

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FILED

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A2112002

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ALBERTO ROSAS, presiding

Application of GTT Communications,)	STATUS
Inc., GC Pivotal, LLC (U7215), and)	CONFERENCE
GTT Americas, LLC (U6673C) for)	
Approval of Corporate Restructuring)	
under Public Utilities Code Section)	
854(a).)	
)	Application
)	21-12-002
)	
)	

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT
Telephonic Proceeding
September 21, 2022
Pages 1 - 36
Volume 1

Reported by: Karly Powers, CSR No. 13991

TELEPHONIC PROCEEDING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 - 1:35 P.M.

* * * * *

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ROSAS: We are on the record. The Commission will please come to order.

Good afternoon. It is Wednesday September 21st, 2022, and the time is approximately 1:36 p.m. This is a telephonic status conference in Application 21-12-002.

My name is Alberto Rosas. I am the Administrative Law Judge recently assigned to this proceeding. Commissioner Shiroma is the assigned Commissioner. Commissioner Shiroma could not attend today; but it is my understanding that one of her advisors, Joanna Perez-Green, may be present.

Our agenda for today is as follows:

Number one, first, we're going to get appearances from the parties on the record.

Number two, we will discuss the status of this proceeding.

And, lastly, number three, as a sort of catch-all, we may discuss any miscellaneous matters, at which point we will turn it over to the parties to hear any final questions, comments, or any procedural

1 concerns before we conclude this status
2 conference.

3 I would like to briefly remind the
4 parties that last week on Thursday,
5 September 15th, in an e-mail sent to the
6 entire service list, the Commission's Chief
7 Hearing Reporter provided some information on
8 how to request an expedited transcript of
9 today's status conference. The Chief Hearing
10 Reporter's e-mail included a form. Just a
11 reminder, if anyone would like to request an
12 expedited transcript, please fill out that
13 form and return it as soon as possible. If
14 you have any questions regarding Commission
15 transcripts, please send an e-mail to
16 reporting@cpuc.ca.gov.

17 Before we get started, I want to go
18 over some ground rules. This status
19 conference is being held telephonically. We
20 cannot see one another; and, more
21 importantly, the court reporter cannot see
22 who is speaking.

23 The court reporter has the very
24 difficult job of transcribing everything that
25 is said here today word for word. To ensure
26 a clear and accurate record, I would like to
27 remind everyone to please speak slowly, speak
28 clearly, and speak one at a time. Our court

1 reporters are extremely skilled and talented,
2 but they can only transcribe one person at a
3 time. So, again, please be considerate and
4 understanding and only speak one at a time.

5 The first time that you do speak,
6 please state your name, and spell your first
7 and last name for the record. Each and every
8 subsequent time that you speak, please
9 remember to identify yourself by restating
10 your name. I realize this is not something
11 that comes naturally. But this is especially
12 important, because we cannot see one another.
13 I'm going to try to do this myself; and I ask
14 that all of you do so, as well.

15 Also, it may be necessary for the
16 court reporter to interrupt speakers, if the
17 court reporter could not hear or understand a
18 speaker. If something is inaudible, the
19 court reporter may insert the word
20 "inaudible" in the transcript.

21 The telephonic audio generally works
22 best if you speak directly into your phone or
23 use a headset. And, lastly, to cut down on
24 any unnecessary background noise, please
25 remember to mute your phone when you are not
26 speaking.

27 Now, let's get started. The first
28 item on the agenda is appearances. Again,

1 please remember to state and spell your name.
2 And if there is a particular way that you
3 would like to be addressed, please let us
4 know.

5 Mr. Rosvall, let's start with you,
6 Counselor.

7 MR. ROSVALL: Good afternoon, your
8 Honor. My name is Patrick Rosvall
9 representing the applicants. My name is
10 spelled P-a-t-r-i-c-k, R-o-s-v-a-l-l.

11 And there are a couple other
12 individuals from the company. I could either
13 let them introduce themselves, or I could try
14 to summarize. Whatever your preference is,
15 your Honor.

16 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank
17 you, Mr. Rosvall. I'll leave that up to you
18 and your colleagues, however you want to
19 state your appearances.

20 MR. ROSVALL: I think it would make
21 sense for Ms. Malcom and Mr. Berry to
22 introduce themselves, just so you can hear
23 their voices, given the telephonic nature
24 here. So I think I'll turn it over to maybe
25 Ms. Malcom and then Mr. Berry.

