June 2	20, 2024		NP 2025-2026 GRA
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1	CHAIR:	1	Booth.
2	Q. Good morning everyone. No preliminary	2	DR. BOOTH:
3	matters, Ms. Gynn?	3	A. I apologize to members of the panel simply
4	MS. GLYNN:	4	because I was trying to get through these
5	Q. We do have two preliminary matters, Mr.	5	last few slides to get a break in my
6	Chair. Newfoundland Power did file a	6	presentation and I understand it was a bit
7	response to Undertaking 6. We just had some	7	confusing. So I was talking about the state
8	discussion that that undertaking will be	8	of economy and there's a whole bunch of
9	revised to also include the bar graph of	9	measures that we look at for the state of
10	Figure 1 and update that. And we do have	10	the economy. One is what we call credit
11	Figure 1 in the rebuttal evidence of Mr.	11	spreads, the difference between the A bond
12	Coyne, yes, and we do have a second	12	yield and the Government of Canada bond
13	preliminary matter that Ms. Greene would	13	yield, when we get into recession or a fear
14	like to request another undertaking.	14	of recession, people dump risky securities
15	GREENE, KC:	15	and they buy Government of Canada
16	Q. Good morning, Mr. Chair, Commissioners. We	16	securities, and as a result, that spread
17	had discussed this earlier in the week with	17	increases. So if you look at the spreads,
18	counsel for Newfoundland Power, but we would		you can see the 1980's crash, you can see
19	like to place the undertaking on the record.	19	the severe crisis in the 1990s when Trible-
20	What we would like Newfoundland Power to	20	Bs particularly were very high. You can see
21	file is the history of the Hay points for	21	the Asian crisis of 1997, you can see the
22	each executive position at Newfoundland	22	2002 tec rec, you can see the serious
23	Power, starting with the Hay point as	23	problems during the US financial crisis and
24	reflected in the Hay Report dated March 18th,	24	you can see the impact of COVID. So this is
25	2016 that was filed in the 2016 General Rate	25	a measure that we look at and right now the
	Page 2		Page 4
1	Application. The historical record should	1	credit spreads are higher than they were in
2	show the change in points from each position	2	the '90s, but they are consistent with where
3	from the date of that report to present,	3	they've been for the last ten years, no
4	explaining the reasons and the rationale for	4	indication of any serious problem accessing
5	the change. As well, the history should	5	the A bond market, which is the market which
6	show the salary range for each executive	6	most utilities access in Canada.
7	position that shows a salary range in effect	7	The Bank of Canada also surveys loan
8	at the time for each change in Hay points.	8	offices to say, well what are you doing in
9	So that is the undertaking.	9	terms of lending, are you adjusting the term
10	MR. O'BRIEN:	10	of your loan or the fees you charge because
11	Q. That's accepted, we'll do it.	11	of a crisis, and this is the Bank of Canada
12	MS. GLYNN:	12	survey and senior loan officers in Canada.
13	Q. And that will be Undertaking No. 7.	13	And again you can see the financial crisis
14	CHAIR:	14	when you go into recession, loan officers
15	Q. So we're ready to go?	15	get nervous and they increase fees and they
16	MS. GLYNN:	16	reduce the term of the loan, exactly the
17	Q. We are ready to proceed.	17	same as in the bond market. Right now, we
18	CHAIR:	18	have a little bit, at the end of last year
19	Q. Okay, back to you, Mr. Coffey.	19	where loan officers were increasing charges
20	COFFEY, KC:	20	a little bit, but nothing untowards and
21	Q. Members of the Board, I gather now technical	21	nothing significantly different from 2016.
22	arrangements have been made and Dr. Booth	22	We also look at equity market indicators,
23	has control of the slides, so he'll be able	23	the volatility index. We actually have
24	to flick through them okay. We're back, you	24	securities that allows us to work out what
25	had long-term credit spreads, go ahead, Dr.	25	volatility the equity market is implying.

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1	In the long-run, the equity market has	1	rate and the risk premium. Investors don't
2	annual volatility of about 20 percent.	2	like risk. They prefer a certain cashflow
3	Right now, equity markets have low	3	in a year's time than a roulette wheel on
4	volatility and that goes tan and tandem with	4	certain cashflow. So those are the two
5	the strong equity markets we've had for the	5	basic measures captured by the CAPM.
6	last several years. And again, you can see	6	The third one is the tax value of
7	the spike in volatility during the COVID and	7	money. In Canada you prefer dividends to
8	the spike in volatility during the US	8	interest because dividends are favourably
9	financial crisis. And during those periods,	9	taxed at the individual level.
10	risk premiums go up because the volatility	10	(9:15 a.m.)
11	goes up, fear goes up. In fact, the	11	So when I talk to my students, I
12	volatility index is often called the fear	12	always tell them never forget the three iron
13	index.	13	rules of finance: time valued money, risk
14	And finally, now they are indicators,	14	valued money, tax valued money. And the
15	the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank puts	15	CAPM captures two of those. Primary
16	together a financial stress index called the	16	reliance by the National Energy Board in
17	Kansas City Financial Stress Index and this	17	2008, RH1 2008, prime realized by the Regie
18	became popular about 20 years ago to try and	18	and in answers to information requests, I
19	encapsulate all of these market measures	19	gave thethis Board in 2009 the decision
20	into one measure that we can look at. So	20	was entirely a cap asset pricing model
21	this is the Kansas City Financial Stress	21	decision. The New Brunswick board in their
22	Index. When the number is below zero, it	22	decision, the Liberty, the former Enbridge
23	indicates the overall easy financial market	23	gas New Brunswick was entirely a capital
24	conditions, the banks are in good shapes,	24	asset pricing model decision. There's no
25	they're lending, credit spreads are normal,	25	question that it's the premium model.
1	they be remained, eround aproduce and merman,		question that it is the promised include.
	Daga 6		Daga Q
1	Page 6	1	Page 8 Academically this is a survey Mr. Covne
1 2	volatility is normal and again, we can see	1	Academically, this is a survey, Mr. Coyne
2	volatility is normal and again, we can see the impact of early 2000s, the tech rec	2	Academically, this is a survey, Mr. Coyne takes exception of this because he says well
2 3	volatility is normal and again, we can see the impact of early 2000s, the tech rec Internet bubble, the US financial crisis,	2 3	Academically, this is a survey, Mr. Coyne takes exception of this because he says well it's primarily for capital budgeting.
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1	terms of importance by major CFOs. Investor	1	talk about, and it doesn't work and they
2	expectations, what do people want. And the	2	torture the model to try and make it work
3	only way you get those investor expectations	3	because they believe in models. There was a
4	is by asking them, doing a survey. And then	4	discussion yesterday about judgment, finance
5	regulatory decisions, so if you believe in	5	models, I argue and have been saying for
6	multiple uses of sources of information,	6	years, they're a restraint on judgment.
7	these are the major sources of information	7	They are not a substitute for judgment. You
8	that people can look at when they make	8	put the estimates into an equation and it
9	estimates on the fair rate of return. And I	9	constrains what you can do so that you can't
10	also provide a Canadian article, so in terms	10	produce outlandish estimates. But nobody in
11	of the average historical rates of return,	11	finance, except in a certain area of the
12	this is the average rates going back to	12	derivative market, is slavishly attached to
13	1926. I actually also provide the Canadian	13	models. If I was slavishly attached to the
14	evidence going back to 1922, but most of the	14	empirical estimates in Canada, I'd be using
15	US evidence is based from 1926 because it's	15	a market risk premium under 5 percent. I
16	based upon data put together by a couple of	16	don't do that. If I was slavishly looking
17	Chicago professors and then taken over by	17	in the United States using the US data, I'd
18	Duff and Phelps and now used by Kroll. No	18	be using a market risk premium of 6.6
19	question the risk premium is higher in the	19	percent. I don't do that. You look at
20	United States than it is in Canada. Why?	20	±
20 21		20	other things. As the survey, as the work on the capital asset pricing model indicated,
	Because the US is the great winner in the	21 22	1 0
22	global capital markets and as a result, the		it was the best model indicates, you look at
23	experienced equity returns in the US,	23	expectations. This is what Fernandez does,
24	particular the S&P 500, exceed the equity	24	he surveys well over a thousand people in
25	returns almost anywhere else. On the other	25	the United States and they report back. Now
	Page 10		Page 12
1	hand, Canada has traditionally had problems	1	this is survey work. There are biases in
2	accessing debt and bond yields in Canada	2	survey work, but he's been doing this for
3	have been higher up until the government	3	the last ten years and consistently. The
4	sold its financial problems when in the	4	market risk premium is between 5 and 6
5	Liberal government, in the early 1990s when	5	percent. This is what professionals say and
6	they slashed government spending by 20	6	these are people that, they get this,
7	percent across the boarder, we moved into	7	they're professionals, they're either people
8	surplus since then.	8	working in investments banks, they're
9	Our interest rates have been	9	working in corporate finance in a finance
10	significantly lower than those in the United	10	function, they're professors of finance and
11	States, so I don't take the historic data.	11	this is what they say. Of course, there are
12	I look at the historic data and I tell my	12	extremes, somebody answers this response and
13	students, well first of all I tell my	13	they give a ridiculous number, but we look
14	students, engineers are a real problem and I	14	at the median, the middle number, and that's
15	don't know whether any members of the Board	15	5.56 percent, something like that.
16	are engineers, but engineers believe models,	16	We then look at people who are
17	their models tell you what to do with a	17	actually professionals in this area selling
18	house and the house doesn't fall down. They	18	their service and Mr. Coyne says it uses the
19	tell you what to do with a bridge and with	19	Duff and Phelps, so now the Kroll data. He
20	luck, the bridge doesn't fall down. They	20	doesn't say what the Kroll estimate of the
21	tell you want to do with a damn and	21	market risk premium is. This was at a time
22	hopefully the damn works, but that's what	22	in my testimony where Kroll used 5.5 percent
23	engineers do. They believe in models and	23	over an adjusted risk-free rate of 3.5
24	then they come to a finance class and they	24	percent. That's exactly what I do and I
			-
25	take the dividend discount model, which I	25	would have to confess an interest, I author

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1	their Canadian analysis for their cost of	1	US expected rate of return has gone up.
2	capital navigator publication. That was	2	Their expectation of the bond return has
3	just recently, last week they lowered the	3	gone up, and these are people, just to
4	market risk premium to 5 percent. So that's	4	emphasize, these are people who advise major
5	people whose business is to make estimates	5	institutions on what they're doing with
6	and sell these estimates to corporations.	6	their money.
7	Aswath Damodoran is a profession at NYU.	7	Black Rock, the worlds biggest manager
8	He's a very good instructor. NYU, a lot of	8	of money, I always have trouble
9	their students end up on Wall Street, it's	9	understanding what they're doing and I think
10	literally right on Wall Street. This is his	10	I made a mistake here because I put in there
11	estimate of the market risk premium. I	11	stuff for Canada, but they don't have the
12	could disagree with the technical issues	12	Canadian equity market, they just have the
13	about how he do write that estimate and the	13	US equity market. The middle point of their
14	risk premium over what sort of bond, but his	14	estimate is that dot to dot value in the
15	market risk premium has been about, guess,	15	middle, very low expected returns on bonds
16	what, 5.5 percent. 5.5 percent Damodoran, 5	16	because people expect bond yields to go up
17	percent Kroll, 5.5 to 6 percent by the	17	and as the bond yields go up, bond returns
18	responses to surveys, 5 to 6.5 historic	18	go down. So that's Black Rock. JP Morgan,
19	evidence, that's approximately where the	19	Jamie Dimon, the CEO of JP Morgan is the
20	market risk premium is. And I have	20	sort of rockstar of financial offices, he's
21	differences with Mr. Coyne about how to	21	frequently consulted by the US government.
22	calculate a market risk premium. I'm not	22	When he announced his retirement plans, the
23	going to go into it here, but I hope Ms.	23	price of JP Morgan stock went down, he's
24	Greene, if she's listening, will ask me a	24	that important in the capital markets. He
25	question about it because that's a technical	25	didn't prepare this, but his staff prepared
	Page 14		Page 16
1	issue.	1	this. Expectations of the capital market
2	Other investor expectations, this is	2	returns in the United States, straight DCF
3	required, what do people want and who	3	with a few twists. Basically dividend
4	provides the expectations, who provides the	4	yield, plus the US growth rate in GDP with
5	advice? Investment bankers do. TD, this	5	some tweaks in terms of where are we in the
6	was the report just before COVID and there's	6	business cycle in terms of profit margins.
7	a new one that I provided in answer to an	7	How does this translate into a per share
8	information request, market risk premium of	8	value? But basically we're looking at 7
9	5 to 6 percent by TD. Why do they do this?	9	percent plus, 8 percent, for the equity
10	Because they give advice to pension plans,	10	market. And as it gets more difficult to
11	basically. What assumptions do you have to	11	look at individual utilities, I've looked
12	use in your pension plan to determine	12	more at what constrains are judgment which
13	whether contribution rates go up and whether	13	is the overall expectation for the capital
14	the pension is funded. So that's TD, that's	14	market. Does Newfoundland Power accept
15	not me, that's TD. AQR, they're a group set	15	this? The answer is that they do. They
16	up in Chicago, Lower Chicago and	16	have a defined benefit pension plan. In
17	Northwestern PHDs, these are their real	17	answer to an information request, I asked
18	return, medium term expectations, not long-	18	them to tell us what assumptions does
19	term expectations. I've looked at AQR for a	19	Newfoundland Power use in their pension plan
20	long time. They're pioneers in the use of a	20	in terms of the equity rate of return and
21	lot of areas in finance.	21	they reported 3 percent for bonds, 7.1
22	Equity return has gone down '24 versus	22	percent for equities, 4.1 percent risk
23	2023. The bond return has gone up. Is this	23	premium and then they immediately, I think
24		24	immediately, I don't know exactly the
4 -T	unanimous? No. Bank of New York, Mellon,	Z4	ininiculately, I don't know exactly the
25	major custodian bank, their estimate of the	25	timespan, but they asked Mercer, their

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1	consultant, to convert these long run	1	Long Canada Bond in the '70s and the '80s,
2	returns to a one year return, which is what	2	and there was a suggestion that we need to
3	we tend to use when we calculate risk	3	adjust betas for this risk. So I got two
4	premiums, and that increases the equity	4	estimates for the beta then, the direct
5	return from 7.1 to 8.63. That's exactly the	5	estimate for beta which is what I've got
6	adjustment that I made in the report to the	6	down as beta 2, and then the other one is
7	TD Bank returns. It's a standard adjustment	7	the beta after we strip out the impact of
8	to convert a long-run rate of return to a	8	interest rate chances, to all intents and
9	short-run rate of return, a one-year rate of	9	purposes they are exactly the same. But in
10	return.	10	the early 2000s, we had negative betas and I
11	So, now, Newfoundland Power, their	11	noticed a reference to Jonathan Lesser in
12	actually is exactly the same as where I am.	12	the BCUC where he said he adjusted betas. I
13	No difference whatsoever. In fact, I've	13	adjust betas, I adjusted betas in the 2000
14	done a lot of work for some of the biggest	14	because the reason for that and there may be
15	pension plans in Canada and they have to	15	some people in this room who got a memory as
16	work out exactly the same problem, what do	16	long as mine, a particular Canadian company
17	the markets expert for the rate of return,	17	called Nortel, Nortel and JDS Uniphase, at
18	for our pension plan and the flip of that is	18	one point made up about 35 percent of the
19	what does the corporation have to think	19	Toronto Stock Exchange by market value and
20	about in terms of return for this cost of	20	we were crazy and basically buying Internet
20 21	capital. They're two sides of the same	21	stocks during the Internet bubble in the
22	coin. The supply and the demand for the	22	early 2000s. They pushed out the Canadian
23	debt.	23	Stock Market and guess what, utilities
24	Relative risk beta, Mr. Coyne uses	24	stocks were not affected by the Internet
25	current values and in fact, one RFI asked me	25	bubble, so the recorded statistical estimate
23	·		
1	Page 18 why don't I use current values? That's	1	Page 20 of the beta during that period was in fact
2	because current values are not current		zero and negative. Was that expected to go
$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$	values. They're simply the most recent	2 3	forward? No. Nortel, as we know went
4	* * *	4	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
5	estimates generally over the past five year	5	bankrupt as soon as it dropped out of the estimation window to estimate betas.
I	period. The last five-year period has been	6	
6	COVID, a massive Central Bank intervention.	7	Utility betas reverted back to where they
/	That's a valued estimate if we think there's	0	were. So I adjusted betas during that
8	going to be another COVID and another	8	period. There's no question that you need
9	massive Central Bank intervention in the	9	judgment to interpret beta coefficients.
10	future. I don't think we're anticipating	10	Any statistic measures what's happened
11	another COVID 19 over the test years. This	11	during that period.
12	also became a major issue in the early 2000s	12	(9:30 a.m.)
13	and if you look at those numbers, the green	13	There's an old bit of Zen philosophy,
14	line is a sensitivity of utility stocks to	14	if a tree in the forest falls down, does it
15	interest rates, what I call gamma, and I	15	make any noise if there's no one there to
16	hate to say it, but we use alpha for the	16	hear it? Well, if nothing happens, you
17	intercept, beta for the first coefficient,	17	can't measure it and if something peculiar
18	gamma for the third, delta for the fourth,	18	happens, we measure it, but when we look at
19	epsilon for the—we use Greek letters and	19	interpreting that going forward, I didn't
20	that's the standard thing in statistics. So	20	think we would end up with another internet
21	the gamma or the sensitivity of utilities	21	bubble, it was a fad, the capital markets
1			
22	talks of interest rates is very significant.	22	sometimes go off on these faddish things,
22 23	At times utility stocks of Canada have been	23	and I adjusted my betas during the 2000—
22	• • •		

