

CPS ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING

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REMOTELY VIA WEBEX

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AUGUST 25, 2020

6:00 p.m.

A P P E A R A N C E S

CPS ENERGY EMPLOYEES:

Ms. Paula Gold-Williams, President & CEO
Dr. Cris Eugster, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Benjamin L. Ethridge, Senior Vice
President, Power Generation
Mr. Richard G. Medina, P.E., Vice President,
Grid Transformation & Engineering
Mr. Frank T. Almaraz, Chief Administrative &
Business Development Officer (CABDO)
Mr. Curt D. Brockmann, Interim Vice President,
Compliance, Ethics & Facilities Master
Planning
Mr. Donald Stanton, Senior Director, Gas Compliance
Mr. Rudy D. Garza, Interim Chief Customer
Engagement Officer
Ms. Melissa Sorola, Interim Senior Director,
Corporate Communications, Marketing & Smart
City Outreach
Ms. Kathijo "KJ" Feder, Interim Vice President,
Community Engagement & Corporate
Responsibility
Mr. Andrew "Drew" J. Higgins, Senior Director,
Products & Services
Ms. Carolyn E. Shellman, Chief Legal Officer &
General Counsel
Ms. Kathleen "Kathy" S. Garcia, Vice President.
Government Relations, Regulatory Affairs &
Public Policy
Ms. Zandra Pulis, Deputy General Counsel &
Chief Records Management Officer (CRMO)
Mr. Gary Gold, Interim Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Cory P. Kuchinsky, Interim Vice President,
Strategic Pricing & Enterprise Risk Management
& Solutions
Mr. Fred W. Bonewell, Chief Security, Safety &
Gas Solutions Officer (CSSGSO)
Ms. Vivian Bouet, Chief Information Officer (CIO)
Ms. Marisol "Mari" Weymouth, Interim Vice
President, Office of Enterprise Business
Planning & Execution Excellence
Ms. Loretta Kerner, Interim Director, Board
Relations & Chief of Staff to the President &
CEO
Mr. Shane Bemis, Interim Director, Chief of Staff,
Generation Duty Officer

1 Ms. Marian J. Braggs, Senior Director, Executive
in Residence EDS

2 Mr. James A. Carter, Interim Director, Chief
of Staff CABDO

3 Mr. Justin Chamberlain, Manager of Demand
Response & Energy Efficiency

4 Ms. Melissa "Lisa" Clyde, Senior Manager,
Environmental and Sustainability Service

5 Ms. Doris Cooksey, Senior Manager, Environmental
and Sustainability Service

6 Ms. Carla De La Chapa, Interim Senior Manager,
Climate & Sustainability

7 Mr. Charles Hoopingarner, Senior Director,
Strategic Pricing & Cost Recovery

8 Ms. Ann O. Kinnard, Interim Director Chief of
Staff, Chief Customer Engagement Officer

9 Mr. John W. Kosub, Senior Director, Energy
Portfolio Analytics

10 Mr. Louis S. Labatt, Senior Manager, Contractor
Services

11 Mr. Gregory D. Lee, Interim Chief of Staff, Gas
Services & Continuous Improvement

12 Ms. Eunice Lopez, Interim Director, Chief of Staff
CSSGSO

13 Mr. Ricardo "Rick" Luna, Director, Technology &
Product Innovation

14 Mr. Kevin Matula, Manager, Local Government
Relations

15 Ms. Kari Meyer, Director, Federal & State Relations

16 Ms. Dena Myers, Manager, Board Relations

17 Mr. Kevin Pollo, Interim Vice President, Energy
Supply & Market Operations

18 Ms. Angela D. Rodriguez, Director, Climate &
Sustainability

19 Mr. Ricci Schooler, Interim Senior Manager

20 Mr. Blaize Skocny, Interim Chief of Staff,
Workforce & Performance Excellence

21 Ms. Kimberly Stoker, Senior Director, Environmental
Planning & Compliance

22 Ms. Christen Waggoner, Interim Director, Customer
Service

23 CPS ENERGY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC):
Members at Large:

24 Mr. David Walter, Chair and Member at Large

25 Ms. Luisa Casso, Chair Elect and Member at Large

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

2 Mr. Aaron Arguello Ms. Christina "Chrissy" Mann
3 Ms. DeeDee Belmares Ms. Diana Lopez
4 Mr. Gregory Harman Dr. Meredith McGuire
5 Mr. Terry Burns

6 ADDITIONAL GUESTS/CHAT PARTICIPANTS:

7 Mr. Abe Gallegos Mr. Adrian Shelley
8 Ms. Alisa Garza Mr. "Bill"
9 Ms. "Alice" Mr. "Darby"
10 Mr. Femi Osidele Mr. Rogelio Rodriguez, as
11 "Guest" Ms. Harjot Kaur
12 Mr. Jerry Morrisey Mr. Joey Goode
13 Ms. Mari Enriquez Ms. Michelle Lugalia-Hollon
14 Mr. "Mke M" Mr. Tim Barr

15 ALSO PRESENT:

16 Ms. Jessica C. Butts,
17 Texas Certified Shorthand Reporter

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1 (Teleconference commenced at 6:03 p.m.)

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3 AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & MEETING
4 APPROACH

5 MS. K. GARCIA: Okay. It sounds like
6 we've got most people that are signed in and here. It
7 shows 64 participants. So a few minutes past the hour,
8 and we'll go ahead and get started.

9 Again, my name's Kathy Garcia. I'm
10 Vice President of Governmental Relations at CPS Energy,
11 and I'd like to thank you-all for coming together for
12 our Quarterly Environmental Stakeholder Meeting.

13 Please know: The meeting is being
14 recorded and transcribed, and those items, along with
15 the agenda and the Resource Deck, will be made available
16 on our stakeholder website.

17 We put safety at the forefront of all
18 that we do, and, before we begin each meeting, we, right
19 up front, want to provide a safety message.

20 So, with that, I'll look to Kim Stoker to
21 give us that message right now.

22 * * * * *

23 AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: SAFETY MESSAGE

24 MS. K. STOKER: Kathy.

25 MS. K. GARCIA: Yes.

1 MS. K. STOKER: Obviously, we're -- we're
 2 all experiencing the heat of August, and we should keep
 3 these things in mind: Drink plenty of water; take
 4 frequent breaks out of the sun; limit strenuous
 5 activities to early morning or late evening; and know
 6 the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

7 Possible heat exhaustion signs and
 8 symptoms are: Cool, moist skin with goosebumps when in
 9 the heat; heavy sweating; faintness; fa- -- fatigue;
 10 weak, rapid pulse; low blood -- low blood pressure upon
 11 standing; and muscle cramps. Never leave children or
 12 pets unattended in a vehicle, and check on relatives.

13 That is the end of our safety message:
 14 zero harm through safety.

15 * * * * *

16 AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 (CONT'D): WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS &
 17 MEETING APPROACH

18 MS. K. GARCIA: Thank you, Kim.

19 I'm going to go over a couple of
 20 logistical items. So every participant that has joined
 21 the call should now be identifiable with their Webex
 22 sign-in, or we've attempted to -- to capture their names
 23 so that, if you look at the commands on the Webex, there
 24 are, as mentioned, icons at the bottom. There's one
 25 that shows participants. So everybody should be able to

1 pull that up and see the list of participants.

2 To reduce the background noise, all
3 participants have been muted. So please know that
4 you'll need to unmute yourself if you wish to speak.
5 We'll also be monitoring the raise-your-hand and the
6 chat features within the Webex so that we can call on
7 those of you that are attempting to speak, do our best
8 to monitor all of that.

9 As I previously mentioned, for bandwidth
10 purposes, we sometimes find that there's distortion with
11 the cameras on. So CPS Energy personnel will have our
12 videos off unless we're speaking.

13 Prior to today's meeting, we shared some
14 resource materials to aid in our conversations. And
15 we're going to do our best, as appropriate, to pull
16 those resource slides up, if they're helpful to the
17 discussion. We will not provide formal presentations,
18 and, instead, we're going to allow for conversation and
19 input, as that's been requested.

20 We continue our support of the
21 Stakeholder Group, setting the agenda and determining
22 the priority, the order, and the duration of the
23 discussion items. And so that we, CPS Energy, don't use
24 up time with our introductions, we provided a list of
25 CPS Energy participants to you ahead of the meeting.

1 Please do know that Paula Gold-Williams,
2 our President and CEO; our senior chiefs; and our
3 Executive Committee of the Citizens Advisory Committee,
4 and many CPS Energy executives are participating on
5 today's call.

6 We would like to offer the
7 Stakeholder Group an opportunity to introduce themselves
8 and welcome the messages, the introductions, of
9 tri-chairs.

10 Additionally, the Stakeholder Group has
11 asked for some time to discuss an additional item that
12 is not on the agenda, and we want to accommodate that
13 request. So I'll now turn to tri-chairs Greg, DeeDee,
14 and Diana for your comments.

15 MR. G. HARMAN: Actually, I think we'd
16 like to do that after establishing the norms of the
17 meeting. So we'll pass it -- after introductions, pass
18 it to Diana, and then, if you wouldn't mind turning my
19 mic on with Terry. Thank you.

20 MS. K. GARCIA: Sure thing.

21 MS. D. LOPEZ: Hello, everybody. Good
22 afternoon. My name is Diana Lopez. And I am
23 introducing the meeting norms and kind of going over
24 just little -- little items that would be important
25 to -- so we have a smooth meeting.

1 So, meeting norms include: one speaker at
2 a time; we will keep stack for the community
3 stakeholders that attend. Make sure you use your chat
4 function so that we're able to ensure that conversations
5 are happening or to include you in the stack. There are
6 many people on this call, and so we want to make sure
7 that -- that we'll have stakeholders having questions
8 and including those within the conversation.

9 The second one is: No racist,
10 homophobic, transphobic, or misogynistic
11 behavior tolerated. Step up, step back in the meeting,
12 or ask yourself to -- we have an acronym called "WAIT":
13 "Why am I talking?" or, "Why aren't I talking?"

14 This encourages broad participation
15 within the meeting.

16 And one of the last ones is: the jargon
17 finger. So there's a lot of acronyms being thrown
18 around. We want to ensure that whoever's presenting or
19 having a conversation is able to offer the -- the full
20 title, or the full explanation, of what that acronym is,
21 and, if it's not, then make sure that we are able to
22 include that in the chat.