26 MS. MALCOM: Yes. Thank you. Good
27 afternoon, your Honor. This is Lucy Malcom
28 from GTT; that's L-U-C-Y, M-a-l-c-o-m. And

1 I'm the VP of Legal here for the company.

2 And I appreciate you speaking with us today.

3 MR. BERRY: Good afternoon, your Honor.

4 My name is Matthew Berry; that's

5 M-a-t-t-h-e-w, B, as in "Boy," e-r-r-y. I am

6 at the Akin Gump Law Firm and represent the

7 applicants.

8 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank

9 you Ms. Malcom; thank you Mr. Berry.

10 Is there anyone else on the line who

11 would like state their appearances for the

12 record?

13 (No response.)

14 ALJ ROSAS: Hearing none, let's move on

15 to the next item on the agenda.

16 We've discussed the status of this

17 proceeding --

18 MR. ROSVALL: Your Honor, this is

19 Patrick Rosvall for the Applicants. I just

20 had a question. We heard a number of beeps

21 as we were joining the phone call. I

22 wondered if it would be possible for us to

23 just know who's on the line? You mentioned

24 that perhaps an advisor was on the line, and

25 it would just be good for us to know that, if

26 that's appropriate.

27 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank

28 you, Mr. Rosvall. These are public forums.

1 And anyone can come, any person as well. If
2 this was an in-person hearing, I would not
3 ask anyone in the audience to identify
4 themselves. It's not necessary for my
5 purposes; but thank you for the question.

6 Anything else before we move on,
7 Counselor?

8 MR. ROSVALL: No, your Honor.

9 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas.

10 I was reviewing the Applicant's
11 Motion for a Status Conference. As stated in
12 their motion, the parties pointed out the
13 fact that the Commission recently reassigned
14 this application from one ALJ to another. I
15 do want to point out, I do appreciate the
16 fact that the parties requested this status
17 conference following the case reassignment.
18 Now that we are all here for the status
19 conference, I do have a few items on any
20 checklist that I would like to go over.

21 But before doing so, is there
22 anything in particular that the parties would
23 like to discuss with me or bring to my
24 attention at this time?

25 MR. ROSVALL: Your Honor, this is
26 Patrick Rosvall for the Applicants. I think,
27 you know, we requested the status conference
28 for two reasons: One, was to get a sense for

1 the status, which I think you're probably
2 about to address; the other was to create a
3 forum to answer your questions, which it
4 sounds like is also on your agenda.

5 We would also like to, at least,
6 present some information to you about the
7 urgency of this matter and the timing of the
8 matter, which we could do at whatever
9 sequence is your preference. But Ms. Malcom
10 and Mr. Berry are here to address that topic,
11 in addition to others. So I think that was
12 the reason why we requested this status
13 conference.

14 And I will say, for the Applicants,
15 we certainly appreciate the position that
16 you're in, your Honor, as being new to the
17 case. And we wanted to create the
18 possibility that we could efficiently address
19 any matters that you may have to move things
20 forward. So I think those -- that was the
21 overview of our purpose here. And we're
22 happy to elaborate upon any of that and would
23 look forward to doing so.

24 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank
25 you, Counselor. I am somewhat familiar with
26 the urgency. I believe that the motion for
27 status conference did reference the urgency
28 of the matter. I have not reviewed any of

1 the information that was filed regarding the
2 noticed ex-parte communications. But judging
3 from the amounts, I do assume that that just
4 lends itself towards the urgency of the
5 matter. But if it works for you, I would
6 love to hear more details and information
7 about the urgency of the matter. That would
8 be very helpful at this time.

9 MR. ROSVALL: Great. Patrick Rosvall,
10 again, for the Applicants. I'll say a few
11 words, and then I'll turn it over to Ms.
12 Malcom, who I think is in the best position
13 to speak to this for the company. You know,
14 I think -- I won't reiterate, kind of, the
15 basics of this proceeding, which I'm sure
16 you're familiar with, in too much detail.

17 But, it's been pending since
18 December. This is a matter that relates to a
19 transfer of control coming out of a
20 bankruptcy, and so there are many other
21 jurisdictions, many other approvals that have
22 been obtained, in fact, in every domestic
23 jurisdiction to this point.

