 walk 18:14 155:12 walking 154:3 walks 203:17 wallboard 233:14 Walter 1:16 14:2 25:19 70:14,15 106:13 want 6:11,21 11:11 17:2 20:4 24:9 26:10 30:15 35:16 36:8,22 40:21 49:16 50:19,20 55:6,10 58:13 64:9,12 71:16 72:1 75:12 79:6 85:2 88:19 89:4 90:19 93:12 94:14 95:15 100:17 101:20 111:13 114:10 120:2 121:21 122:1 126:12 129:19,20 130:5 132:13 137:21 153:6,18 157:1,9 160:3 166:20 173:21,22 175:4 177:11,17 178:3 184:14 187:8 206:8 219:21,22 222:6 245:2 247:18 252:20,22 262:2	value 9:22 23:1 25:5 51:3 74:21 75:8 77:9 92:13 92:17 126:5 194:3 valued 27:1 values 22:21 227:22 233:18 variability 202:7 variable 149:6,7 202:1 247:6 249:2 259:19 variables 27:8,10 27:15 127:8 130:4 135:2 140:13 144:10,11,15 199:22 214:3,6 218:20 228:13 variance 211:4 223:17 variances 199:15 210:20 217:6 variation 160:16 variations 150:11 160:18 variety 21:19 47:20 59:16 various 8:12 24:10 30:11 53:7 69:22 71:22 76:16 129:4 141:2 241:4 250:17 253:5,18 280:1 vegetable 79:13 vehicle 103:20 111:17 121:16,19	view 4:9 8:22 36:20 57:20 109:14 viewpoints 178:6 views 275:14 Vince 14:14 71:14 116:11,22 118:12 120:1 182:2,3 VINCENT 1:17 vineyards 140:22 violating 111:13 Virginia 48:20 276:1 virtual 217:17 visibility 156:15 visit 69:22 253:4 visited 260:6 visitor 154:9 visits 123:20 volatile 182:10 191:19 201:21 voltage 258:8 volume 29:19,20 94:16 volumes 97:16 161:15,17 196:2 197:3 volumetric 91:10	valid 176:6 254:17 version 161:11,13 234:18,22 versus 61:16 165:2 250:15 261:6 265:17 267:3 vertically 20:3 vested 32:19 vet 262:6 veterans 7:4,5 vice 21:5 view 4:9 8:22 36:20 57:20 109:14 viewpoints 178:6 views 275:14 Vince 14:14 71:14 116:11,22 118:12 120:1 182:2,3 VINCENT 1:17 vineyards 140:22 violating 111:13 Virginia 48:20 276:1 virtual 217:17 visibility 156:15 visit 69:22 253:4 visited 260:6 visitor 154:9 visits 123:20 volatile 182:10 191:19 201:21 voltage 258:8 volume 29:19,20 94:16 volumes 97:16 161:15,17 196:2 197:3 volumetric 91:10