23 You could also directly message me, if --
24 if it's something that -- that you feel more comfortable
25 with, and I'll -- I'll make sure to ask that question so

1 that we're able to, kind of, fully understand the ideas
2 so that we are able to communicate fully and that we're
3 all learning from ea- -- not -- not only learning from
4 each other but sharing our knowledge with -- with each
5 other. And so that -- that's an incredibly important
6 piece.

7 Times: We're on tight timeline. We have
8 an hour and a half. And so I will also be sharing
9 timekeeping, for the stakeholders who are presenting,
10 through the chat, or whatever way makes it easier.
11 We'll try to make sure that -- our main goal is so that
12 we have 30 minutes at the end of the meeting that we are
13 able to provide spaces for questions and answers from
14 stakeholders.

15 Each item has around ten minutes, and so
16 I'll be helping with ensuring that each of the items
17 that we've brought up has that time and field so that
18 we're able to fully bring it up and then have enough
19 space so the Q and A at the end still happens.

20 Once again, I invite everybody to -- all
21 the attendings and -- and members to ask questions
22 and -- or comments in the chat; that will actually be a
23 lot easier, if you -- if there's a item being presented.
24 If you have a question or comment, please, feel -- feel
25 free to share. Even if you're in support, you know,

1 share your -- put a support symbol or something on there
2 so that we know that you are following along and
3 partici- -- participating within that -- that section.

4 And then, finally, I want to pass it over
5 to Greg so he could introduce the next piece,
6 specifically Greg and Terry, around the -- the charter
7 amendment petition.

8 * * * * *

9 AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: REVIEW OF AGENDA

10 MR. G. HARMAN: Thank you, Diana.

11 Am I unmuted?

12 MS. K. GARCIA: Yes, you are.

13 MS. D. LOPEZ: Yes.

14 MR. G. HARMAN: Okay. Great. Thank you.

15 And thank you, Kathy, for setting up
16 the -- the details of this meeting.

17 I know, usually, we go -- we are all in a
18 big circle; we try to do all the introductions. And
19 then that would be totally unwieldy in here. I
20 understand that, on video call, you don't even know
21 who's next and how you nominate. So, perhaps, just as
22 speakers come to the mic, they can do so.

23 My name is Greg Harman, and I work with
24 the Sierra Club. And I just wanted to address a couple
25 of things that came up between last quarterly meeting

1 and this one that aren't on the agenda. And -- and --
2 and, honestly, I don't want to get bogged down in them.
3 So, to recognize them and move through them, I think,
4 would be most appropriate.

5 I want to recognize, first of all, Kathy,
6 the way you've organized this meeting so that it does
7 respond to interests as they've been discussed in the
8 past, that we're not doing presentations to each other,
9 but we're actually moving into conversation together. I
10 know that's not easy, particular -- in a remote setup
11 like this. But I feel good about where we are right --
12 right now. So thank you for that.

13 And I do want to speak, just because we
14 are recording to share publicly, quickly, to the
15 disagreement we experienced with CPS's leadership as the
16 stakeholders after our last meeting. We knew it would
17 be recorded, but we didn't know that the plan was to
18 post that publicly along with, you know, a transcript
19 and all the meeting details.

20 We requested that not be posted, were
21 overruled by the owners of that data, and so just want
22 to say that we're really, really disappointed in that
23 decision, ultimately. And when we recognized that,
24 also, it -- in the tra- -- the interest in transparency
25 is -- is commendable, and we're perfectly willing to

1 move forward in a kind of a new format, if we can have
2 agreements around what that format is.

3 And I think, Kathy, at the top of the
4 call, you said that this is being recorded: the audio is
5 being recorded, but not a video.

6 And so I just didn't want to make a --
7 make this clear to folks who are on the call, that it's
8 safe to come out. If you're not on the -- using CPS
9 Energy's bandwidth, it's okay to -- to come out to
10 observe so we can see each other. And I encourage that
11 just so we can relate, at least at that level, while
12 we're all kind of insulated in our homes, or home
13 offices.

14 And so, I guess, the question is that
15 the -- the -- or maybe I could just state -- and you
16 tell me if I'm -- I'm correct, that -- Kathy, that this
17 would be an audio recording with a transcript and the
18 supplementary materials, sort of as the last one?

19 MS. K. GARCIA: That's what will be
20 posted on this -- on the stakeholder website, yes: an
21 audio recording, transcript, the agenda, and the
22 Resource Deck.

23 MR. G. HARMAN: Okay. I just request, if
24 there's any minute -- like, minutes taken from the
25 meeting or that, perhaps, we're provided those to

1 review, as is fairly typical meeting practice, and maybe
2 a copy of that audio and materials come in before
3 they're posted, just as a respectful partner. Thank you
4 for that.

5 And as an open meeting, also, we took the
6 liberty of inviting Brendan Gibbons in to sit with us.
7 And welcome -- I think I saw you here. Brendan,
8 welcome, and thank you for being being here. Rather
9 than, you know, making you wait until this goes up on
10 the website, we didn't see a reason why not -- we
11 couldn't invite you in now. So, assume -- and I hope
12 that's okay with everybody here.

13 * * * * *

14 ADDITIONAL TOPIC: CHARTER AMENDMENT PETITION

15 MR. G. HARMAN: Lastly, there is the --
16 obviously, since we have even agreed on an -- an agenda
17 together, there are -- there are -- there was a -- a
18 petition drive that was launched that would, if
19 successful, amend the governing charter of CPS Energy.
20 And this has come with general support from our
21 membership and the active engagement and from some of --
22 several member organizations.

23 So I do want to introduce Terry Burns to
24 read into the record the -- the -- the -- the key
25 intention of that effort and justifying framework. I

1 don't want this to be kind of -- you know, this
2 obviously just happened. And I -- well, none of us had
3 the opportunity to speak with you at CPS about it.

4 I don't want it to be kind of a cloud
5 that sits over the meeting and -- or -- or bad -- you
6 know, the kind of, like, agitated, you know --
7 agitating, kind of, our -- our -- our engagement. So if
8 we can address it quickly at the top of the meeting and,
9 hopefully, move past it because there's a lot happening,
10 obviously. You-all know, in short, shorter-term policy
11 issues that we want to en- -- engage with you -- you-all
12 on as productively as possible.

13 And so if we could have Terry speak for
14 just a couple of minutes. If anybody at CPS -- and it's
15 not necessary, but I would, you know, suggest we -- we
16 make room for a couple minutes for that.

17 And I do see we're at 6:16. We've got a
18 big agenda, and so I would just pass the mic to Terry.

19 Thank you-all.

20 MR. T. BURNS: This is Terry Burns. I'm
21 the chair of the Alamo Sierra Club, the local group.
22 And, like many of you, I've participated in these
23 stakeholder meetings for a -- a number of years. Some
24 of you go back even longer, to the days of -- before
25 these started in the whole Spruce 2 controversy.

1 We opposed, of course, and lost. And,
2 fortunately, these meetings continue. And we now have
3 an issue about closing Spruce down. And I think that
4 many of us have participated in the climate action and
5 adaptation planning process over the last few years. We
6 hope to get a strong plan out of the City, something
7 with actionable targets.

8 A -- a lot of those targets were removed
9 at the behest of CPS and some other agencies. So, in
10 this time of climate really growing, an obvious climate
11 crisis, as well as pandemic, an economic crisis, we
12 really think it's time to change our operating
13 procedures in the City and do things more with equity
14 and social and environmental justice and climate change
15 in mind.

16 And so, this petition drive has been
17 launched, respectfully, in the intention of, hopefully,
18 improving management at CPS and improving our outcomes.
19 We -- we've seen what happens with the
20 SAWS Board of Trustees and, similarly, with CPS. We
21 have businesspeople generally leading the boards who
22 don't know anything about social and environmental
23 justice, and it -- and about the actual business of
24 water, energy, conservation, climate change, et cetera.

25 So this amendment would, basically,

1 abolish the CPS Board; following the lead of Austin, put
2 the management into the City Government with an advisory
3 commission, with people from all over the city, as
4 citizens appointed to that and providing all sorts of
5 technical and policy advice, and not just limited to who
6 gets se- -- selected to the board and what the rates are
7 to be. And it would also enforce climate goals, which
8 are being, really, opposed -- obviously, strongly --
9 every month by the CPS Board and by CPS management.

10 And so we feel the time has come to make
11 this effort. We look forward to continuing to work with
12 CPS, and a -- a long, good experience with some of you:
13 Dr. Eugster, Kim, et cetera. But the time is now.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. P. GOLD-WILLIAMS: Good evening.

16 I -- I do understand that you-all have
17 a -- a full agenda, and we appreciate that. And -- but
18 we are -- we -- we want to make sure that we do respond
19 a bit. We don't -- we haven't had time to look at
20 everything in detail that you've recently made efforts
21 towards, but -- but we want to do a couple of things.

22 As I sat back and looked at our
23 relationship -- CPS Energy's relationship with the
24 Environmental Stakeholders -- I kept saying, "Five
25 years."

1 But as I look back, you know, the -- the
2 conversation has been going on for ten years. And I
3 think that's amazing. And it took us six years to close
4 the Spruce plant. And, over those ten years, we've had
5 a very successful energy-efficiency and conservation
6 program.

7 And I will tell you: While it may be,
8 you know, challenging for the group, I want to say that
9 we very much appreciate your organization and your
10 input. We -- we do have a major focus on the
11 environment. It is one of our six primary pillars.
12 And, increasingly, we are finding ways to improve.

13 We have a substantial amount of wind;
14 we're a leader in solar in the state and in the nation.
15 Our energy-efficiency and conservation program is
16 nationally award-winning. And a lot of it has been
17 through the commentary that we have gotten from you, and
18 we appreciate it.

19 Has it always transitioned to be exactly
20 that way? No, it has not. We do have six other
21 pillars, when we do survey our customers. They talk
22 about the environment increasingly, and I can see how
23 that's a huge interest for them and in -- and for us.
24 They do remind us all the time about reliability and
25 affordability. And, particularly, we also agree with

1 your comment about social responsibility.

2 In this very difficult time of COVID and
3 all of the pressures that go along with the pressures on
4 the economy, we -- it may -- it may be challenging to
5 see, but we are really trying to find ways to make the
6 transition occur.