1 happened during that time period. A statistician can estimate that, I could get a undergraduate to estimate betas and do a whole bunch of the work that I do, but you are dan evapaper article, Michigan has gone back again to try to get Enbridge's line whole bunch of the work that I do, but you are dan economist, somebody to understand what was the conomic environment that generated that datapoint? And that's what I had, I do not slavishly produce statistics of the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board can look at them, I but I would tell the Board what I think labeled to generate that statistic and whether it's valued going forward. That's the judgment, a professor of finance and swhether it's valued going forward. That's the judgment, a professor of finance and swhether it's valued going forward. That's the judgment, a professor of finance and swhether it's valued going forward. That's the judgment, a professor of finance and swhether it's valued going forward. That's the judgment, a professor of finance and swhether it's valued going forward. That's the judgment, a professor of finance and swhether it's valued going forward. That's the judgment, a professor of finance and swhether it's valued going forward. That's the judgment, a professor of finance and swhether it's valued going forward. That's the judgment, a professor of finance and the judgment and the j	June 20, 2024			NP 2025-2026 GRA
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whole bunch of the work that I do, but you need an economics, somebody to understand what was the economic environment that generated that datapoint? And that's what I had, I do not slavishly produce statistics and statistics to the Board to use. I produce those for the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics to the Board to use. I produce those statistics and the behavior of the Board to use. I produce those statistics and the behavior of the Board to use. I produce those the use of use and the behavior of the Board to use. I produce those statistics and the behavior of the Board to use. I produce the behavior of the Board to use. I produce the use of use and the Board to use. I produce the use of use and the Board to use. I produce the use of use and the Board to use and the Board to use American data, 'I a different country with different laws, different regulations and different capital market conditions. We're forced to look at the United States. A lot of the Canadian companies, particularly Trans took them of Trans Canada in Boasically put them on settlements on a basically put them on settlements and to shall relied on for many years, Enbridge and Trans Canada in 22 and basically put them on settlements on a basically put them on settlements and to the transparent of the Lake Michigan and to for pressure on the pipels. The use of the use of the	2	statistician can estimate that, I could get	2	read a newspaper article, Michigan has gone
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years. And as we know, the pipelines have 25 whatsoever, now their betas, I don't know	1	•		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	25	years. And as we know, the pipelines have	25	whatsoever, now their betas, I don't know

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1	where they come from, but they're in the	1	model. How do the current beta compare to
2	capital market. So what I do is I provide	2	five years ago or three years ago and is it
3	my beta estimates and I benchmark them	3	adjusting in any way to its true value,
4	relative to Reuters, Thomson Reuters, one of	4	because you can calculate the true value
5	the biggest companies, RBC, biggest bank in	5	simply by setting beta T equal to beta T
6	Canada, Yahoo, one of the major providers	6	minus 5 and then solve it. And if you do
7	with Standard and Poor's of data. CFRA, an	7	that, which is what Marshall Blume did, you
8	independent research firm. I've benchmarked	8	get .33 for the Blume adjustment and a two-
9	by betas against their betas and lo and	9	thirds adjustment on the past value. That's
10	behold they're pretty similar. There are	10	not controversial, in fact, it's a truism,
11	differences because they used slightly	11	the overall beta has to be equal to one,
12	different techniques, and then finally I	12	that's by construction of the capital asset
13	*	13	•
1	started looking at the Global Mail. I read		pricing model, it's the yardstick, it's the
14	the Global Mail is they claim to be Canada's	14	market, and we rate securities relative to
15	premier newspaper, they report on business.	15	the market. So if you use all of the
16	They produce beta estimates. Now they have	16	securities in the database and you come up
17	beta estimates over three years, but they're	17	that its (unintelligible) beta is one, well,
18	there, they're not my judgment. They are	18	honky dory, that's absolutely predictable,
19	the statistics, those are the numbers that	19	that's by construction, it's a truism. Now
20	are in the capital market and I really get	20	do utilities trend towards one, well Blume
21	annoyed with Mr. Coyne says, well it's	21	was a statistical analysis, so if you told
22	Booth's judgment. It's not my judgment.	22	me don't know anything about the company,
23	These are what are in the capital market.	23	the beta is equal to Nord .2. I would say,
24	What about the US? Same organizations	24	well I know the beta is equal to 1 for the
25	estimate the betas for the US and these are	25	overall market, probably that's a
	Page 26		Page 28
1	the current estimates for the betas for the	1	measurement error, it's a problem, so I
2	year of the United States and they're about	2	would adjust it towards 1 and that's all
3	Nord.6 and there's no question they have	3	that Blume does. So the question the Board
4	increased over the last couple of years, but	4	needs to ask is if they were told the beta
5	when we look at this, had they increased	5	for a utility was Nord.5, do they say I know
6	over a long period of time? Well if you	6	nothing about that Nord.5, I know nothing
7	look at the last little blip at the end of	7	about the utility, I will adjust it towards
8	that 2018 until now, they've increased, but	8	1? Well I certainly wouldn't because I've
9	they're not as high as they were in 2007.	9	been looking at utilities for the last 35,
10	They tend to go up and down with the state	10	38 years. I know they're low risk and I
11	of the capital market. Beta adjustment, Mr.	11	would not be surprised in the beta was equal
12	Coyne is fond of saying that I'm the only	12	to Nord.5 or Nord.4, so when you look at
13	person that uses unadjusted betas and it's	13	this, you say well how do utility betas
14	standard to use adjusted betas. That is	14	adjust? Combola and Kahl, for a long time
15	absolutely, absolutely nonsense, that is	15	was—the gold standard they actually looked
1		16	at US utilities and they said they don't
1 16			
16	incorrect. What Marshall Blume did was he		•
17	estimated the beta in time period T and then	17	adjust towards 1, they adjust towards their
17 18	estimated the beta in time period T and then he looked at how does that compare with the	17 18	adjust towards 1, they adjust towards their mean, which is what you might expect. If
17 18 19	estimated the beta in time period T and then he looked at how does that compare with the beta of 5 years earlier and four years and	17 18 19	adjust towards 1, they adjust towards their mean, which is what you might expect. If you think the beta for a utility should be
17 18 19 20	estimated the beta in time period T and then he looked at how does that compare with the beta of 5 years earlier and four years and three years, he used different time periods.	17 18 19 20	adjust towards 1, they adjust towards their mean, which is what you might expect. If you think the beta for a utility should be Nord.5 and you come up with Nord.2, then you
17 18 19 20 21	estimated the beta in time period T and then he looked at how does that compare with the beta of 5 years earlier and four years and three years, he used different time periods. And you have to go back to long periods of	17 18 19 20 21	adjust towards 1, they adjust towards their mean, which is what you might expect. If you think the beta for a utility should be Nord.5 and you come up with Nord.2, then you say, well, I don't think it's equivalent to
17 18 19 20 21 22	estimated the beta in time period T and then he looked at how does that compare with the beta of 5 years earlier and four years and three years, he used different time periods. And you have to go back to long periods of time to avoid using the same datapoint in	17 18 19 20 21 22	adjust towards 1, they adjust towards their mean, which is what you might expect. If you think the beta for a utility should be Nord.5 and you come up with Nord.2, then you say, well, I don't think it's equivalent to the overall risk in the market, but I think
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	estimated the beta in time period T and then he looked at how does that compare with the beta of 5 years earlier and four years and three years, he used different time periods. And you have to go back to long periods of time to avoid using the same datapoint in both of the estimates, so you have to make	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	adjust towards 1, they adjust towards their mean, which is what you might expect. If you think the beta for a utility should be Nord.5 and you come up with Nord.2, then you say, well, I don't think it's equivalent to the overall risk in the market, but I think it's low, so I'll adjust it towards what I
17 18 19 20 21 22	estimated the beta in time period T and then he looked at how does that compare with the beta of 5 years earlier and four years and three years, he used different time periods. And you have to go back to long periods of time to avoid using the same datapoint in	17 18 19 20 21 22	adjust towards 1, they adjust towards their mean, which is what you might expect. If you think the beta for a utility should be Nord.5 and you come up with Nord.2, then you say, well, I don't think it's equivalent to the overall risk in the market, but I think

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1	Page 29	4	Page 31
1	did the Blume adjustment for utilities in	1	market is now an institutional market,
2	the United States. I'm not going to read	2	overall 60 percent of the equities are
3	the whole quote, anyone can read that quite,	3	traded by institutions. They would not rely
4	absolutely no evidence whatever, no matter	4	upon a one page crib sheet produced by Value
5	what time periods they used, the types of	5	Line. That would be my judgment. They got
6	betas they estimated, no statistical	6	their money and the resources to do their
7	evidence of any utility betas adjusting	7	own analysis. And finally in terms of
8	towards 1. This is absolutely bulk	8	betas, Bever Kettle and Scholes, 54 years
9	standard. There is no empirical evidence	9	ago, said well suppose we got a company like
10	whatsoever of utility betas moving towards 1	10	Newfoundland Power and we want to know what
11	with a Blume adjustment. It assumes we know	11	its beta is, well they can't do that because
12	absolutely nothing about the utility.	12	it's got no market data. So they basically
13	Now, Mr. Coyne says, well, Bloomberg	13	came up with what we call instrumental
14	betas use adjustment towards 1. That's not	14	variables, they used for the traded firms
15	correct. Bloomberg is a data provider. The	15	they used some accounting variables and said
16	betas you get from Bloomberg if you estimate	16	how can we predict the beta. This is their
17	using their data depends upon the values you	17	best model. It says that overall the
18	put in, what you want to estimate. If you	18	constant is 1, which means, which is
19	want to estimate Blume adjusted beta, you	19	obviously the overall market beta, so you
20	can estimate it. If you want to estimate	20	start out with 1 and then you say, well
21	betas, what is called unadjusted betas, the	21	let's look at this company, not a utility, a
22	betas that I estimate, you can estimate	22	company. If the dividend payout is high,
23	those as well. And in fact, on their	23	it's a high dividend paying firm, which is
24	website you can do a quick check, just enter	24	what utilities are, you lower the beta by
25	Bloomberg betas and they will tell you	25	.58 of its dividend payout. High dividend
	Page 30		Page 32
1	exactly how they do their betas. On their	1	stocks, lower betas.
2	website they report Blume adjusted betas and	2	(9:45 a.m.)
3	they report unadjusted betas. Saying that	3	You look at growth, growth is risky
4	Bloomberg betas are adjusted betas is	4	because you're basically valuing all of
5	absolutely incorrect. I could just as well	5	those cashflows up into the future. If
6	have reported Bloomberg's unadjusted betas	6	you're adding growth, high growth firms are
7	and said these are Bloomberg betas. They're	7	riskier, you get higher betas and we're
8	not. They're my choice of using the data in	8	hearing about the risk to Newfoundland Power
9	Bloomberg to come up with a beta. Value	9	of a low growth, slow growing economy, that
10	Line, Value Line surveys all the American	10	is not a risk factor. It is a low risk
11	stocks and they do have a one-age crib sheet	11	factor. It indicates low betas because
12	which includes adjusted betas because	12	you're not worrying too much about future
13	they're looking at all the stocks in the	13	growth. And finally, earnings variability.
14	market. They haven't done any research on	14	We've seen, as I showed yesterday, the
15	utility stocks independently of their beta	15	relative to the utility holding companies in
16	adjustment. They used the Blume adjustment.	16	the United States, Newfoundland Power meets
17	That is a paid subscription service that	17	its allowed ROE and they got low variability
18	primarily looks at US. As we heard from Mr.	18	in its ROE. Low variability, low business
19	Coyne yesterday, a lot of the Canadian	19	risk, low betas. All three of the values
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stocks, they don't have the betas. They're

basically the big Canadian stocks that are

professional investors? Probably not, not

quite sure what they used, but the equity

traded on the NYC because they're of

interest to Americans. Is that used by

20

21

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23

24

25

that we use to estimate betas for non-traded

lower betas than average firms. And that's,

Newfoundland Power to have, be a low risk

company. CAPM, I used 3.8 percent. Mr.

again, it's standard, so we would expect

firms indicate that utilities have much

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1	Coyne criticized me for judgment, that is my	1	DCF, dividend yield plus growth, this was
2	judgment, 3.8 percent. I don't think that a	2	invented by my late colleague, Professor
3	long Canada bond yield below 3.7, 3.8	3	Myron Gordon, contrary to what Mr. Coyne has
4	percent satisfies the fair market value.	4	said, when I started testifying, I used four
5	3.8 percent for taxable investor and I'd	5	models to estimate a fair rate of return,
6	hope all members of the panel are taxable	6	two of which were discounted cashflow, two
7	investors and I would expect them to be in	7	discounted cashflow, one of which was on a
8	one of the biggest tax brackets in Canada.	8	sample of 6 Telcos because they're a rate of
9	If you're 50 percent, taxed for simple. 3.8	9	return regulation, two for oil and gas and
10	percent is 1.9 percent after tax. We have 2	10	energy utilities, one for risk premium over
11	percent inflation. Any taxable investor	11	preferred shares and one for the capital
12	buying bonds below 3.8 percent absolutely	12	asset pricing model. So 25 percent of my
13	guaranteed to lose money over time. That is	13	testimony was based upon the capital asset
14	not consistent with bond yields being	14	pricing model. That was right where, until
15	determined by taxable investors in a free	15	the Telcos got deregulated and that was
16	open, fair, competitive market. So I used	16	basically in the mid '90s, the early '90s.
17	3.8 percent. This Board accepted that way	17	So we couldn't use those, so half my
18	back in, I think it was 2012. The BCUC	18	estimates went out the window. Not because
19	accepted that in their automatic adjustment	19	I wanted them to go out the window, but
20	model. So that is my judgment. Anybody	20	because the data wasn't there anymore. Risk
20 21	that tells me that a taxable investor is	20	(unintelligible) over preferreds, we used to
21 22		21 22	` ' I
1	going to buy bonds at 2 percent, I'm telling	22 23	have more preferred shares in the capital
23	them they're losing money and that is		market and we used to have a couple of
24	absolutely crazy.	24	companies create a preferred share indexes
25	Credit risk adjustment, I'll talk about	25	and so I used them and I estimated a risk
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1	that, but we started making that adjustment	1	premium over for equities over an equivalent
2	when the automatic ROE formulas gave what we	2	taxed instrument, debt securities are not an
3	regard as unsatisfactory results in 2009.	3	equivalent taxed instrument. Preferred
4	Utility risk premium, beta .5 to .6, market	4	shares are, so we should be measuring risk
5	risk premium, .55 to .6. That's what the	5	premiums for Newfoundland Power over
6	data tells us, it's my judgment as well.	6	preferred shares, but we don't have the data
7	That gives us the equity cost, the	7	anymore. The Toronto Stock Exchange, they
8	discounted rate that investors use. The	8	stopped calculating the preferred share
9	only difference between that and the fair	9	index because it's absolutely true that
10	allowed return is that we allow for issue	10	they're not as liquid as they used to be and
11	costs and expenses. An adjustment to the	11	there's not as many in the capital market.
12	ROE adds 50 basis points. Why? Because	12	So three of my four methods went out in the
13	that's what we've use for the last 10 years	13	early '90s and we did go to risk premium
14	and it's not been controversial, except in	14	models, particularly with the ROE adjustment
15	Quebec where they say show me, prove me that	15	models introduced by the National Energy
16	they're actually an expense attached to	16	Board of the BCUC. Right the way up until
17	issue costs that we can charge off to	17	2009 and the enormous reduction in long-term
18	investors. And I asked Newfoundland Power	18	Canada bonds, particularly after the US
19	and they said, well, they've actually never	19	started buying bonds, seriously buying bonds
20	incurred any costs, so it's a legal question	20	in 2011, and that knocked the risk value—
21	whether or not you can charge ratepayers an	21	sorry, not the risk value, the time value,
22	extra 50 basis points for issued costs that	22	the risk free rate, we started getting
23	Newfoundland Power has not incurred. But I	23	measures for the risk free rate that gave us
24		24	bad results. So I would agree with Mr.
	always include 50 basis points. That's	∠ 1	dad results. So I would agree with MI.
25	where I get my fair ROE. Discount rates,	25	Coyne on this, that the risk premium model

