		Page 1	
1		ENVIRONMENTAL APPEALS BOARD	
2			
3	VETERANS SERVI	ICES; AND CLEAN &	
4	FRESH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES,		
5	INC.,		
6	Plaintiff,		
7	v.	Case No.	
8	DNREC,	EAB 2024-02	
9	Defe	endant.	
10			
11		HEARING	
12	DATE:	Tuesday, July 16, 2024	
13	TIME:	9:10 a.m.	
14	BEFORE:	Delaware Environmental Appeals Board	
15	LOCATION:	Kent County Administration Building	
16		555 South Bay Road	
17		Dover, DE 19901	
18	REPORTED BY:	Samuel Haut	
19	JOB NO.:	6688098	
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24			

		Page 3
1		APPEARANCES (Cont'd)
2	ALSO	PRESENT:
3		Robert Mulrooney, Board Member (by
4		videoconference)
5		Janella Sapp, Administrative Specialist
6		Courtney Austin, Digital Reporter
7		George X, CEO Clean & Fresh Environmental
8		Services, Inc.
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			Page 4
1		EXHIBITS	
2	NO.	DESCRIPTION	ID/EVD
3		(None marked.)	
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PROCEEDINGS

MR. HOLDEN: My name is Dean Holden, chairperson of the Delaware Environmental Appeals Board.

Before we begin, for those of you attending in person, please silence your electronic devices. For those joining us on the phone or online, please mute your microphone unless you're addressed by the board.

An appeal was filed by Veterans

Services and Clean and Fresh Environmental Services
that challenged the March 12, 2024, order, 2024-A0010, of DNREC's secretary to approve a permit for
natural minor development by Noramco, Incorporated.

The purpose of today's hearing is for the Delaware Environmental Appeals Board to consider DNREC's motion to dismiss appeal 2024-02. Appellee DNREC has moved to dismiss the appeal as being untimely filed for Appellant's failure to appear represented by counsel and for Appellant's lack of standing.

Notice of today's hearing at the Kent County Administrative Building, 55 Bay Road, Dover, Delaware, and by virtual access was posted on the City

of Delaware Secretary of State's public meeting calendar and on the board website. In addition, public notice of this hearing was published in the News Journal and the Delaware State News.

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The Delaware Environmental Appeals

Board is a quasi-judicial body created by the General

Assembly to hear appeals of decisions of the secretary

of DNREC. The way the board fulfills its duties and

responsibilities, including conducting hearings, is

established to govern by Delaware code board

regulations case law.

I'll now introduce the board members and board staff. To my far left, Michael Horsey; Deborah Wicks; as I said, my name is Dean Holden. To my right is Attorney General Zach Naylor.

Administrative Assistant Janella Sapp is with us today. The appellants represented by counsel at today's hearings. I ask the counsel to take this opportunity to introduce themselves to the board.

MS. EDGE: May it please the board, my name is Valerie Edge. I'm with the Delaware

Department of Justice, and I represent the appellee, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

MR. HOLDEN: Ms. Edge, who do you have with you today?

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MS. EDGE: This is my assistant, Rory.

MR. HOLDEN: Thank you.

Appellants who are not represented by counsel, the individuals representing Veterans

Services and Clean and Fresh Environmental Services can identify themselves.

MR. WALLS: My name is Joseph Walls. I represent myself.

MR. X: My name is George X. I'm the president of Clean and Fresh Environmental Services --

THE REPORTER: I can't -- I can't hear -- I can't hear -- I can't hear you. Could you please speak can you please speak up as much as possible? It's just really -- it's very garbled, everything you're saying.

MR. X: My name is George X. I'm here as a pro se litigant. I am the president of Clean and Fresh Environmental Services. I'm here representing myself as the pro se litigant.

MR. HOLDEN: Mr. Walls, Mr. X, I wonder if you might move down to the end here. That way you get closer to the microphone. My apologies.

We may be able to pull one table to the center and pull it out --

MS. EDGE: Yeah. Yeah. We can do that.

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THE REPORTER: If there's any way to get, like, the camera closer to -- or the microphone closer to everybody or -- I'm not sure if it's, like, a connection issue. I feel like you guys probably have good internet, but I -- it's just, like -- all of what -- like, I'm having a really hard time understanding the specific words, and it's just -- I -- you know -- I'll -- I'll let you know if I -- I can't hear anything at all. I just, you know, want to give you a heads up that it's -- the sound is garbled.

MR. HOLDEN: All right. Thank you, folks, for readjusting.

Keep us posted if you can hear us or have any challenges.

Thank you for the introductions. So today, only appellant Veteran Services responded to the motion to dismiss. So only it will have the opportunity to make argument in opposition of the motion to dismiss today. DNREC will have up to 30 minutes to argue in favor of its motion to dismiss and

may reserve any portion of that allotted time for rebuttal. That will be followed by 30 minutes for a representative of Veterans Services to argue against the motion to dismiss. Board members may ask questions during the argument or after the allotted time or could react to the arguments at the conclusion.

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Counsel for DNREC --

MR. X: Can I ask a question before we get started?

MR. HOLDEN: Mr. X?

MR. X: Yes. When this appeal was initially filed, even back before they actually filed, they filed it as a joint appeal on behalf of myself and on behalf of Veterans Services. So -- I think I spoke to an Amy Mann. She gave me some instructions on the procedures to file an appeal. We had a hearing notwithstanding. That was a hearing off the record. A recommendation for replacing at some point on the record, that will be a challenge. The recommendation that I'd be dismissed because I'm not represented by legal counsel. The appeal or the opposition presented by Veterans Services, although we're pro se litigant, it was an appeal on -- it was a challenge on both of

our behalf. So I don't want that to go off the record that my challenge to -- to the motion to dismiss was not entered. Veterans Services filed it. That was from our office's perspective, mine in particular, that that was on both of our behalf as we initially started it jointly. I want that to be in the record.

That's the case I think if I have to challenge it

MR. HOLDEN: Thank you, Mr. X.

Ms. Edge?

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later.

MS. EDGE: Is it fair to assume that the board has read the Veterans submissions, or should we -- through the whole thing?

MR. HOLDEN: I would say approach it as you would like. The board typically reads all the submissions.

MS. EDGE: Yes. Thank you.

As I said, Valerie Edge on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources. The issues are fairly simple in this case. Veterans Services and Clean and Fresh Environmental Services, Inc. submitted an appeal that was received in the offices of DNREC and hand-delivered on April 5, 2024. The secretary -- was promulgated to the community on March 13, 2024,

and that is a quote from Appellant's appeal, that is the joint appeal letter submitted by both Clean and Fresh Environmental Services, Inc. and Veterans Services.

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The statutory deadline for submitting an appeal, which is jurisdictional, which means the board doesn't have jurisdiction to hear hearing of the appeal after 20 days from application of the decision. On its terms, on its face, Veterans Services and Clean and Fresh Environmental Services have admitted that it was promulgated to the community on the day it was emailed to them. It was emailed to both of them. They were referred to the DNREC website, which is the only place it's published. DNREC does not publish notices of decision and neither of the appellants for Noramco the facility nor the person who requested the -- who generally get individual notice that they -- because they commented that they'd get individual email notice. So it's clear that the appeal was filed beyond the jurisdiction.

Now there was some suggestion that an email appeal had been filed and that that might have been timely; but looking at the metadata from the appeal, it shows that it was created in a time that

was untimely, and in Veterans Services response, they have pivoted away from arguing that the email appeal was not received, and there is an email from the board that says in there that it was not received. That's pivoted away from that and instead is arguing that when the -- sent out a portfolio of documents after receiving the appeal, and they sent it certified mail, that that should be the date that the appeal was recognized. That doesn't make sense. It's not good public policy. The appellants have pointed out in their appeal what date it is that it should --.

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Pivoting to the issue of representation, George X is the president of Clean and Fresh Environmental Services, Inc. That's a corporation. As the board knows, a corporation needs to be represented by counsel in an administrative proceeding. There is no counsel present, and DNREC moves to dismiss the Clean and Fresh Environmental Services appeal because they have failed to appear by counsel and they have failed to respond in any way to DNREC's motion to dismiss.

With respect to counsel for Veterans

Services, in its appeal, Veterans Services -
association, and DNREC moved to dismiss it because an

association would also need to be represented by counsel. In response, Mr. Walls indicated that he was a sole proprietor; and to the extent that Mr. Walls is the sole proprietor of Veterans Services and he is representing only Veterans Services, DNREC concedes that he has the ability to represent business before the board here today.

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In its standing, DNREC presents that Veterans Services has not demonstrated that it has standing to do the appeal. Veterans Services is located in Smyrna, Delaware. It's DNREC's belief that the housing that it provides, which is its mission, is provided in Smyrna, Delaware. That's at least 30, 40 -- I think at least 30 miles away from Noramco.

All of the information that Mr. Walls has provided to claim that he has standing has to do with his relatives living within the community, with his canvassing within the community, with his being on the board of a school in the community; and to the extent that that is true, all those are personal.

DNREC strongly believes that it's unlikely that the service is on the board. It is much more likely that Mr. Walls personally and while that may seem to be stringent about the difference to the layperson, in

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terms of this, it was clearly stated that Veterans Services is the appellant; and so those personal things should not count as standing.

redressability here. In order to have standing, what you ask for has to be what you want. Mr. Walls and Veterans Services indicates that they're concerned about the current level of pollution. The permit was granted to Noramco to give them additional -- the option to produce additional medicine. They produce medicine --. They only have so many vessels. They can only do so many things at a time. They're overarching missions and BOCs from other compounds. They're generally unserved. Their limits are not increased in this permit.