7 And we do not disagree with your comment
8 about making the environment a priority and getting to
9 net zero emissions. It is just challenging to figure
10 out how to do that and make it affordable.

11 I will generally tell you, even from the
12 standpoint of the STEP program: It is wonderful to
13 think about increasing it threefold, maybe even tenfold.
14 But the way that program works, it is -- there are bill
15 impacts, not just to -- not just to one segment of our
16 community but all segments of our community.

17 For the -- for our customers most in
18 need, we have as many programs as we can. We're calling
19 them and helping them, but we have to think about it in
20 balance.

21 All that said, again, we are very pleased
22 and a -- appreciative that you agreed to continue to
23 talk to us. We are very appreciative that you're
24 talking to us tonight.

25 And -- and we want to listen, and we want

1 to continue to listen. We are reading your document in
2 great detail, and we will definitely continue to try to
3 reach out to you to see what we can do. We will talk to
4 you about -- more about our challenges, but we will
5 listen, and we will make that effort and that outreach.

6 MR. T. BURNS: (Mouthing "thank you")

7 MS. P. GOLD-WILLIAMS: Thank you.

8 MS. D. LOPEZ: Thank you for that short
9 response.

10 And we'll definitely continue to have a
11 lot of these conversations, because it is -- you know,
12 in -- in the same spirit and format of these
13 conversations. It's really opening up channels of
14 communication and transparency so that we're able to --
15 to move with some of these in our community better.

16 And I want to add a point of logistics:
17 If -- we have a lot of people on this call, and if
18 you're able, before you speak, to say your name and who
19 you're with so that we're able to also share some of
20 those pieces and kind of understand a little bit more
21 who we're talking to.

22 And, with -- with that note, I think
23 we're ready to get started with the specifics of the
24 rest of the meeting, taking it on with DeeDee, who will
25 be talking about Spruce and generation strategy.

* * * * *

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: GENERATION STRATEGY INCLUDING SPRUCE

MS. D. BELMARES: Hi, everybody. My name --

(Background noise)

MS. D. BELMARES: My name is DeeDee Belmares. I am a climate justice organizer with Public Citizen.

Today marks the third anniversary of Hurricane Harvey. We saw the devastation it caused and could potentially see more devastation, again, as Hurricane Laura is headed towards Houston and forcing evacuations in Galveston.

Climate change is a threat multiplier, which means it takes naturally-occurring events like hurricanes and makes them worse. This is why it's critical to reduce carbon emissions from coal plants and other fossil-fuel-emitting sources as quickly as possible.

So that brings us to San Antonio's big carbon emitter: the Spruce coal plant. The environmental community, for -- for some time, for years, has been calling for a Spruce shutdown by 2025, 2030, at the latest. We've asked a number of -- on a number of occasions, for the modeling data, or the info,

1 for various scenarios that y'all said were done, but
2 we've never received that information. Public Citizen
3 has had to even go as far as to file an open records
4 request for that data.

5 So, our question, then, is: Has
6 CPS Energy completed the generation-planning scenarios?
7 And, if so, will y'all share that data with us so that
8 we -- not just the environmental community but the
9 San Antonio community, in general -- could understand
10 it: the feasibility of 2025 or 2030 shutdown on Spruce?

11 MS. P. GOLD-WILLIAMS: Hello. I -- I
12 didn't do a great job last time of saying who I am. So
13 I'm Paula Gold-Williams, and I'm CEO of CPS Energy.

14 We have not completed those studies
15 because, again, we -- we are looking at the sequence of
16 what we have to do. We appreciate and understand the
17 importance of the coal units; and, particularly relative
18 to the environment, we do use ultra low sulphur coal; we
19 do have the environmental scrubbers on that. We
20 understand, though, that you -- that you, rightly, are
21 focusing on those units.

22 They're a -- the -- the youngest one is
23 only ten years old. And if we close it by 2030, that'll
24 be only 20 years. And we have adopted the -- the
25 effort, by 2040, to get down to 80 percent of energy

1 reduction and then, ultimately, to meet the Paris Accord
2 by 2050. Now, those are not our targets. We're not
3 trying to push it out that long. But we know that's the
4 outside, and we want to do better.

5 Our challenge is: We have such older
6 units. We had one that tripped recently. And they're
7 older; they're just like any other mechanical units.
8 And we have to think about the stability of the grid.
9 We could definitely continue to think about: How can we
10 get to those Spruce units? But the challenge is that we
11 have much older, decades older, steam units. So, for
12 us, the sequencing and the prioritization is important.
13 And if we can focus on that, we can also think about
14 what we can do faster on the coal units.

15 Now, we have talked about repowering
16 those units to gas. That hasn't been, necessarily, what
17 that you have been exactly interested in. We're working
18 on that to -- to try to make a transition and then see
19 if we can get closer and sooner to the closure of those
20 units.

21 But we -- we did not complete what --
22 what you were asking about because the general sequence
23 of what we were looking at is: It was clear that our
24 older units need to be replaced very soon, much sooner.
25 Some of them are aged out by the middle of the 2020s,

1 not to say we won't be open. We are open. But that's
2 just what we're having to -- to work on right now.

3 MS. K. GARCIA: DeeDee, it's Kathy.
4 Would you like me to mention the question? Or is that
5 something you'd like to do? There's a question in the
6 chat.

7 MS. D. BELMARES: Okay. I'm sorry. I
8 did not see the question --

9 MS. K. GARCIA: Okay.

10 MS. D. BELMARES: -- in the chat.

11 MS. K. GARCIA: The -- the question in
12 the chat is from Terry Burns, and his question is: "I
13 understand Spruce 1 does not have scrubbers because it
14 was supposedly going to shut down early, like by now,"
15 and there's a question mark.

16 MS. P. GOLD-WILLIAMS: I'll -- I'm -- I'm
17 going to turn it over to Benny, in short.

18 That unit is older and has the potential
19 to come off sooner, potentially, even 2030. Again, we
20 want to focus on the gas steam units to get that out of
21 the way. Again, we might be able to repower that unit.
22 But it definitely can come off much sooner than the
23 Spruce 2 unit. And -- and we do acknowledge that.

24 DR. C. EUGSTER: Hey, Kat- -- Kathy, this
25 is Cris here. I don't know if my video's showing up.

1 There I am (laughing).

2 MS. K. GARCIA: Yes, it is.

3 DR. C. EUGSTER: Trying to find -- find
4 myself in the sea of -- of faces here. Let me tee it up
5 before turning it over to Benny.

6 And I think, DeeDee, to your point: The
7 Texas power market is changing, you know, dramatically,
8 with the amount of renewables that are coming online.
9 It's a much more dynamic market. The ERCOT market is
10 much more dynamic. The whole concept of a baseload
11 power plant is a thing of the past. In fact, we're
12 running our units much more flexibly.

13 So, our -- our plants will -- will go to
14 mid-load at -- at night, when there's a lot of wind on
15 the -- on the grid, and -- and they'll ramp up during
16 the day when the -- the wind dies off. So -- but as
17 more solar comes in, you know, that can help complement
18 the wind. So it -- it's a -- the market, at -- at -- at
19 large, is transitioning.

20 And we are -- we are trying to -- to go
21 through that transition, at -- at CPS Energy, because I
22 think we're the -- you know, the fourth-largest power
23 player in -- in the State of Texas. So, we're a big
24 player, and we've got to figure out how to do this
25 reliably for our customers.

1 To Paula's point, you know, we are
2 looking to shut down six foss- -- fossil plants here by
3 2030. We've got five gas steam units: the three -- the
4 Braunig 1, 2s, and 3s, and the Sommers 1 and 2. So
5 those are gas steam units that were built in the 60s and
6 70s. And those -- you know, those will need to be
7 replaced here in this next decade.

8 And -- and gas steam is not as efficient
9 as a combined cycle, so it has a larger carbon
10 footprint, a larger water footprint, than a combined
11 cycle plant. So, there will be a carbon reduction by --
12 by shutting down those gas steam units, to Paula's
13 point.

14 I think the other one is the Spruce 1
15 coal plant. You know, we are looking to shut that down
16 before 2030 because, you know, it -- it will have had
17 its life. And there are investment requirements that
18 are needed to be made in that plant. I think we believe
19 that it's a better value proposition to -- to -- to shut
20 it down than make those investments, so, six fossil
21 plants that we're looking to shut down this -- this --
22 this -- this decade, before 2030.

23 And for us, the real key is: We don't
24 want to be in the market, buying power. We want to be
25 able to replace that fossil power with actual generation

1 that we can use to serve our customers. That's been the
2 history of CPS Energy. And so that's why the
3 FlexPOWER Bundle is critically important.

4 If we can figure out how to bring
5 900 megawatts of solar and a firming capacity around
6 that 900 megawatts, we can, then, replace a power plant,
7 and we can meet the power requirements of our customers
8 as they need it. And so if we can be -- if we can be
9 successful there, we can, then, replicate that.

10 And, to Paula's point, you know, we are
11 very open. So if we can show that we can replace that
12 affordably and reliably, I think we could be an -- on a
13 much faster timeline. But we've got to -- we've got to
14 prove out somebody's concept as we move forward. So
15 that's -- that's the approach we're taking.

16 Let me turn it over to Benny to talk a
17 little bit more detail about the specifics of our -- of
18 our gen plan.

19 MS. D. LOPEZ: Just a quick time check-in
20 there: We have just a few more minutes on this topic,
21 and there's also time at the end of the -- of -- of this
22 call to ask some specific further questions on -- on
23 this topic that -- that we'll be able to address.

24 DR. C. EUGSTER: Okay. Hey, Benny. I
25 don't want to put you on the spot. If -- if there's

1 something I've missed or something you want to add,
2 please add. But don't feel -- you know, I -- given that
3 we only have a couple minutes, to Diana's point, you can
4 keep it brief as well.

5 MR. B. ETHRIDGE: Okay. Well -- well,
6 thank you, Cris and Paula. And I'm Benny Ethridge. I'm
7 the senior vice president of Power Generation.

8 I -- I -- I got to tell you: Cris and
9 Paula did a really nice job talking about where we're
10 at. You know, it was under Paula's leadership that we
11 put our pillars in place to guide our decision-making so
12 that we are balanced. Environmental responsibility is a
13 key element, a key pillar for us, as is reliability, as
14 is customer affordability. So we are looking for
15 opportunities to move forward, away from coal.