24 The concern is that, you know, this
25 is one remaining piece of a
26 multi-jurisdictional event and is now the --
27 as we understand it, the only obstacle that
28 will prevent the company from emerging

1 consistent with the plan of reorganization
2 approved by the bankruptcy court. And so,
3 the concern that we have, I think to put it
4 pointedly, is that there's a concern that
5 this coalition of creditors in the company
6 will become tenuous if we get too far into --
7 past October, or even if this is not possible
8 in October. This has been planned for quite
9 some time. And the entire structure is set
10 up so that we can emerge no later than the
11 end of October. And I'm aware of how
12 difficult that is, given the Commission's
13 current schedule. But there are a lot of
14 compelling reasons why this will be good for
15 the company, good for California consumers,
16 and important that it happen within that
17 timeframe.

18 So, that's an overview. I do think
19 it would be best to hear it directly from the
20 company. So I would like to turn it over to
21 Ms. Malcom, if I could.

22 MS. MALCOM: Thank you, Patrick. And
23 this is Lucy Malcom from GTT. Thank you,
24 your Honor for taking time to speak with us.
25 As Patrick said, I'm speaking here on behalf
26 of the company and the Applicants just to
27 provide a little more context to our filing,
28 why we asked for this conference, and I hope

1 that we can answer any questions that you
2 have.

3 So to pull back broadly, GTT
4 Communications, Inc. is a global provider of
5 network (inaudible) services (inaudible)
6 focus on serving enterprise customers. And,
7 of course, the reason we're here today is
8 because on Halloween last year, October 31st,
9 2021, GTT filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy
10 with the goal of significantly reducing its
11 debt load. And so in the months leading up
12 to the filing last year, the company worked
13 closely with these different groups of
14 creditors to develop the prepackaged plan of
15 reorganization. And under this plan, GTT's
16 current creditors will become its new
17 shareholders.

18 I'll note, at this point, none of
19 these new shareholders will be controlling.
20 And we've provided, in filing, some
21 information about those shareholders.

22 So, as Patrick noted, the plan of
23 reorganization was approved by the bankruptcy
24 court over eight months ago on December 16,
25 2021. And, at this point, as Patrick Rosvall
26 also said, we're really looking at California
27 as the last piece of a multi-jurisdictional
28 puzzle of regulatory approvals that will

1 allow the company to emerge from bankruptcy
2 as soon as possible. And it's urgent for,
3 sort of, two separate, but closely related
4 reasons.

5 The first is that it is hugely
6 expensive and disruptive for our business for
7 GTT to remain in bankruptcy. In terms of
8 expense, we have additional administrative
9 fees and expenses as a result of our
10 bankruptcy. The current estimate is that
11 we're paying about \$5 million a month in
12 administrative fees each month that we remain
13 in bankruptcy. And that's just because of
14 the number of lawyers and advisors doing work
15 for us and kind of keeping the machinery of
16 the bankruptcy going. But it's a huge amount
17 of money for the company.

18 We're also incurring additional,
19 kind of, interest payments and insurance
20 payments on our current debt. So, again, the
21 purpose of this bankruptcy is to restructure
22 our debt. But until we emerge, we're still
23 holding onto that debt. And interest is
24 accruing on it. So every, kind of, day,
25 week, month that we remain in bankruptcy, it
26 is expensive for the company. And we'll have
27 -- once we emerge, we'll have access to
28 additional credit; it's just not available to

1 us now.

2 It's also hugely disruptive to the
3 business. We're trying as much as we can to
4 try to operate business as usual right now
5 during Chapter 11. But we're at a huge
6 Competitive disadvantage as a result of the
7 bankruptcy. You know, for obvious reasons
8 clients are sometimes uncertain about
9 choosing us. There are also some projects
10 that we can't even bid for because we're in
11 Chapter 11. So our business is suffering.

12 Relatedly, you know, there are
13 staffing challenges. It's hard to keep
14 personnel. It's hard to attract new
15 personnel. We're just kind of fighting a lot
16 of uphill battles here. And we can't
17 implement any long-term strategic initiatives
18 or move towards growth while we remain in
19 bankruptcy.

20 And you know, again, we've been
21 talking about the time. But given the
22 expense and the disruptiveness and the fact
23 that this reorganization plan that we came to
24 with our creditors, it really depended on a
25 lot of factors. And, at this point, we've
26 been in bankruptcy for so long that further
27 delay could really, I think, impale our
28 entire restructuring plan. GTT -- you know,

1 the world today is different than it was a
2 year ago. We've got -- market conditions are
3 changing; there's a huge amount of inflation;
4 there's the Russia-Ukraine conflict causing
5 uncertainty; we've got currency fluctuations
6 that are very relevant to us, because they
7 affect our revenue as a global company, and
8 our rev recovery plan gets weaker.