So to grant the permit would give away Noramco's --. They're still going to have the same level of pollution that he's already been concerned about, so he doesn't get anything out of the permits.

Does the board have any questions? I can reserve the remainder of my time.

MR. HOLDEN: -- virtual connectivity
interruption --

THE REPORTER: What -- I -- what did

you say? I -- the -- I can't -- is it possible to
move, like, the microphone for the virtual -- for the
computer or whatever is recording your guys' audio to
me? Is it possible to, like, get it next to someone
or something? Because I -- it's like -- you guys are,
like, talking, like, underwater, and it's just very,
very difficult to understand what people are saying.
I apologize. You know, I --

MR. WALLS: We don't need this guy disturbing the flow. Is he one of your guys or is he --

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THE REPORTER: I'm trying to get the transcript for this proceeding.

MR. HOLDEN: His ability here as the court reporter required to keep record of the hearing as a whole. So we have a duty --

MR. WALLS: We need to keep his interruptions to a minimum. We need to do the best we can to --

THE REPORTER: I want to keep it to a minimum, but I have to be able to hear you guys to make a transcript for this proceeding, and I can't do that if I can't hear you. So I apologize for interrupting, but I need -- I can't make a transcript

- if I can't hear what people are saying. So I just --
- 2 I apologize, but --
- MR. HOLDEN: So Mr. Haut, what was the
- 4 | last piece that you had trouble hearing and we
- 5 | could --
- 6 THE REPORTER: I heard most of what
- 7 | Valerie was saying, but whatever you said in response
- 8 | after that, I didn't catch.
- 9 MR. HOLDEN: Okay. So what I stated
- 10 was are there any questions from the board for Ms.
- 11 Edge.
- 12 THE REPORTER: Okay.
- MR. HOLDEN: In the room, we had none.
- 14 Mr. Marcozzi or Mr. Horne, if you have any questions,
- 15 | you can unmute yourself here.
- MR. MARCOZZI: No questions.
- 17 MR. X: I'd like to interject at this
- 18 | time. It doesn't prove anything at all of what would
- 19 | I have said on record.
- MR. HOLDEN: Mr. X, every comment you
- 21 | make is in the record. It's being transcribed by the
- 22 | court reporter.
- MR. X: Okay. I appreciate that. I
- 24 | really don't believe in any harm. This has just been

1 a tumultuous journey for us, learning the court procedures, and follow all instructions. So he's 3 going through what we've been going through since day one so I'd like the board to recognize that. 4

MR. HOLDEN: So we've no questions from the board.

Mr. Walls?

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MR. WALLS: My name is Joseph Walls. Ι am pro se litigated. I am the owner of Veterans Services, which is a sole proprietorship. Edge's reply, she recognizes that I have standing as a personal individual. Legally, there's a concept called legal fiction when you deal with a corporation, when you deal with nonprofits. These are all companies that are created in a way that protects the owners of those companies from many forms of liabilities so they create a -- what they call a legal fiction to separate the liability from the individual and the company.

In my case, I deliberately chose to be a sole proprietor. When I act as Joseph M. Walls, I am acting as Veterans Services. When I act as Veterans Services, I am acting as Joseph M. Walls. There is no legal distinction between the two, and

that's the case law, and that has essentially already been recognized by Ms. Edge.

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So I don't see -- I don't see any legal authority that would pierce the identification of Joseph Walls and Veterans Services as being the same. So when I file an appeal in the name of Veterans Services, I am filing the appeal in my own name doing business as Veterans Services. I have the legal right to call myself whatever I want to call myself. I can call myself the blue sky if I want to. I have the legal right to do that. So there's no separation there. So there's no reason to deny me standing based upon that issue.

On the issue of timing, this may get a little complicated. The regulation that we're dealing with, the statute itself, says upon -- the statute itself says any person whose interest is substantially affected by an action of the secretary may appeal to the Environmental Appeals Board within 20 days after -- and I emphasize "after" -- receipt -- and I emphasize "receipt" -- of the secretary's decision. It doesn't say after notification of the decision or after promulgation of the decision. It says after receipt of the decision or publication of the

1 decision.

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Now if you go to the Delaware

legislative handbook, it specifies in there -- I got

copies if you guys want it -- in the Delaware

legislative handbook, it tells you what "or" means.

It says that "or" isn't exclusive. "Or" tells the

reader "A" but not "B," "B" but not "A," but not "A"

and "B." So -- and it tells -- it says that the

decision of which to choose is mine, not DNREC's. I

am saying that I did not receive the secretary's order

until April when I received a certified letter that

actually contained the secretary's order. That's when

I received it. If you wish to go back to the emails,

the email promulgated by --

MR. HOLDEN: Mr. Walls, you said you received a certified letter in April.

MR. WALLS: Yes, sir.

MR. HOLDEN: When in April?

MR. WALLS: April the 24th. I have the certified letter here with its original content still in the letter.

The -- Noura -- I'm going to mess this word up, sorry -- Abualfaraj, PhD engineer with DNREC.

I have an email from him dated March the 13th. It

This was the cover email.

1	says, "A hard copy of this letter will be mailed to
2	the address you provided." The certified letter is
3	the hard copy of the secretary's order. I got that
4	April the 24th.

MR. HOLDEN: Was the secretary's letter also transmitted by that March 13th email?

MR. WALLS:

The cover email contained a copy of DNREC's letter as an attachment. If you look at the letter -- I don't know if you guys have the letter in front of you. I would like to give this to the board. I've got two copies here.

- MS. EDGE: I have no objection.
- MR. WALLS: Thank you.
- 15 MS. EDGE: That's the letter that
- 16 | that's the hyperlink; correct?

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- MR. WALLS: Yes, ma'am.
- 18 MS. EDGE: Email that has the
- 19 hyperlink? The secretary's order?
- MR. WALLS: Yes, ma'am.
- Now I did a little majoring in English.
- 22 I know a little bit about how to structure sentences.
- 23 I know a little bit about how to structure paragraphs.
- 24 | If you look at the March the 13th letter from DNREC,

it says here in the second paragraph, "Secretary's order number 2024 A 0010 was signed on March the 12th, 2024, approving the permit." No hyperlink. I ask that you take notice of that. There is no hyperlink at the end of that paragraph.

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If you go down to the next paragraph, it says, "The technical response memorandum permit and hearing officers report can be found at" -- and there is a hyperlink at the end of that paragraph. When I clicked on the hyperlink, what pops up is all the documentation supporting the secretary's decision. It's not a hyperlink to the secretary's order. There's a difference. Okay? It may be a problem with DNREC in the way they construct this notice. It is a notice that a decision was made, but it is not the decision. I've been with courts a lot. A lot of times, the court -- a judge will reclaim a decision from the bench and then take a week or two to actually write the order. So there's a difference between notice and order.

When you go back to the statutes involved in this, there's a problem, and I think that's where this letter stems from. Under the Environmental Appeals Board regulations, it says there

that an appeal can be filed within 20 days after the secretary has announced the decision -- announced the decision, which is what the March 13th letter does. All right? But there's a difference. The statute says after receipt of the secretary's decision. It doesn't say after notice of the secretary's decision. It also says after publication of the decision. It doesn't say after notice of the decision. All right? They can notify as many people as they want to that there was a decision made; but until that decision is actually sent out or accessible, it means nothing. The statute is very specific about that.

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The regulation rewrites the statute, and that's where the confusion comes in. If the regulation would not have changed the wording of the statute from "received for publication" to "announced," we wouldn't be sitting here with that issue before us. I am saying that I received a hard copy of the April 13th letter on March the 18th. The attorney general's office does not dispute that.

So if you wanted to look at anything, at the earliest, April 18th is when I actually received this hard copy of the notice, and it says right here, "A hard copy of this letter will be

mailed." All right?

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So this letter that is a notice is conditioned upon the mailing of the notice. I didn't receive the notice until the 18th. I didn't receive the actual order until April the 24th.

And we were hyperaggressive about this. We communicated with DNREC before a decision was noticed. We asked them what's the procedure for appeal, anticipating that the decision will be made; and they came back and pointed us to the regulation.

Okay? So you can't say that we weren't involved in this and tuned into it. All right?

When that notice came out, there was no hyperlink to the secretary's order. That is an error. It is a substantive error on the part of DNREC. They cannot use that error against us. When you're faced with decisions to be made, is it "A" or "B," you have to choose. All right? If "A" does not contain the secretary's order, then you have to go to "B," when the order was actually received.

This is not two and three years later as Ms. Edge threw in there. All right? We were on this. We were on it in November. We were on it in March or January. We

- were on it in March, and we were on it in April, and we're on it today. We're not going away.
- MR. HOLDEN: Mr. Walls, quick question for you.
- 5 MR. WALLS: Yes, sir.
- MR. HOLDEN: When you received --
- 7 THE REPORTER: Wait. Who's speaking?
- 8 Who's speaking? Sorry.
- 9 MR. HOLDEN: It's Dean Holden.
- 10 Mr. Walls, when you received the March
- 11 | 13th email that identified that the secretary's order
- 12 had been signed, did you do anything to seek out that
- order where potentially the order was published on
- 14 | DNREC's website?
- 15 MR. WALLS: I had clicked on the
- 16 | hyperlink down there, and I didn't see it. There's,
- 17 like, 10,000 pages on that thing. I ain't got all
- 18 day, you know, weeks to read through it. No, I
- 19 | didn't -- I'm saying that March 13th was no more than
- 20 a notice.
- 21 MR. HOLDEN: I'm asking what did you
- 22 do -- March 13th email notified you that the
- 23 | secretary's order had been signed approving the
- 24 permit.