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1	started giving bad results if you	1	domain. I quote The Economist. I quote
2	mechanically used it in after about 2011.	2	RBC. They're biased. And by biased I don't
3	And I started putting in an appendix, an	3	mean they've got an in-built "let's do this.
4	analysis of DCF versus risk premium because	4	Let's get the forecast up". It's what we
5	they should give exactly the same answers,	5	can an optimism bias. They're attached to
6	but at various points in time they've not	6	their utilities and they tend to get
7	given the same answers because there's	7	overfond of the companies that they're
8	estimation error attached to the future	8	looking at.
9	growth in the DCF model and there's	9	DCF for US electric utilities, I use
10	estimation errors attached to estimated and	10	the analysts' forecast and came up with a
11	market risk premium.	11	forecast for about just under nine percent.
12	What we do use in DCF, primarily we use	12	You add in 50 basis points, you got nine and
1	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	13	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
13	analyst growth forecasts. These are not		a half percent, if you believe those
14	dividend. It's a dividend discount model,	14	forecasts. And I will admit Mr. Coyne's
15	not an earnings discount model. And the	15	correct. They do that in the United States.
16	problem is that earnings are way more	16	But you have to ask how big is the biased
17	volatile than dividends, way more volatile.	17	and that's when we get to looking at the
18	This is evidence for the TXS going back to	18	sustainable growth rate.
19	1956. The compound growth rate of dividends	19	Growth has to come from somewhere.
20	and earnings are basically the same.	20	This is not some manna coming out of the
21	There's a slight difference. Over long	21	thin air. It comes from firms retaining
22	periods of time, volatility irons out and	22	earnings and investing it in the business
23	they're basically the same. The average	23	and earning a rate of return on those
24	growth rate, the average one-year growth	24	earnings. That's what we call the retention
25	rate for earnings, way more volatile because	25	rate, B, times the rate of return they earn.
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1	they tend to go up and down with a business	1	B times R is the sustainable growth rate.
2	cycle.	2	There is another minor term that's not
3	So, if you rely upon short-term growth	3	material, which we can talk about. But you
4	forecasts coming from earnings, those	4	can reverse engineer that. Utilities pay
5	estimates are biased for long-run dividend	5	out large dividends. About two-thirds of
6	growth rates and that's just because	6	their earnings are paid out in dividends.
7	earnings are more volatile and they're more	7	One-third are reinvested. So, if the growth
8	volatile for individual companies than they	8	rate actually is five or six percent, and
9	are for the overall stock market.	9	I'll take six percent because the math's
10	Analyst bias, I won't bore you with	10	easy, if six percent is the growth rate and
11	this. I don't – these are sell-side	11	B is the retention rate of about a third,
12	analysts. Their business is to sell	12	then R has to be 18 percent. I think any
13	securities, which is why we call them sell-	13	utility analyst that says over a long period
14	side analysts. If they were unbiased, we	14	of time, for infinity, utilities are going
15	wouldn't have buy-side analysts. We do have	15	to earn 18 percent, is smoking something.
16	buy-side analysts. Practically every	16	And that's why we use the sustainable growth
17	pension fund insurance company has analysts,	17	rate. It's a measure of testing the bias in
18	buy-side analysts that evaluate the reports.	18	the analyst forecast for growth, and I've
19	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	19	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1	We know they're biased. I've never seen		got sustainable growth rates and they should
20	anything that indicates that analysts	20	be the same as reasonable estimates, but
21	produce unbiased estimates. Their estimates	21	analyst growth rates are overestimated.
22	may be better than using a simple	22	My DCF estimates, they're more varied.
23	extrapolation but that doesn't mean to say	23	I tend to look nowadays at a risk hierarchy.
24	that they're unbiased. They're clearly	24	We've got the money market rate. We got the
25	biased and this is even in the public	25	long Canada rate. We got the preferred

Page 41 Page 43 rate. We got the overall rate in the 1 recommending that for Newfoundland Power. I 1 2 2 capital market and where do we fit a utility know you're not going to accept it. I 3 3 recommended 40 percent. 45 percent, as I in that risk hierarchy? Canadian equity 4 markets, 8.1, 8.75 percent. I should add 4 said, is almost off the table. So, can they 5 Mercer's estimate for Newfoundland Power, 5 finance? According to the Alberta Utilities 6 which is slightly greater than 8.75, but 6 Commission, they can finance. That supports 7 it's not materially different from anyone 7 an A bond rating. So, that's not me. 8 else's. DCF equity market returns, they're 8 That's not my judgment. That's the Alberta 9 more volatile because they're for the S&P 9 Utilities Commission. Now, I'm sure Mr. 10 500 and half their earnings come from 10 O'Brien's going to say, "well, this means a 11 outside the United States. Average Canada 11 nine percent ROE. If we accept Dr. Booth's 12 ROE, we know what typical Canadian firms 12 7.7 percent, they can't finance" or earn. It's under ten percent. Asset 13 something like that. That's not correct. 13 14 manager long run returns, what are the 14 I draw your attention to the tax rate. 15 actual expectations of major investment 15 Alberta's a low tax jurisdiction, 23 percent 16 banks advising their clients seven to nine 16 tax rate. Unfortunately, Newfoundland is a 17 percent. DCF equity cost US electric 17 high tax jurisdiction. Newfoundland Power 18 utilities, 6.8, 6.9 percent and that's a 18 is predicting 30-35 percent tax rate. What 19 sustainable growth. You need to add 50 19 matters is the pretax equity cost because 20 basis points for that to get it up. But 20 equity return is after tax. So, to get the 21 that's not any different from any of the 21 pretax equity cost, which is what we use in 22 22 other estimates. Well, I think the click is the earnings before interest and tax, in 23 telling me my presentation is over. 23 earnings before interest and tax, we 24 24 MR. O'BRIEN: basically take the allowed return of nine 25 25 O. I don't think it is, is it? percent and divide by one minus the tax Page 42 Page 44 1 DR. BOOTH: 1 rate. So, that's nine percent divided by 2 2 A. But it isn't. It's almost over, Mr. .77 and you get a number, I think it's 11.4 3 3 percent. That's the pretax cost in Alberta. O'Brien. 4 COFFEY, KC: 4 (10:00 a.m.) 5 5 There it is. It's on the screen. Q. I hate to tell you but 8.5 percent in 6 DR. BOOTH: 6 Newfoundland, you have to divide not by .77. 7 Okay. Financing. There are some areas of 7 You have to divide by .7 or .69. And the 8 testimony that I'm familiar with, but I 8 pretax cost of equity in this province is 9 9 don't want to get bogged down by providing about 12.4 percent, a lot higher than in 10 estimates simply because they can end up 10 Alberta. So, even at a lower allowed ROE, getting lots of RFIs and taking you down a the financial metrics are better for 11 11 12 Newfoundland Power than they are for the 12 rabbit hole. So, I rely upon the Alberta 13 Utilities Commission for – because they spot 13 typical Alberta utility because we have to 14 check their estimates. They say, "we 14 consider the equity is an after-tax cost and 15 provide you with these financial parameters. 15 the ratepayers pay the pretax cost. So, 16 Is it financeable? Can you maintain an A 16 that's what I've got to say about bond rating?" This is their table coming 17 17 financings. 18 out of the 2023 report and notably, all the 18 Final thing is the adjustment formula. 19 way at the bottom there is 45 percent common 19 I'm a great believer in ROE adjustment 20 equity ratio, almost off the table. At the 20 formulas. I was involved in the BCUC 21 21 top is 30 percent. decision in 1994 that put the BCUC, the BC 22 I recommended for years 35 percent is 22 utilities on an adjustment formula with an 23 the common equity for a pure T&D utility. 23 adjustment of 100 percent to the change in 24 The AUC allows 37 percent, which is a little 24 the long Canada bond yield. I was in the

25

bit greater than my 35 percent. I'm not

25

NEB hearings that ended up with the RH-294

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1	formula and I was in the hearing in 2001	1	after that, everybody retooled their
2	when the NEB confirmed its ROE formula and	2	formulas and we retooled the formulas to
3	confirmed the use of risk premium models.	3	make sure that 2008-2009 wouldn't happen
4	The NEB still publishes all of the data for	4	again, and we added this credit spread
5	its formula because it's still used and I'll	5	adjustment, 50 percent of the change in the
6	say that again, it is still used. It's used	6	default spread from what was before the
7	in contracts by that stipulated the ROE	7	financial crisis where it was typically one
8	will be determined by the NEB formula. So,	8	percent. Now, it's never got back to one
9	at the request of shippers and other	9	percent, but we can talk about. But since
10	parties, the NEB publishes all that	10	then, this Board, the Alberta board, the BC
10	information.	11	
		12	Utilities Commission, the Regie, the Ontario
12	So, that first column has the forecast		– everybody moved to a formula and adjusted
13	long Canada bond yield. The second column	13	by having a credit spread.
14	has the NEB formula ROE and the third column	14	Then a second leg happened. The second
15	has Booth 1. I actually had two ways of	15	leg was the US didn't recover from its
16	adjusting it based upon when the ROE formula	16	financial crisis, and I was here in 2009 and
17	was affirmed. I actually used 2001 because	17	2012. We were waiting on the United States.
18	that was when it was affirmed to be correct.	18	We recovered. The US was still in desperate
19	And then you can look at this and I've	19	straits and it caused the US to have massive
20	brought your attention to 2008-2009.	20	central bank intervention in 2011, at the
21	I was in the TQM hearing at the time	21	same time as the Euro crisis and the
22	that Lehman Brothers was let go. Markets	22	problems with Greece and the PIGS, Portugal
23	were in freefall. I actually had lunch with	23	and Italy, Spain and Greece. Euro was in
24	the lawyer for TransCanada, as well as my	24	desperate straits. Massive central bank
25	own lawyer. We were shocked at what was	25	intervention and you can see it in the bond
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1	happening in the United States. The US	1	yields. The forecast bond yield in the NEB
2	almost destroyed its whole banking system.	2	formula went from 4.55 percent in 2008 down
3	The number of banks that failed is	3	to 4.36, 4.3, it's actually 1723 (phonetic)
4	incredible, and the biggest bank in the	4	to – it went down and down and down and down
5	world at that time, Citibank, would have	5	and we just started increasing and then
6	failed with cataclysmic implications. So,	6	along came Covid and so, we were looking
7	we were in dire straits and the NEB was	7	pretty good in 2018 and then 2019 things
0		0	1
8	having a hearing right in the middle of the worst financial meltdown since 1937 and we	8	were beginning to recover and then the Bank
9		9	of Canada joined the bond buying program.
10	had this anomalous result. Classic rush for	10	So, the problem with the Capital asset
11	safety. Bond yields went down. Government	11	pricing model, as I said, I do not believe
12	bond yields went down. Anything that was	12	any of the long Canada bond yield since 2012
13	perceived as risky was sold, including A	13	satisfy the fair return standard. They're
14	rated debt.	14	not fair market value and I used 3.8 percent
15	So, A rated debt and the credit spread	15	consistently through that period. So, when
16	between A rated debt and Canadian bond	16	Mr. Coyne says, "well, interest rates have
17	yields reached very, very high levels, about	17	gone up since 2022", hunky dory, yes, great,
18	180, 190 basis points, and that was even for	18	just means to say we're not as bad as they
19	utility debt. And the utilities	19	were for the last 12 years, but they're
20	legitimately said, "why should our ROE go	20	still not 3.8 percent. They still don't
21	down when our borrowing costs have gone up?"	21	satisfy fair market value.
22	and that was a perfectly legitimate	22	So, do I recommend that you put
23	question. So, the NEB decided we'll go with	23	Newfoundland Power back on an automatic
24	settlements with shippers and the utilities	24	adjustment mechanism? The Alberta Utility
25	rather than have more – a new formula. But	25	Commission seem to reject all informed
	in it is in	25	Commission seem to reject un informed

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1	judgment. Nobody wanted an automatic ROE	1	that. We are getting close.
2	mechanism in Alberta and they just put one	2	The decision on automatic ROE formula
3	in. Huge advantages. They worked for 15	3	depends upon whether the Board makes a
4	years with the NEB formula. My judgment	4	decision for regulator efficiency and not
5	would be that we're getting close to the 3.8	5	have ROE hearings and then rely upon NP to
6	percent trigger. If you look at the	6	come Newfoundland Power to come back and
7	adjustment to credit spreads, you've got a	7	say the results aren't satisfactory. And if
8	current NEB formula for 2024 of 8.18	8	results aren't satisfactory, then they'll go
9	percent. If you use 3.8 percent, you're up	9	to you, come to the Consumer Advocate,
10	to 8.44 which I think is getting back to	10	possibly come to me, and I don't think we're
11	where we were before this dramatic shock to	11	unreasonable in looking at this. I've
12	the financial system. As I said, we're	12	suggested that the Board put in a trigger,
1	•	12	
13	still in a hangover from Covid. We're		3.8 percent. If the long Canada rate
14	actually still in a hangover from the US	14	forecast in two years time exceeds 3.8
15	financial crisis. We have to deal with	15	percent, then give NP 75 percent of the
16	this.	16	increase in the long Canada rate. Don't
17	Do I recommend the Board put in an	17	reduce it if it doesn't get above 3.8
18	automatic adjustment formula? To be honest,	18	percent.
19	I'm indifferent. If your decision is to	19	Am I optimistic in that? I read the
20	have three-year GRAs, the first two years of	20	transcript with Mr. Kelly eight years ago.
21	that three-year period are done. So, we're	21	I was extremely pessimistic about the
22	talking about putting in an automatic	22	forecast for long Canada bond yields despite
23	adjustment formula for the third year. I	23	the investment banks and the forecasters
24	don't see great benefit from that. If you	24	saying they were going to increase. They
25	want to reap economic efficiencies in	25	didn't increase. I said in three to five
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1	regulating Newfoundland Power, you have to	1	years time, I don't think they're going to
2	say we're going to put in a formula and we	2	increase, and I said, specifically said,
3	don't want to hear ROE testimony in three	3	I'll come back here and say give them 7.5
4	years time or four years time or five years	4	percent, the same as my current
5	time. It's indefinite, the way the NEB	5	recommendation. So, I was entirely correct
6	formula was. Now, the NEB formula lasted	6	in 2016.
7	for 15 years, but TransCanada kept objecting	7	Right now, the Bank of Canada has over
8	to it. Twice they objected to it and one of	8	300 billion dollars worth of Government of
9	them to appeal and they lost. So, even an	9	Canada bonds that it intends to sell. It's
10	indefinite period still allows the utility	10	only sold about a third of its stockpile of
10	to say the results are unfair.	10	Government of Canada bonds. If the Bank of
12	And I'll remind the Board that in 2011,	12	
1	,		Canada dumps those bonds in the capital
13	when interest rates came down, Newfoundland	13	market, absolutely no question, the price
14	Power came to the Board. The Board came to	14	will go down and the yield will go up.
15	the Consumer Advocate. The Consumer	15	Where the long Canada bond goes is entirely
16	Advocate came to me and said, "is it	16	dependent upon the unwinding of the Bank of
17	reasonable to suspend the ROE formula?" I	17	Canada's stockpile of bonds. Exactly the
18	said yes, because long-term	18	same as it is in the United States where the
19	Canada rates didn't satisfy what I regard as	19	Feds got an even bigger stockpile of US
20	fair market value. So, I don't think I'm	20	treasuries. So, for the last 15 years, the
21	unreasonable. I agreed with Newfoundland	21	markets have paid attention to every single
22	Power to suspend the ROE formula. I don't	22	utterance of the central banks because it
23	think the Capital Asset Pricing model has	23	dominates everything since the global
24	worked without the application of judgment	24	financial crisis.
25	since 2009 and I agree with Mr. Coyne on	25	So, I have no objection to you putting
23			

Page 53 Newfoundland Power back on an automatic 1 this testimony is repetitive. If you look 1 2 2 at Mr. Coyne's testimony, it is repetitive. adjustment formula. It's a question the 3 3 His business risk analysis is the same. My Board has to deal with that is the 4 regulatory efficiency worth it for one year 4 testimony is repetitive. The only thing 5 in the third of a test year, if it plans to 5 different about my testimony is I have to 6 have a GRA for Newfoundland Power in three 6 play Whack-a-Mole. Utility witnesses 7 years time. And that's not a thing that I 7 constantly bring up new things and I have to 8 8 can answer. All I've done in my Appendix E write another appendix to deal with the new 9 9 is lay out the history so it's got the risk and the new things that utility 10 guidance and the understanding as to how we 10 witnesses brought up. So, I've written five got to this date and why the automatic ROE appendices now. I've got an appendix on 11 11 12 adjustment models were suspended. 12 integration. I've got an appendix on the 13 So, I recommend allowed ROE of 7.7 13 after-tax weighted average cost of capital. 14 percent. Common equity ratio at 40 percent. 14 To be honest, I'm getting tired of doing 15 The Board can deem that in preferred shares, 15 this. I'm 74. I've been testifying for 38 16 and we've had this discussion eight years 16 years. I've heard all of this over and over 17 ago. Is it legal to deem – rush the 17 and over again. And if I'm a little bit 18 preferred share market. NP used to have 18 testy with Mr. Coyne, it's because I'm a 19 preferred shares. This Board set the 19 little bit tired of hearing exactly the same allowed ROE at 40 to 45 percent and 20 20 things year after year after year. 21 sometimes – some how we've gone to the top 21 Before a hearing in Quebec last year, 22 22 of that range. And as I said in my opening the witness was a Brattle company witness. remarks, I'd like to see the Board say, "we 23 23 She based her recommendations on three 24 24 reiterate our guidance for the fair common models, all of which the Regis had 25 equity ratios 40 to 45 percent for 25 explicitly, absolutely explicitly rejected. Page 54 Page 56 1 Newfoundland Power". 1 And I said, "what on earth is this?" They 2 2 I can see nothing in Newfoundland reject her model and then it doesn't matter. 3 Power's history that indicates that it's any 3 Utility witnesses come back and they do the 4 riskier than any of the other T&D utilities 4 same thing. And the three models they 5 5 in Canada. I've heard their reference to rejected, one of them was beta adjustments. 6 the obligation to serve which the Alberta 6 One of them was a model called ATWACC and 7 utilities no longer have. There's been no 7 the other one was a model call the empirical 8 change in their ability to earn their 8 capital asset pricing model. So, I am 9 9 allowed ROE. It wasn't material, not in afraid I am a little bit testy today and 10 terms of the business risk of the utilities. 10 yesterday, and I apologize to the Board for 11 And here, I don't know whether you could 11 that, but I'm done. 12 remove the obligation to serve in 12 (10:15 p.m.) Newfoundland. That's a legal question the 13 13 CHAIRMAN: 14 Board has to deal with. 14 0. Thank you. 15 My preference is a modified NEB 15 COFFEY, KC: 16 formula. I know every board wants to have 16 0. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. 17 their own formula, but the NEB formula 17 CHAIRMAN: 18 worked for a long period of time and the 18 Q. So, move over to Mr. O'Brien. 19 latest credit spread adjustment the Alberta DR. LAURENCE BOOTH, CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. LIAM 20 Utility Commission used was 1.58 percent. 20 O'BRIEN 21 21 That's now come down to about 1.35 percent. MR. O'BRIEN: 22 Automatic ROE formula, I think they're 22 0. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll take you up on 23 a huge savings. This Board had one before. 23 your last comment, Dr. Booth, and make an 24 24 Almost every board in Canada had one before observation that you do appear testy 25 25 and there's a reason for that. A lot of regarding your testimony in the last two