9 And to the extent that we have to
10 renegotiate this plan, (inaudible) a
11 (inaudible) group of creditors; the first
12 plan we came up with left many people
13 unhappy, as a good plan does. And it's just
14 -- it -- it's worrying to me to think about,
15 kind of, having to go back to the drawing
16 board and come up with a new plan. So we do
17 appreciate that this case is relatively new
18 to your docket and, you know, understand that
19 that's a big responsibility for you to make
20 sure you have the time you need to review the
21 case thoroughly.

22 But I just wanted to, kind of,
23 explain in a little more detail and provide
24 more color around why we are, you know,
25 pressing this issue quite so hard, placing
26 (inaudible) calls for meetings, being a minor
27 thorn in your side, I'm afraid. But it's
28 really because this is just so important for

1 us. And we also want to do whatever we can
2 to help you. And, you know, if we can answer
3 questions today, we will. And if there are
4 things we need to go back and provide to you,
5 you know, to look up and provide to you,
6 we'll do that as soon as we possibly can.

7 So, thank you again for taking the
8 time to speak with us. And I'm happy to
9 answer any questions you may have.

10 MR. ROSVALL: So, your Honor, this is
11 Patrick Rosvall again for the Applicants. I
12 did want Mr. Berry to have a chance, if there
13 was anything he would like to elaborate on.
14 But I don't want to cut off questions that
15 you have may have. So I'll defer to you on
16 how to proceed.

17 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas.

18 Thank you, Mr. Rosvall. Thank you,
19 Ms. Malcom. I was not going to chime in. I
20 was going to wait for Mr. Berry to add a few
21 words, if he so wished.

22 MR. BERRY: Your Honor, this is Matthew
23 Berry. I think I can be brief, in light of
24 what both of my colleagues have said.

25 The main points that I just wanted
26 to stress was that the -- was that the
27 applicants have successfully obtained a--
28 regulatory approvals in all states where that

1 is required. And at the Federal level, the
2 Applicants obtained the approval of the
3 Federal Communications Commission on
4 August 2nd, 2022. So, as my colleagues said,
5 we have the bankruptcy court approval; we
6 have the approvals for the states and from
7 the federal government. And the missing
8 piece of the puzzle here, in the United
9 States, is the approval of the California
10 Commission. So I just wanted to amplify on
11 that point that had been made. But,
12 otherwise, I think we can move on to any
13 questions you might have.

14 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank
15 you, Mr. Berry. And, once again, thank you,
16 Mr. Rosvall and Ms. Malcom. I do appreciate
17 that global summary. I find it quite
18 helpful.

19 I do have a few items on my
20 checklist that I would like to discuss at
21 this time. If, by any chance, we don't cover
22 some of the other points that you were hoping
23 to perhaps address, then we can address them
24 towards the tail end of this status
25 conference as part of that catch-all agenda
26 item that was discussed.

27 On my notes for this status
28 conference, a few of the things that I wanted

1 to discuss or ask about are, what -- I will
2 go ahead and just list them upfront. And
3 then we will go into detail as we discuss
4 each item one by one. So the things I wanted
5 to discuss are:

6 Requests for expedited schedule;

7 I also wanted to discuss
8 confidential filings;

9 Mr. Berry mentioned the FCC
10 approval. I would like to talk a little bit
11 about the FCC approval;

12 I would also like to discuss a
13 suggestion that may help move this proceeding
14 along;

15 And, lastly, I will ask about any
16 pending motions that may need to be
17 addressed.

18 I do plan to make several requests
19 for information during today's status
20 conference. And to make things easier for
21 the Applicants, and to keep us all on the
22 same page so to speak, please know that I do
23 intend to issue a ruling after hearing, which
24 essentially summarize any rulings that I may
25 issue today.

26 So, as mentioned, the first item I
27 wanted to talk about is expedited schedule.
28 Again, I'm sorry; but I'm not very familiar

1 with this proceeding. It was assigned to me
2 last month, and I am just now starting to
3 review it. So I do appreciate the parties
4 requesting this status conference, as I
5 indicated earlier.

6 Now, with my late arrival on the
7 scene, I am confused about one thing --
8 because I do understand the urgency that has
9 been discussed. And in the motion for status
10 for conference, the Applicants did describe
11 it as a growing urgency. I understand that.