16 You know, you think back to 2018: We
17 closed two of our units; 2019, we committed to an
18 80 percent reduction in emissions. Right now, we're
19 focused on carbon neutrality by 2050. So we are
20 listening, and we are moving forward under the
21 leadership of Paula and Cris.

22 Today, we're looking at opportunities to
23 do something different with Spruce. And, at the end of
24 the day -- and there is, per- -- perhaps, a very good
25 opportunity to reduce emissions and move to a fuel

1 conversion for an intermediate period of time. As
2 what -- Cris said: We prove out some of these new
3 technologies. Reliability is still key as we
4 transition. And we've got to sequence our investments
5 to protect our customers, maintain affordability, (audio
6 distortion) as we move to two -- new technology.

7 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. I can --

8 MR. B. ETHRIDGE: And, as you know,
9 there's risk in new technology. Because of that --

10 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry.

11 MR. B. ETHRIDGE: -- we've got --

12 THE REPORTER: This is the court
13 reporter --

14 MR. B. ETHRIDGE: I'm sorry?

15 THE REPORTER: -- cutting in real quick.
16 I'm getting feedback from

17 Michelle Lugalina.

18 MS. D. LOPEZ: Apologies.

19 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

20 The last thing I got is "and we kind of
21 sequence our investments to protect our customers,
22 maintain affordability."

23 Please, pick up from there.

24 MR. B. ETHRIDGE: Yes, ma'am.

25 That's true: We're focused on

1 sequencing. As Paula explained, we've older and less
2 reliable gas steam units that we need to move out and
3 retire. And so we're focused on replacing those first.
4 But let me assure you: We are looking for opportunities
5 to transition Spruce away from coal. Again, we're
6 looking at an intermediate fuel switch to help us as we
7 move forward with that unit and still protect our
8 customers and maintain affordability.

9 Did that answer your questions, DeeDee?
10 Or was there more?

11 MS. D. BELMARES: So we -- we -- we're
12 still at that -- you know, we're -- we're still at
13 that -- oh, obviously, we're still maintaining earlier
14 shutdown dates for -- for the coal -- for the coal
15 plant. And y'all are saying that y'all need to look at
16 your older units, the -- the older -- the six older
17 fossil units by 2030. So, I understand what y'all are
18 saying.

19 We, obviously -- based on what science
20 and what needs to happen and with the climate crisis,
21 crisis -- excuse me -- crisis, looking for action sooner.
22 But, also -- and I -- I just want to just reiterate that
23 the amount of times that it's taken us to ask this
24 question and -- and get to this point, finally -- like,
25 e-mails and e-mails and open records requests. So

1 that's my second -- that's my other point, is -- is
2 having to wait so long to -- to get here.

3 But we can continue the conversation. I
4 know we need to move on to the next agenda item.

5 MS. D. LOPEZ: Thank you, DeeDee.

6 MR. B. ETHRIDGE: Thank you.

7 MS. D. LOPEZ: Thank you, everybody, for
8 sharing that information. Obviously, this isn't the
9 last time. We will continue to talk about it, so this
10 is a continual conversation, both within this space and
11 outside.

12 And then, next, we have Chrissy with
13 POWER Bundle, Flex Path, and RFI.

14 * * * * *

15 AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: FLEXPPOWER BUNDLE

16 A. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RFI

17 B. FLEXSTEP

18 MS. C. MANN: (Inaudible)

19 MS. D. LOPEZ: Chrissy? If you're
20 speaking, we cannot hear you.

21 MS. C. MANN: I forgot how to unmute
22 myself, was waiting for someone to do it for me.

23 So thanks, everybody, for being here.
24 There's a bunch of folks from CPS. Really appreciate
25 your time and appreciate all the community stakeholders

1 that were able to also find time to come and have these
2 really important conversations.

3 I just wanted to lead off, kind of, just
4 where we left off, which was -- is really about the
5 stakeholder -- not this stakeholder but the broad
6 stakeholder engagement with CPS Energy around the
7 important issue of resource planning. And, you know,
8 it's just -- it -- it -- I'm just going to sort of issue
9 a challenge and ask a question, like: Why does CPS seem
10 resistant to do something more comprehensive so that
11 we're not having to ask these questions in silos, so
12 we -- that we're not having to get a -- have a -- a
13 continuing dialogue, specifically about Spruce?

14 And then we have, you know, FlexSTEP, the
15 energy-efficiency program, in its own little bucket.
16 And we don't understand how it relates, and we don't
17 understand what the -- what the sequence is, when the
18 needed generation assets need to come on and come
19 offline. And so I just want to comment that, without a
20 consistent, sort of, distilled opportunity for community
21 stakeholders to engage on resource planning or rates --
22 and we'll hear about -- more on -- about that later --
23 it's just become confusing.

24 Everything has a new name all the time.
25 And there is standard industry practice that has re- --

1 where stakeholders that are able to come in. And other
2 cities have been able to adapt it and modify it for
3 their needs. So Austin has a resource planning process.
4 Others -- Denton has a resource planning process. And
5 they are real analogous to CPS's status, with an ERCOT
6 as immunity, that reports to either a board or a city
7 council.

8 But there's just no reason for this. And
9 I know it'd be challenging and a -- and, like, it'd be
10 hard to come up with a process that incorporates all
11 this. But it would answer -- it would solve so many
12 problems, from a participant's perspective. And, also,
13 it's -- would be a -- so lot -- so much easier for city
14 governance and for y'all as you're making your way.

15 And so it's frustrating to hear that you
16 haven't -- you can't do this planning because you have
17 to figure out how to take Braunig off when Braunig is
18 running, last year, at 11 percent capacity. So are we
19 replacing all of that megawatts or their capacity? We
20 just don't know because it's just not clear. And if
21 there was a resource planning process that we could all
22 engage in, it would become clear for everybody, and it
23 would be easier for us to understand.

24 You know, doing this kind of outreach in
25 silos might serve some people, some stakeholders, better

1 than others. It doesn't put all people first, and it
2 does do a disservice to the transparency that CPS says
3 they want to achieve.

4 So we're going to reiterate our call for
5 community stakeholder resource planning process. We've
6 asked this -- it's had to take a backseat to COVID
7 response, but this is not a new request. And -- and
8 I -- I know this is in the context of the -- the
9 POWER Bundle Flex, FlexPOWER Bundle, one of those,
10 that -- that I'm -- I'm stating this. And so I'm going
11 to get on to the specific comments on that.

12 But I -- I just -- I just want to
13 reiterate: It's just hard for folks to keep up, and not
14 because we're not paying attention, just because it
15 doesn't make a whole lot of sense when we compare to how
16 we -- like, folks that interact with other utilities.
17 It just -- it's -- it doesn't -- it -- it's -- just
18 makes it challenging. And so, that would be sort of a
19 challenge. And -- and I'll wait. And we can chat --
20 chat a little bit more about that later because I'm all
21 ears.

22 Specifically, on the POWER Bundle, we
23 have some questions on that. We do -- obviously, we're
24 super excited about more solar in San Antonio. You're
25 already a leader in solar, and this -- this would be

1 amazing. But we don't know what it's replacing and for
2 what needs.

3 And we don't know, like, "Are you looking
4 at just rooftop? Are you looking at rooftop and
5 utility?" what -- what the combination is there, and if
6 you're just waiting for the responses from the RFI to
7 sort of get that or if you're trying to fit them into a
8 hole that you -- or a little -- a widget you have
9 already described internally and you're -- and you're
10 waiting to hear more about that from what the market can
11 say.

12 We also had some questions, like: Why
13 did y'all reverse out of the RFP and into an RFI? And
14 so, for the jargon folks on the -- like, the request for
15 proposal's a little bit more concrete, right, and a
16 request for information is, really, something that's out
17 there for what -- kind of unknowns. And that might make
18 sense for the firming power part but doesn't really make
19 sense for the solar, in our perspective.

20 And then I just want to make a specific
21 comment on 50 megawatts of batteries: Like, that's
22 better than zero, but the ERCOT market -- it seems kind
23 of skimpy for a utility the size of CPS to -- to -- to
24 talk about 900 megawatts of solar and not just already
25 package that with a solar-plus-storage deal. Like,

1 what? And we may see some answers in that in RFI. But
2 to -- to have a baseline around 50 doesn't make sense.

3 You know, CPS has expressed so much
4 concern for distachable -- dispatchable resources. And
5 ERCOT's own planning documents show that battery
6 storage, right now in the planning pipeline, is three
7 times that, nearly, of gas. It just -- like, we -- we
8 already know the future. It's here. ERCOT's -- the
9 market's doing this work for you.

10 And I know I have a weird sun line on my
11 face from the -- from the blinds in front of me.

12 So, you know, I think San Antonio really
13 deserves to be part of that future. And it would be
14 really exciting to see CPS take that leap with the rest
15 of ERCOT because you aren't doing it alone; you're doing
16 it together with the entire, you know, market.

17 And just as a nod to some of the things
18 we just heard, we're -- we're firmly opposed to the
19 replacement of fossil fuel generation with more fossil
20 fuel generation. That's not how we're going to solve
21 our climate crisis. Doesn't make sense to add a new
22 fossil generation, whether it's for firming capacity or
23 for Spruce. There are other ways to do this. And yeah.

24 And I just got the wrap up, and I'm
25 actually done, so...

1 MS. D. LOPEZ: (Audio distortion) Thanks.

2 MS. C. MANN: Do we want to --

3 MS. D. LOPEZ: (Audio distortion) There
4 is -- is -- there is time for -- for any type of
5 response from CPS.

6 DR. C. EUGSTER: Okay. And -- and,
7 Kathy, I'll -- I'll defer to you on -- do you want me to
8 take this? Or do you want to weigh in on the -- (audio
9 distortion) on this --

10 MS. K. GARCIA: Cris, I --

11 DR. C. EUGSTER: -- question?

12 MS. K. GARCIA: -- I welcome your
13 commentary.

14 DR. C. EUGSTER: Okay. I -- Chrissy,
15 I -- first of all, that -- the DG component, I think,
16 will be important to us. We want to see more generation
17 locally where our load is. And so, you know, if -- if
18 we can get -- if we can get more rooftop, or more
19 community solar, I -- that -- that -- we are very, very
20 (audio distortion) interested in that. I think it's
21 going to be a combination of utility scale as well as --
22 as -- as, you know, local DG rooftop. But the -- the DG
23 component is -- is very interested -- interesting to us.