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1	days. Are you – your suggestion that Mr.	1	more.
2	Coyne is a liar, you suggested that today.	2	MR. O'BRIEN:
3	DR. BOOTH:	3	Q. Well, let's go back, and I want to take you
4	A. I think I did suggest it.	4	through kind of your history here with the
5	MR. O'BRIEN:	5	Board, so, with respect to Newfoundland
6	Q. You did. You did say that.	6	Power GRAs. So, you've given evidence on a
7	DR. BOOTH:	7	number of occasions, I think back to 2009.
8	A. And -	8	Is that the first time you would have given
9	MR. O'BRIEN:	9	evidence?
10	Q. And -	10	DR. BOOTH:
11	DR. BOOTH:	11	A. That sounds correct, 15 years, yeah.
12	A. Can I take you through his comments for the	12	MR. O'BRIEN:
13	way –	13	Q. Yeah, okay. So, you had given evidence for
14	MR. O'BRIEN:	14	the 2010 GRA, the 2013 GRA I believe it was,
15	Q. No.	15	'15-16 GRA, the 2019 GRA and '22, 2022 GRA,
16	DR. BOOTH:	16	as well as this one?
17	A on his rebuttal?	17	DR. BOOTH:
18	MR. O'BRIEN:	18	A. Correct.
19	Q. I'd like to finish my question.	19	MR. O'BRIEN:
20	DR. BOOTH:	20	Q. Okay. And apart from the last two, you
21	A. Okay.	21	testified before this Board in each of those
22	MR. O'BRIEN:	22	cases?
23	Q. Okay. So, you're suggesting that Mr. Coyne	23	DR. BOOTH:
24	is a liar and your suggestion that utility	24	A. That's correct.
25	witnesses essentially should bow down to	25	MR. O'BRIEN:
F	Page 58		Page 60
1	your testimony. You have pay Whack-a-Mole –	1	Q. Okay, all right. So, and I'm not going to
2	play Whack-a-Mole with everything they bring	2	take you through these, but as we go through
3	up in order to come to your testimony, to	3	the testimony, I might ask you – I've
4	your way of thinking. Do you believe that's	4	provided you with some cross-age just
5	an objective and impartial way for a witness	5	concerning your – the executive summaries of
6	to testify before a board?	6	your reports. So, there may be some points
7	DR. BOOTH:	7	that I'm going to ask you to, but I think
8	A. No, I think it's the job of a witness to	8	you're probably likely to agree with me with
9	provide impartial, objective evidence to the	9	what's in them. But before I get to that,
10	Board and lay out all of the information so	10	you made a comment yesterday about Mr. Coyne
11	the Board can reasonably use that data to	11	and Concentric and the fair return standard,
12	form an opinion and that the Board can see	12	which I understood to suggest that
13	where the data is before the analyst	13	Concentric was not applying the appropriate
14	exercises their judgment. We all exercise	14	fair return standard or even had followed –
15	judgment, but the question is: what's the	15	had cited the appropriate fair return
16	starting point? What is the data? And I	16	standard in giving testimony. Do you recall
17	don't think Mr. Coyne has done that.	17	that?
18	MR. O'BRIEN:	18	DR. BOOTH:
19	Q. Okay. You have?	19	A. I do, and in answer to that, I'd like to
20	DR. BOOTH:	20	draw your attention to Concentric's
21	A. Absolutely. I presented not just my	21	rebuttal.
22	estimates, I presented all these other	22	MR. O'BRIEN:
23	estimates from people. I presented more	23	Q. Okay. And before we get to -
24	independent estimates of the market risk	24	COFFEY, KC:
1 47	macponatin estimates of the market risk		001121,110.
25	premium and betas than has Mr. Coyne, a lot	25	Q. If he could – if I could, Mr. Chair. Could

Page 61 he answer the question? 1 the question, the witness wants to go to the 1 2 2 MR. O'BRIEN: rebuttal. MR. O'BRIEN: 3 Well, what I was going to -3 Q. 4 COFFEY, KC: 4 And I -O. 5 Could he finish answering the question, 5 CHAIRMAN: 6 please? 6 That's fair. O. 7 MR. O'BRIEN: 7 MR. O'BRIEN: 8 8 Q. Yes, he can, and -Q. Yeah. I just wanted to make sure that that 9 9 CHAIRMAN: was the accurate standard that was cited. 10 Q. Yeah, just -10 COFFEY, KC: COFFEY, KC: 11 Well, he confirmed that, and he -11 O. 12 O. Because you raised it, Mr. O'Brien. 12 MR. O'BRIEN: And he did confirm that. So, you can take 13 CHAIRMAN: 13 14 O. If you want to clarify your question. 14 me to the rebuttal. 15 MR. O'BRIEN: 15 DR. BOOTH: 16 Q. It's a part of the question is what I wanted 16 Α. That's absolutely correct, Mr. O'Brien. to say, is that I wanted to show you where 17 17 MR. O'BRIEN: 18 it was cited in Concentric's evidence, what 18 Q. Yeah, okay. 19 the fair return standard was, and I wanted 19 DR. BOOTH: 20 you to confirm whether or not that was 20 That's the legal standard. I've been 21 accurate. Can we do that? 21 putting that in my testimony for the last 30 22 22 DR. BOOTH: plus years. MR. O'BRIEN: 23 23 A. That's correct. 24 MR. O'BRIEN: 24 And so finish your answer then. That's Q. 25 25 Okay. So, if we can pull up Concentric O. Page 62 Page 64 1 direct, page five, the fair return standard, 1 DR. BOOTH: 2 there's a section there that's outlined, and 2 A. And I've seen American witnesses that in, 3 lines 1 to 10, Concentric goes through the 3 but American witnesses are coming from 4 principle surrounding the concept of a fair 4 America, and if you read Mr. Coyne's 5 5 return standard and cites the Northwest rebuttal testimony, and I don't know whether 6 Utilities case, the Supreme Court of Canada 6 he did this or Mr. Trogonoski did, and he said this yesterday or perhaps it was the 7 case. So, they cite that fair return 7 8 standard. Is that an accurate depiction of 8 day before, page two. "Further, his ROE 9 the fair return standard in Canada? 9 recommendations would not provide the 10 DR. BOOTH: 10 company with a return that is comparable to those of other companies with similar I think he uses - yes, that's just Mr. 11 11 Justice Lamont's definition. business and financial risk." 12 12 MR. O'BRIEN: MR. O'BRIEN: 13 13 14 14 O. Yeah, okay. O. Okay. DR. BOOTH: DR. BOOTH: 15 15 16 But go to his rebuttal testimony. 16 Other companies. That is not the fair MR. O'BRIEN: return standard. 17 17 18 Q. No, and I will, and I do want you to -18 **CHAIRMAN:** 19 COFFEY, KC: 19 Excuse me. Could you just point out which No, if he could. 20 Q. 20 page you're referring to? 21 DR. BOOTH: 21 MR. O'BRIEN: 22 Q. - have that opportunity to do that. I just 22 Α. Page two. 23 want to make sure that's -23 **CHAIRMAN:** 24 COFFEY, KC: 24 O. Page two? 25 Mr. Chair, Mr. Chair, could I – in answering 25 DR. BOOTH: Q.

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1	A. Of his rebuttal testimony.	1	companies. That is the fair return
2	COFFEY, KC:	2	standard. And the Alberta Utilities
3	Q. What part of the page?	3	Commission has recognized this. It's a
4	MS. GLYNN:	4	market opportunity cost applied through a
5	Q. Which line?	5	book value investments, and that's what I've
6	CHAIRMAN:	6	recommended.
7	Q. Which line number?	7	MR. O'BRIEN:
8	DR. BOOTH:	8	Q. Okay. And I wanted that clarification. So,
9	A. Oh, line 21 to 24.	9	I just wanted to make sure. In terms of
10	CHAIRMAN:	10	what the fair return standard includes,
11	Q. Okay. Just slow down for a minute, just		would you accept the premise that it
12	till she brings it up. That's all. Sorry,	12	includes the comparable investment sort of
	- · ·		piece?
13	thank you. MR. O'BRIEN:	13	DR. BOOTH:
14		14	
15	Q. Okay. So, from the -	15	A. It includes comparable, return on comparable
16	DR. BOOTH:	16	security.
17	A. Okay, no, I haven't finished.	17	MR. O'BRIEN:
18	MR. O'BRIEN:	18	Q. Right, okay, securities.
19	Q. Oh, I'm sorry. Apologize.	19	DR. BOOTH:
20	DR. BOOTH:	20	A. It does not include the allowed returns on
21	A. I finished because Mr. – the Chair	21	other companies.
22	interrupted me.	22	MR. O'BRIEN:
23	CHAIRMAN:	23	Q. No, but the comparable investment on that,
24	Q. Yeah. Give him a chance to reply.	24	comparable security, would you accept that?
25	DR. BOOTH:	25	DR. BOOTH:
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1	A. So, let's read this and this is what he said	1	A. That's right. See, the problem, Mr.
2	yesterday. So, it's what you might put as	2	O'Brien, is investments is an illusive term.
3	bulletproof sort of stuff in your testimony	3	Securities is not.
4	and there's what you believe. This is what	4	MR. O'BRIEN:
5	he said in his rebuttal testimony and it's	5	Q. Okay.
6	what he said in testimony yesterday.	6	DR. BOOTH:
7	"Further, his ROE recommendation would not	7	A. Securities are an investment. The rate of
8	provide the company with a return that is	8	return on book value is an investment. So,
9	comparable to those of other companies with	9	in Canada, and I'll be honest when I say
10	similar business and financial risk."	10	I've been looking at this. I looked at the
11	That's a return on the companies. "On that	11	US standards and this part has been part of
12	basis, Dr. Booth's ROE recommendation does	12	my testimony for probably 30 years. The
13	not satisfy the fair return standard." And	13	Hope standard, the Bluefield standard in the
14	I'll be honest, every time – and he said	14	United States does not refer to securities.
15	that so many times in the past, that is	15	In Canada, it's explicitly referring to
16	incorrect. The fair return standard is Mr.	16	securities and explicitly referring to
17	Justice Lamont's definition. It's the fair	17	changes in the money market, which we now
18	return not on the companies, not on their	18	understand as the capital market. So,
19	book value, their investment. It's the	19	whether that's a substandard
20	return on the securities. And if you want,	20	(unintelligible) between US and Canada, I
20 21	· ·	20	, ,
22	I'll go through the example I gave you	22	don't know. But when Mr. Coyne starts
	yesterday and scratch out Labrador Island		talking about, as he says in his rebuttal –
23	Link and put in company A and company B. It		now, he can say he really meant something
24	is the required return the investor has.	24	else; it's badly worded, which I would
25	It's not the rate of return on other	25	accept, but it is the legal standard in

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1	Canada that it's a security market issue.	1	leg comes in because – and we've gone
2	It's what investors in the security market	2	through this at the Alberta Utility
3	want is their discount rate, and that's what	3	Commission. Suppose for whatever reason, a
4	I estimate.	4	utility has a high embedded cost of debt.
5	MR. O'BRIEN:	5	Perhaps it's, just take an extreme example,
6	Q. Okay. So, it's a comparable security	6	ten percent. Now, this is not the case for
7	investment or -	7	Newfoundland Power, but if it's got a very
8	DR. BOOTH:	8	high embedded cost of debt, then if you
9	A. It's a comparative investment in securities.	9	lower the allowed ROE to a fair return, all
10	MR. O'BRIEN:	10	of these financial metrics get squeezed and
11	Q. Okay. I'm trying to understand what your	11	as a result, the utility may have problem
12	position is here so that we have that clear	12	accessing capital and this has happened
13	before the Board. Does it also include then	13	before. In a Consumers Gas hearing,
14	the financial integrity standard?	14	Consumers Gas couldn't satisfy its trust
15	DR. BOOTH:	15	indenture because of the allowed ROE and
16	A. Yes. If you – look, if you give people what	16	they wanted an increase in the ROE. And my
17	they want or what they require, you	17	answer to that has always been, you're
18	automatically satisfy the financial	18	trying to solve a bond market problem by
19	integrity standard.	19	changing the equity market, and that's not
20	MR. O'BRIEN:	20	the correct way of looking at it. If in
21	Q. And Mr. Coyne, Concentric says that as well.	21	fact, there is a bond market problem, you
22	DR. BOOTH:	22	don't reward the equity holders with a
23	A. I don't know about that. I've always looked	23	higher than fair ROE. You take other
24	at the three requirements as being just	24	measures to address the capital attraction
25	different ways of looking at the same thing.	25	without folding everything into the ROE. In
	Page 70		Page 72
1	MR. O'BRIEN:	1	a nutshell, the equity holder shouldn't get
2	Q. Okay. But he indicated there was three legs	2	a higher ROE simply because a firm has a
3	of a stool to look at the same thing. I'm	3	high embedded cost of debt, even if that
4	trying to figure out do you have an issue	4	causes problems in the financial metrics and
5	with the other two legs of that stool?	5	possible problems in attracting capital.
6	DR. BOOTH:	6	There are other measures the Board can take
7	A. No, see -	7	to solve capital attraction problems.
8	MR. O'BRIEN:	8	MR. O'BRIEN:
9	Q. Financial integrity and the capital	9	Q. So, Dr. Booth, my question was: the capital
10	attraction standard.	10	attraction standard, did you accept that as
11	DR. BOOTH:	11	one of the three legs of that fair return
12	A. No, the capital attraction, again it's all a	12	standard? Is that acceptable?
13	 the only time you might get qualifications 	13	DR. BOOTH:
14	to that is the equity market, you might give	14	A. Now the answer to that is yes, the firm has
15	them a fair return in the equity market.	15	to be able to attract capital.
16	You might give them say – the Board looks at		MR. O'BRIEN:
17	this and said, "well, we 100 percent agree	17	Q. Okay. And that was my question.
18	with Dr. Booth. We're going to give	18	DR. BOOTH:
19	Newfoundland Power 7.7 percent." That	19	A. Sorry, I – but I've – it was in a context of
20	satisfies the fair return standard in terms	20	the fair return to the equity -
21	of Mr. Justice Lamont's definition and then	21	MR. O'BRIEN:
22	Newfoundland Power says, "well, our bond	22	Q. And I'm trying to establish, in terms of the
23	rating's gone down. We can't attract	23	fair return, if there's a three-legged stool
24	capital on reasonable terms." That's where	24	here, if you have an issue with the first
25	the second part and the third part of the	25	leg, you've told us that. The other two

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1	legs, you don't have issues with?	1	match anybody's definition of fair market
2	DR. BOOTH:	2	value and hopefully we've got beyond that
3	A. That's correct.	3	and we're getting back to more normal
4	MR. O'BRIEN:	4	conditions. I don't think we're there yet,
5	Q. The financial integrity or the capital	5	but I will tell you that there's a phase in
6	attraction. So, that's fair.	6	finance I tell my students, always beware of
7	DR. BOOTH:	7	anybody on the television, a talking head or
8	A. A utility has to be able to attract capital	8	anybody that says this time is different.
9	on reasonable terms.	9	Very rarely is it different. These are
10	MR. O'BRIEN:	10	regular cycles of things we go through.
11	Q. Okay.	11	Covid was different, but that's not a
12	DR. BOOTH:	12	financial thing. But recessions and booms,
13	A. Nobody would ever say anything contrary to	13	we've seen them years and years. I've seen
14	that.	13	- I'm old enough to have gone through
15	MR. O'BRIEN:	15	
1			five/six recessions. The capital markets have seen a lot more than that.
16	Q. No, and I'm just confirming that. So, and	16	
17	with those three legs of that stool, that	17	MR. O'BRIEN:
18	three-legged stool, none of them, none of	18	Q. So, all of these graphs and tables, they're
19	those legs have any particular priority, do	19	not worth anything to us because everything
20	they? It's the fair standard overall.	20	is going to stay the same?
21	DR. BOOTH:	21	DR. BOOTH:
22	A. No, there's – that's true. The – but as I	22	A. I would say -
23	said, there are different mechanism or tools	23	MR. O'BRIEN:
24	are available. It's not all put on the	24	Q. Essentially, over time, everything stays the
25	equity holders and you get out ROE. It's	25	same.
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1	also to do with common equity ratio and	1	DR. BOOTH:
2	financing.	2	A. Well, there's a great deal of truth to that,
3	MR. O'BRIEN:	3	Mr. O'Brien.
4	Q. Okay. I want to take you just to some of	4	MR. O'BRIEN:
5	your comments just in terms of the economic	5	Q. Okay.
6	and capital market conditions, and I'm not –	6	DR. BOOTH:
7	I don't want to spend a lot of time on that	7	A. And I'll say it again, it's Whack-a-Mole
8	point, but I do want to ask you whether you	8	because utilities generally say this time is
9	can confirm Mr. Coyne's suggestion or	9	different, and you just said it's different
10	Concentric's suggestion that there's been a	10	from January 2020. It's different from
11	fundamental shift in economic and capital	11	March 2021 and I'll 100 percent agree with
12	markets since 2021. That was what his	12	that.
13	evidence was. You indicated that 2020,	13	MR. O'BRIEN:
14	Covid, that's nobody's sort of – nobody's	14	Q. Okay.
15	indication, but the evidence was actually	15	DR. BOOTH:
16	since March of 2021. So, would you accept	16	A. But we're looking forward. Do I expect
1 10	Since Maion of 2021. So, would you decent	_	6 ··
		17	another Covid? Do I expect another massivel
17	there has been a fundamental shift in the	17 18	another Covid? Do I expect another massive bond intervention by the Government of
17 18	there has been a fundamental shift in the market since March of 2021?	18	bond intervention by the Government of
17 18 19	there has been a fundamental shift in the market since March of 2021? (10:30 a.m.)	18 19	bond intervention by the Government of Canada? I don't expect it, and heavens, I
17 18 19 20	there has been a fundamental shift in the market since March of 2021? (10:30 a.m.) DR. BOOTH:	18 19 20	bond intervention by the Government of Canada? I don't expect it, and heavens, I hope we don't get it again. I don't think
17 18 19 20 21	there has been a fundamental shift in the market since March of 2021? (10:30 a.m.) DR. BOOTH: A. Actually, his evidence refers to January	18 19 20 21	bond intervention by the Government of Canada? I don't expect it, and heavens, I hope we don't get it again. I don't think we've got enough resources to be able to
17 18 19 20 21 22	there has been a fundamental shift in the market since March of 2021? (10:30 a.m.) DR. BOOTH: A. Actually, his evidence refers to January 2020 as well. So, not just – I would fully	18 19 20 21 22	bond intervention by the Government of Canada? I don't expect it, and heavens, I hope we don't get it again. I don't think we've got enough resources to be able to support that again.
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	there has been a fundamental shift in the market since March of 2021? (10:30 a.m.) DR. BOOTH: A. Actually, his evidence refers to January 2020 as well. So, not just – I would fully accept that we have recovered from Covid and	18 19 20 21 22 23	bond intervention by the Government of Canada? I don't expect it, and heavens, I hope we don't get it again. I don't think we've got enough resources to be able to support that again. MR. O'BRIEN:
17 18 19 20 21 22	there has been a fundamental shift in the market since March of 2021? (10:30 a.m.) DR. BOOTH: A. Actually, his evidence refers to January 2020 as well. So, not just – I would fully	18 19 20 21 22	bond intervention by the Government of Canada? I don't expect it, and heavens, I hope we don't get it again. I don't think we've got enough resources to be able to support that again.