197:4	178:8 197:17	248:13,17 249:13	wish 39:11	working 26:20 28:1
weeks 60:1 161:13	208:14 232:19	250:10,14,19	wished 51:18	28:2,21 36:2 41:5
198:20	236:2 240:15,19	251:5,16 253:7	278:11	41:7,22 43:14
weigh 238:7	251:7,21 253:4,12	254:1 257:2,17	withdrawals	45:12 49:19,22
weighs 235:17	269:9 272:12	258:16,22 259:22	126:21	50:3,13 59:16
weight 202:20	282:5	262:1 266:8,9	woe 162:4	60:22 118:22
203:8,14 206:1,2	we're 6:3,5 14:18	268:18 269:9	woman 203:16	123:17 148:20
206:2	14:22 26:11,12,20	270:19 272:12,15	wonder 110:16	157:2,10 175:22
weights 202:2,18	28:1 30:22 36:16	274:19 278:8	140:21 182:7	176:8 198:15
203:3,10	38:1 41:13 45:12	282:9	218:10 221:12	207:6 234:17,22
weird 145:18	49:2 50:12 52:2	we've 9:22 19:9	222:21,22	248:13 257:17
welcome 13:15	57:1 58:3,7 59:19	20:6,17 33:2,10	wondered 139:18	258:17 278:17
16:22 19:3,6 20:9	60:14 65:21 69:5	49:13 81:5 83:5	139:19 281:17	works 41:15 45:19
26:1 255:7,10	70:8 71:9 73:5	91:21 98:8 105:5	wonderful 8:3	88:16 193:7,8
welcomed 6:15	75:15 77:16 79:6	123:17 135:15,22	144:17 150:4	world 113:11 115:2
Wellinghoff 275:11	84:18 85:7 88:6,6	156:22 163:2,2,4	167:7	115:2 163:1
well-defined 41:20	90:19 91:20 93:4	164:6 165:5	wondering 34:4	164:11 224:14
well-written	93:5 94:4 95:4,9	166:15,19 168:3,5	93:6 146:20 261:5	Worrall 3:16 15:15
220:14,21	99:19 100:5,12	168:20 172:16	272:1	15:15 139:11
went 18:9 22:6,7,9	101:15,16,17,18	173:5 175:5	Wood 3:15 177:3	worried 117:7,9,15
22:15 51:18 78:1	101:19 102:13	182:22 187:14	word 198:7,12	135:7 224:22
99:9,11,14 113:14	103:5 104:5 106:4	238:19 246:9	worded 270:12	229:14 231:18
124:12 127:19	110:9 113:11	248:7 251:3	words 63:13,14	worry 216:1
155:3,17 172:22	114:8 140:14	253:21 254:9,19	80:7	worth 106:9 111:21
187:15 208:18	144:9 146:20	whatsoever 114:17	work 10:6,7 13:14	worthwhile 224:11
210:17 236:15	153:15,20 154:2,4	what'd 106:10	13:20 15:14 22:19	wouldn't 11:14
243:2,4	155:9 156:6,10,19	Whitmore 176:22	22:19,20 23:16	19:17 73:3,4
weren't 8:4,5 25:5	157:10,13 161:6	Whitten 155:10	31:8 40:13 41:10	96:11 152:11
153:5	162:13 164:18,20	wholesale 240:4	41:11,13 42:6,21	191:1,3,20 193:18
west 208:12,13	166:22 168:7,19	261:10 265:9	43:1 47:17 54:12	201:18
225:2 267:16	171:13 173:6	274:4 276:14	59:4,20 70:6 73:2	wow 75:15
Weyant 1:22 14:8,8	174:7 176:11,19	280:9,13,15	73:9,11 74:15	WPSR 157:16
55:12,12 56:14	176:20 177:5	who've 244:12	76:3 77:8 119:1	written 76:18
57:7 62:5 71:9	178:2,4,6 186:14	wide 32:7	120:14 121:16	113:8 179:19
73:20 132:22	190:13 193:22	willing 7:15 57:9	123:17 166:18	220:18 254:15
133:12 137:8	194:6,9 197:15	willingness 8:18	168:3,4 173:5,22	wrong 75:17 151:5
231:22	203:10,14 204:11	19:6 209:2	175:9 180:15	199:20 203:18
we'll 6:8 11:5 12:7	205:14,21 208:1,9	wind 29:1,3 126:3	189:10 193:18	217:10 221:13,14
13:7 17:12 18:13	211:5,10 212:20	196:22 212:8	195:3,12,15 197:6	229:20
30:3 36:17 60:16	212:21 215:1	249:2 259:11,17	198:4,16 220:4,19	wrote 76:15,16
77:15,20 79:3	216:18 232:7	267:14	224:4,6 232:6	Wyoming 143:7
85:8 89:17 90:5	235:11 236:4,6	window 110:8	248:8,17 250:22	
95:21 100:8 101:4	237:3,17,19 240:7	146:12	275:4	<hr/>
106:1 108:5	240:8,9 241:8	wineries 140:22	worked 22:11,13	Y
127:14 147:20	242:3 243:7 245:9	Winkler 22:3	47:11 52:20 59:3	Yankee 257:5
154:9,10,18	245:12,13,14	wireless 157:12	163:16 179:3,20	year 18:10 23:5
168:12 176:2	246:2,8,17 247:15	wires 243:17	201:17 265:6	25:6 34:17,18,19
				40:1 45:20 47:21