24 It could be a little bit more expensive
25 versus the utility-scale solar. But it's local;

1 there're jobs associated with it. So there's -- we're
2 going to have to think through all that. But we
3 definitely have the DG component. We've even talked
4 about potentially having to carve out on that. But, at
5 this point, what we're doing is -- we're just -- we're
6 very interested in that -- in that piece of it.

7 Why go to an RFI versus an RFP directly?
8 This really has to be an integrated package. You know,
9 we are looking to replace a plant, in ste- -- you know,
10 ultimately. And so, all these com- -- all these
11 technologies have to work together. And so, what we
12 want to do with the RFI is, really, see: What is the
13 best technology out there that can accomplish what we're
14 trying to do: provide reliable, clean power to our -- to
15 our community?

16 And there's so much technology out there
17 that is super interesting, you know: long-duration
18 storage; liquid air; hydrogen -- you know, there's just
19 a lot of -- a lot of interesting technologies out there
20 that we want to, basically, discover. And we also want
21 to, you know, create a buzz around San Antonio. We want
22 people to be excited about, you know, coming here.
23 And -- and that was the reason, the rationale, of
24 putting the RFI in front of the RFP.

25 It does -- you know, it -- you -- you

1 may -- you argued: It does, you know, put a little bit
2 more time there. But, in the grand scheme of things,
3 we -- we -- we -- we hope that we get a better product
4 and a -- a -- a broader set of proposals.

5 On the storage comment, I saw Greg said
6 it's "a little wah."

7 I -- I would say, "Look, the -- the
8 firming capacity certainly has storage capacity as -- as
9 part of that."

10 So the 50 megawatts is, really, just,
11 almost, kind of a -- a threshold of -- of kind of
12 typical battery technology or, you know, whatever
13 storage technology. But there's a lot of additional
14 firming capacity that storage could be. So that -- we
15 could have a lot more storage because the firming
16 capacity could have a storage component in it, in these
17 proposals that we're getting. So, we may see a huge
18 number there, on storage.

19 And -- and so it -- yeah, I wouldn't get
20 too -- too worked up about the 50 megawatts.

21 And, Kevin -- Kevin Pollo, who -- his
22 team is leading the FlexPOWER Bundle -- I know he had a
23 few comments to make.

24 Kevin, anything else you want to add?
25 And I know Diana's going to give me the sign here pretty

1 soon. But, Kev- -- Kevin, any -- anything you want to
2 add to those comments?

3 MR. K. POLLO: Nah. Thank you, Cris. I
4 think you've covered it really well.

5 The only thing I was going to add is, you
6 know: We look at FlexPOWER Bundle; we -- we talked a
7 lot about transitioning our fleet; and we've talked
8 earlier in this meeting about, you know, replacing the
9 aging gas steam units. So we look at the
10 FlexPOWER Bundle as that next step on our Flexible Path
11 and that overall journey towards transitioning our fleet
12 to lower emitting resources.

13 And so FlexPOWER Bundle -- you know, we
14 look at the -- and are excited about it, the addition
15 of -- of the addi- -- of that solar as well as the
16 storage and -- and the firming capacity. We look at
17 that, really, as -- as a -- a key step in helping us to
18 move down that path of replacing that -- that aging
19 capacity that we've talked about already here today;
20 primarily, you know, starting with the gas steam
21 technology.

22 Other than that, Cris, I think you
23 covered, you know, the reasons as far as why we looked
24 at the RFI first. And I didn't really have anything
25 else to add there, so...

1 DR. C. EUGSTER: That -- thank you,
2 Kevin.

3 Kathy, or Diana (audio distortion) --

4 MR. J. KOSUB: (Audio distortion;
5 inaudible)

6 MS. D. LOPEZ: Yes. Thank you.

7 And as, you know, every other topic,
8 we'll continue to have some of these conversations and
9 follow up with some more of the specific questions. I
10 know Chrissy mentioned a lot of them. And so we will
11 continue to have some of these conversations.

12 There -- we'll have a bit of time at the
13 end of the meeting to continue to have a conversation on
14 any of these topics or questions. We have two more
15 items on the discussion before we're ready to move on
16 into question and answer.

17 And I'll take it to Aaron to talk about
18 the disconnection policy.

19 * * * * *

20 AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: CUSTOMER CARE & OUTREACH,
21 DISCONNECTION POLICY

22 MR. A. ARGUELLO: Thank you.

23 So I'm Aaron Arguello. I am an advocacy
24 organizer at MOVE Texas, organizing around climate and
25 economic justice in San Antonio, as well as some other

1 issue areas.

2 I have a few questions here, regarding
3 disconnect -- disconnection policy. And then I
4 encourage, you know, my follow stakeholders to throw any
5 additional questions in the chat. I'll do my best to
6 keep an eye on it.

7 The first few are just regarding outreach
8 to customers that are currently at risk of
9 disconnection. I saw, on your slideshow, that you said
10 53 percent of customers that you reached out to
11 responded; 26 percent committed to payment plans, which
12 is great. But that's (audio distortion) really a large
13 swath of people to do some outreach to.

14 So, my first few questions are just, you
15 know: What other forms of outreach are you planning to
16 do? And would it be possible to, perhaps, invite other
17 community groups to help with that outreach? because,
18 for example, Austin Energy is currently distributing
19 funds to community organizations up there in Austin to
20 help them with that customer outreach.

21 And, in addition, is there currently any
22 effort to increase the amount of Spanish language
23 outreach available, not only in, you know, direct
24 call-making but also in your, you know, Facebook Lives?
25 Just things of that nature, all around.

1 MR. R. GARZA: Sure. This is Rudy Garza.
2 I'm the chief customer engagement officer here at
3 CPS Energy.

4 And great question. We are -- you know,
5 we have tried to leave no stone unturned, when it comes
6 to outreach to our customers. And we've done that every
7 way we can think of. Certainly, if there are community
8 organizations that we're not partnering with that you
9 think we should be, all I need is an e-mail with a
10 contact, and we will get our team, you know, connected
11 in the right ways to make sure that we're not missing
12 everyo- -- anyone.

13 We have done ads in the paper, both
14 English and Spanish, from the onset of -- of -- of this
15 crisis coming before us and were the first utility --
16 one of the first utilities in the country to suspend
17 disconnects.

18 So we did that because we knew it was the
19 right thing to do. We didn't want our customers worried
20 about getting their power turned off when they're trying
21 to put food on the table or -- or pay -- you know, worry
22 about their mortgage payment. So -- so that was the
23 first step in the right direction and -- and which we --
24 which is a -- a process that we've continued and will
25 continue into the future.

1 You know, we do have a plan for when we
2 think the timing is appropriate to have a conversation
3 about going back to normal business. But that time
4 isn't now. You know, we put together a program in May,
5 and we started, in -- in early June, to do direct
6 outreach to customers. And since that time, we've
7 called over 17,000 customers, to date. And we will --
8 we've got, probably, 32,000 customers to call. So we're
9 about halfway into the list.

10 And we started with those customers
11 that -- that -- who we -- who we could see the balances
12 growing beyond the point where they might be able to
13 recover from. So we tried to prioritize our customers,
14 you know, to help those most in need. And we've been
15 very successful. Up to this point, we've been able to
16 connect with over half, so we're up around 55 percent of
17 our -- of our -- of the customers that we've called,
18 we've actually talked to.

19 We're not ask- -- we're not, you know,
20 shaking them down for money or anything like that.
21 We're -- we're offering assistance. We're connected to
22 all those community groups that -- that you've talked
23 about that have assistance available for customers
24 and -- and citizens in need.

25 So what we're doing is: We're still --

1 we're -- we're trying to find out, you know, for those
2 who will talk to us, "How do we connect you with the
3 right community resource so you can get help with your
4 food or maybe you can get help with your mortgage
5 assistance?" or, if you're a small business, "Let's
6 connect to a -- small business resources to help keep
7 your business open."

8 For those customers who do want to be put
9 on the payment plan, not only will we waive any late
10 fees that have accumulated, but we put close to 25
11 percent of the customers we have talked to on our --
12 on -- on a payment plan. It -- and I think, overall,
13 we're up around 15 percent of our -- of our total
14 customers, all -- and, you know, 850,000 residential
15 cus- -- or total, overall customers that we have in
16 San Antonio, about 15 percent of our customers are on a
17 payment plan of some -- of some type.

18 So, Paula has done ads in both English
19 and Spanish on TV. You know, we've actually gotten
20 criticized, in some cases, for running Spanish --
21 Spanish-language ads on English-language TV. But -- but
22 we're doing everything we -- we -- we think -- it -- it
23 makes sense for us to -- to get that outreach out there.

24 But -- but our -- we're trying to be as
25 thoughtful as we can be, Aaron. You know, we -- even

1 when the time comes -- and that time is not now -- when
2 we do need to have a conversation about -- about
3 reinstating disconnects, you know, we're going to --
4 we're going to do that thoughtfully. And customers are
5 going to get way advance notice of that, you know: 30 --
6 minimum of 30 days.

7 And -- and, just in general, Aaron, what
8 I would tell you is: If a customer proactively reaches
9 out to CPS Energy, asking for bill payment assistance,
10 guess what? Those customers aren't going to get cut
11 off.

12 And -- and what I can tell you is: For
13 anybody out there who hasn't gotten the assistance they
14 need, ask them to give us a call, or give us their name,
15 and we will -- we will reach out to them directly
16 because our goal is to touch every customer out there
17 who need -- who needs help in some form or fashion,
18 whether it's from CPS Energy or anybody else in the
19 community that we can connect them to.

20 Is that helpful?

21 MR. A. ARGUELLO: Sure. Thank you, Rudy.
22 Thanks for that.

23 I want to point out a couple of comments
24 here in the chat, both, you know, bringing up kind of
25 the (audio distortion) -- (audio distortion) making

1 moratorium on cutoffs a permanent policy --

2 THE REPORTER: "Bringing up kind of
3 the" -- what?

4 MR. A. ARGUELLO: I'm talking about, you
5 know, cutoff during summer, which kind of leads into my
6 next question, which is, you know: How do you expect to
7 see, you know, revenue with the rise (audio distortion)
8 electrification -- transportation, and could potentially
9 earmark for (audio distortion) -- that -- that goes, not
10 only for electric (audio distortion) --

11 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. Your sound is
12 breaking up. I'm not sure who's getting feedback.