12 Now, part of the question -- perhaps
13 I should know that -- but, again, I'm late to
14 the scene trying to get up to speed. But my
15 question is: Based on all of these urgencies
16 involved, when the parties submitted their
17 application last year, December 2021, did the
18 Applicants also submit a request for an
19 expedited schedule under Rule 2.9 of the
20 Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure?

21 MR. ROSVALL: No, your Honor, we did
22 not. And I can elaborate -- this is Patrick
23 Rosvall for the Applicants. I mean, in my
24 experience, that's something that would
25 typically be in a wildfire-type proceeding.
26 I realize the rule is broader than that.
27 But, no, that request was not made. And, you
28 know, it -- based on our experience, it has

1 been common for these proceeding, 854
2 applications, to be resolved in a timeframe
3 that wouldn't have required that. So I think
4 that's a brief description of why that wasn't
5 done.

6 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank
7 you, Counselor. I just wanted to make sure I
8 wasn't missing anything on my end. And I
9 wanted to double check to make sure that we
10 are indeed dealing with the 18-month
11 statutory deadline as opposed to the 12-month
12 under Rule 2.9(F), that's 2.9 Foxtrot.

13 So let's move on. The next thing I
14 wanted to discuss is -- let me look at my
15 notes here -- confidential filings. I
16 realize the Applicants filed confidential
17 documents under seal, including some
18 confidential financial information. And I
19 believe I'm referring to Exhibit F, Exhibit
20 Foxtrot, which was attached to the
21 application.

22 Following the case reassignment,
23 there have been some internal administrative
24 delays. I have not yet been able to get my
25 hands on the confidential financial
26 information. I do not have that confidential
27 Exhibit Foxtrot. It may be faster, and more
28 efficient, if the Applicants can simply

1 provide me with a courtesy copy of all prior
2 confidential filings under seal. The
3 Applicants can either send me electronic
4 copies using the Commission's Kiteworks
5 system or, alternatively, by mailing hard
6 copies to the address listed for me on the
7 official service list. But I would find
8 those courtesy copies very helpful.

9 And to keep things simple, we will
10 set a 30-day deadline. But, of course,
11 because of the party's interest in moving
12 this along, you're always free to submit
13 anything sooner rather than later. But just
14 to keep things orderly on my end, I'm just
15 going to go ahead and set a 30-day deadline
16 for those courtesy copies.

17 Any questions before we move on?

18 MR. ROSVALL: No, your Honor. This is
19 Patrick Rosvall for the Applicants. We will
20 take care of that, probably through both
21 mechanisms you've identified. And I don't
22 believe there's anything confidential, other
23 than the attachment that you mentioned. So
24 we'll check for sure, but I believe it's just
25 that one item.

26 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank
27 you, Mr. Rosvall.

28 Next, let's move on. I indicated I

1 wanted to talk briefly about the FCC
2 approval. The Motion for Status Conference
3 did reference the Federal Communications
4 Commission's approval of the Applicant's plan
5 of reorganization consistent with a
6 Chapter 11 restructuring. And in looking at
7 my notes here, I believe Mr. Berry also
8 briefly discussed the FCC approval last
9 month.

10 Perhaps I missed it, but I'm looking
11 at the Docket Card now. Did the Applicants
12 ever provide the Commission with copies of
13 that FCC approval?

14 MR. ROSVALL: I don't believe so, your
15 Honor. We've alluded to it in various
16 ex-parte filings. But we can certainly
17 provide it.

18 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. And I
19 assume the person who was just speaking was
20 Mr. Rosvall?

21 MR. ROSVALL: Correct, your Honor. My
22 apologies.

23 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. No
24 worries, Counselor. Thank you.

25 In that case, we would like to
26 request that you please provide copies of
27 that FCC approval. And while you're at it,
28 please provide copies of any orders, rulings,

1 requests for information, et cetera, anything
2 which the FCC may have issued regarding the
3 transaction at issue. And, again, just for
4 purposes of the consistency, again, we will
5 set a 30-day deadline. But the Applicants
6 can provide the FCC documentation sooner, if
7 possible.

8 Any questions before we move on?

9 MR. ROSVALL: Your Honor, this is
10 Patrick Rosvall for the Applicants. I did
11 want to invite Mr. Berry to jump in here in
12 case the second part of your question about
13 the FCC is unclear, items that the FCC may
14 have relied upon, and so forth. I -- there
15 may be a need for clarity there. The order
16 itself, I think, is clear.