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1	DR. BOOTH:	1	my – I think the litigated hearing in 2016			
2	A. That's correct. So, they have to think are	2	was the last time that we set Newfoundland			
3	we going to have a Covid-19 in the next	3	Power's allowed ROE at 8.5 percent. I don't			
4	three years.	4	think it's legitimate to look at 2021 or			
5	MR. O'BRIEN:	5	2019 because they were settlement boxes.			
6	Q. Right, and we're talking about a short-term	6	MR. O'BRIEN:			
7	look, three-year look. We're not talking	7	Q. Okay.			
8	about setting an ROE for 15 years down the	8	DR. BOOTH:			
9	road. We're talking about a short-term	9	A. Black boxes.			
10	look. So, the fact that markets are	10	MR. O'BRIEN:			
11	increasing is a factor. Would you agree?	11	Q. You agree with me that long term Canada bond			
12	DR. BOOTH:	12	yields are higher than they were in 2016 and			
13	A. That's correct.	13	2021? That's a fair -			
14	MR. O'BRIEN:	14	DR. BOOTH:			
15	Q. Okay.	15	A. That's a fair comment.			
16	DR. BOOTH:	16	MR. O'BRIEN:			
17	A. But it was a factor based upon the	17	Q. Which doesn't -			
18	settlement agreement that was arrived at in	18	DR. BOOTH:			
19	2021, which I agreed to. It's a – and I -	19	A. Doesn't affect my recommendation.			
20	MR. O'BRIÉN:	20	MR. O'BRIEN:			
21	Q. Well, you call those black boxes.	21	Q. Right, doesn't affect the recommendation.			
22	DR. BOOTH:	22	DR. BOOTH:			
23	A. I know, but that's the problem. You can't	23	A. No.			
24	have it both ways.	24	MR. O'BRIEN:			
25	MR. O'BRIEN:	25	Q. And same thing with A rated utility bonds?			
	Page 78		Page 80			
1	Q. Let's move away from what you already have	1	DR. BOOTH:			
2	indicated is a black box. In other words,	2	A. Yeah. They're not up as much as – they're			
3	we're not going to talk about what piece	3	about the same, I think, as in 2016.			
4	went in here, what piece came out there.	4	Obviously, it depends where in 2016 you			
5	That's the settlement piece. So, but in	5	look, whether you look at the time of Mr.			
6	terms of capital markets, capital markets	6	Coyne's testimony in 2015 or my testimony in			
7	have had a fundamental shift since 2021, and	7	2016. But I've got a chart with all of this			
8	you agreed with me on that.	8	in, so the Board could look at it.			
9	DR. BOOTH:	9	MR. O'BRIEN:			
10	A. That's right, but Mr. O'Brien, you can't	10	Q. Yeah, and I've seen the chart.			
11	have it both ways. You can't say, "well,	11	DR. BOOTH:			
12	let's look at 2021" and say, "well, the	12	A. Okay.			
13	conditions have – interest rates have	13	MR. O'BRIEN:			
14	increased since then. The firm needs a	14	Q. And that's what I interpret from it. It may			
15	higher rate of return. Dr. Booth agreed to	15	not be as high as the long-term Canada bond,			
16	this, blah, blah, blah", when in fact that	16	but the market is higher. Let's talk just			
17	was a settlement agreement and I didn't use	17	briefly about cost of capital as in the			
18	the $-$ when $I - I$ said to $-I$ can't even	18	general sense and the components of it, I'll			
19	remember whether it was Mr. Browne or who it	19	break it down a little bit later, but			
20	was. I said, "look, I've been using 3.8	20	basically, I think all of the cost of			
21	percent. I'm not going to say let's lower	21	capital witnesses break it down into the			
22	NP's allowed ROE because currently interest	22	equity thickness and then the ROE. Those			
23	rates are in the toilet and we got these	23	are the separate components, but you look at			
24	incredibly low interest rates." I didn't	24	them together. Is that fair?			
25	look at 2021. And I've said repeatedly in	25	DR. BOOTH:			

Page 81 Page 83 Q. A. That's fair enough. The other component is 1 Okay. With respect to cost of capital 1 2 interest, but the fact is in Canada, except 2 itself, Mr. Coyne gave some evidence, and 3 for the National Energy Board, you don't 3 I'm wondering if you could confirm this, whether or not you agree. Would you agree 4 take into account the current market cost of 4 that the cost of capital is just that, a 5 debt. 5 6 MR. O'BRIEN: 6 cost, and it's something you would expect to 7 Q. 7 be passed on to customers? Okay. 8 8 DR. BOOTH: DR. BOOTH: 9 9 The National Energy Board went with ATWACC Absolutely. It's the cost of the capital A. 10 which is what we would do if it was a 10 that the firm has raised, exactly the same as the rent on the building, as the cost -11 private company. We would ask what's the 11 12 current required return on debt, what's the 12 MR. O'BRIEN: 13 current tax rate, what's the current 13 No different. O. DR. BOOTH: 14 required return on equity, which is what 14 15 ATWACC is. Everybody's – well, not 15 So, if you get into financial trouble, you Α. everybody, but the LED, the Regie and the 16 16 might go to the building operator and say, AUC rejected ATWACC, but the NEB decided to "well, look, I'm in serious trouble. Can 17 17 you lower the rent?" which is in fact what 18 go with it. And the reason is, we don't 18 19 take the current opportunity cost of debt. 19 happened during Covid. You might go to the 20 We treat it as exactly the same as other equity holders or the bond holder and say, 20 21 expenses. We take the deemed – the current 21 "can you give me a good deal?" But capital markets are not as flexible as somebody 22 interest rate on embedded debt and it's 22 you'd rent a building from because they got 23 passed off to ratepayers. 23 24 24 MR. O'BRIEN: way more alternatives. So, it is a cost 25 And that's not an issue for us before this 25 that has to be passed on. Page 82 Page 84 MR. O'BRIEN: 1 hearing -1 2 DR. BOOTH: 2 Q. Okay. 3 3 DR. BOOTH: No. that's – 4 4 And my understanding is the Supreme Court MR. O'BRIEN: A. 5 5 - in particular. Is that correct? has confirmed that and nobody's ever Q. 6 DR. BOOTH: 6 questioned that. 7 7 It's not an issue, but it's – that's the MR. O'BRIEN: 8 problem when you start looking at where you 8 Q. This is not a question. So, like to put a 9 compare it to other utilities. But the 9 point on it, I guess, while we've been in 10 current cost – the embedded cost of debt has 10 this particular room we've been talking come down by about one percent since 2016. 11 about other costs that are not technically 11 Newfoundland Power's costs, for example, 12 So, all those costs that you would expect, 12 the interest coverage ratio, for example, to Muskrat Falls Project costs, and that sort 13 13 14 go up and the financial flexibility of 14 of thing, coming through rates. Those are 15 15 not Newfoundland Power's particular costs. Newfoundland Power to go up. But that's 16 just passed off. So, the only thing is the 16 You'd expect those costs to be passed on to equity, the profit. I know you object to 17 17 customers? 18 profit, but I mean, most people say profit 18 DR. BOOTH: 19 or net income. The net income to the 19 That's correct. I think the way--if you Α. 20 shareholder, which is Newfoundland – which 20 look to utilities is regulations changed over the last 30 years. We've got all sorts 21 is Fortis, which is composed of the allowed 21 22 ROE times the equity ratio plus the bonus 22 of deferral accounts for gas utilities, for 23 for – because they allow range around the 23 example, where purchase variance accounts 24 utility cost of capital. 24 where the cost is basically passed through.

25

MR. O'BRIEN:

25

MR. O'BRIEN:

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1	Q. Right.	1	want to do our bit for Newfoundland, and we		
2	DR. BOOTH:	2	want to do this, then they can, but I don't		
3	A. We've removed that from utilities. So,	3	think it's something that can be forced on		
4	their risk is lower than it was 30 years	4	them.		
5	ago.	5	MR. O'BRIEN:		
6	MR. O'BRIEN:	6	Q. Let me ask you about the capital structure		
7	Q. Right. So, you'd expect the cost to be	7	and the common equity thickness, and you've		
8	passed on, and this is not athe concept	8	made a recommendation in your report. When		
9	hereyou talked about the Supreme Court of	9	you came here before this Board in 2010, I		
10	Canada here, but this is not an issue where	10	guess, for the 2010 hearing, and you had		
11	Newfoundland Power should be asked to share	11	written a report in 2009, at that timeand		
12	the pain of a cost that's not theirthat's	12	if we have to I can refer you to the		
13	not their cost, not in their control with	13	Executive Summary from your report, but I		
14	customers.	14	understood that you had done a risk		
15	DR. BOOTH:	15	assessment of Newfoundland Power at that		
16	A. I don't –	16	time, and it was your judgment, and I'll say		
17	MR. O'BRIEN:	17	the word judgment because we'll use that a		
18	Q. To put a fine point on it, you wouldn't	18	fair bit today, and Ms. Greene used it a		
19	expect this Board to order an unreasonable	19	fair bit yesterday, but it was your judgment		
20	or unfair ROE to account for those costs,	20	that Newfoundland Power was an average		
21	would you?	21	business risk utility, and marginally lower		
22	DR. BOOTH:	22	with financial risk. Was that fair?		
23	A. That's correct. Now, what the Board could	23	DR. BOOTH:		
24	do is put a deferral account and say, well,	24	A. That's correct.		
25	r	25			
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1	we think a fair rate of return is 9 percent,	1	MR. O'BRIEN:		
2	or 8 percent, or whatever, but we're only	2	Q. Okay.		
3	going to allow you to recover 6 percent in	3	DR. BOOTH:		
4	this rate hearing, and just like allowance	4	A. That's with respect to your Canadian		
5	of funds used during construction, they'll	5	comparator group, not with respect to the		
6	capitalize and be brought forward in the	6	US.		
7	future so that you will not be hurt, but	7	MR. O'BRIEN:		
8	this is part of an attempt to deal with	8	Q. And that was your assessment at that time,		
9	temporary problems.	9	and that involved an element of judgment on		
10	MR. O'BRIEN:	10	your part, is that fair?		
11	Q. That's a method, method of passing on the	11	DR. BOOTH:		
12	cost, but not reducing the cost?	12	A. I would hope so. I will be honest, Mr.		
13	DR. BOOTH:	13	O'Brien. When I first started testifying I		
14	A. That's whylook, I agree, 100 percent agree	14	was petrified. You might find this		
15	with you. I'm just saying that the boards	15	difficult to imagine. I was petrified -		
16	have got lots of levers that they can use to	16	MR. O'BRIEN:		
17	manage short-term problems.	17	Q. I do a bit.		
18	MR. O'BRIEN:	18	DR. BOOTH:		
		19	A to give my judgement, and I hid behind my		
19	Q. Okay. And we're not in disagreement on				
19 20	Q. Okay. And we're not in disagreement on those points. I just want to make sure that	20	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
20	those points. I just want to make sure that		numbers, and a prominent utility witness,		
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	20	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
20 21	those points. I just want to make sure that this is not a share the pain type of	20 21	numbers, and a prominent utility witness, and this was in the early '90's, came to me		
20 21 22	those points. I just want to make sure that this is not a share the pain type of scenario.	20 21 22	numbers, and a prominent utility witness, and this was in the early '90's, came to me afterwards, and this was on behalf of the		

Page 89 Page 91 hear your judgment. They don't want to hear 1 of all of those, and I recommended 30 1 2 the numbers. Anyone can come up with the 2 percent, which was actually the NEB's 3 3 numbers. They want to hear what you think recommendation for mainline transmission; 35 4 about this, so don't be afraid to express 4 percent for local gas LDC's, and I think I 5 your judgement, and I always remember that 5 had 32 percent for electric transmissions, 6 because, as I said, you'd be surprised to 6 and that was a result of a lot of analysis, 7 know that when I started out doing this I 7 and since then risk has not increased except 8 was hiding behind the numbers, and then over 8 for the gas companies. For the electric 9 time I've been here--now I'm tired of the 9 companies my perception is the risk has 10 numbers because I've been doing this for 38 10 decreased. So, you're absolutely correct. 11 years, and when I look at that, Mr. O'Brien, 11 I used to spend a lot of time doing a more 12 I say heavens above, 38 years, coming to 12 qualitative assessment, but at the end of 13 these hearing rooms doing exactly the same 13 the road there's only two things that we're 14 thing. Sometimes I wonder, as I said, how 14 looking at, short run risk, the ability to 15 much longer I'm going to do this. 15 earn your allowed ROE; long run risk, the 16 MR. O'BRIEN: 16 ability to get your capital back, which is 17 the stranded asset risk. 17 So, I guess even though you might have been 18 hiding behind numbers, there couldn't have 18 MR. O'BRIEN: 19 been any number out there that said 19 O. Okay. 20 Newfoundland Power should have this (10:45 a.m.) 20 21 particular allowed ROE, or sorry, equity 21 DR. BOOTH: 22 22 thickness. You must have had some element And that's significant by the way, Mr. O'Brien. It was a big deal in Nova Scotia 23 of judgment applied to your opinion at that 23 24 24 Power because they've got their coal plants time. 25 25 Page 90 Page 92 1 DR. BOOTH: 1 that have to come out of the rate base by 2 2 A. That's partially correct. A lot of this 2030. It was a significant risk for Trans 3 came out of the '90's into the 2000's. In 3 Canada Mainline and the Northern Ontario 4 RH-4, RH-29-4, the National Energy Board had 4 line when everyone started basically pumping 5 5 to deal with the risk of oil utility, oil gas through the United States. So, I'm not 6 pipelines versus gas pipelines, and it makes 6 saying the stranded asset risk is 7 a clear statement that we have to look at 7 immaterial. It's very important for certain 8 8 types of utilities. I don't see it as the business risk of those and analyze the 9 9 important for Newfoundland Power. difference between a--and there's 10 significant differences between a gas 10 MR. O'BRIEN: 11 pipeline and an oil pipeline, and it set 45 11 Okay. And I'm going to take you through-percent for the oil pipelines, 40 percent 12 12 just so you understand, I'm going to take for the gas pipelines, 35 percent for west you through each time you've been here and 13 13 14 coast. So, that was what we were doing in 14 how you've assessed that. So, just--and I 15 15 the mid '90's, and then along came the don't want to cut you off on your responses 16 Alberta Utilities Commission. They didn't 16 at any point, but I just want to let you 17 know that I do want to take you through have to deal with pipelines. They had a 17 18 pipeline, an ECHO pipeline. They had to do 18 those in terms of your assessment at the 19 with gas utilities and the electric 19 time, okay. 20 utilities, and gas mainline pipeline NGTL, 20 So, at the time when you came here 21 and electric transmissions. So, they had to first of all for Newfoundland Power for the 21 22 deal with all of the risks of all of these 22 2010 rate hearing, you expressed that 23 other utilities, and I participated in that 23 opinion that we discussed earlier. You 24 hearing, and we looked at the business risk 24 would have been aware, I'm going to put to