13 MR. A. ARGUELLO: Well, let me see. Is
14 it better?

15 MR. R. GARZA: Well, I could (audio
16 distortion) -- Aaron, what I did -- what I did hear is
17 "electrification."

18 MR. A. ARGUELLO: Uh-huh.

19 MR. R. GARZA: We've got a -- a very
20 robust elec- -- electrification strategy, you know; not
21 just EVs, but we're looking at vehicles across the
22 community -- buses, school buses -- you know, and trying
23 to figure out, you know, how to help them with their own
24 transition.

25 So, CPS Energy is looking at our rates,

1 strategies; we're looking at partnerships and how we can
2 help our community partners that have an opportunity
3 to -- to -- to make their -- turn their fleets or their
4 infrastructure into more sustainable infrastructure.
5 And we -- you know, we want to be partners in that,
6 in -- in that transition, as well.

7 MS. P. GOLD-WILLIAMS: Hey, Rudy, though.
8 This is Paula Gold-Williams.

9 MR. R. GARZA: Yes, ma'am.

10 MS. P. GOLD-WILLIAMS: To add in, I
11 thoroughly understand the question: If we're going to
12 make more money in electrification, can't that do that,
13 you know, that create the funding?

14 While we're monitoring where that is
15 going, we mono- -- we've talked to the manu- --
16 manufacturers of automobiles. We look at all the trends
17 associated with electrification. Some of the challenges
18 are from an industrial standpoint, in some of the bigger
19 fleets. They -- the -- the industry is far away from
20 being able to industrial- -- industrialize EVs. So,
21 yes, I think your point is well taken. I think it's a
22 matter of timing, because it's going to take time to
23 create that electrification.

24 We do participate in major think tanks
25 that do research that help us think about: Can we

1 accelerate it and do certain things? I would tell you:
2 I would still believe that those are years out. So
3 Rudy's right: We're putting, like, resources on it. I
4 sit on a board, international board. I sit on several
5 committees where we're looking at all of the things and
6 trying to compare. But the actual ability to get a lot
7 more revenues to create those type of resources so we
8 can move them is not right around the corner.

9 But we definitely would love to be able
10 to talk to you about that and -- and tell you what we
11 see and -- and think that it's a long-term opportunity.

12 MR. A. ARGUELLO: Sure. Thank you. And
13 I hope that we can continue to be in conversation as we
14 go forward with -- with electrification in other areas,
15 things going towards housing security being earmarked
16 for bills; you know, disconnection policies, further
17 moratoriums, going forward.

18 And I think I'm coming up on my time, so
19 I'll go ahead and let Diana now (audio distortion) --

20 MS. P. GOLD-WILLIAMS: (Laughing)

21 MS. D. LOPEZ: Yes. Please (audio
22 distortion) just --

23 MR. R. GARZA: Well, Aaron, let me
24 just --

25 MS. D. LOPEZ: You --

1 MR. R. GARZA: Let me -- Diana, I know
2 you're put -- you know -- I know you're giving me the
3 hook here.

4 But reach out -- Aaron, reach out to us.
5 And whatever we can do to help connect our resources
6 with, you know, community resources and community, you
7 know, groups, we are -- we are -- we are open to meeting
8 with anybody who's interested in meeting with us. Okay?

9 MR. A. ARGUELLO: (Mouthing "okay")

10 MS. D. LOPEZ: That sounds great.

11 Thank you, everybody. We've -- we're an
12 hour in and have about 30 minutes left. We've already
13 gone through so many issues and questions at this point.

14 So one of our last pieces on the agenda,
15 before we will go into question and answer, will be led
16 by Meredith, talking about the Rate Advisory Committee.

17 * * * * *

18 AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: RATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

19 DR. M. McGUIRE: Thank you, Diana.

20 I have to apologize ahead of time because
21 I've been readjusting all my points as some people
22 already started talking about them. So I'm going to be
23 a little bit less organized than I started out.

24 So, I -- I want to raise some questions
25 about the rate reform that we want to see happening at

1 CPS Energy. We have called for the proposed rates
2 and -- and -- a proposed rates and generation committee,
3 to be talking -- I'm sorry -- to be a -- a
4 CoSA-Council-appointed committee, representing each
5 Council District, utility quadrants, and at-large
6 membership, in order to ensure accountability and
7 transparency.

8 In addition, we are expecting all members
9 to have a basic understanding of equity and
10 environmental justice and to ensure a diverse set of
11 technical solutions and recommendations be drawn from
12 both the technical sphere and impacted communities that
13 have been kept out of decision-making processes;
14 furthermore, to ensure comprehensive resource-planning
15 decisions, with meaningful stakeholder engagement,
16 support the revenue requirement of CPS Energy and vice
17 versa, and to ensure a just and equitable rate structure
18 for CPS Energy customers.

19 The rate-structuring work must be
20 connected to integrated resource management planning
21 because the rate structure should be framed to maximize
22 the effectiveness of that integrated resource management
23 approach.

24 I'm going to go quickly through some of
25 the other points that are relevant to this before I toss

1 out my question.

2 The most appropriate rate designs that
3 would promote such greater effectiveness for the new
4 FlexSTEP involve using inclining tiered rates and
5 time-of-usage rate structures, such as used in Los
6 Angeles. It's a -- an excellent example of how a very
7 large city's public power utility could stabilize its
8 revenues while promoting dramatic dire- -- reductions in
9 energy consumption, peak demand, and peak time-of-use
10 demand.

11 I strongly urge CPS Energy and the
12 City Council to seek the guidance of the
13 Rocky Mountain Institute in framing the rate structure
14 process as well as development of an integrated
15 resources managed plan.

16 I would like to add in an -- it sounds
17 good -- it sounds unrelated, but it isn't. I think that
18 CPS Energy should ask more of its heaviest commercial
19 users.

20 I was pleased that the green tariff
21 agreement was -- with Microsoft was developed, but it
22 was a good temporary resolution to accommodate a
23 climate-concerned corporation. It would be far better
24 to offer to co-invest with corporations in on-site solar
25 with -- power with battery storage. For future

1 development in service areas, CPS should require all
2 energy-intensive businesses to co-invest on on-site
3 solar and battery storage.

4 MS. D. LOPEZ: (Indicating)

5 DR. M. McGUIRE: I would just like to tie
6 down one thing about --

7 Yes I got it, the note, Diana -- Diana
8 (pronouncing).

9 So, the -- I want to point out that the
10 person at Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has
11 been quoted as saying, "If we gradually invest in
12 utility-scale battery storage systems, we will solve the
13 peaking issue in a few years."

14 And so that's precisely the kind of thing
15 we need to be doing.

16 My question that I'd like to ask -- and
17 now I've lost it in the midst of all these papers.
18 Sorry. Hold on a second.

19 So, where is CPS Energy, at this stage in
20 the game, in implementing such a rate-structuring
21 process?

22 MS. C. SHELLMAN: Dr. McGuire, this is
23 Carolyn Shellman.

24 And, to those, if you don't -- of you who
25 don't know me, I'm the general counsel. I also have

1 responsibility for our energy storage project and for
2 the development of our rate advisory committee. And I
3 have -- though it's not my responsibility at CPS, I have
4 a lot of -- spent a lot of time doing rate design work
5 over the last 30-plus years.

6 So I'm not an expert on it, but I
7 understand all the questions you're asking, and they --
8 there's nothing that you're asking that I think is
9 not -- is something that we can't talk about and that we
10 aren't thinking about internally.

11 Let me jump quickly to the rack itself,
12 because I know that's something you-all have been asking
13 about. And I want you to know what we've been doing.
14 We -- and I will say, as a preface, that we have, as
15 you-all know, a really strong and effective
16 Citizens Advisory Committee that the Council created
17 over 20 years ago. They have been a wonderful,
18 conscientious sounding board for us. And we see the
19 value of having citizen input on these issues.

20 So our board directed us to come up with
21 the framework to -- for a rate advisory committee. And
22 a lot of what we started with was information that we
23 got from the Mayor's Office he gave to us. Wi- -- and I
24 believe, in my discussions with them, that they got it
25 from several of you. So the things that you mentioned,

1 Dr. McGuire, are things that we are thinking about, in
2 terms of how the committee should be created, what it
3 should be doing.

4 And so what we have been doing in the
5 past few months -- and I will say: A lot of what we
6 were doing has been delayed by and complicated by the
7 COVID pandemic. And we can't use it as an excuse, but
8 it has been a -- a real impediment to some of the things
9 that we were doing, in having time to discuss and work
10 on it.

11 But what we're putting together is
12 exactly what our board asked us to do: a framework for
13 the information that they would need if they were going
14 to go ahead and create this rate advisory committee,
15 which we know the mayor's very interested in. And I
16 think our other board members are interested in hearing
17 everything that we can present to them.

18 So we are putting together information
19 that would describe how they would go about selecting
20 people for the proposal for them to think about. But,
21 based on some of the things that you have just talked
22 about: how we would identify people to be -- serve on a
23 rate advisory committee; how they would operate; how
24 often they would meet; how we -- what kind of technical
25 support would they need?

1 We did an RFP and are preparing to
2 interview rate consultants who can provide the technical
3 rate design background information that you have
4 indicated. People are going to need some fundament- --
5 fundamental information before they start making
6 recommendations and giving us input on those issues.

7 One of the things we're trying to figure
8 out is: How do we do this in a situation where we can't
9 sit down face to face with people? And it seems simple.
10 We can look how well this is working. But we're going
11 to have to have a very efficient and workable process so
12 that we can use these consultants that we hire to give
13 people the information they need to understand rate
14 issues. And then we need to talk to them about the
15 proposals we have.

16 So bottom line is: We will be prepared
17 to give our board, as soon as we can get it on the
18 agenda -- and I think that will be within the next 45
19 days or so -- a proposal for them to consider about
20 creation of a rate advisory committee. And I know one
21 of the things that we're really drawing on is the input
22 that we have gotten from SAWS about what worked and what
23 didn't there. We've talked to a few people who have
24 been involved in a similar process in Austin. And we've
25 talked to our Citizens Advisory Committee members about

1 how they operate.