17 But, Mr. Berry, does that directive
18 require some further clarification?

19 MR. BERRY: Yes, your Honor. This is
20 Matthew Berry. I just wanted to ask whether
21 you would like us to submit the public notice
22 that was issued by the Commission, where they
23 accepted our application for filing and set
24 the comment cycle that the Commission had for
25 our application? That would be the other
26 thing other than that actual decision that
27 the Commission actually issued in the
28 proceeding.

1 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank
2 you, Mr. Berry. And, let me clarify, the
3 items that would be helpful would include
4 that notice. Essentially, it's anything that
5 the FCC released. To be clear, I do not need
6 copies of everything that you submitted to
7 the Federal Communications Commission.
8 Rather, just anything that the FCC issued
9 out, including that final order of approval,
10 including any notices, any other interim
11 rulings and orders. I hope that was clear on
12 my end.

13 MR. BERRY: Thank you, your Honor.
14 This is Matthew Berry.

15 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank
16 you, Mr. Berry.

17 And any other questions before we
18 move on?

19 (No response.)

20 ALJ ROSAS: In that case, I do want to
21 discuss a possible suggestion for a potential
22 solution that may help move this proceeding
23 along. In a moment, I'm going to ask to hear
24 from the Applicants. But, first, I just want
25 to get my thoughts in order and say a few
26 things.

27 So in the Motion for Status
28 Conference, the Applicants described the

1 growing urgency surrounding the Applicant's
2 emergence from bankruptcy. In that motion,
3 the Applicants also describe a willingness to
4 provide additional information necessary to
5 move this proceeding along. And I believe it
6 was Ms. Malcom who earlier mentioned wanting
7 to do everything they can to help me.

8 I appreciate that. And given the
9 fact of this proceeding -- given the fact
10 that this proceeding was designated as
11 ratemaking, that gives us a statutory
12 deadline to June 2023. But don't be alarmed;
13 although this statutory deadline exists, I
14 don't foresee any reason why it should take
15 that long, even with my late assignment to
16 the proceeding.

17 However, as has been pointed out, I
18 am new to the proceeding. Before today's
19 status conference I had not had an ample
20 opportunity to review this proceeding. And
21 before I can even begin work on drafting a
22 proposed decision, I would need to review the
23 application, all of the filings and
24 pleadings. And I will note that the
25 application itself, with all of its
26 attachments and exhibits, consists of more
27 than 1,700 pages. So by the very nature of
28 everything I've discussed, my recent

1 reassignment, the volume of pangs, et cetera,
2 it will take me quite some time to review
3 materials in this proceeding.

4 I would like to suggest a possible
5 solution that may help move this along.
6 Essentially, in putting on my problem-solvers
7 hat and trying to think of a potential
8 solution, the one that comes to mind is to
9 ask the Applicants to submit a brief in this
10 case. Per the assigned Commissioner's
11 scoping memo and ruling, there are three
12 issues to be determined or, otherwise,
13 considered. My suggestion -- again, this is
14 not a ruling I'm going to make. I'm just
15 discussing this and would like to hear from
16 the parties. But my suggestion is that the
17 parties fully brief those three issues.

18 And I realize that much of that
19 brief may consist of the Applicant's
20 essentially cutting and pasting from the
21 application, from the amendment to the
22 application, and from the numerous other
23 pleadings that have been filed in this
24 proceeding. And that is fine. Even if the
25 brief is merely a single, go-to resource of
26 all prior filings, that would still be very
27 helpful for me. But, more importantly, one
28 thing that would also be extremely helpful,

1 is for the Applicants to cite to relevant
2 exhibits from the application or to cite to
3 prior exhibits attached to pleadings
4 previously filed in this proceeding.

5 For example -- obviously, I don't
6 need to tell you this -- you can cite to the
7 attachment to the application. You can cite
8 to documents regarding the bankruptcy filing.
9 You can cite to the FCC approval that we've
10 just discussed, and so on and so forth.

11 But -- but -- I cannot emphasize
12 this enough -- when citing to exhibits,
13 please be specific. Please don't just
14 provide a cite to an exhibit letter. After
15 all, some of these exhibit are hundreds of
16 the pages long. So please include cites to
17 specific page numbers. When in doubt, spell
18 it out.

19 In express of interest in making
20 things easy for me, because this -- and what
21 I just proposed to you, this potential
22 solution will definitely help me as I try to
23 help you move this proceeding along. That's
24 it for me. My apologies for the
25 long-windedness. But I really wanted to
26 explain my thoughts around this potential
27 solution.