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1	you, that the Board had already in the past	1	you don't modify or change the allowed
2	made a determination that Newfoundland Power	2	equity thickness. Isn't that your expressed
3	was an average risk utility, and that would	3	opinion before these Boards?
4	include business risk, financial risk, and	4	DR. BOOTH:
5	any other risk really at that time. That	5	A. That's my expressed opinion. I expressed
6	was the Board's assessment of Newfoundland	6	that to the National Energy Board, that the
7	Power when you first came here. Is that	7	capital markets tend to look at the common
8	fair?	8	equity ratio. It's more definite.
9	DR. BOOTH:	9	MR. O'BRIEN:
10	A. That's correct.	10	Q. Right.
11	MR. O'BRIEN:	11	DR. BOOTH:
12	Q. Okay.	12	A. Whereas the ROE changes all the time, so -
13	DR. BOOTH:	13	MR. O'BRIEN:
14	A. And my perception -	14	Q. And you've held that -
15	MR. O'BRIEN:	15	DR. BOOTH:
16	Q. And the Board had exercised regulatory	16	A. Hold on, I haven't finished my answer. And
17	judgment in coming to that, is that fair?	17	I said that opinion before the AUC.
18	DR. BOOTH:	18	MR. O'BRIEN:
19	A. That's correct.	19	Q. Okay.
20	MR. O'BRIEN:	20	DR. BOOTH:
21	Q. That's not controversial?	21	A. And it assumes that the Board got it right.
22	DR. BOOTH:	22	My judgment is the Board set in '96/'97 40
23	A. No, that's the record.	23	to 45 percent. It's stuck now on 45
24	MR. O'BRIEN:	24	percent. It states now on 45
25	WIK. O BRIEN.	25	percent. I can't see any reason for 45
	D 04	23	D 06
1	Page 94	1	Page 96
$\begin{vmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{vmatrix}$	Q. That's what the Board does. Okay. And they had made a determination on what an allowed	1	percent. It's an outlier compared to other T&D utilities in Canada. So, do I expect
2 3	ROE should be for Newfoundland Power,	2 3	the Board to change? Well, I've been saying
4	correct, or not ROE, equity thickness?	4	40 percent, Mr. O'Brien, since 2009, and
5	DR. BOOTH:	5	
I .		6	I've been saying pretty much the same thing.
6	A. That's correct. MR. O'BRIEN:		Basically doing some preferred shares if
7		7	they want to go lenient. Basically announce
8	Q. Okay.	8	40 to 45 percent so the rating agencies know
9	DR. BOOTH:	9	what's going on.
10	A. And that included I will remind you	10	So, my view hasn't changed, and I think
11	preferred shares in addition to the common	11	it was in 2016 that the Consumer Advocate
12	equity.	12	got Professor Cleary to provide testimony on
13	MR. O'BRIEN:	13	the common equity ratio, and I was more or
14	Q. That included a 45 percent at that point of	14	less really focusing on the allowed ROE, but
15	-there were preferred shares, yes. So, when	15	I also repeated my recommendations.
16	you came here in 2009, I want to get a	16	MR. O'BRIEN:
17	flavour for what your opinion was in terms	17	Q. You did.
18	of what has to happen to modify an allowed	18	DR. BOOTH:
19	equity thickness? And my understanding, and	19	A. I don't see any reason Newfoundland Power
20	I've read your testimony from the last time,	20	has 45 percent common equity.
21	I've read your testimony from more recently	21	MR. O'BRIEN:
22	the Nova Scotia Power's rate case in 2022	22	Q. So, there's a couple of points I want to
23	my understanding is that your opinion is	23	raise with you on that. So, first of all,
1 -			
24 25	that unless business risk change significant	24 25	your opinion on risk hasn't changed all the

Page 99 Page 97 way along in terms of Newfoundland Power. 1 That's contrary to everything that the 1 2 You're assessment--your assessment of 2 Government of Canada and the provinces are 3 Newfoundland Power as having an average 3 doing to try and get people off oil. So--or do we expect people in St. John's to start 4 business risk, and having a less than 4 5 average financial risk, that hasn't changed 5 having wood burning fires. I've got a 6 over time. 6 cottage and we actually have a wood burning 7 DR. BOOTH: 7 fire because my heat pump, and I do have my 8 8 That hasn't changed electric heat pump, it's useless in Canadian 9 9 winters because it gets too damn cold and MR. O'BRIEN: 10 Q. Right. 10 you have to have a supplementary heat DR. BOOTH: 11 11 source. 12 - but as I indicated. I've never seen a 12 So, I don't think you're going to find 13 utility in Canada where the regulator 13 a lot of people in St. John's suddenly 14 doesn't protect the utility, which is to say 14 burning wood fires. Perhaps propane, 15 when I look--the first thing I do in any 15 perhaps we're going to see some propane 16 hearing is say, give me the allowed return 16 tanks outside of our houses, but that's fossil fuel. 17 versus the actual return going back as long 17 18 as you got data so we can actually see what 18 So, the long run--I don't know what the 19 the short-term risk is, and Newfoundland 19 next whack-a-mole for utility witnesses is Power is absolutely no different from any of 20 20 going to be. 21 the other Canadian utilities. 21 MR. O'BRIEN: 22 Some of them don't have quite as many 22 Well, let me ask you. Ο. 23 deferral accounts. The gas companies, some 23 DR. BOOTH: 24 24 of them are exposed to seasonal risk in Perhaps they're going to say--God, I've A. 25 25 Page 100 Page 98 1 terms of the use of gas, but in a material 1 forgotten the--I'm getting old, Mr. O'Brien, 2 sense the short-term risk is basically the 2 my brain sometimes forgets things. 3 same. It's the long run risk that is a 3 MR. O'BRIEN: 4 concern, and in this testimony, unlike 2016, 4 O. I apologize, I interrupted you. 5 5 the only thing that I see is changing is the DR. BOOTH: 6 long run risk to Newfoundland Power, and in 6 No, don't apologize on my part. It's for--A. 7 2016 I highlighted the fact that the 7 in gas companies they use hydrogen. Perhaps 8 company's witnesses in the '90's were saying 8 they'll say hydrogen is the next big thing, 9 9 and perhaps they'll say, well, the gas alternative fuel was risky. Heating oil was 10 a 40 percent discount to using baseboard 10 companies are now pumping hydrogen into gas 11 heaters, and the company was losing 11 pipelines, and perhaps we do have fossil--we 12 12 customers, and this was a risk. do have fuel competition again; it's going Now, it didn't affect the ROE or the to be hydrogen. Do I think that's going to 13 13 14 ability to earn the ROE, but--and I looked 14 happen in next three years? No, but perhaps 15 15 at that and said, well, even if electricity you'll see a utility witness saying that 16 prices go up, which I don't think they will 16 hydrogen is the next big thing, or perhaps a 17 stranded distribution, perhaps the price of for reasons we can talk about to a level of 17 18 50 percent to 100 percent we were talking 18 solar panels is going to drop dramatically, 19 about at that period, there are no 19 which hasn't changed much in the last 10 20 alternative fuels left. 20 years, but perhaps they're going to become 21 21 incredibly cheaper, and stranded asset risk Does anyone seriously think people are 22 going to rip out their baseboards and put in 22 is going to increase because everyone is 23 an oil pump when the price of carbon is 23 going to have solar panels on their roof. 24 going to go from \$80.00 to \$160.00 a tonne? 24 So, there are things out there that utility 25 25

Page 101 Page 103 witnesses can bring up as the next mole in 1 Who's crying wolf? 1 Α. 2 terms of the risk for Newfoundland Power, 2 MR. O'BRIEN: but I can't see it. 3 3 You are. Q. 4 MR. O'BRIEN: 4 DR. BOOTH: 5 I'm interested in your opinion, not what 5 I'm crying wolf? A. 6 utility witnesses can come up down the road, 6 MR. O'BRIEN: 7 7 but for this particular hearing, and what I You're trying to get the Board to change Q. 8 8 their decision. They've gotten it wrong all want to ask you, and you've raised this, and 9 9 the time. Not on the basis of your own you've raised this in your testimony 10 earlier--so, when you came here in 2010 you 10 opinion that you don't change it unless risk had assessed risk of Newfoundland Power, and is changed, because if they did it, they'd 11 11 12 you gave an opinion, and I'm going to 12 do that contrary to what your opinion is. 13 suggest to you you gave an opinion that 13 Your opinion is, don't change it unless risk there should be a reduction in the capital, has changed. If you're going to reduce it, 14 14 the Board has to base this on risk being 15 or in the equity thickness because you 15 believe the Board had gotten it wrong less, and you're not saying that. You're 16 16 before. You had said that saying the Board got it wrong. Is that a 17 17 18 DR. BOOTH: 18 fair assessment? DR. BOOTH: 19 That's correct. 19 I'd say there's proof to that, but I don't 20 MR. O'BRIEN: 20 A. 21 - the Board had gotten it wrong. Okay. You 21 think it's a fair assessment. 22 are not basing that opinion on the basis 22 MR. O'BRIEN: that Newfoundland Power's risk, business 23 23 And why is that? Q. 24 24 DR. BOOTH: risk, had significantly changed, which is 25 25 Page 102 Page 104 1 what your opinion is, is that you don't 1 A. Because the Board had 40 to 45 percent in 2 change equity structure unless risk change. 2 the '96/'97 hearing, and I think that was 3 Is that a fair assessment? 3 reasonable, and within that range of 40 to 4 DR. BOOTH: 4 45. I'm not saying 37 percent for Alberta. 5 5 That's a totally correct assessment, and the I'm not saying 35 percent, which I A. 6 only thing that's -6 recommended was the TDs across Canada. I'm 7 MR. O'BRIEN: 7 saying go to the bottom of your 40 to 45 8 And you did the same thing in 2012 for the 8 percent range. That was the Board's Q. 9 2013. You came in. You didn't feel the 9 decision. 10 Board had assessed risk correctly, so you 10 Now, what's changed? Well, ask Nova suggested a reduction, not on the basis of 11 Scotia Power what's changed since 2016. 11 your opinion, that there's a change in risk 2016 they had all these gas--sorry, all 12 12 which is on--it's your opinion. That's when these coal power plants. They weren't 13 13 14 we reduce equity, when there's a change in 14 planning to take them out of service. 15 business risk. It was because the Board had 15 What's changed since then is the Government 16 gotten it wrong. You did the same thing in 16 of Canada and the provinces. 2016. You did the same thing in 2019, 2022, 17 Global warming has become on the 17 18 and you're doing the same thing here, and 18 political agenda. We got an increase in you referenced yesterday this idea of carbon tax, \$80.00 a tonne to \$160.00 a 19 19 20 utility witnesses, the sky is falling, the 20 tonne. We got provincial governments 21 sky is falling, this Chicken Little kind of 21 telling Nova Scotia Power take those coal 22 scenario. I'm going to suggest to you we're 22 plants out of service. We've got, as I'm talking about the boy who cried wolf. 23 23 sure you're going to talk about, BCUC, where the gas company, Fortis Energy Inc. in a 24 DR. BOOTH: 24 25 25

Page 105 Page 107 significant difference. You didn't come out hearing in 2012, not 2016, or 2023, the 1 1 2 Chairman of the company said we are not a 2 and say that, did you? 3 transitional fuel, we're here for the long 3 DR. BOOTH: 4 run. But even then in BC they were talking 4 I think you're correct there. Α. 5 about getting gas out of the system. Quebec 5 MR. O'BRIEN: 6 was talking about getting gas out. 6 Okav. O. 7 So, when you look at this has anything 7 (11:00 a.m.) 8 8 changed since 2016? I would say a huge DR. BOOTH: 9 9 amount has changed since 2016. Not in terms I mean, it's a question--as I said it's gone 10 of the short run risk, but in terms of the 10 down from negligible to less than negligible. So, I mean, it's--if anything 11 long run risk. I would say that the 11 12 stranded asset risk attached to Newfoundland 12 it's gone down. I don't think the long run 13 Power is gone from being negligible to less 13 stranded asset risk attached to Newfoundland 14 than negligible. How is that significant? 14 Power is very high. 15 I can't think of any alternative to 15 MR. O'BRIEN: 16 electricity in the—over the future test 16 Q. And I found it interesting you mentioned vears in Newfoundland. Whereas in 2016 and Nova Scotia Power, and you brought that up a 17 17 couple of times in terms of some differences 18 earlier we could think about home heating 18 19 oil, and this is-this is a company that 19 in risk. When you gave evidence in terms doesn't serve industrial users, it serves-of--direct evidence now. I don't think you 20 20 21 it serves residential and commercial with a 21 testified at that hearing. I think there 22 22 little bit of streetlights. was a settlement. DR. BOOTH: 23 I don't know about streetlights. I 23 24 24 don't know how you're going to fuel them That's correct. A. 25 25 Page $\overline{108}$ Page 106 1 with gas, or hydrogen, or whatever, but I'm 1 MR. O'BRIEN: 2 sure an engineer can work that out. 2 Q. At that hearing you indicated Nova Scotia 3 3 Power is no more risky than anyone else, and MR. O'BRIEN: 4 4 you did not recommend an increased in equity Q. You didn't indicate in your report there's 5 5 been a significant change in Newfoundland thickness. 6 Power's business risk in your evidence for 6 DR. BOOTH: 7 7 this hearing. I think more accurately, Mr. O'Brien, I said 8 8 its ability to earn its allowed ROE hasn't DR. BOOTH: 9 9 changed because it still earns its allowed Α. I did say that the low run stranded asset 10 10 ROE, and it's got a little bit more was variability because of the power cost, and I 11 MR. O'BRIEN: 11 12 said what the company is proposing is a 12 You didn't say a significant business risk. That's not what you said. 13 billion dollars worth of assets in coal 13 DR. BOOTH: 14 plants which have to be out of service by 14 I said the stranded asset was gone down. 15 15 2030. The company wanted to put that into a 16 16 deferral account, and it wanted to recover MR. O'BRIEN: 17 those costs from rate payers in Halifax 17 You said if anything, risk may have gone Q. 18 down -18 beyond 2030. So, effectively they're still 19 19 DR. BOOTH: paying for those coal plants. And in 20 If anything, that's right. 20 addition, they'll pay for the cost of 21 replacement energy, and I said--and I didn't 21 MR. O'BRIEN: 22 Q. - but you did not say there's a significant 22 object to that, Mr. O'Brien. 23 difference, and that's what your opinion has 23 MR. O'BRIEN: 24 been all along, there has to be a 24 O. Well, there's a settlement to it, yes.

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1	DR. BOOTH:	1	would have changed given the intervention by
2	A. Well, no, I didn't object to it in my	2	the government in Nova Scotia, and he
3	testimony. I raised the question to the	3	certainly would have changed it. It
4	Board that there's this compact, and I think	4	violates my understanding of what we've been
5	I said it specifically; I'm not objecting to	5	doing in Canada for the last 35 years.
6	focusing the rate payers in Halifax, which	6	MR. O'BRIEN:
7	already has much higher electricity costs	7	Q. I think we can take our break at this point.
8	than St. John's, to basically pay twice for	8	CHAIR:
9	electricity, because the Board approved	9	Q. Take a break right now. Thank you.
10	those plants for use, and Nova Scotia had	10	(BREAK - 11:03 a.m.)
11	every expectation that they'll continue to	11	(RESUME - 11:32 a.m.)
12	be used and useful and get a return on that,	12	CHAIR:
13	and that's all in the business risk	13	Q. Welcome back everyone. No preliminary
14	testimony, and unlike this hearing, I think	14	matters?
15	I'm correct in saying that I started out in	15	MS. GLYNN:
16	the Nova Scotia Power hearing with a long	16	Q. No.
17	discussion on its business risk because that	17	CHAIR:
18	was the elephant in the room. What do you	18	Q. Okay, well back to Mr. O'Brien.
19	do with all these coal plants? The	19	MR. O'BRIEN:
20	Government of Canada and the Province said	20	Q. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just going to
21	take them out of rate base. Who bears that	21	lead you off on this last piece, Dr. Booth,
22	stranded asset risk? And on reference to	22	just on the equity thickness and I'm just
23	Stores decision, well, the Supreme Court of	23	wondering whether you would agree with me
24	Canada, they said the ownership of the	24	that when it comes to utilities and credit
25	cunada, mey said the ownership of the	25	that when it comes to attribes and create
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1	assets belongs to the utility. And I said	1	rating agencies, the credit rating agencies
2	it's a good argument, that the risk of those	2	do look at the stability of equity thickness
3	plants belongs to the utility owners.	3	as a credit strength, would you agree with
4	MR. O'BRIEN:	4	me on that?
5	Q. Utility, right.	5	DR. BOOTH:
6	DR. BOOTH:	6	A. I'd say that the credit rating agency don't
7	A notbecause they're no longer used and	7	like surprises.
8	useful, but they were put into rate base by	8	MR. O'BRIEN:
9	the Board, and a regulatory compact in	9	Q. Yeah.
10	Canada requires, I would say, that you	10	DR. BOOTH:
11	protect the utility. Now, as you probably	11	A. Which is why I said in the recommendation if
12	know, after I put my testimony in the	12	the Board lays down a marker, 40 to 45
13	Government of Nova Scotia passed regulations	13	percent going back to '96, '97, I'd be happy
14	to basically overruled or limited what the	14	if the Board does that and then we get some
15	Board could do, which this is-this is	15	clearance on Muskrat Falls and rate
16	reminiscent of what happens in the United	16	mitigation, then the Board can revisit this
17	States sometimes. The government just	17	and decide, well is its decision of the
18	changes the regulations and forces the Board	18	business risk hasn't changed still valid.
19	to do some things. And if you remember in	19	MR. O'BRIEN:
20	the Nova Scotia Power decision, I was the	20	Q. And a significant change by a regulator in
21	Board witness, and they say specifically a	21	the allowed equity thickness, would a credit
22	foundational part of Dr. Booth's testimony	22	rating agency see that as a minus?
23	was the regulatory compact, and we're not	23	DR. BOOTH:
24	sure what his opinion would havehow it	24	A. Depends which way the equity ratio goes. I
25	out what his opinion would have now it	25	suspect that the next report on FEI whereas