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MR. WALLS: Yeah. George, I believe it was the same day you emailed DNREC and asked them what the appeal procedures were and I believe they responded to that letter --

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MR. X: -- that the secretary's decision had been made, and I acknowledged that okay it has been made, but we had never seen it.

MR. HOLDEN: Ask for it?

MR. X: Yeah. And like he's telling you, what happened is the link they sent, you go on there, they got a thing on this chronology that goes all the way down showing you everything that's been reviewed by the secretary in reaching the decision. It's like Joe said. It was a whole 10,000 sheets of paper.

MR. HOLDEN: Do you have record of that email requesting a copy of the order?

MR. X: I mean, you know what? I only brought some of my files.

MR. WALLS: I might --

MR. X: Yeah, I didn't bring that particular one. I only got some of that right here. But as Joe said, we have been engaged from the moment of notice -- of public notice. We have a right to

1 know. We've been trying to know.

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MR. HOLDEN: Mr. George, again, having not responded to the motion to dismiss, that disallows you from now arguing against the motion to dismiss.

Mr. Walls has responded to the motion to dismiss. You need to let Mr. Walls argue against that motion to dismiss.

MR. X: I appreciate that. All I want to say is this. Let the record show that we launched this thing jointly March the 31st. I filed -- we filed an appeal. We submitted a joint thing.

Somewhere along the line, the board has made a decision to separate his response and not give me credit for it. So I just want that to be noted.

MR. WALLS: If I may --

MR. HOLDEN: One second, Mr. Walls.

Ms. Edge, did you have one, too?

MS. EDGE: I'm just going to -- I have the website here. If I could ask him if this is the website on my cell phone that he was asking about?

May I do that?

MR. WALLS: I keep a log book. I don't have the log book with me, but the hyperlink that we touch had -- yeah. Not this one.

1 MS. EDGE: That's my --2. MR. WALLS: This is the one that you 3 sent out with the chronology. 4 MS. EDGE: I suggest that it's DNREC's website --5 6 MR. WALLS: Okay. I ain't got a 7 problem with that. They can put anything they want to 8 put on a website. That's not what the statute says. 9 The statute says upon receipt of the secretary's 10 It doesn't say upon receipt of notice of the There's a difference. Just like she was 11 secretary's. saying about splitting hairs. It's a technicality, 12 13 but it's a technicality where a lot of cases were 14 reversed on in courts. 15 MR. HOLDEN: Mr. Walls, the letter reads to me to be notification --16 17 THE REPORTER: Who's talking right now? 18 MR. HOLDEN: This is Dean Holden. 19 The letter included as an attachment to 20 the March 13th email to me reads to be notification 2.1 that the secretary's order has been published. 2.2 There's a hyperlink included that takes you to the DNREC website. That hyperlink has the secretary's 23

order listed upon it as the first document on the

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list. Why does that not satisfy 20 days of receipt or publication or notified of the publication on March 13th or notified of where it was published?

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MR. WALLS: I would say that because there wasn't a hyperlink in the notification letter. See, the problem is, this March the 13th letter, it limits that hyperlink. It says technical response memorandum permit and hearing officer's report can be found at this hyperlink. All right? It doesn't say the secretary's order can be found. I had no idea.

MR. HOLDEN: Ms. Edge, is the permit and the secretary's order synonymous?

MS. EDGE: The permit is separate from the secretary's order, but if the board would like to see the website that I just showed him. It has the same as Noramco.

MR. HOLDEN: Okay. The board will get to it.

MS. EDGE: Okay. DNREC would point out that the secretary's order is clearly listed.

MR. WALLS: I mean, then we go back and look at what the statute actually says. The statute actually says publication or receipt. It doesn't say notice, and that's what she's talking about is notice.

Page 29

1 Now you can conflate notice to 2. publication, which I understand that's the direction 3 maybe you're thinking. But they're not synonymous. 4 MR. HOLDEN: Would you argue that the March 13th email letter and hyperlink isn't -- didn't 5 6 make you aware of publicly showing the secretary's 7 order? 8 MR. WALLS: No. I'm not arguing that. 9 I'm saying that they notified us that a decision was 10 made. All right? But they didn't publish the 11 decision. Not in a format -- they sent this, and this 12 is not --13 MR. HOLDEN: You argue that because you 14 didn't receive a copy of the secretary's order that 15 they didn't satisfy the requirements? 16 Yeah. I would argue that. MR. WALLS: 17 That's what I'm arguing. And I'm also arguing that 18 because there was no hyperlink attached to the 19 paragraph that talks about the secretary's order, I 20 had no notice or I had no receipt. It wasn't 2.1 published. All this is, is a notice. All this is 2.2 saying something happened. It's not saying what 23 happened.

MR. HOUGHTON: I just have one

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question. This is Mike Houghton. I just want to be sure from whoever can answer. Maybe the attorney general can answer this. When was the order actually published on the DNREC website?

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MS. EDGE: March 13th.

MR. HOUGHTON: March 13th is when it was published?

MS. EDGE: The day that the emails were sent out with the hyperlinks, it was on the website.

MR. HOUGHTON: So if I just as an interested citizen, not a party to this proceeding, wanted to find out the order was published, I could have gone on that website and I could have found it.

And I've worked with it before. I have seen lots of things posted on it, but you can find generally what you want by opening it up and scrolling through it and finding what you're looking for. So it was the 13th?

MR. HOUGHTON: Thank you.

Yes.

MS. EDGE:

MR. WALLS: If I may, the only thing I would point out is that the regulation says receipt of the secretary's order or publication of the secretary's order. This legislation on the definition of order allows the party to choose which they wanted

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to act upon, and I'm saying that primarily we're acting upon the fact that we never received a copy of the secretary's order even though DNREC knew that we were a very interested party in this case. So they should have sent us a copy of the order.

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And when it mentions in there in the cover email that they're going to send us a hard copy, we had a right to rely upon that. So at least the 18th -- March the 18th when I asked for a copy, even though the secretary's order is not in there, I will concede that March the 18th would be a hard date. I will concede that. But March the 13th is not a hard date.

MR. HOLDEN: Mr. Walls, but the email says a hard copy of this letter. It doesn't say a hard copy of the order.

MR. WALLS: I agree with you. It's very confusing, and it's very confusing for me as a layperson. It's confusing to you guys. And when you're -- when you're dealt with an ambiguity, case law is that the ambiguity is interpreted in favor of the nonmoving party, which is me. That's me. That's the law.

MR. HOUGHTON: Mr. Reporter, it's Mike

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Sir, I understand you see this as ambiquous, and just speaking for myself, I don't see ambiguity in here at all. In my experience as an administrative law practitioner for 40 years, I've never seen a circumstance where there's a choice in the statutory language between receipt of the decision or publishing of the decision. I don't think a party gets to pick and choose which is the end point. think the language is not ambiguous. It's not confusing. I think the fact that it was published -it was available to you and published on the 13th, my own view just as one person on this panel, is that's controlled. So my view is I understand your arguments. I don't agree with them, but I appreciate the presentation.

MR. WALLS: Thank you.

MR. HOLDEN: Mr. Walls, Dean Holden. I would offer you about ten minutes left of that 30 minutes. We have talked about DNREC had three issues in the motion to dismiss. The issue of being pro se. I think that's been addressed by both parties. We talked a fair amount about timeliness. I don't know that I've heard a lot about standing.

1 MR. WALLS: And standing.

MR. HOLDEN: Would you consider talking

3 to that?

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MR. WALLS: Yes, sir. When you talk about standing, Delaware constitutional law and United States constitutional law are basically the same. There has to be a cause in controversy involved in the case. In other words, you have to have some kind of personal interest in the case. Somehow, you were injured by the case. That's what gives you standing. If you are as an academic exercise challenging something just because you wanted to see how it comes out, that's not standing. You can't go in and just claim that I have an interest. You have to be able to show something. You have to show that you either benefitted or lose by the decision that was made.

Now when you talk about standing, the first thing I want to address is that the attorney general's office and DNREC -- DNREC made a decision in this case. All right? DNREC, once they made their decision, that was passed off to Noramco. So really, the only parties to this appeal is Noramco and Joseph Walls. George X, too. But what we're talking about here is Noramco and Joseph Walls are all -- yeah.

Noramco and Joseph Walls. DNREC has no dog in this fight. They made a decision. They decided to grant the permit. Once that's done, there is no case law anywhere in any civil realm where the party that made the decision, the administrative board that made the decision comes in and is a party to the lawsuit. That's not the way it works.

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So the attorney general's office obviously should not be here, and DNREC should not be here. Noramco should be sitting here. Joseph Walls should be sitting here. Noramco is the only one that has standing to defend or challenge the decision that was made by the secretary.

On my standing, for Joseph Walls in particular, I'm a board member to a school at --.

We're doing a mural outside the school now. I got pictures of it, you guys. I got them before and after. Nice pictures. But I'm there on a weekly basis.