28 Now I would like to hear from the

1 Applicants about the solution that I just
2 suggested.

3 MR. ROSVALL: Your Honor, this is
4 Patrick Rosvall from the Applicants. We very
5 much appreciate the conundrum that is
6 presented here. We relish the opportunity to
7 provide a brief.

8 I will respond briefly to one thing
9 that you said, which is that the application
10 is very long because it contains bankruptcy
11 documents. Those were attached mostly as a
12 reference and for completeness. I think the
13 issues are much simpler. And, in a brief, we
14 could break that down for you with
15 appropriate references.

16 I think we would appreciate and
17 embrace the opportunity to do that. And if
18 you would like to pursue that, which we
19 certainly support, we would submit that as
20 soon as possible, I imagine sooner than any
21 timeframe you would identify.

22 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank
23 you, Counselor.

24 Before I respond, does Ms. Malcom or
25 Mr. Berry wish to add anything?

26 MS. MALCOM: Hi, your Honor --

27 MR. BERRY: This is Math- --

28 MS. MALCOM: This is Lucy Malcom from

1 GTT. And I would just echo Patrick to say
2 that we would be delighted to submit a brief,
3 and we appreciate you making that suggestion.

4 MR. BERRY: That is Matthew Berry. I
5 echo my colleagues' views and definitely
6 favor allowing us to submit a brief.

7 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank
8 you, Mr. Rosvall, Ms. Malcom, Mr. Berry. I'm
9 glad that everyone is on the same page. And
10 I'm glad that the response to my proposed
11 solution has been well received.

12 Mr. Rosvall, your reputation
13 proceeds you. I think you're very familiar
14 with our practice. So you know what I need
15 to make a well-informed decision. So the
16 better that you and your colleagues can meet
17 in packaging everything by having a -- I'm
18 sorry -- by having a go-to resource, a single
19 brief, that will be extremely helpful. So I
20 do appreciate that information.

21 Now, to keep things simple and
22 consistent, we will set a 30-day deadline for
23 the Applicants to file and serve the
24 additional briefing. But, of course, as
25 mentioned before, the applicants do have an
26 interest in moving this along. They can
27 always file and serve the brief as soon as
28 possible and before the 30-day deadline.

1 MR. ROSVALL: Your Honor, this is
2 Patrick Rosvall. We appreciate that very
3 much.

4 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank
5 you, Counselor.

6 And I did want to point out that the
7 Applicant's additional briefing should
8 perhaps be titled "Additional Briefing and
9 Response to Administrative Law Judge
10 Inquiry." Otherwise, there's a possibility
11 that a new protest period may be triggered.
12 And I will go ahead and spell all of this out
13 in my ruling after hearing.

14 Again, thank you for the consensus
15 regarding this potential solution. I think
16 it would help everyone stay on pace to
17 resolving this sooner rather than later.

18 Any questions before we move on?

19 MR. ROSVALL: I don't think so, your
20 Honor. And I appreciate -- this is Patrick
21 Rosvall for the Applicants. I appreciate you
22 clarifying that it would be a response to a
23 ruling. I think it helps keep it procedural
24 in nature and avoids any issue with the
25 Docket Office; so we appreciate that.

26 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank
27 you, Mr. Rosvall. And I appreciate you
28 appreciating it.

1 Lastly, I wanted to ask about any
2 pending motions that may need to be
3 addressed. I know there were some motions
4 that were filed. My understanding is that my
5 predecessor may have already responded to all
6 of those. And, again, I'm trying to get up
7 to speeds. I'm not sure; but I want to make
8 sure nothing falls through the cracks.

9 So can you briefly tell me what
10 motions may still be pending, if any?

11 MR. ROSVALL: Your Honor, I believe
12 there have only been three motions. This is
13 Patrick Rosvall for Applicants. I believe
14 there have only been three motions in this
15 proceeding.

16 The first one was the motion to
17 seal, that you mentioned, that accompanied
18 the application. The second one was a motion
19 to supplement the record, which was a
20 presentation responding directly to an issue
21 about environmental and social justice in the
22 scoping memo. That was an efficient way to
23 present that information. And then the third
24 one is the motion that led to this status
25 conference.

26 So, I guess, we could go back -- and
27 I will do this in my e-mails to make --
28 determine whether or not those motions were

1 granted by e-mail. My recollection is that
2 none of them were granted except, of course,
3 the motion leading to this status conference,
4 which was granted by virtue of the notice
5 setting the conference. So I -- I can double
6 check that, and I can even do so while we're
7 here right now, as to whether or not there
8 was an e-mail ruling. I don't believe the
9 docket reflects rulings on either of those
10 two other motions.