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1	equity ratio has gone up from 38.5 to 45	1	different risks built into their profile.
2	percent, they'll be very happy. Everybody's	2	Not every risk profile is exactly the same,
3	gas has gone up. Gas companies, the equity	3	you agree with me on that? And I'll give
4	ratios seem to have gone up. It depends on	4	you where I'm coming from on that in that
5	the ROE and I agree 100 percent with Mr.	5	the Board has to exercise judgment in
6	Coyne that the ROE times the equity ratio	6	setting an allowed ROE based on a particular
7	gives the amount of net income that the	7	set or risk profile for a utility.
8	owner is getting out of the utility. So if	8	DR. BOOTH:
9	the Board—and I say this explicitly, don't	9	A. That's correct, I mean I'm not quite sure—I
10	accept the allowed ROEs from elsewhere, like	10	want to say in two parts, one the Board has
11	9 percent or 9 1/4 from elsewhere and then	11	to determine based upon the evidence in
12	keep the 45 percent because that's higher	12	front of it. If there's no evidence in
13	than all these other utilities. If you	13	front of it, it can't make a decision, so
14	lower it to 40 percent, I might be happy	14	the evidentiary basis is very important.
15	with a higher ROE, but it's the combination	15	Secondly, it has to look beyond some of the
16	of the ROE and the common equity ratio. No	16	numbers and I think Mr. Coyne—is he still
17	question in my judgment Newfoundland Power	17	here, but Mr. Coyne mentioned he was doing
18	has got a high common equity ratio. If, in	18	work for Ontario power generation. Bam,
19	the Board's deliberations it said, well, we	19	nuclear products. I was involved in the
20	should all agree with Percible's (phonetic)	20	hearing in 2007 when they were refurbishing
21	judgment but he didn't take into account	21	Pickering and now they're refurbishing
22	that we give it a lower, an allowed ROE and	22	Darlington. You look at that and you say,
23	if they lower the allowed ROE, I was	23	well, they've got nuclear powers, just like
24	intrigued by one of the Board's questions	24	Duke. The problem is there's a whole set of
25	about the fact that the ROE gets knocked	25	regulations, who bears that regulatory risk
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1	onto Newfoundland Hydro and the Labrador	1	and in practice it seems that most of it is
2	Link, perhaps give them more equity and a	2	passed on to the province and the taxpayers
3	lower ROE saves ratepayers right the way	3	of Ontario. And the Board looks at that and
4	across the board and not just on	4	they look at the percentage of Hydro versus
5	Newfoundland Power, but also on, it	5	nuclear in the rate base for Ontario power
6	mitigates some of the rate increases coming	6	generation, so you have to go beyond the
7	through from elsewhere, so the Board has to	7	statistics and when I started looking at
8	deal with these questions.	8	this, they talked about business risk,
9	MR. O'BRIEN:	9	financial risk and regulation risk and I
10	Q. Are you able to point me to anywhere in any	10	said, no, that's not right. It's not right
11	Board order where the Board has indicated	11	in Canada, there isn't regulation risk, it
12	that the 45 percent equity, allowed equity	12	reduces the risk, so when you look at
13	is as a result of a particular ROE?	13	business risk, it's not a question of just
14	DR. BOOTH:	14	looking at the, some of the statistics, you
15	A. No, I can't. I said if, if that's the	15	have to go and look at the deferral accounts
16	Board's opinion after it reviews this	16	and the amount of regulatory protection. So
17	information, then that's something it should	17	the Board knows how it protects Newfoundland
18	be considering, the combination of the ROE	18	Power and where the risk is and I'm sure
19	and the common equity ratio. I think Mr.	19	Board staff know how they basically generate
20	Coyne and I both agree on that.	20	over earning, more so than you or I, they
21	MR. O'BRIEN:	21	just look at the numbers. They're a lot
22	Q. And would you agree with me that when it	22	closer to what goes on and goes into the
23	comes to assessing risk and risk profile for	23	data.
24	a utility, you talk about T&D utilities and all kinds of other utilities, they all have	24	MR. O'BRIEN:
25	all kinds at other litilities, they all have	25	Q. Okay, before we go on to your proposal and

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	Page 117		Page 119
1	return on equity, I did want to revert to	1	can actually go back and look at the data in
2	one point we talked earlier, just about	2	an undertaking if you feel it's important,
3	capital markets, and A rated bonds and I	3	but 2016, beginning of 2016 looks to have
4	asked you a question as to whether or not	4	been, well it's between 3.5 and 4.5 and now
5	they had significantly increased since 2016,	5	it is, which I said was 4.05, now it's, the
6	and I believe your answer was that no, they	6	A spread or the A yield is closer to 4.6
7	hadn't, am I wrong in that?	7	percent.
8	DR. BOOTH:	8	MR. O'BRIEN:
9	A. My answer was it depends and going into the	9	Q. So the spread may be similar but the yields
10	hearing whether you look at 2015, the time	10	are high.
11	of Mr. Coyne's evidence, 2016 my one	11	DR. BOOTH:
12	(phonetic) because obviously those yields	12	A. That's correct, so the borrowing cost to
13	change and I was just looking at the graph –	13	Newfoundland Power as a private issuer, has
14	MR. O'BRIEN:	14	probably gone up, but as you probably know,
15	Q. And it might help if I brought up your	15	it's been refunding its debt and its
16	evidence, I think, that might help.	16	embedded interest costs have dropped by 1
17	DR. BOOTH:	17	percent since 2016.
18	A. Yeah, I think it's actually in the beginning	18	MR. O'BRIEN:
19	of my testimony.	19	Q. I think you might be giving me more credit
20	MR. O'BRIEN:	20	than I deserve when you say "as you probably
21	Q. Yeah, in your testimony, in your direct at	21	know".
22	page 31 I think there's a chart. A & B,	22	DR. BOOTH:
23	right, so if we look to—where are we here,	23	A. Well I was very impressed with Mr. Kelly
24	15, 16, 2016.	24	eight years ago, Mr. O'Brien, so you got a
25	DR. BOOTH:	25	high standard to maintain.
	Page 118		Page 120
1	A. Well actually you can look at it from the	1	Page 120 MR. O'BRIEN:
2	A. Well actually you can look at it from the executive summary where I've got the time in	2	Page 120 MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Listen, I know my limitations and I do not
2 3	A. Well actually you can look at it from the executive summary where I've got the time in my testimony.	2 3	Page 120 MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Listen, I know my limitations and I do not compare myself to Mr. Kelly.
2 3 4	A. Well actually you can look at it from the executive summary where I've got the time in my testimony. MR. O'BRIEN:	2 3 4	Page 120 MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Listen, I know my limitations and I do not compare myself to Mr. Kelly. COFFEY, KC:
2 3 4 5	 A. Well actually you can look at it from the executive summary where I've got the time in my testimony. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. But even looking at this yield, this yield, 	2 3 4 5	Page 120 MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Listen, I know my limitations and I do not compare myself to Mr. Kelly. COFFEY, KC: Q. At least at that point, Mr. Kelly's career.
2 3 4 5 6	 A. Well actually you can look at it from the executive summary where I've got the time in my testimony. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. But even looking at this yield, this yield, I mean, if we look, compare 2016 to where we 	2 3 4 5 6	Page 120 MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Listen, I know my limitations and I do not compare myself to Mr. Kelly. COFFEY, KC: Q. At least at that point, Mr. Kelly's career. MR. O'BRIEN:
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	 A. Well actually you can look at it from the executive summary where I've got the time in my testimony. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. But even looking at this yield, this yield, I mean, if we look, compare 2016 to where we are now, there's a significant increase in A and BBB bonds, isn't there? DR. BOOTH: A. When I look at the—in the executive summary, page 2, I've got long-Canada yield, 2.05, the A spread 1.94, so A bonds were basically just over 4 percent. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. There is, I think, a fair increase. DR. BOOTH: A. Okay, look, I – MR. O'BRIEN: Q. I just want to clarify because your testimony gave me the impression that there wasn't. DR. BOOTH: 	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Page 120 MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Listen, I know my limitations and I do not compare myself to Mr. Kelly. COFFEY, KC: Q. At least at that point, Mr. Kelly's career. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. That's right. Okay, let's move to your proposal on the return on equity and you gave some evidence here today on that and I think I've read through your chart or your direct, I want to ask you just in terms of generalities in the last few years, would you agree with me that return on equities for utilities, if regulators are sort of allowing higher return on equities in the last few years? DR. BOOTH: A. I would say that they've come up from a low of about 8.3 percent, which I think was three, four years ago. So despite my recommendations in not changing the allowed ROE, unless it's 3.8 percent, they actually

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	Page 121		Page 123
1	shouldn't change it unless the yields went	1	and they tend to give more than a fair
2	below 3.8 percent, but when the abandoned	2	return.
3	the formula, it went to litigated hearings,	3	MR. O'BRIEN:
4	they did lower the allowed ROEs and they	4	Q. So you've come across, clearly you've come
5	have come up from those lows.	5	across Concentric and Mr. Coyne over the
6	MR. O'BRIEN:	6	years in terms of cost of capital hearings
7	Q. So they've come up.	7	and you've come across other experts for
8	DR. BOOTH:	8	utilities, you've made a number of comments
9	A. Yeah, that's correct. Now I wouldn't have	9	to say that utility experts say this, say
10	recommended that they come up because I	10	that, so you're familiar with the players in
11	wouldn't have recommended they went down in		the game, sort of thing, is that fair?
12	the first place.	12	DR. BOOTH:
13	MR. O'BRIEN:	13	A. I'm familiar with a lot of them. I remember
14	Q. No, and I'll get to that, just in terms of	14	when Concentric first came into Alberta, I
15	what you recommended, but just as a general	15	think it was 2009 and they provided, I'm not
16	comment, general commentary and observation	16	quite sure whether they provided full ROE
17	you would agree with me?	17	testimony, but that was when the first time
18	DR. BOOTH:	18	I heard of Concentric.
19	A. I would agree with that.	19	MR. O'BRIEN:
20	MR. O'BRIEN:	20	Q. Right, but there's a number of people in the
21	Q. Okay. So let's have a look at your	21	area that are giving testimony on cost of
22	proposal, so your proposal in terms of ROE	22	capital across the country and you're
23	is 7.7 on a 40 percent equity.	23	familiar with a number of them, I take it?
24	DR. BOOTH:	24	(11:45 a.m.)
25	A. That's what I think satisfied the fair	25	DR. BOOTH:
	Page 122		Page 124
1	return standard and that's what it comes	1	A. I'm familiar mainly with Concentric and the
2	from looking at comparable risk Canadian	2	Brattle Group. After that, it tends to be
3	utilities, I find it very difficult to get	3	individual people, rather than a consulting
4	above 7.7 percent for the ROE.	4	group. I know Sean Cleary, my former PC
5	MR. O'BRIEN:	5	student, used to appear before the AUC. I
6	Q. Okay, and that's the median between 7.28 and	ı	met Randy Woolridge who provided testimony
7	8.13.	7	before the Nova Scotia Utility Board. I
8	DR. BOOTH:	8	remember Mr. Coyne referred to Professor
9	A. Yeah, that's right, if the Board, I mean and	9	Vander Weide from Duke University. I've
10	I would also add when I was asked in	10	seen his testimony on a number of occasions,
11	settlement was 8.5 percent reasonable, I	11	so I'm familiar with some of them.
12	didn't object to it. So there's different –	12	MR. O'BRIEN:
13	MR. O'BRIEN:	13	Q. And would you agree with me that your—and
14	Q. Yeah, and I'm not going to ask you to	14	this is apropos of your earlier comment that
15	comment on that just where, I mean those are	15	I think regulatory boards tend to give
16	settlement discussions really at this point,	16	higher than a fair ROE, that was your
17	but your proposal at this stage.	17	comment. Would you accept that generally
18	DR. BOOTH:	18	speaking you tend to be on the conservative
19	A. That's right, but there's different	19	side when it comes to experts for cost of
20	definitions of fairness. I mean, I think	20	capital?
21	something in the low 8 is about the top of,	21	DR. BOOTH:
22	actual fair return which is supported, I	22	A. I would say I tend to be on the academic
23	hate to say, by the Labrador Link and KKR,	23	side.
24	but as I've said for decades, Boards tend to	24	MR. O'BRIEN:
25	be conservative, they protect the utility	25	Q. And I was just going to ask you about that,

Page 125 Page 127 and do you consider that different than the 1 A. No. My job is to give the Board—and this is 1 2 regulatory side? 2 the requirement of any witness, as I'm sure 3 DR. BOOTH: 3 you're aware, is independent of who hires 4 I would say that's correct. Estimating the 4 them to be of assistance to the Board and 5 cost of capital was something I've done 5 offer an independent view, and I don't think 6 research on, published papers on. It is an 6 you'll find anybody that's familiar with 7 academic topic. The bias involved in 7 what I've done in regulatory circles who 8 8 security analysts, there's thousands ofwill say, well Professor Booth is beholden 9 perhaps not thousands, hundreds of academic 9 to who pays his bill, that he's independent 10 research papers on that topic, and then I 10 and entirely consistent with academic literature and academic theory. There's 11 come into a regulatory setting and a lot of 11 12 the witnesses don't know the academic 12 nothing I say here that I wouldn't say in an 13 literature. 13 MBA class and don't say in an MBA class. 14 MR. O'BRIEN: 14 MR. O'BRIEN: 15 So in that context, I guess back to my 15 And the fact that your 7.7 proposal is 160 Q. Q. questions in terms of your being a 16 16 basis points below the average for an conservative expert in terms of estimating investor-owned electric utility in Canada, 17 17 18 ROE, that's not a surprise to you for me to 18 that makes no difference to your opinion? 19 19 ask you that, that you would normally be DR. BOOTH: along, either among the lowest or the lowest 20 20 Α. I do look at them and I look at the ones 21 in a hearing for a recommendation of a ROE, 21 that I participated in. I look at Maritime is that a fair assessment? 22 22 Electric, for example, they have a higher DR. BOOTH: ROE than I recommended and I was the Board 23 23 24 24 I think that's a reasonable assessment. I witness there. And you wonder what goes A. 25 noticed in the AUC I wouldn't have been the 25 into some of these decisions, but Maritime Page 126 Page 128 1 lowest. Sean Cleary would have been the 1 Electric has only got 40 percent common 2 lowest, he was in the sixes, and there was 2 equity, not 45 percent. 3 another witness that would have been at 7.7 3 MR. O'BRIEN: 4 percent who I think was an Intervenor 4 And this is kind of where I'm going when you Q. 5 5 witness as well. It's not at all unusual say you wonder what goes into these 6 for Intervenor witnesses to be about 1 6 decisions. Do you consider these decisions 7 percent below where the Board ends up and 7 when you put together your opinion? Is it 8 the utility witnesses, 1, 1.5 percent above 8 made up, does it make up any part of your 9 where the Board ends up. Now whether they 9 judgment as to what would be a fair return 10 actually just saw off the numbers, I don't 10 on equity, given there are other utilities 11 know. The OEB did that, by the way, they out there with higher returns and other 11 just took the four witnesses, three by the commissions and regulatory boards ordering 12 12 utilities, one by me and they just averaged higher returns, does that make any sort of 13 13 14 them, which I was really annoyed about, but 14 impact on your assessment of ROE? 15 that's how they came up with the entering 15 DR. BOOTH: 16 ROE in the OEB hearing back in 2009. 16 A. Well there's two parts to that, Mr. O'Brien. 17 17 First of all do I read the decisions I'm MR. O'BRIEN: 18 Q. Could you answer for me whether or not--18 involved with? Of course I do. I'm vain, 19 being an academic, obviously, I think I know 19 most people are vain. You want to read the decision and they say, "Oh, Professor Booth 20 the answer to this, but the fact that your 20 21 proposed ROE would be 130 basis points below 21 did a fabulous job, we love his opinion", so 22 what the average ROE would be for a utility, 22 and when they say "Well, we rejected his 23 would that make a difference to you for your 23 opinion for doing this", I look and I think 24 opinion? 24 what in the heck did they do that? So do I