I also advocate on behalf of people that live in that area. Every time I go into that area -- or let me say this. I'm a hundred percent disabled veteran. I am 30 percent disabled because I have asthma. You guys heard about the burn pit

Page 35

controversy with the veterans, how it took 20 years before they started recognizing the effects of that pollution upon the soldiers. You've heard about Agent Orange, how it took 20-30 years to get recognition that the orange had harmed soldiers. When I go into this area and I advocate for elder soldiers and other people that live in that area, I am affected by that pollution. I start having running noses. I have running eyes. My respiratory is challenged. Everything about my asthma picks up.

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So I'm saying that I have personal standing because I am personally injured by the pollution and the poisons coming out of Noramco's stacks. That is my standing. This is not a hypothetical. This is not an academic exercise. This is a personal thing. When my health is personally affected by what is going on in Noramco. That's what I have to say on the standing issue.

MR. HOLDEN: This is Dean Holden. Are there any questions from the board on the matter of standing?

MR. HOUGHTON: I have one question.

Just so I understand comments that were made earlier,
has the issuance of this permit increased emissions

into the community from the facility? Can anyone answer that?

MR. WALLS: Can I say something on

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5 MR. HOUGHTON: Sure.

MR. WALLS: We were in a public information session, and they had a graph there that showed what their allowable pollutions limit is. I don't know. I think it was in the nature of, like, 20 tons combined that they were allowed to release.

Their argument was that currently we only release, like, three and a half tons of pollution whereas we're allowed to release 20 tons of pollution. So they say, Noramco, that when they put this new production, new scrubber, they're adding to capacity. They're adding to production. All right? When they do that, it's going to increase their admissions from three and a half to, like, seven tons. It's under the 20, but it's doubling what they're already releasing.

So there is an increase in pollution. There's not an increase in what they're allowed to produce, but there is an increase -- a substantial increase in the pollution that they are currently emitting.

Page 37

MR. HOUGHTON: What does the attorney general's office say?

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MS. EDGE: That there is no increase in the limit to -- compounds or hazardous air pollutants. They can increase -- they have -- they do different lines of compounds, so they create medicines and they can emit up to the current cap for BOCs and hazardous air pollution -- pollutants. That does not change from the permits. They are adding, like, a scrubber, which is an air pollution control device. They are adding equipment to allow them to do different lines. They still are emitting, to some extent, -- vessels, which do not believe that they are increasing. they can emit more pollution than they are right now. Like last year, they could emit more pollution than they actually are. They had permission to do that, and they have that same permission now. They just can't do a different product.

MR. WALLS: There is an increase in what they're polluting now.

MS. EDGE: I do not believe there's -I do not believe that that's necessarily true.

MR. HOUGHTON: Thank you.

MR. WALLS: Well, it's a disputable

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1	issue.	You	can't	resolve	tnat.

- 2 MR. HOLDEN: So this is Dean. Let me
- 3 get this straight. Mr. Walls, one second. Dean
- 4 | Holden speaking. Do you have any other questions from
- 5 the board? Mr. Marcozzi, Mr. Horne, any questions
- 6 | from you?
- 7 MR. MARCOZZI: Not here.
- MR. HOLDEN: Thank you. Maybe hear the
- 9 group.
- 10 Mr. Walls, you have a few minutes left
- 11 here.
- 12 MR. WALLS: All right. So to wrap it
- up, what we're looking at, I'm assuming, is the timing
- 14 issue is the dispositive issue here. Is that correct?
- MR. HOLDEN: DNREC say both standing
- 16 | and timeliness are --
- 17 MR. WALLS: Okay. All right. We're
- 18 good.
- MR. HOLDEN: You wrapping it up with
- 20 that?
- MR. WALLS: Yes, sir.
- MR. HOLDEN: Thank you, sir.
- Ms. Edge, any rebuttal?
- MS. EDGE: Just briefly. As Mr.

1 Houghton pointed out, this is a fairly clear issue. 2. The appellants had notice. It was sent directly to 3 them by email. They had access to all documents It makes no sense to argue that every person 4 online. 5 in Delaware, I quess, or the world is entitled to 6 personal notice and that their appeal period would run 7 from receipt of a paper copy of a document. 8 wouldn't make any sense to have an appeal period if 9 anyone could just say to an agency to send them a 10 certified copy of this and when they got a paper copy, 11 even though they've known for who knows how long, that the appeal period would --. I believe that I've 12 13 showed that this appeal was filed after the 14 jurisdictional appeal period and should be dismissed 15 for that reason.

As to standing, Veterans Services -Joseph Walls is all of Veterans Services because he is
a sole proprietor. Veterans Services is not all
physical. Joseph Walls is Veterans Services when he's
acting in that capacity. And when he's canvasing the
neighborhood or doing political activities, business
of Veterans Services is not to do political
activities. It's not to act as a board member. And
the only personal impact that Mr. Walls points to is

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Also, as he points again to the fact that if this permit was revoked, the same amount of BOCs and air pollutants could be emitted by the facility, so this is not an injury that's redressable.

And also, it's not DNREC's responsibility to bring in necessary parties, not to bring Noramco into this. It would be the appellant's responsibility to include necessary parties that --. That's not the state's responsibility. This order was posed to the community on March 13th. The appellant said it in their appeal --.

MR. HOLDEN: Thank you, Ms. Edge.

Dean Holden speaking.

Any closing questions from the board?

Is there a motion for --?

[UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER]: So moved.

[UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2]: I'll second.

So Mr. Walls, what we're

MR. WALLS: Could I ask you one question? Would we have time to file a memorandum based upon this hearing before you make a decision?

going to do now is the board's going to move into

MR. WALLS:

- executive session -- and potentially take a break and then we'll come back in session and have an
- 3 opportunity to get back with you.
- Janella, are we going to stay in this
 room and ask the parties to step out?
- 6 MS. SAPP: Yes. I'll ask them to step into the breakroom.
- MR. X: -- I just want to turn your attention to Title No. 6535.
- MR. HOLDEN: -- Mr. X? I'm sorry. -11 can't argue against motions.
- MR. X: I don't want to argue against.
- 13 I just want to offer some -- by the definition of the
- one thing quoted in that statute. The general
- assembly rhetoric that we're provided, it said that
- 16 | each --
- MR. HOLDEN: Mr. X, I'm going to ask
- 18 you not to continue. Let the board move into
- 19 executive session. Thank you, sir.
- 20 MR. X: Okay. Thank you.
- MS. SAPP: Also let the court
- 22 reporter --. We'll be in room one.
- 23 THE REPORTER: Wait. Wait. I can't
- 24 hear you, Janella. What'd you say about me?

	rage 42
1	MS. SAPP: So we're going into
2	executive session, so I'm going to separate the room,
3	so you'll be in room two and executive session will
4	happen in room one.
5	THE REPORTER: Okay. So should I
6	I'll go off the record, then, and then come back when
7	they come back from executive session?
8	MS. SAPP: Yes. I'll bring you back in
9	when we're back into public session.
10	THE REPORTER: Okay. Okay. That's
11	fine. So I'm just going to go off the record at 10:02
12	a.m., and then I'll go back on when
13	(Off the record.)
14	MR. HOLDEN: All right. We're back in
15	public session.
16	Mr. Haut, it's Dean Holden speaking.
17	Can you hear us? Are you with us?
18	THE REPORTER: Yep. I can hear you
19	guys all good and I'm here and recording. So ready to
20	go.
21	MR. HOLDEN: Okay. Thank you.
22	All right. From the board, is there
23	anyone interested in a motion?
24	MR. HOUGHTON: Yes. It's Michael

Houghton. I would like to make a motion to dismiss
the appeal on two bases. First is that the appeal was
not timely. The second is that there's a lack of
standing. Would I need to question that any further?

MR. HOLDEN: So there is a motion. Is

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MR. HORSEY: Mike Horsey. Second.

MR. HORNE: I'll second.

MR. HOLDEN: All right. And

discussion, I've got -- and I also ask if you have any inclusion of -- represent?

MR. HOUGHTON: Yes. I think there has been recognition -- Mr. Walls representing Veterans Services was granted the ability to pursue the appeal. However, the fact that another party was not permitted status to pursue the appeal although there has been some periodic comments that have been made, all that would be upheld in terms of status of hearing.

Substantively, after we crossed that bridge earlier in the day and the appeal was not timely and there was a lack of standing on the part of Veterans Services represented by Mr. Walls.

MR. HOLDEN: Any other discussion on the motion? All right. I'm going to ask for a roll

- 1 | call vote. I'm going to start with Ms. Wicks.
- MS. WICKS: Deborah Wicks. I'm in
- 3 | favor of the motion.
- 4 MR. HOLDEN: Mr. Horsey?
- 5 MR. HORSEY: In favor.
- 6 MR. HOUGHTON: I'm in favor of the
- 7 | motion.
- MR. HOLDEN: Mr. Marcozzi?
- 9 | MR. MARCOZZI: I vote in favor of the
- 10 motion.
- MR. HOLDEN: Mr. Horne?
- 12 MR. HORNE: I vote in favor of the
- $13 \mid motion.$
- 14 | MR. HOLDEN: And I, Dean Holden, vote
- 15 in favor of the motion as well. The motion carries
- 16 unanimously.
- To the parties, the board has 90 days
- 18 to issue a written order. That written order will be
- 19 delivered via certified mail. If the parties have
- 20 interest in appealing that written order, the timeline
- 21 of that starts -- so it doesn't start until you
- 22 receive that written order, and that'll come to you
- 23 | sometime here in the next 90 days.
- With that, today's hearing is complete.