2 So, bottom line is: It's coming, and we
3 are taking into consideration all the things you're
4 talking about. The rate design questions that you've
5 asked, I can't answer for you now. But I can tell you
6 that all the things that you've talked about are things
7 that our really expert pricing people are looking at,
8 thinking at, and they will be part of the mix as we go
9 forward. And the thing we've got to do is: figure out
10 how we can keep our rates as affordable as possible but
11 still provide all the options that you mentioned.

12 So, that's -- that's all I would have to
13 say. But I hope that addresses your question.

14 DR. M. McGUIRE: Ah, just -- just a
15 second.

16 MS. D. LOPEZ: Yes. Go right ahead,
17 Meredith.

18 MR. G. HARMAN: Oh. You just muted
19 yourself.

20 DR. M. McGUIRE: Sorry. I muted myself.

21 Carolyn, could I ask a -- a real quick
22 question? Did you consult with the
23 Rocky Mountain Institute about the -- their proposals
24 about what makes for a good rate-structuring process?
25 That's part of the reason -- I -- not just any

1 consultant can do this right.

2 MS. C. SHELLMAN: We haven't spoken to
3 them. There may be people at CPS who have. But if we
4 haven't, we certainly can.

5 DR. M. McGUIRE: I'd appreciate that.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. C. SHELLMAN: Uh-huh.

8 MS. D. LOPEZ: (Inaudible)

9 MS. C. MANN: Diana, you're muted.

10 MS. D. LOPEZ: We are continuing to have
11 some of these conversations. And thank you for being
12 respectful about time and being really concise with --
13 with a lot of your answers.

14 We have, probably, like, around five or
15 so minutes, if CPS has any -- anything to remark. And I
16 think there -- the issue, based on some of the chat,
17 that -- that had the most conversation or questions on
18 was around Flex Bundle. And I wanted to -- to see if --
19 if we -- if there were any other conversations that we
20 wanted to continue on that topic for the next few
21 minutes and then open it up for a question and answer --
22 and answers.

23 That's just what I took away from the
24 chat and seeing that -- that we wanted a lot more
25 conversations on that. If -- if folks aren't supportive

1 of that, I'm -- I'm okay going straight into question
2 and answer.

3 MS. P. GOLD-WILLIAMS: This is Paula.

4 I -- I think we want to continue to
5 follow your lead. And so if you -- well, I don't think
6 we -- you know, we don't have any big comments. We -- I
7 will say this: I -- I want to s- -- thank you, again,
8 for your time and effort. You know, I think, with --
9 with continuing to talk, we make -- we make progress and
10 clarity, and we get better at explaining what we're
11 thinking and -- and appreciate the exchange.

12 But -- but, in this time, if you want to
13 talk more about the FlexPOWER Bundle, I -- there was a
14 lot of conversation. But please let us know what --
15 what you would like to talk about, and we'll just follow
16 your lead.

17 * * * * *

18 AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Q&A/CLOSE

19 MS. D. LOPEZ: So there was -- in the
20 chat, there was "guest"; somebody labeled "guest" had a
21 question. And --

22 MS. K. GARCIA: And I think that's
23 Rogelio.

24 MS. D. LOPEZ: Okay. Rogelio, I don't --
25 if you want to share a little bit, in -- in a very

1 concise way, your questions, I -- my chat froze, so I'm
2 having trouble reaching back around to it.

3 DR. C. EUGSTER: Hey. This is Cris.

4 I -- I think I see the last question
5 about plans for battery storage. We talked a little bit
6 about -- I think Chrissy asked the question: Is -- is
7 50 megawatts the cap?

8 And, no, it's not. You know, firming
9 capacity could be a much, much bigger piece of that.

10 I think, to Carolyn's point, we are
11 looking at some very exciting battery technol- --
12 battery storage technologies here even sooner as we're
13 looking to partner with people that are looking to put
14 large battery systems on our distribution system and
15 have access to the whole (audio distortion) SiC market
16 to -- I think, to Meredith's point, to -- to be able to
17 flexibly generate and -- and deliver that power.

18 And so, you know, I think more to come,
19 on -- on energy storage. I think we've got some very
20 exciting projects that will be taking to the market here
21 in the near future.

22 MS. P. GOLD-WILLIAMS: Hey -- hey, this
23 is Paula Gold-Williams again.

24 I guess the thing I would say about
25 batteries: There's no -- there's no not wanting to do

1 batteries at all. The prices have come down. The --
2 the -- one of the challenges we have is: Duration still
3 hasn't moved significantly. So we -- you know, I kind
4 of say things like, "You got to rack them and stack
5 them."

6 And if the duration -- even if you could
7 get four hours -- and four hours is really great -- it
8 doesn't cover us at night, which means we've got to
9 stack the batteries in sequence. And while they are
10 coming down in price, they still end up being a pretty
11 expensive option. And you have to worry about, if you
12 have a continuing storm, the ability to actually
13 recharge those batteries.

14 So it -- we're not against it. Actually,
15 what we -- the reason why we're doing this is: We think
16 it's important to invest in lithium-ion technology; but
17 we also want -- feel like there are many other
18 technologies out there in storage that can be developed
19 and may be even more effective.

20 So the -- the whole thing: Could --
21 could the rest of the 500 megawatts be batteries? Maybe
22 the -- it'll be challenging because their -- their
23 duration isn't that long. But if we could get a fast
24 response in some other technology and get duration, then
25 it'll beat the batteries, from that standpoint.

1 Batteries, right now, are great. I mean, they can
2 actually respond within seconds. They -- you know, most
3 of the batteries in ERCOT grid perform for less than an
4 hour. And so -- so, again, we're not against it; we're
5 open.

6 The thing I will also just re- --
7 repunctuate, really quickly: In the middle of COVID,
8 what we were trying to do was try to get the attention
9 of people. So ten languages -- we used ten languages,
10 just in case there is something really amazing out there
11 that we can bring in and know about.

12 So the -- the -- the projected period was
13 to make sure that, when people were very, very tied up,
14 trying to make sure that they can handle it, and the
15 challenges of people being able to travel is big, not
16 even -- not -- in some cases, coming into the United
17 States is more complicated than us leaving the United
18 States.

19 So, I know it's not perfect. We're just
20 really trying to do all we can to get more input. We do
21 think that advances in technology really, really matter.
22 But we -- but we're -- we're supportive of batteries,
23 but we're supportive of looking at a lot of different
24 things. Hydrogen is -- is possibly something, but we
25 think there could be something even better than that,

1 maybe something that we haven't even thought of. We've
2 seen some interesting technologies, not at scale, but
3 we've seen some interesting things.

4 And, right before COVID, we were starting
5 to have people knock on our door with very fascinating
6 technologies. So -- so, again, we're open to all of
7 that.

8 MS. C. MANN: (Audio distortion;
9 inaudible)

10 MS. D. LOPEZ: Thank you.

11 Is -- is there somebody else that has any
12 questions?

13 MS. C. MANN: I have a question.

14 MS. D. LOPEZ: Oh. Sorry. Chrissy, go
15 ahead.

16 MS. C. MANN: I have a question, but I've
17 spoken a lot. So if anyone else from the
18 stakeholders...

19 MS. D. LOPEZ: We had -- Greg had
20 mentioned he has a -- he also has a question and a
21 comment. If nobody else that hasn't spoken has a
22 question, now's probably the time to make space for
23 any -- any folks who weren't a speaker or haven't
24 spoken.

25 (No response)

1 MS. D. LOPEZ: I'm going to take that
2 as --

3 (Background noise)

4 MS. D. LOPEZ: Oh. Is that somebody
5 unmuting?

6 MS. C. MANN: I don't think so.

7 Mine might be very short because I bet
8 y'all -- someone will have to follow up.

9 But I was -- we were hearing, more
10 concretely, that y'all were very much considering
11 converting Spruce 1 and/or 2 to gas, as -- and I -- I
12 don't know what -- I would love to know what the -- and,
13 if it's ballpark, that's fine for now -- what the --
14 what the megawatt hour costs for that are because we're
15 seeing solar plus storage, you know, brand-new solar
16 for -- plus storage proposals out of El Paso at, you
17 know, 2.1 cents per kilowatt hour, so 21 bucks a
18 megawatt hour; right?

19 And I -- how -- and if it's way cheaper
20 than that, I'd love to know about it. But this building
21 the infrastructure and -- and doing the -- the physical
22 conversion plus the fuel costs -- I -- I -- how does
23 that compare?

24 DR. C. EUGSTER: Hey, Chrissy, I think
25 it's a really good question.

1 And I -- I -- I think -- we're seeing
2 solar prices that are -- for that hour of production,
3 when -- when the solar is producing -- to be, you know,
4 among the cheapest resources that -- that -- that are
5 available these days. So, you're right: Solar prices
6 have gotten cheaper and cheaper.

7 But what we don't want to do is, when
8 that solar production's not there, that we have to go
9 out in the -- to the market to buy power to -- to firm
10 up that solar. And we've seen a lot of utilities
11 getting, you know, financially hurt by, you know, having
12 to go buy power from the market. CPS Energy, like I
13 said, is a big player, fourth largest in Texas. And so,
14 we've got to figure out, you know: What is the right
15 set of integrated resources to replace that plant?

16 So, it's -- it's not just the cheap
17 20-dollar solar by itself. But what is \$20 plus the
18 firming capacity so that, you know, you can reliably
19 serve that customer?

20 MS. C. MANN: Yeah.

21 DR. C. EUGSTER: So, I think it's a good
22 point. But we -- we do have to look at all of those
23 factors as we -- as we --

24 MS. C. MANN: Yeah. It was solar plus
25 storage at 21 and solar for 15. So I just want to be

1 clear.

2 DR. C. EUGSTER: Yeah.

3 MS. C. MANN: Like, it's getting really
4 cheap. And it -- particularly, if we're looking a few
5 years in the future, it just doesn't -- I -- I just
6 don't see why it would make sense to do a -- that kind
7 of capital expenditure.