48:9,14,17,17,19 50:19 53:12 54:4 56:20 60:20 69:6 69:21 71:2 74:2 81:18 90:5,6 106:11 117:19 125:11 139:3,3 154:7 155:4 156:3 156:7 157:11,15 163:16 166:16 172:12 186:21 187:16 188:4 190:6 191:17 193:15,18,19 201:19,21 208:15 208:16 209:22 210:1 233:16 236:2 238:14 240:22 266:14,15 270:2 271:2,3,4 years 23:8 48:9 51:14,15,16 53:14 68:22 81:16 84:5 85:12,14,16 129:1 147:14 187:11 191:20 192:3 208:8,17 215:5 216:20 221:3 222:4 231:4 232:5 238:13 249:5 251:3 272:4 274:17 275:7 277:14,20 278:5 year's 64:13 106:9 194:8 year-to-year 210:2 yesterday 106:14 York 161:11,14 202:7 257:8 273:20 young 7:14 10:4 Yucel 29:8	<hr/> 0 <hr/> 05 170:18 07 85:12,21 205:4 08 85:12,21 <hr/> 1 <hr/> 1 131:15 159:9 210:3 243:1 1-megawatt 257:4 1.8 171:9 10 48:9 51:14 99:10 154:1 196:8 208:8 232:5 275:7 10th 109:3 10-year 251:13 260:5 10-3 132:17 10-4 132:18 10:00 65:3 10:16 78:1 10:25-10:30 159:7 10:30 65:3 158:17 158:22 159:8 166:14 10:45 77:17,19 10:48 78:2 100 48:22 80:8 100,000 205:16 276:13 1000 1:11 11 208:8 11:45 127:19 11:50 127:20 12 4:7 230:22 12th 154:4 12:24 155:17 12:30 155:13 122 4:16 128 4:17 134 4:19 148 4:21 201:7 15 49:3 197:15,16 232:5 233:18 150 87:3 1508 83:11,21 100:18 114:2 152 4:22	155 5:2 16 208:10 1605 33:6 175 201:9 178 5:4 181 5:5 1941 9:4 197 5:6 1970s 70:19 1979 224:3 1980 66:12 1981 21:20 1983 179:3,19 1985 42:14,16 1997 220:6,7 <hr/> 2 <hr/> 2 1:8 113:5 115:12 211:7 2-3 155:12 2:15 155:18 20 32:20 44:15 49:3 80:5 110:1,5,6 155:9,11 161:14 208:8,19 221:3 232:5 272:4 273:19 20th 89:16 104:22 109:2 20-day 110:8 20-megawatt 257:7 200 87:3 2000 204:3 230:7 2001 220:6,7 2004 85:17 2005 80:17 83:9,12 85:17 180:15 201:19 205:3 207:14 211:7,20 213:5 216:16 236:2 2006 48:16 85:12 85:20,20 200:16 205:4 2007 132:19,21 142:10 215:19 216:6 253:16	2008 4:7 20:8 158:13 159:14 169:10,17 170:1 171:16 183:1 187:15 189:3 190:22 238:14 2009 1:8 5:2 164:4 170:3,18 171:16 206:19 208:14 2010 27:16 168:17 217:14 226:8,8 227:2,6 240:19,21 240:22 241:3 2011 5:10 236:18 240:21 241:6 202)586-6273 18:6 2022 133:8 219 5:8 22 103:22 104:19 23 161:1 230 5:9 236 5:10 25 89:17 25-30 147:14 255 5:13 265 5:15 266 5:17 27 201:6 278 5:19 29 159:14 <hr/> 3 <hr/> 3 159:9 205:19 233:19 3-year 21:15 243:4 3:39 236:15 3:55 236:16 30 208:17 36 4:9 133:8 37,000 253:19 39 81:19 <hr/> 4 <hr/> 4 243:11 4:30 197:18 236:12 4:45 236:11 4:50 282:11 40 228:17 273:20	400 48:14 404 158:14 411 260:2,3 44 158:14 45 89:11 109:15 47 43:5 48 4:11 160:12 186:5,8 49 8:10 <hr/> 5 <hr/> 5 115:13 125:5,5 232:5 260:5 5,000 199:14 222:2 5-year 249:3 260:10 50 7:19 44:11 48:22 208:21 <hr/> 6 <hr/> 6 4:2,4 233:18 255:17,17 6-month 26:13 6.3 171:6 63 132:20 <hr/> 7 <hr/> 7A 141:14 70s 195:1 78 4:13 <hr/> 8 <hr/> 8 260:18 8E-089 1:10 80 80:6 80s 195:1 81 66:13 814 99:20 101:16 123:12 815 99:15,18 123:12 826 33:7 246:2,10 83 142:10 190:6 85 66:9 160:14 161:3 171:17,18 180:15 186:4,15 190:4 191:16 194:1
---	---	--	--	---

860 246:13 250:6
860(m) 249:3
861 241:10 246:9
267:5 269:11
886 111:15 152:21

9

9 262:11
9:00 1:10
9:02 6:2
9:30 10:20
90 107:20 196:1,6,7
253:20
914 160:5 183:16
184:22
920 239:11
923 249:22 250:8
99.9 131:21