	Page 45
1	Thank you so much for joining us.
2	THE REPORTER: Going off the record at
3	10:18 a.m.
4	(Whereupon, at 10:18 a.m., the
5	proceeding was concluded.)
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CERTIFICATE

2. I, SAMUEL HAUT, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify 3 that any witness(es) in the foregoing proceedings, 4 5 prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that the 6 proceedings were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of said proceedings are a 8 true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, 9 10 skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, 11 related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I 12 13 am not a relative or employee of any counsel or 14 attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor 15 financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of San Hant 16 this action.

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SAMUEL HAUT

Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, JULIE GROCE, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

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&	2024-02 1:8	ability 13:6	addition 6:2
& 1:3 3:7	5:17	15:14 43:14	additional 14:9
	24th 19:19 20:4	46:10 47:7	14:10
0	23:5	able 8:1 15:21	address 20:2
0010 5:13 21:2	25442 46:17	33:14	33:18
1	26 2:5	abualfaraj	addressed 5:8
10,000 24:17	3	19:23	32:22
25:14	30 8:23 9:2	academic 33:11	administration
102 2:13	13:13,14 32:19	35:15	1:15
10:18 45:3,4	34:23	access 5:24	administrative
12 5:12	302 2:8,16	39:3	3:5 5:23 6:16
12th 21:2	30565 47:14	accessible	12:16 32:5
13 10:24	31st 26:10	22:11	34:5
13th 19:24 20:6	4	accurate 46:9	admissions
20:24 22:3,19		47:5	36:17
24:11,19,22	40 13:14 32:5	acknowledged	admitted 11:10
27:20 28:3,6	5	25:6	advocate 34:20
29:5 30:5,6,17	5 10:23	act 17:21,22	35:6
31:12 32:12	55 5:23	31:1 39:23	affected 18:18
40:12	555 1:16	acting 17:22,23	35:7,17
16 1:12	6	31:2 39:20	agency 39:9
18th 22:19,22	653-3940 2:8	action 18:18	agent 35:3
23:4 31:9,9,11	6535 41:9	46:12,16 47:8	agree 31:17
19901 1:17	6688098 1:19	47:12	32:15
19904 2:14	7	activities 39:21	ain't 24:17 27:6
19977 2:6	-	39:23	air 37:4,8,10
2	739-9943 2:16	actual 23:5	40:5
2 40:19	9	actually 9:13 19:12 21:18	allotted 9:1,5 allow 37:11
20 11:8 18:19	90 44:17,23	22:11,22 23:20	allowable 36:8
22:1 28:1 35:1	9:10 1:13	·	allowed 36:10
36:9,13,19	a	28:22,23 30:3 37:16	36:13,21
20-30 35:4	a.m. 1:13 42:12	adding 36:15	allows 30:24
2024 1:12 5:12	45:3,4	36:16 37:9,11	ambiguity
5:12 10:23,24	10.0,7	30.10 37.7,11	31:20,21 32:4
21:2,3			J1.4U,41 J4.4

ambiguous	appellant 8:20	arguments 9:6	L.
32:3,10	14:2 40:2,12	32:15	b
amount 32:23	appellant's	asked 23:8 25:2	b 4:1 19:7,7,8
40:4	5:19,20 11:1	31:9	23:17,19
amy 9:16	40:9	asking 24:21	back 9:13
announced	appellants 6:17	26:20	19:13 21:21
22:2,2,17	7:5 11:15	assembly 6:7	23:10,23 28:21
answer 30:2,3	12:10 39:2	41:15	41:2,3 42:6,7,8
36:2	appellee 5:17	assistant 6:16	42:9,12,14
anticipating	6:22	7:3	based 18:12
23:9		association	40:22
	application	12:24 13:1	bases 43:2
apologies 7:24 apologize 15:8		assume 10:11	basically 33:6
15:23 16:2	appreciate 16:23 26:8		basis 34:19
	32:15	assuming 38:13 asthma 34:24	bay 1:16 5:23
appeal 5:10,17			behalf 2:2,10
5:18 9:12,14	approach	35:10	9:14,15 10:1,5
9:17,22,24	10:14	attached 29:18	10:18 34:20
10:22 11:1,2,6	approve 5:13	attachment	belief 13:11
11:8,20,22,24	approving 21:3	20:9 27:19	believe 16:24
12:2,7,8,11,19	24:23	attending 5:6	25:1,3 37:13
12:23 13:10	april 10:23	attention 41:9	37:21,22 39:12
18:6,7,18 22:1	19:11,16,18,19	attorney 2:19	believes 13:21
23:9 25:3	20:4 22:19,22	6:15 22:20	14:4
26:11 33:22	23:5 24:1	30:2 33:18	bench 21:18
39:6,8,12,13,14	area 34:21,22	34:8 37:1	benefitted
40:13 43:2,2	35:6,7	46:14 47:10	33:16
43:14,16,20	argue 8:24 9:3	audio 15:3 46:8	best 15:18 46:9
appealing	26:6 29:4,13	47:3	47:6
44:20	29:16 39:4	austin 3:6	beyond 11:20
appeals 1:1,14	41:11,12	authority 18:4	bit 20:22,23
5:3,16 6:5,7	arguing 12:2,5	available 32:12	blue 18:10
18:19 21:24	26:4 29:8,17	aware 29:6	board 1:1,14
appear 5:19	29:17		2:19,20,21,22
12:19	argument 8:22		2:23,24 3:3 5:4
	9:5 36:11		5:9,16 6:2,6,8

	I	I	
6:10,12,13,19	call 17:17 18:9	34:12	closing 40:16
6:20 9:4 10:12	18:9,10 44:1	challenged	code 6:10
10:15 11:7	called 17:13	5:12 35:9	combined
12:3,15 13:7	camera 8:6	challenges 8:18	36:10
13:19,22 14:20	canvasing	challenging	come 41:2 42:6
16:10 17:4,6	39:20	33:11	42:7 44:22
18:19 20:11	canvassing	change 37:8	comes 22:14
21:24 26:12	13:18	changed 22:15	33:12 34:6
28:14,17 34:5	cap 37:7	choice 32:6	coming 35:13
34:15 35:20	capacity 36:15	choose 19:9	comment 16:20
38:5 39:23	39:20	23:18 30:24	commented
40:16 41:18	carries 44:15	32:9	11:18
42:22 44:17	case 1:7 6:11	chose 17:20	comments
board's 40:24	10:7,20 17:20	chronology	35:23 43:17
bocs 14:13 37:7	18:1 31:4,20	25:11 27:3	commonwealth
40:5	33:8,9,10,20	circumstance	46:20
body 6:6	34:3	32:6	communicated
book 26:22,23	cases 27:13	citizen 30:11	23:7
break 41:1	catch 16:8	city 5:24	community
breakroom	cause 33:7	civil 34:4	10:24 11:11
41:7	cell 26:20	claim 13:16	13:17,18,19
bridge 43:20	center 8:2	33:14	36:1 40:12
briefly 38:24	ceo 3:7	clean 1:3 3:7	companies
bring 25:21	certificate 46:1	5:11 7:7,12,19	17:15,16
40:8,9 42:8	47:1	10:21 11:2,9	company 17:19
brought 25:19	certified 12:7	12:13,18	complete 44:24
building 1:15	19:11,16,20	clear 11:19	complicated
5:23	20:2 39:10	39:1	18:15
burn 34:24	44:19	clearly 14:1	compounds
business 13:6	certify 46:3	28:20	14:13 37:4,6
18:8 39:21	47:2	clicked 21:10	computer 15:3
c	chairperson	24:15	concede 31:11
c 2:1 3:1 5:1	5:3	closer 7:24 8:6	31:12
calendar 6:2	challenge 9:20 9:24 10:2,7	8:7	concedes 13:5
	,		

	I	I	1
concept 17:12	copies 19:4	crossed 43:19	22:10 23:7,9
concerned 14:7	20:12	current 14:8	25:6,13 26:13
14:18	copy 20:1,3,8	37:7	29:9,11 32:7,8
concluded 45:5	22:19,23,24	currently 36:11	33:16,19,21
conclusion 9:7	25:17 29:14	36:23	34:2,5,6,12
conditioned	31:2,5,7,9,15	d	40:22
23:3	31:16 39:7,10	d 5:1	decisions 6:7
conducting 6:9	39:10	date 1:12 12:8	23:17
conflate 29:1	corporation	12:11 31:11,13	defend 34:12
confusing	12:15,15 17:13	dated 19:24	defendant 1:9
31:18,18,19	correct 20:16	day 11:11 17:3	2:10
32:11	38:14	24:18 25:2	definition
confusion	counsel 5:20	30:8 43:20	30:23 41:13
22:14	6:17,18 7:6 9:8	days 11:8 18:19	delaware 1:14
connection 8:8	9:22 12:16,17	22:1 28:1	5:3,16,24 6:1,4
connectivity	12:20,22 13:2	44:17,23	6:5,10,21,23
14:22	46:10,13 47:7	de 1:17 2:6,14	13:11,13 19:2
consider 5:16	47:10	deadline 11:5	19:4 33:5 39:5
33:2	count 14:3	deal 17:13,14	delaware.gov
constitutional	county 1:15	dealing 18:15	2:15
33:5,6	5:23	dealt 31:20	deliberately
construct 21:14	court 15:15	dean 5:2 6:14	17:20
cont'd 3:1	16:22 17:1	24:9 27:18	delivered 10:23
contain 23:18	21:17 41:21	32:18 35:19	44:19
contained	courtney 3:6	38:2,3 40:15	demonstrated
19:12 20:8	courts 21:16	42:16 44:14	13:9
content 19:20	27:14	deborah 2:20	deny 18:12
continue 41:18	cover 20:7,8	6:14 44:2	department
control 6:24	31:7	decided 34:2	6:22,23 10:19
37:10	create 17:17	decision 11:8	description 4:2
controlled	37:6	11:15 18:21,22	development
32:14	created 6:6	18:23,24 19:1	5:14
controversy	11:24 17:15	19:9 21:11,15	device 37:10
33:7 35:1	credit 26:14	21:16,17 22:2	devices 5:7
		· ·	
		22:3,5,6,7,8,10	