11 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank
12 you, Mr. Rosvall. That won't be necessary at
13 this time. Perhaps, in that additional
14 brief, you can include a section that just
15 talks about any pending motions that need to
16 be addressed. And the reason I ask, I wasn't
17 sure if anything had been addressed via an
18 e-mail ruling and perhaps had not made it,
19 for whatever reason, into the Docket Card.
20 So I just wanted to make sure we're all on
21 the same page. But thank you for that, Mr.
22 Rosvall.

23 In that case, I want to make sure
24 I've covered everything on my end that I
25 wanted to discuss. And I believe I have. So
26 our final agenda item is a discussion of any
27 miscellaneous matters. I would like to turn
28 it over to the parties to hear any final

1 questions comments or procedural concerns
2 before we conclude the status conference.

3 MR. ROSVALL: Your Honor, this is
4 Patrick Rosvall for the Applicants. I have
5 one statement and then, I guess, one
6 question.

7 The statement is to reiterate
8 something we've said to your predecessor and
9 to the assigned office. When we get to the
10 point of a proposed decision or agenda
11 decision, it's our intention, assuming that
12 the proposed decision or agenda decision
13 grants, substantially, the relief requested,
14 it would be our intention to waive the
15 comment period for the purpose of allowing it
16 to find its way to a Commission agenda more
17 efficiently. So that remains our intention.
18 And that can cut, in fact, 20 days out of
19 what would otherwise be a 30-day period. So
20 we wanted to say that directly to you, as
21 well as doing our part to try to speed things
22 up. So that was my comment.

23 The question, I would just be remiss
24 if I didn't ask this, understanding that
25 you've just presented us with many vehicles
26 to move things forward, and understanding the
27 18-month period you mentioned and the other
28 comments that you've made about that, do you

1 have any estimate, assuming we provide a
2 brief efficiently, as to when you think you
3 might be able to prepare a proposed decision?
4 I feel like I should ask the question and
5 would be interested in your response.

6 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank
7 you, Mr. Rosvall.

8 First, let me address your comment.
9 I do appreciate that. And considering this
10 is an uncontested matter, I did assume that
11 if the PD ends up granting the relief
12 requested, that the comment period will be
13 waived. But thank you for voicing that on
14 the record. It's good to know.

15 In terms of your question, I do not
16 fault you for asking. If I were in your
17 shoes, I would ask the same thing.
18 Unfortunately, I'm not at liberty to discuss
19 that at this time. Rest assured, that based
20 on the totality of the circumstances and
21 everything that's been discussed, we are
22 moving to resolve this matter in due course.
23 And based on the proposed solution that was
24 on the table and accepted, I do believe that
25 this would definitely be resolved sooner
26 rather than later, even given the late stage
27 in which I was brought in as a result of the
28 reassignment.

1 MR. ROSVALL: Thank you, your Honor.
2 That's much appreciated. And I certainly
3 understand what you just said. Patrick
4 Rosvall for Applicants.

5 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. Thank
6 you, Counselor.

7 Anything else from you, Mr. Rosvall,
8 from you Ms. Malcom, or from you Mr. Berry,
9 before we concludes today's status
10 conference?

11 MR. ROSVALL: Your Honor, Patrick
12 Rosvall for Applicants. I believe that we
13 are -- we've said what we need to say. And I
14 appreciate your time. But I will give one
15 more chance to Ms. Malcom and Mr. Berry.

16 MS. MALCOM: This is Lucy Malcom.
17 Nothing further from me. Thank you again,
18 Judge.

19 MR. BERRY: This is Matthew Berry.
20 Nothing further, your Honor. We just
21 appreciate your thoughtfulness and engagement
22 with trying to find a solution to move this
23 forward.

24 ALJ ROSAS: This is Judge Rosas. I do
25 want to thank everyone for participating here
26 today. I would also like to thank our court
27 reporter and the Commission staff who helped
28 put this remote status conference together.

1 Thank you. Stay safe. Stay
2 healthy. We are now adjourned and off the
3 record. Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, at the hour of 2:20
5 p.m., this matter having been
6 concluded, the Commission then
7 adjourned.)

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING

I, KARLY POWERS, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
NO. 13991, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO
HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT
PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT
TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN
THIS MATTER ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2022.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE
EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.

EXECUTED THIS SEPTEMBER 28, 2022.


KARLY POWERS
CSR NO. #13991

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