8 That's why I'm asking because I -- I'm
9 not the one running the books, so I don't know how much
10 that costs. I do have, you know, regular -- regulated
11 entities approved costs. You know, the New Mexico PRC
12 appu- -- -proves those costs, so I can see those data.
13 But we can't see the data, so we're talking to a black
14 box with y'all sometimes.

15 DR. C. EUGSTER: Yeah. Yeah, Chrissy.
16 I -- and I see Paula online. But I'll just -- just real
17 brief remarks.

18 I -- we -- I don't think we've seen solar
19 plus firming capacity at -- at \$20. But, you know,
20 we've got the RFP/RFI coming out. So maybe -- maybe
21 we'll -- maybe we'll -- we'll see those kind of numbers.

22 But the other thing, to Paula's previous
23 point, is: Yes, (audio distortion) we have the firming
24 capacity for an hour, two hours, three hours, four
25 hours. But we need to be able to figure out, you know:

1 How does that production profile serve all the hours of
2 our customers?

3 So I don't think there's any one magic
4 bullet. I think we've got to bring a lot of
5 different -- we've got to bring solar/wind, demand
6 response, energy efficiency. We got batteries. We got
7 to bring that all together to -- to, ultimately, kind
8 of, replace that fossil plant.

9 MS. P. GOLD-WILLIAMS: Cris, you said
10 what I was going to say, so I will keep it short (audio
11 distortion) -- (inaudible)

12 DR. C. EUGSTER: Sorry -- sorry about
13 that, Paula.

14 MS. D. LOPEZ: All right. Sounds good.
15 Thank you.

16 On to the next question, which was sent
17 through chat: "Do you partner" -- "Do you partner with
18 VIA to integrate EV?"

19 MS. P. GOLD-WILLIAMS: Hey. This is
20 Paula on the phone. I don't know if we have everyone
21 on.

22 But we are very interested in helping VIA
23 with their EV plans. I know this is, you know, a --
24 kind of a challenging perspective. But before EVs were
25 picking up, though, they made an investment in

1 compressed natural gas, which was a huge improvement on
2 diesel. And so, you know, those -- those units aren't
3 that old. And -- and so, that -- that said, we're still
4 talking to them about, you know: Can we get in front of
5 it? And what are their thoughts and their timing?

6 But -- but we would like to work with
7 them, and -- and they know that. And we're also talking
8 to the City and thinking about what we can do there, and
9 so, every fleet.

10 And -- and if you-all have any leads on
11 folks that you think are more ready, please let us know,
12 and we'll gladly talk to them.

13 MR. R. MEDINA: Yeah. That -- Paula,
14 this is Richard. I'll add to that.

15 Yes, we are working with VIA. They are
16 looking at some electric buses, and we've been working
17 with them on the -- putting out their -- helping them
18 structure their RFP. So they are looking at it, and we
19 are working with them.

20 Thank you.

21 DR. C. EUGSTER: Hey, Richard. Go ahead
22 and introduce yourself. I know that you came on --

23 MR. R. MEDINA: I'm sorry.

24 Richard Medina. I'm the vice president
25 of our group, Modernization Group, here at CPS Energy.

1 MS. D. LOPEZ: That's great. Thank you.

2 And then we have, probably, if --
3 depending on this next question -- Greg, if you want to
4 introduce that. And then we'll see how much time we
5 have left.

6 MR. G. HARMAN: Sure, just real quickly.

7 I think one point of frustration folks
8 maybe on this call, among the stakeholders, would have
9 is just the communication, or lack of communication,
10 around CAAP or around the climate crisis or -- or what
11 have you. And this was the first time I'd seen, in a
12 presentation, in a slide deck that was shared with this
13 group, that CPS was committed to these interim targets.

14 I don't hear a lot about zero in 2050,
15 either. But if, for -- specifically, you guys are
16 talking about 2040 and being at 80 percent, which is
17 great, I'd love to hear more of that.

18 But I -- it -- I -- I really -- I guess
19 my -- my question is: Is CPS -- for the leadership at
20 CPS, are you guys prepared to step forward, maybe, as
21 the new CAAP committees come on, and just be a leader in
22 communicating science-based climate crisis information,
23 say, "We've got to get here; here's why; here's what
24 we're doing; here's the plan we're developing," and --
25 and -- and encouraging folks to take action as

1 individuals? as communities? as neighborhood
2 associations? whatever it is?

3 We really need y'all, as the energy
4 providers for our city in the uncontested market, to be
5 there and to be leading.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. P. GOLD-WILLIAMS: Yes, Greg. Hi.
8 This is, again, Paula Gold-Williams.

9 So, you know, our -- our -- our objective
10 to get to 80 percent by 2040 was included in the
11 original Flex Path that we've been talking about for --
12 I don't know, for some time. And so maybe, you know --
13 again, we -- we stand ready to continue to clarify
14 what -- what we're trying to explain and how we're
15 trying to get there.

16 You know, I think the -- I think what
17 happened, when we -- when we launched the Flexible Path,
18 though, the criticism was that, you know: "But you
19 still have coal in your mix."

20 And -- and I think we've spent a lot of
21 time, you know, going back and forth about our portfolio
22 and, you know, when we say things like that -- "The
23 plants are intended to last 55 years," or something like
24 that -- I'm -- I'm -- I think that strikes a really
25 difficult cord for the ESG and -- and some other

1 stakeholders.

2 And, typically, all we're trying to do is
3 talk about how we're trying to make improvements, how
4 we're trying to put a pretty complex evolutionary and,
5 maybe to your point, a revolutionary change in front of
6 the community and try to bring people along.

7 You know, and I -- you know, we've taken
8 and had a lot of discussions about the CAAP and -- and,
9 you know, the concerns about how the CAAP came out. But
10 the CAAP did make a goal for the community to reduce
11 emissions and to get to net zero. Our board endorsed
12 the CAAP, and they told the management team, "Make sure
13 that you're watching the six pillars, and get to that
14 goal by 2040, and do what you can, and help the
15 community get there."

16 We're not -- you know, we're -- we're a
17 bunch of engineers and analysts and accountants and, you
18 know, folks that -- that spend all of our time, really,
19 trying to fly the plane and try to rebuild it at the
20 same time. So, again, we -- we stand ready to continue
21 to try to make our messages clearer or crisper. We're
22 not trying to do anything but show people that it is
23 important to solve issues.

24 We -- we think that energy efficiency and
25 conservation is one of the best ways to move forward.

1 But we also realize that our fleet, well, is aging out.
2 And it's actually kind of a good time. I mean, yeah, we
3 got one plant that's ten years old. But we've got a lot
4 of plants that are aging out appropriately. And -- and
5 we're just trying to figure out how to get that sequence
6 right.

7 As far as joining and -- and talking more
8 about the importance of making that transition and
9 continuing to do it, we'd be glad to. And we know that
10 there are folks that -- that don't believe that there's
11 challenge. And I tell everybody, "We know that
12 CPS Energy -- that there are challenges."

13 You know, for all the things that we
14 experience, we're -- our people are out in the elements
15 when they're -- when it's too hot, when it's snow, when
16 it's ice, when it's freezing -- the extremes of -- of
17 weather. We don't -- we don't deny that. We just have
18 to deal with it in the transition. We gladly will
19 participate in -- in things.

20 But, you know, again, our -- our messages
21 are, typically: We're trying to figure out real
22 actions. We appreciate the fact that the committee
23 talks about aspirations, becau- -- and we get it
24 because, if you set a great aspiration, you know where
25 to go. We get that. But as Cris said, we're not trying

1 to say that we're solar and then go buy off the grid,
2 and then you have a whole bunch of operators who aren't
3 going to make that change.

4 We're trying to figure out how to make
5 real change. We -- we want to know where the power
6 comes from, and we want to work with you and our other
7 stakeholders to make it a meaningful change. We do it
8 differently. Maybe the sequence isn't exactly what
9 you-all were expecting. And we don't mean to make you
10 upset about that. We're just trying to tell you: We're
11 doing the best we can.

12 But we stand ready to keep -- to keep
13 improving, and we stand ready to crisp our -- our
14 comment. Our comments haven't changed since the
15 Flexible Path. We just, oftentimes, get in
16 conversations with you about our process and what our
17 intentions are.

18 Our intentions are aligned to yours. Our
19 timing and velocity -- I've always said that: What
20 we -- what we struggle with, between our two
21 organizations, is the velocity of change.

22 We have the obligation to serve, not --
23 we have the obligation to communicate. We hear you.
24 But we have the obligation to serve. And it's just a
25 really tough place to be. But that's what we signed up

1 for, and we're willing to do it, and we're willing to
2 stay involved.

3 And we want to put -- we want to put --
4 you know, the whole thing about, "Why do we put all the
5 stuff on the website?"

6 Because we want to invite people in. We
7 think it's an exciting conversation to bring people in
8 and bring them in thoughtful and let them know what
9 they're spending money for and let them know how we're
10 making changes and let them know how much -- how much
11 we've done. But there's a ton of work to do, and we
12 agree with you on that.

13 Thank you very much. Thank you-all for
14 being here tonight. We know it's difficult and late.

15 I want to say, Diana: You've done an
16 excellent job at this facilitation. I am super
17 impressed. We're going to take some notes.

18 I'm going to be quiet. And thank you-all
19 again, and -- and -- and appreciate your efforts.

20 MS. D. LOPEZ: For sure.

21 Thank you-all for joining, everybody, on
22 this evening.

23 And if there's any -- anything else that
24 anybody has to say, I think that's -- that's it from me.
25 Thank y'all for putting up with me. And my task was to

1 time keep.

2 MS. D. BELMARES: Thank you so much.

3 MS. D. LOPEZ: Okay.

4 MS. P. GOLD-WILLIAMS: Thank you,
5 everyone.

6 MS. K. GARCIA: Thank you-all.

7 MS. D. BELMARES: Y'all have a good
8 evening. Be safe.

9 (Simultaneously speaking)

10 (Teleconference concluded at 7:30 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF TEXAS)

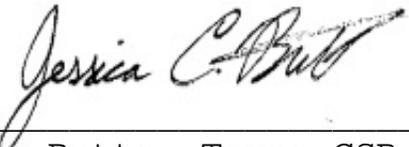
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3 I, Jessica C. Butts, Certified Shorthand
4 Reporter in and for the State of Texas, do hereby
5 certify that the foregoing contains a true and correct
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10 I further certify that I am neither
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