difference	11:13,14 12:17	earlier 35:23	emitting 36:24
13:24 21:13,19	12:24 13:5,8	43:20	37:12
22:4 27:11	13:21 14:4	earliest 22:22	emphasize
different 37:5	19:23 20:24	edge 2:11 6:20	18:20,21
37:11,18	21:14 23:7,15	6:21 7:1,3 8:3	employed
difficult 15:7	25:2 27:23	10:10,11,17,18	46:11,14 47:8
digital 3:6 46:8	28:19 30:4	16:11 18:2	47:11
47:3	31:3 32:20	20:13,15,18	employee 46:13
direction 29:2	33:19,19,20	23:22 26:17,18	47:10
directly 39:2	34:1,9 38:15	27:1,4 28:11	engaged 25:23
disabled 34:23	dnrec's 5:13,17	28:13,19 30:5	engineer 19:23
34:23	12:21 13:11	30:8,18 37:3	english 20:21
disallows 26:3	19:9 20:8	37:21 38:23,24	entered 10:3
discussion	24:14 27:4	40:14	entitled 39:5
43:10,23	40:7	edge's 17:11	environmental
dismiss 5:17,18	document	effects 35:2	1:1,4,14 3:7
8:21,23,24 9:4	27:24 39:7	either 33:15	5:3,11,16 6:5
10:2 12:18,21	documentation	elder 35:6	6:24 7:7,12,20
12:24 26:3,4,5	21:11	electronic 5:6	10:21 11:3,10
26:7 32:21	documents	email 11:19,22	12:14,18 18:19
43:1	12:6 39:3	12:2,3 19:14	21:24
dismissed 9:21	dog 34:1	19:24 20:6,7,8	equipment
39:14	doing 18:7	20:18 24:11,22	37:11
dispositive	34:16 39:21	25:17 27:20	error 23:14,15
38:14	doubling 36:19	29:5 31:7,14	23:16
disputable	dover 1:17 2:14	39:3	es 46:4
37:24	5:23	emailed 11:12	esquire 2:3,11
dispute 22:20	duly 46:5	11:12 25:2	essentially 18:1
distinction	duties 6:8	emails 19:13	established
17:24	duty 15:16	30:8	6:10
disturbing	e	emissions	evd 4:2
15:10	e 2:1,1 3:1,1 4:1	35:24	everybody 8:7
dnrec 1:8 2:10	5:1,1	emit 37:7,14,15	exclusive 19:6
2:12 5:18 6:8	eab 1:8	emitted 40:5	executive 41:1
8:23 9:8 10:22	(a) 1.0		41:19 42:2,3,7

[exercise - hear] Page 6

exercise 33:11 35:15 experience 32:4	filing 18:7	generally 11:17	group 38:9
	financially	14:14 30:15	guess 39:5
	46:15 47:11	george 3:7 7:11	guy 2:24 15:9
extent 13:3,20	find 30:12,15	7:18 12:13	guys 8:8 15:3,5
37:12	finding 30:17	25:1 26:2	15:10,21 19:4
eyes 35:9	fine 42:11	33:23	20:10 31:19
f face 11:9 faced 23:16 facility 11:16 36:1 40:6 fact 31:2 32:11 40:3 43:15 failed 12:19,20 failure 5:19 fair 10:11 32:23 fairly 10:20 39:1 far 6:13 favor 8:24 31:21 44:3,5,6 44:9,12,15 feel 8:8 fiction 17:13,18 fight 34:2 file 9:17 18:6 40:21 filed 5:10,19 9:13,13,14 10:3 11:20,22	fine 42:11 first 27:24 33:18 43:2 flow 15:10 folks 8:16 follow 17:2 followed 9:2 foregoing 46:3 46:4 47:4 format 29:11 forms 17:16 found 21:8 28:9,10 30:13 fresh 1:4 3:7 5:11 7:7,12,20 10:21 11:3,10 12:14,18 front 20:10 fulfills 6:8 further 43:4 46:12 47:9 g g 5:1 garbled 7:16 8:14 general 6:6,15		20:10 31:19 34:17,24 42:19 h h 4:1 hairs 27:12 half 36:12,18 hand 10:23 handbook 19:3 19:5 happen 42:4 happened 25:10 29:22,23 hard 8:10 20:1 20:3 22:18,23 22:24 31:7,11 31:12,15,16 harm 16:24 harmed 35:5 haut 1:18 16:3 42:16 46:2,18 hazardous 37:4 37:7 heads 8:14 health 35:16 hear 6:7 7:14 7:14 8:13,17
22:1 26:10,11 39:13 files 25:19	30:3 41:14 general's 22:20 33:19 34:8 37:2	graph 36:7 groce 47:2,15	11:7 15:21,23 16:1 38:8 41:24 42:17,18

[heard - joint] Page 7

heard 16:6	43:8 44:11,12	include 40:10	interject 16:17
32:24 34:24	horsey 2:22	included 27:19	internet 8:9
35:3	6:13 43:7,7	27:22	interpreted
hearing 1:11	44:4,5	including 6:9	31:21
5:15,22 6:3	houghton 2:23	inclusion 43:11	interrupting
9:17,18 11:7	29:24 30:1,6	incorporated	15:24
15:15 16:4	30:10,19 31:24	5:14	interruption
21:8 28:8	32:1 35:22	increase 36:17	14:23
40:22 43:18	36:5 37:1,23	36:20,21,22,23	interruptions
44:24	39:1 42:24	37:3,5,19	15:18
hearings 6:9,18	43:1,12 44:6	increased	introduce 6:12
hereto 46:14	housing 13:12	14:15 35:24	6:19
47:11	hundred 34:22	increasing	introductions
holden 5:2,2	hyperaggress	37:13	8:19
6:14 7:1,4,22	23:6	indicated 13:2	involved 21:22
8:15 9:11 10:9	hyperlink	indicates 14:7	23:11 33:7
10:14 14:22	20:16,19 21:3	individual	issuance 35:24
15:14 16:3,9	21:4,9,10,12	11:17,19 17:12	issue 8:8 12:12
16:13,20 17:5	23:14 24:16	17:18	18:13,14 22:18
19:15,18 20:5	26:23 27:22,23	individuals 7:6	32:21 35:18
24:3,6,9,9,21	28:5,7,9 29:5	information	38:1,14,14
25:8,16 26:2	29:18	13:15 36:7	39:1 44:18
26:16 27:15,18	hyperlinks	initially 9:13	issues 10:19
27:18 28:11,17	30:9	10:5	32:20
29:4,13 31:14	hypothetical	injured 33:10	\mathbf{j}
32:18,18 33:2	35:15	35:12	janella 3:5 6:16
35:19,19 38:2	i	injury 40:6	41:4,24
38:4,8,15,19,22	idea 28:10	instructions	january 23:24
40:14,15 41:10	identification	9:16 17:2	job 1:19
41:17 42:14,16	18:4	interest 18:17	joe 25:14,23
42:21 43:5,9	identified	33:9,14 44:20	joewalls 2:7
43:23 44:4,8	24:11	interested	joining 5:7
44:11,14,14	identify 7:8	30:11 31:4	45:1
horne 2:21	impact 39:24	42:23 46:15	joint 9:14 11:2
16:14 38:5		47:12	26:11

[jointly - mean] Page 8

jointly 10:6	1	liabilities 17:17	made 21:15
26:10	lack 5:20 43:3	liability 17:18	22:10 23:9,17
joseph 2:3 7:9	43:21	likely 13:22	25:6,7 26:12
17:8,21,23	language 32:7	limit 36:8 37:4	29:10 33:16,19
18:5 33:22,24	32:10	limits 14:14	33:20 34:2,4,5
34:1,10,14	lastly 14:4	28:7	34:13 35:23
39:17,19	launched 26:9	line 26:12	43:17
journal 6:4	law 6:11 18:1	lines 37:6,11	mail 12:7 44:19
journey 17:1	31:21,23 32:5	link 25:10	mailed 20:1
judge 21:17	33:5,6 34:3	list 28:1	23:1
judicial 6:6	lawsuit 34:6	listed 27:24	mailing 23:3
julie 47:2,15	layperson	28:20	majoring 20:21
july 1:12	13:24 31:19	litigant 7:19,21	make 8:22 12:9
jurisdiction	learning 17:1	9:23	15:22,24 16:21
11:7,20	left 6:13 32:19	litigated 17:9	29:6 39:8
jurisdictional	38:10	little 18:15	40:22 43:1
11:6 39:14	legal 9:22	20:21,22,23	makes 39:4
justice 6:22	17:13,17,24	live 34:21 35:7	mann 9:16
k	18:3,8,11	living 13:17	march 5:12
keep 8:17 15:15	legally 17:12	located 13:11	10:24 19:24
15:17,20 26:22	legislation	location 1:15	20:6,24 21:2
kent 1:15 5:22	30:23	log 26:22,23	22:3,19 23:24
kind 33:8	legislative 19:3	long 39:11	24:1,10,19,22
knew 31:3	19:5	look 20:9,24	26:10 27:20
know 8:12,12	letter 11:2	22:21 28:22	28:2,6 29:5
8:13 15:8	19:11,16,20,21	looking 11:23	30:5,6 31:9,11
20:10,22,23	20:1,2,5,8,9,10	30:17 38:13	31:12 40:12
24:18 25:18	20:15,24 21:23	lose 33:16	marcozzi 2:24
26:1,1 32:23	22:3,19,24	lot 21:16,16	16:14,16 38:5
36:9	23:2 25:4	27:13 32:24	38:7 44:8,9
knowledge	27:15,19 28:5	lots 30:14	marked 4:3
46:9 47:6	28:6 29:5	m	matter 35:20
known 39:11	31:15	m 2:3 17:21,23	mean 25:18
knows 12:15	level 14:8,18	ma'am 20:17	28:21
39:11		20:20	

[means - okay] Page 9

means 11:6	mission 13:12	need 13:1 15:9	27:10 28:24,24
19:5 22:11	missions 14:13	15:17,18,24	29:1,20,21
medicine 14:10	moment 25:23	26:6 43:4	39:2,6
14:11	motion 5:17	needs 12:15	noticed 23:8
medicines 37:6	8:21,23,24 9:4	neighborhood	notices 11:15
meeting 6:1	10:2 12:21	39:21	notification
member 2:20	26:3,4,5,6	neither 11:15	18:22 27:16,20
2:21,22,23,24	32:21 40:17	46:10 47:7	28:5
3:3 34:15	42:23 43:1,5	never 25:7 31:2	notified 24:22
39:23	43:24 44:3,7	32:6	28:2,3 29:9
members 6:12	44:10,13,15,15	new 36:14,15	notify 22:9
9:4	motions 41:11	news 6:4,4	notwithstandi
memorandum	move 7:23 15:2	nice 34:18	9:18
21:7 28:8	40:24 41:18	nonmoving	noura 19:22
40:21	moved 5:18	31:22	november
mentions 31:6	12:24 40:18	nonprofits	23:24
mess 19:22	moves 12:18	17:14	number 21:2
metadata 11:23	mulrooney 3:3	noramco 5:14	0
michael 2:22	mural 34:16	11:16 13:14	o 5:1
2:23 6:13	mute 5:8	14:9 28:16	objection 20:13
42:24	n	33:21,22,24	obviously 34:9
microphone	n 2:1 3:1 5:1	34:1,10,11	october 23:23
5:8 7:24 8:6	name 5:2 6:14	35:17 36:14	offer 32:19
15:2	6:21 7:9,11,18	40:9	41:13
mike 30:1	17:8 18:6,7	noramco's	office 22:20
31:24 43:7	natural 5:14	14:17 35:13	33:19 34:8
miles 13:14	6:23 10:19	noses 35:8	37:2
mine 10:4 19:9	nature 36:9	notary 46:19	office's 10:4
minimum	naylor 2:19	noted 26:14	officer 46:2
15:18,21	6:15	notice 5:22 6:3	officer's 28:8
minor 5:14	necessarily	11:17,19 21:4	officers 21:8
minutes 8:24	37:22	21:14,15,20	offices 10:22
9:2 32:19,20	necessary 40:8	22:6,8,23 23:2	okay 16:9,12
38:10	40:10	23:3,4,13	16:23 21:13
		24:20 25:24,24	23:11 25:6

[okay - posted] Page 10

27:6 28:17,19	owners 17:16	periodic 43:17	pit 34:24
38:17 41:20	p	permission	pivoted 12:2,5
42:5,10,10,21	p 2:1,1 3:1,1	37:16,17	pivoting 12:12
once 33:20 34:3	5:1	permit 5:13	place 11:14
online 5:7 39:4	pages 24:17	14:8,15,16	plaintiff 1:6 2:2
opening 30:16	panel 32:13	21:3,7 24:24	please 5:6,8
opportunity	paper 25:15	28:8,11,13	6:20 7:14,15
6:19 8:22 41:3	39:7,10	34:3 35:24	point 9:19
opposition 8:22	paragraph	40:4	28:19 30:21
9:22	21:1,5,6,9	permits 14:19	32:9
option 14:10	29:19	37:9	pointed 12:10
orange 35:4,5	paragraphs	permitted	23:10 39:1
order 5:12 14:5	20:23	43:15	points 39:24
19:10,12 20:3	part 23:15	person 5:6	40:3
20:19 21:2,12	43:21	11:16 18:17	poisons 35:13
21:19,20 23:5	particular 10:4	32:13 39:4	policy 12:10
23:14,19,20	25:22 34:15	personal 13:20	political 39:21
24:11,13,13,23	parties 32:22	14:2 17:12	39:22
25:17 27:10,21	33:22 40:8,10	33:9 35:11,16	pollutants 37:4
27:24 28:10,12	41:5 44:17,19	39:6,24 40:1	37:8 40:5
28:14,20 29:7	46:11,14 47:8	personally	polluting 37:20
29:14,19 30:3	47:11	13:23 35:12,16	pollution 14:8
30:12,22,23,24	party 30:11,24	perspective	14:18 35:3,8
31:3,5,10,16	31:4,22 32:8	10:4	35:13 36:12,13
40:11 44:18,18	34:4,6 43:15	phd 19:23	36:20,23 37:8
44:20,22	passed 33:21	phone 5:7	37:10,14,15
original 19:20	pennsylvania	26:20	pollutions 36:8
outcome 46:15	46:20	physical 39:19	pops 21:10
47:12	people 15:7	pick 32:9	portfolio 12:6
outside 34:16	16:1 22:9	picks 35:10	portion 9:1
overarching	34:20 35:7	pictures 34:17	posed 40:12
14:13	percent 34:22	34:18	possible 7:15
own 18:7 32:13	34:23	piece 16:4	15:1,4
owner 17:9	period 39:6,8	pierce 18:4	posted 5:24
	39:12,14		8:17 30:15

potentially	production	publishing 32:8	ready 42:19
24:13 41:1	36:15,16	pull 8:1,2	really 7:16 8:10
practitioner	promulgated	purpose 5:15	16:24 33:21
32:5	10:24 11:11	pursue 43:14	realm 34:4
prepared 47:3	19:14	43:16	reason 18:12
present 2:18		put 27:7,8	39:15
3:2 12:17	promulgation 18:23	36:14	rebuttal 9:2
			38:23
presentation 32:16	proprietor 13:3	q	
	39:18	qualified 46:7	receipt 18:20 18:21,24 22:5
presented 9:22 presents 13:8		quasi 6:6	27:9,10 28:1
•	proprietorship 17:10	question 9:9	28:23 29:20
president 7:12 7:19 12:13		24:3 30:1	30:21 32:7
	protects 17:15	35:22 40:21	39:7
primarily 31:1 prior 46:5	prove 16:18	43:4	receive 19:10
_	provided 13:13 13:16 20:2	questions 9:5	
pro 7:19,21		14:20 16:10,14	23:4,4 29:14 44:22
9:23 17:9	41:15	16:16 17:5	
32:21	provides 13:12	35:20 38:4,5	received 10:22
probably 8:8	public 6:1,3	40:16	12:3,4 19:11
problem 21:13	12:10 25:24	quick 24:3	19:13,16 22:16
21:22 27:7	36:6 42:9,15	quote 11:1	22:18,23 23:20
28:6	46:19	quoted 41:14	24:6,10 31:2
procedure 23:8	publication	r	receiving 12:7
procedures	18:24 22:7,16	r 2:1 3:1 5:1	reclaim 21:17
9:17 17:2 25:3	28:2,2,23 29:2	randall 2:21	recognition
proceeding	30:22	reaching 25:13	35:4 43:13
12:17 15:13,22	publicly 29:6	react 9:6	recognize 17:4
30:11 45:5	publish 11:14	read 10:12	recognized
47:4	29:10	24:18	12:9 18:2
proceedings	published 6:3	reader 19:7	recognizes
46:3,4,6,8 47:6	11:14 24:13		17:11
produce 14:10	27:21 28:3	readjusting 8:16	recognizing
14:10 36:22	29:21 30:4,7		35:2
product 37:18	30:12 32:11,12	reads 10:15	recommendat
		27:16,20	9:19,20

[record - se] Page 12

record 9:18,20 10:1,6 15:15 16:19,21 25:16 26:9 42:6,11 42:13 45:2 46:9 47:5 recorded 46:6 recording 15:3 42:19 46:8 47:4 redressability 14:5 redressable 40:6 reduced 46:6 referred 11:13 regulation 18:15 22:13,15 23:10 30:21 regulations 6:11 21:24 related 40:1 46:11 47:7 relative 46:13 47:10 relatives 13:17	report 21:8 28:8 reported 1:18 reporter 3:6 7:13 8:5 14:24 15:12,15,20 16:6,12,22 24:7 27:17 31:24 41:22,23 42:5,10,18 45:2 represent 6:22 7:10 13:6 43:11 representation 12:13 representative 9:3 represented 5:20 6:17 7:5 9:21 12:16 13:1 43:22 representing 7:6,20 13:5 43:13 requested	resolve 38:1 resources 6:23 10:19 respect 12:22 respiratory 35:9 respond 12:20 responded 8:20 25:4 26:3,5 response 12:1 13:2 16:7 21:7 26:13 28:7 responsibilities 6:9 responsibility 40:8,10,11 reversed 27:14 reviewed 25:13 revoked 40:4 rewrites 22:13 rhetoric 41:15 right 6:15 8:15 18:8,11 22:4,8 22:24 23:1,12 23:18,22 25:22 25:24 27:17	room 16:13 41:5,22 42:2,3 42:4 rory 7:3 run 39:6 running 35:8,9 s s 2:1 3:1 4:1 5:1 samuel 1:18 46:2,18 sapp 3:5 6:16 41:6,21 42:1,8 satisfy 28:1 29:15 saying 7:17 15:7 16:1,7 19:10 22:18 24:19 27:12 29:9,22,22 31:1 35:11 says 12:4 18:16 18:17,23 19:6 19:8 20:1 21:1 21:7,24 22:5,7 22:23 27:8,9 28:7,22,23
23:10 30:21 regulations 6:11 21:24 related 40:1 46:11 47:7 relative 46:13 47:10	represented 5:20 6:17 7:5 9:21 12:16 13:1 43:22 representing 7:6,20 13:5 43:13	revoked 40:4 rewrites 22:13 rhetoric 41:15 right 6:15 8:15 18:8,11 22:4,8 22:24 23:1,12 23:18,22 25:22	29:9,22,22 31:1 35:11 says 12:4 18:16 18:17,23 19:6 19:8 20:1 21:1 21:7,24 22:5,7

[second - step] Page 13

second 21:1	separate 17:18	signed 21:2	stacks 35:14
26:16 38:3	26:13 28:13	24:12,23	staff 6:13
40:19 43:3,6,7	42:2	silence 5:6	standing 5:21
43:8	separation	simple 10:20	13:8,10,16
secretary 5:13	18:11	sir 19:17 24:5	14:3,5 17:11
6:1,7 10:23	service 13:22	32:2 33:4	18:12 32:24
18:18 22:2	services 1:3,4	38:21,22 41:19	33:1,5,10,13,17
25:13 34:13	2:2,4 3:8 5:11	sitting 22:17	34:12,14 35:12
secretary's	5:11 7:7,7,12	34:10,11	35:14,18,21
18:21 19:10,12	7:20 8:20 9:3	skills 46:10	38:15 39:16
20:3,5,19 21:1	9:15,23 10:3	47:6	43:4,21
21:11,12 22:5	10:20,21 11:3	sky 18:10	start 35:8 44:1
22:6 23:14,19	11:4,9,10 12:1	smyrna 2:6	44:21
24:11,23 25:5	12:14,19,23,23	13:11,13	started 9:10
27:9,11,21,23	13:4,5,9,10	soldiers 35:3,5	10:6 35:2
28:10,12,14,20	14:2,7 17:10	35:6	starts 44:21
29:6,14,19	17:22,23 18:5	sole 13:3,4	state 6:4
30:22,23 31:3	18:7,8 39:16	17:10,21 39:18	state's 6:1
31:10	39:17,18,19,22	sorry 19:23	40:11
see 18:3,3	40:1 43:14,22	24:8 41:10	stated 14:1
24:16 28:6,15	session 36:7	sound 8:14	16:9
32:2,3 33:12	41:1,2,19 42:2	south 1:16 2:5	states 33:6
seek 24:12	42:3,7,9,15	speak 7:14,15	status 43:16,18
seem 13:23	seven 36:18	speaker 40:18	statute 18:16
seen 25:7 30:14	sheets 25:14	40:19	18:16 22:4,12
32:6	show 26:9	speaking 24:7,8	22:13,16 27:8
send 31:7 39:9	33:15,15	32:3 38:4	27:9 28:22,22
sense 12:9 39:4	showed 28:15	40:15 42:16	41:14
39:8	36:8 39:13	specialist 3:5	statutes 21:21
sent 12:6,7	showing 25:12	specific 8:11	statutory 11:5
22:11 25:10	29:6	22:12	32:7
27:3 29:11	shows 11:24	specifies 19:3	stay 41:4
30:9 31:5 39:2	signature 46:17	splitting 27:12	stems 21:23
sentences 20:22	47:14	spoke 9:16	step 41:5,6

	1	1	1
straight 38:3	take 6:18 21:4	think 9:15 10:7	transcript
street 2:5,13	21:18 41:1	13:14 21:22	15:13,22,24
stringent 13:24	taken 46:3,12	32:8,10,11,22	47:3,5
strongly 13:21	47:9	36:9 43:12	transcriptionist
structure 20:22	takes 27:22	thinking 29:3	46:7
20:23	talk 33:4,17	three 23:21	transmitted
submissions	talked 32:20,23	32:20 36:12,18	20:6
10:12,16	talking 15:6	threw 23:22	trouble 16:4
submitted	27:17 28:24	time 1:13 8:10	true 13:20
10:21 11:2	33:2,23	9:1,6 11:24	37:22 46:9
26:11	talks 29:19	14:12,21 16:18	47:5
submitting	technical 21:7	34:21 40:21	trying 15:12
11:5	28:7	timeline 44:20	26:1
substantial	technicality	timeliness	tuesday 1:12
36:22	27:12,13	32:23 38:16	tumultuous
substantially	telling 25:9	timely 11:23	17:1
18:17	tells 19:5,6,8	43:3,21	tuned 23:12
substantive	ten 32:19	times 21:17	turn 41:8
23:15	terms 11:9 14:1	timing 18:14	two 17:24
substantively	43:18	38:13	20:11 21:18
43:19	testifying 46:5	title 41:9	23:21 42:3
suggest 27:4	thank 7:4 8:15	today 6:17 7:2	43:2
suggestion	8:19 10:9,17	8:20,23 13:7	typewriting
11:21	20:14 30:19	24:2	46:7
supporting	32:17 37:23	today's 5:15,22	typically 10:15
21:11	38:8,22 40:14	6:18 44:24	u
sure 8:7 30:2	41:19,20 42:21	tons 36:10,12	unanimously
36:5	45:1	36:13,18	44:16
sworn 46:5	thing 10:13	took 35:1,4	under 21:23
synonymous	24:17 25:11	touch 26:24	36:18
28:12 29:3	26:10,11 30:20	transcribed	understand
t	33:18 35:16	16:21	15:7 29:2 32:2
t 4:1	41:14	transcriber	32:14 35:23
table 8:1	things 14:3,12	47:1	understanding
table 0.1	30:15		8:11
			0.11

underwater	veterans.serv	want 8:13 10:1	worked 30:14
15:6	2:7	10:6 14:6	works 34:7
unidentified	videoconfere	15:20 18:9,10	world 39:5
40:18,19	2:24 3:4	19:4 22:9 26:8	wrap 38:12
united 33:5	view 32:13,14	26:14 27:7	wrapping
unmute 16:15	vicw 32.13,14 virtual 5:24	30:1,16 33:18	38:19
unserved 14:14	14:22 15:2	41:8,12,13	write 21:19
untimely 5:19	vote 44:1,9,12	wanted 22:21	written 44:18
12:1	44:14	30:12,24 33:12	44:18,20,22
upheld 43:18	W	water 2:13	X
use 23:16		way 6:8 7:23	
v	wait 24:7 41:23	8:5 12:20	x 3:7 4:1 7:11
	41:23	17:15 21:14	7:11,18,18,22
v 1:7 valerie 2:11	walls 2:3 7:9,9 7:22 13:2,3,15	25:12 34:7	9:9,11,12 10:9
6:21 10:18	13:23 14:6	we've 17:3,5	12:13 16:17,20 16:23 25:5,9
16:7	15:9,17 17:7,8	26:1	25:18,21 26:8
valerie.edge	17:8,21,23	website 6:2	33:23 41:8,10
2:15	18:5 19:15,17	11:13 24:14	41:12,17,20
vessels 14:11	19:19 20:7,14	26:19,20 27:5	
37:12	20:17,20 24:3	27:8,23 28:15	y
veteran 8:20	24:5,10,15	30:4,9,13	yeah 8:3,3 25:1
34:23	25:1,20 26:5,6	week 21:18	25:9,21 26:24
veterans 1:3	26:15,16,22	weekly 34:18	29:16 33:24
2:2,4 5:10 7:6	27:2,6,15 28:4	weeks 24:18	year 37:15
9:3,15,23 10:3	28:21 29:8,16	west 2:5,13	years 23:21
10:12,20 11:3	30:20 31:14,17	what'd 41:24	32:5 35:1,4
11:9 12:1,22	32:17,18 33:1	wicks 2:20 6:14	yep 42:18
12:23 13:4,5,9	33:4,23,24	44:1,2,2	Z
13:10 14:1,7	34:1,10,14	wish 19:13	zach 2:19 6:15
17:9,22,23	36:3,6 37:19	witness 46:4	
18:5,6,8 35:1	37:24 38:3,10	wonder 7:22	
39:16,17,18,19	38:12,17,21	word 19:23	
39:22 40:1	39:17,19,24	wording 22:15	
43:13,22	40:20,23,23	words 8:11	
	43:13,22	33:8	