25

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DR. BOOTH:

read the decisions? Of course I read the

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	Page 129		Page 131
1	decisions. Do I pay attention to them?	1	Q. And when I say the decisions, I'm talking
2	Yes, in the sense that if I look at the	2	about the other ROEs out there.
3	reason for why they rejected and I think, oh	3	DR. BOOTH:
4	my God, obviously I did a bad job in looking	4	A. No, it doesn't, I look at, for example, this
5	at that, I've got to do something else.	5	Board used an explicit capital asset pricing
6	I've got to correct my testimony to make my	6	model back in 2009.
7	position clear, because the Boards made	7	MR. O'BRIEN:
8	decisions based upon the evidence in front	8	Q. Sure.
9	of them. If you don't provide them with	9	DR. BOOTH:
10	everything you know, and God, how many pages	10	A. Did I look at that? Of course I looked at
11	have I got here? Probably around 200 pages,	11	it. I looked at their market risk premium,
12	there's things that I could add to that	12	I looked at their long-Canada rate, I looked
13	without any trouble whatsoever, but then you	13	at their beta, I looked at their—and I
14	get into the problem, you give them too much	14	thought, well, that's reasonable, how did
15	information, they can't absorb it, my	15	they get that? And so, am I going to change
16	students can't absorb it so I can't expect	16	my market risk premium to please the Board?
17	three board members, no matter how clever	17	No, I'm not, that's not my duty. My duty is
18	they are, to read 220 pages and distil all	18	to give an unbiased opinion on what I know,
19	of it, it's a tough ask. But do I look at	19	as a professor of finance, and what the
20	board decisions? Yes. Do I look at allowed	20	academic literature that's done research on
21	ROEs? Yes. Do I look at common equity	21	these topics informs that judgment.
22	ratios? Yes, mainly common equity ratios	22	MR. O'BRIEN:
23	because they're, as I say, they're more	23	Q. You mentioned earlier and I believe you
24	standard, they're more permanent which is	24	prefaced this by, I'm sure Mr. O'Brien is
25	why I gave the Fortis electric companies as	25	going to ask me this, but in the event the
<u> </u>	Page 130		Page 132
1	a yardstick. Do I pay attention to the	1	Board did reduce the ROE here for
2	allowed ROEs? I look at them, but I'm not	2	Newfoundland Power to 7.7 on a 40 percent
3	going to change my decisions or what I do	3	equity thickness, do you think that that
4	and I can't change the betas, they're not my	4	would have an effect on credit rating
5	betas, they're RBCs betas. I can't change	5	agencies' assessment of Newfoundland Power?
6	Kroll's market risk premium, it's Kroll's	6	DR. BOOTH:
7	market risk premium. I can change the long-	7	A. Absolutely. As I mentioned, any sort of a
8	Canada rate, but there's a number of things	8	shock affects the rating agencies, they
9	that I can't change them and reconciling	9	don't like—they like prediction and one of
10	that with some of the allowed ROEs, I read	10	the things, I mean I think it's Moody's
11	the decisions and sometimes I don't	11	explicitly says 50 percent of their
12	understand how they come up with their	12	weighting, its ability to earn the allowed
13	numbers, and sometimes they don't exactly	13	ROE and regulatory protection. Credit
14	spell out where they come out with their	14	metrics are important, but the most
15	numbers.	15	important thing is that the bond holders get
16	MR. O'BRIEN:	16	their money back and what they want to know
17	Q. So rather than try to compare them, you	17	is how the regulator behaves on that and as
18	don't use those as a comparator in any way,	18	you know, I'm sure, Mr. O'Brien, that after,
19	shape or form for your opinion, you read	19	God I'm forgetting the—anyway, after a big
20	them and I presume you look at them to see	20	pipeline in the United States went bankrupt—
21	how they came to the decision, but does that	21	how in earth is it that I can't remember
22	affect your ultimate opinion?	22	their name.
23	DR. BOOTH:	23	MR. O'BRIEN:
24	A. No.	24	Q. Nortel.
25	MR. O'BRIEN:	25	DR. BOOTH:
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Page 133 1 A. No, no, the US pipeline. 2 MR. O'BRIEN: 3 Q. Enron. 4 DR. BOOTH: 5 A. Enron, after Enron weat bankrupt, the bond 6 holders lost a lot of money and Standard and 7 Poor's was really amoyed with the FERC 8 because they didn't make chances to protect 1 the bond holders in Enron. Their primary 10 concern is getting the money back to the 11 bond holders. They are not equity 11 investors, they are rating the ability of 12 investors, they are rating the ability of 13 the utility to repsy the bonds. And they'll 13 the utility to repsy the bonds. And they'll 13 the utility to repsy the bonds. And they'll 14 look at that and they'll say, oh, less equity, less RoE, less net income, 16 absolutely certainty, earnings before 17 interest and tax and the coverage ratio wall go down from what it was previously. Now offsetting that, it's a horrible thing 20 to say but taxes have gone up in 121 Newfoundland and it's not the actual ROE, 21 rate that goes into determining the coverage 22 rate that goes into determining the coverage 23 doesn't help Fortis, they're just going to 24 say we're going to get less money, but the 25 rate that goes into determining the coverage 26 that a still belter or very 3 that, so if we can bring up Dr. Booth's 27 ratio is not my 7.7 percent, it's 5.7. In minutes the tax 28 rate, and that is still belter or very 3 about the taxes, we get paid before the 29 government because it's a prior charge. 10 km 20 prior the decay of the province of 3.08 percent on 40 percent common equity ratio 5 province and that's mainly because of the ROE. 4 R.O'BRIEN: 40 R.O'BRIEN: 41 through your open that common equity ratio 5 province and that's mainly because of the ROE. 40 R.O'BRIEN: 41 through your part of the ROE. 40 R.O'BRIEN: 41 through your part of the ROE. 41 through your on that comment, "10 through your part of the ROE. 41 through your part and that's m	June 2	0, 2024		NP 2025-2026 GRA
2 MR. O'BRIEN: 3 Q. Earon. 4 DR. BOOTH: 5 A. Earon, after Enron went bankrupt, the bond holders lost a lot of money and Standard and Poor's was really annoyed with the FERC because they dinn't make chances to protect the bond holders in Enron. Their primary concern is getting the money back to the 11 bond holders. They are not equity 12 investors, they are rating the ability of 13 the utility to repay the bonds. And they'll 14 look at that and they'll say, oh, less equity, less ROE, less net income, absolutely certainty, earnings before interest and tax and the coverage ratio would go down from what it was previously. I say bout the actual ROE, it's the pre-tax ROE that matters. Now that doesn't help Fortis, they're just going to say we're going to get less money, but the rate that goes into determining the coverage as we're going to get less money, but the rate that goes into determining the coverage as a sum of the actual ROE, it's the pre-tax ROE that matters. Now that doesn't help Fortis, they're just going to because their tax rates in Alberta are so lobecause their tax rates in Alberta are so about the taxes, we get paid before the government because it's a prior charge. 10 MR. O'BRIEN: 11 MR. O'BRIEN: 12 They are rating the ability of the trillity to report the proving the trillity of the trillity to report and I've done it a number of limes, obviously, I came to a number of		Page 133		Page 135
2 MR. O'BRIEN: 3 Q. Earon. 4 DR. BOOTH: 5 A. Earon, after Enron went bankrupt, the bond holders lost a lot of money and Standard and Poor's was really annoyed with the FERC because they din't make chances to protect 8 because they din't make chances to protect 8 can't change what's fair', okay, and we've got, you've indicated that your recommendation is to 7.7, but as I read the utility to repay the bonds. And they'll 10 investors, they are rating the ability of the utility to repay the bonds. And they'll 12 investors, they are rating the ability of its equity, less ROE, less net income, absolutely certainty, earnings before interest and tax and the coverage ratio would go down from what it was previously. I saw for the actual ROE, it's the pre-tax ROE that matters. Now that doesn't help Fortis, they're just going to say we're going to get less money, but the rate that goes into determining the coverage as we're going to get less money, but the rate that goes into determining the coverage as a saw we're going to get less money, but the rate that goes into determining the coverage as a but the taxes, we get paid before the government because it's a prior charge. 1 Page 134 1 ratio is not my 7.7 percent, it's 7.7 and 40 percent common equity ratio, it's not because of the 45 percent common equity ratio, it's not because of the 45 percent common equity ratio, it's not because of the 45 percent of the 4 percent common equity ratio, it's not because of the 45 percent of the 4 percent common equity ratio, it's not because of the 45 percent of the 4 percent common equity ratio to the actual ROE, in the full think the s.5 is fair. I've agreed to it make the s.5 is fair. I've agreed to it meterest and tax and the coverage to it in settlements, Mr. O'Brien. 2 percent divided by .695, I minutes the tax rate, and that is still better or very similar to, say, an Alberta utility getting to because their tax rates in Alberta are so lobe of the 45 percent divided by .695, I minutes the tax rate, and that is still better or	1	A. No, no, the US pipeline.	1	utilities are low, A minus. So they've got
3 Q. Earon. 4 DR BOOTH: 5 A. Earon, after Enron went bankrupt, the bond holders lost a lot of money and Standard and Poor's was really amoneyed with the FERC because they didn't make chances to protect the bond holders in Enron. Their primary concern is getting the money back to the bond holders. They are not equity investors, they are rating the ability of late the utility to repay the bonds. And they'll look at that and they'll say, oh, less equity, less ROE, less net income, absolutely certainty, carmings before in interest and it ax and the coverage ratio would go down from what it was previously. Now offsetting that, it's a horrible thing to say but taxes have gone up in Newfoundland and it's not the actual ROE, it's the pre-tax ROE it at matters. Now that doesn't help Fortis, they're just going to say we're going to get less money, but the rate that goes into determining the coverage to you've form the doesn't help Fortis, they're just going to say the the fortis they're just going to say the the fortis they read that is still better or very sound that are, and that is still better or very a sout the taxes, we get paid before the government because it's a prior charge. 10	2		2	
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5 A. Earon, after Euron went bankrupt, the bond holders lost a lot of money and Standard and Poor's was really annoyed with the FERC because they didn't make chances to protect the bond holders in Euron. Their primary 10 concern is getting the money back to the 11 bond holders. They are not equity 12 investors, they are rating the ability of 12 investors, they are rating the ability of 13 the utility to repay the bonds. And they'll so, oh, less equity, less ROE, less net income, absolutely certainty, carnings before in interest and tax and the coverage ratio would go down from what it was previously. 18 Now offsetting that, it's a horrible thing 20 to say but taxes have gone up in Newfoundland and it's not the actual ROE, it's the pre-tax ROE that matters. Now that 23 doesn't help Fortis, they're just going to 24 say we're going to got less money, but the rate that goes into determining the coverage 24 say we're going to got less money, but the 25 refresh that it still better or very 25 percent divided by .695, I minutes the tax rate, and that is still better or very 10 low. So as far as the utility—sorry, the bond holders are concerned, we don't care about the taxes, we get paid before the government because it's a prior charge. 10 MR. O'BRIEN: 11 MR. O'BRIEN: 12 Q. It's your position bond holders would not be affected by this type of a regulatory shock, 12 MR. O'BRIEN: 13 money and the state of the credit rating agencies and I'll freely admit that. I can't change what I regard as fair a passed upon the fact that there may be some reduction in Newfoundland Power's 5 bond rating. At the moment, they've got just about the most general bond rating in amongst any Canadian utility, matched only by FIFI and they're basically Mod's A, to 24 by FIFI and they're basically Mod's A, to 24 by FIFI and they're basically Mod's A, to 25 because the it are money that they are a tring. At the moment, they've got just about the most general bond rating in amongst any Canadian utility, matched only 24 by FIFI and they're basical	1			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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25 middle of the A range; whereas most Canadian 25 (12:00 p.m.)	1			
<u> </u>	25	middle of the A range; whereas most Canadian	25	(12:00 p.m.)

Page 137 Page 139 DR. BOOTH: 1 one cost of capital hearing in Canada and 1 2 2 then basically determine the generic ROE and A. First of all, the 50 basis points is in my 3 recommendation, I regard that as part of the 3 then in the GRA for each utility determine 4 issuing costs for a utility, but I flagged 4 the common equity ratio for specific factors 5 the Board's attention, I don't know what the 5 relative to that utility. That's, because 6 legal requirement is to allow a cost that's 6 there's so much repetitive evidence on this, 7 not been incurred, and as I said, the Regie, 7 but you can't do that because of provincial 8 they flagged that as well. So we sort of, 8 regulation and not federal regulation and it 9 9 I'd say there seemed to be a consensus brings up all sorts of legal problems. 10 amongst witnesses not to argue over the 10 MR. O'BRIEN: floatation costs in the sense that Mr. Covne 11 11 It's not really an argument to have, I mean O. 12 uses 50 basis points. Before that, Ms. 12 it's, at this point, if you can't do it, you 13 McShane and I used to argue about floatation 13 can't do it. DR. BOOTH: 14 costs. At one point she used a market book 14 15 ratio of 1.15 to adjust her recommendations, 15 You can't do it, yeah, it's provincial Α. but now we've sort of settled on 50 basis 16 16 regulation and we get enough provincial points. I don't bring in any testimony for versus federal as it is. 17 17 18 that, but I'm just flagging the fact that 18 MR. O'BRIEN: for the first time I've heard a utility say 19 19 But getting back to the 8.5, I'm going to O. we never incurred any floatation costs, so suggest to you and you can agree with me, 20 20 21 legally I don't know whether you can 21 disagree with me, there's one of two things 22 22 actually charge off to ratepayers a cost going on here, either A, you're using that the utility hasn't incurred, so I'm comparable ROEs out there as part of your 23 23 24 analysis, or B, you think your 7.7 is too just flagging that for the Board's 24 25 attention, but my recommendation is 7.7 25 low, which is it? Page 138 Page 140 1 percent. How do I flag that with the fact 1 DR. BOOTH: 2 that 8.5 percent, I would say that you do 2 Neither of those. A. 3 look at other recommendations, allowed ROES, 3 MR. O'BRIEN: 4 it doesn't change my view. My view is still 4 O. Okay. 5 5 7.7 percent. Do I think the NEB formulas DR. BOOTH: 6 give a reasonable rate of return? That was 6 My fair return is 7.7 percent, but I've A. 7 7 a formula that was satisfactory for a long supported the NEB formula for 30 years, and 8 period of time and if we use my minimum rate 8 if you adjust for the same thing that 9 of 3.8 percent, it's giving a rate very 9 everybody is using an adjustment for credit 10 similar to what the Board is allowing. So 10 spreads to correct the weakness of the 11 I've accepted the NEB formula, I was part of formula in 2009, you get something very 11 12 the hearing in '94, I've accepted that as 12 similar to the Board's 8.5 percent. And giving fair and reasonable allowed ROEs, so I've got a question, I think it was from the 13 13 14 am I going to argue a rate of 8.44 for the 14 Board, do I think 8.5 percent is fair on 40 15 NEB formula versus 8.5? No. That is one 15 percent or on 45 percent? I regard 8.5 16 definition of fair and reasonable which is 16 percent on 40 percent as being fair. If the 17 Board—and then I got a question from the the formula that was standard in Canada for 17 18 15 years. 18 Board saying well perhaps we increase the 19 MR. O'BRIEN: 19 common equity ratio, reduce the ROE, I 20 So that formula is not used here. 20 regard that as being fair. As long as you 21 21 look at the common equity ratio and the DR. BOOTH: 22 No, we've got our own formula and before we 22 allowed ROE because they sort of, they go 23 answer that, I have said repeatedly for two 23 hand in hand. 24 decades why on earth do we have all these 24 MR. O'BRIEN: 25 cost of capital hearings? We should have 25 Because that's not clear from your comment O.

Page 141 Page 143 ROE and the effective ROE of Newfoundland there, that is 8.5 with a 40 percent. 1 1 2 2 Power being not 8.5 but actually closer to DR. BOOTH: 3 Yeah, well that makes sense, 8.5 on 40 is 3 8.9. Now, this is line 7 to 9, "My A. 4 4 recommendation is that the Board set what it fair. 5 MR. O'BRIEN: 5 regards as a fair and reasonable ROE and any 6 But is that what your evidence is that 8.5 6 excess earned above that amount be shared O. 7 on 40 is fair 7 50/50 with ratepayers." Were you asked to 8 MR. BOOTH: 8 go -9 9 8.5 percent on 40, I've said repeatedly that DR. BOOTH: 10 I don't think 45 percent is appropriate for 10 A. And go on to the next sentence. Newfoundland Power, that it's excessive 11 11 MR. O'BRIEN: 12 compared to Maritime Electric, Fortis 12 O. "Otherwise, it is difficult to understand 13 Ontario, Fortis, BC Energy, the old West 13 what the Board considers to be a fair and Kootenay Power. So does that clarify it, reasonable allowed ROE." Were you asked to 14 14 assess the issue of a shared, of the sharing 15 Mr. O'Brien? 15 16 MR. O'BRIEN: 16 of excess earnings as part of your -DR. BOOTH: 17 I'm not certain it does, but that's fine, 17 18 Dr. Booth. 18 A. No. I wasn't and that's not what this is DR. BOOTH: 19 19 about. MR. O'BRIEN: 20 I must admit, I'm giving the Board some 20 21 options, I'm not dogmatic on this, Mr. 21 No, I understand what this is about, I'm 22 O'Brien, I know that they've rejected my 40 22 iust asking, but it says a recommendation percent common equity ratio repeatedly for here, so it actually says "my recommendation 23 23 24 the last, ever since 2009, and I think, as I 24 here is a 50/50 earning sharing". 25 have said in my opening statement, that I'd 25 DR. BOOTH: Page 142 Page 144 1 at least like the Board to say we go back to 1 A. That's correct. 2 40 to 45 percent as being reasonable, as 2 MR. O'BRIEN: That's correct, right, that's your 3 they've decided in the past, and I don't 3 Q. 4 know what goes on in their deliberations, 4 recommendation there. And you indicate, I 5 5 but whenever they set the ROE, I hope they think, and if we could pull up MPCA No. 2, 6 take into account the common equity ratio 6 you were asked whether or not that was—I 7 7 and I hope they spell it out in their mean, is this a recommendation on your part 8 decision. 8 and I think based on what I believe you're 9 9 going to indicate is that you didn't give MR. O'BRIEN: 10 I'm going to jump to another area, Dr. 10 evidence on sharing mechanisms, this has to Booth, and you've raised this a couple of do with the earned ROE, is that fair? 11 11 times and it's been raised by Mr. Coffey DR. BOOTH: 12 12 with Concentric, and that's the excessive 13 13 A. That's absolutely correct. It's a question 14 earnings band, I think, or account that was 14 of what does the Board really think is a 15 fair and reasonable allowed ROE. discussed, so it's the excessive earnings on 15 16 the rate of return on rate base. In your 16 MR. O'BRIEN: evidence and I'm going to ask that we pull 17 17 Okav. Ο. 18 up the direct evidence on page, I think it's 18 DR. BOOTH: page 1, pdf 3, there's a number of key 19 19 If it's 8.5 percent and they consistently Α. 20 points that you outline here. Actually, 20 make 40 basis points more, it's not 8.5 21 it's two pages in, I think, next one, yeah, percent, it's 8.9 percent, and I would like-21 22 it's page 3 of the report. Yeah, here it 22 and this comes, I mean Mr. Coyne picked up 23 is, if we scroll up a bit, Item No. 5 there 23 on this, we come back down to comparisons. 24 and this talks about the commentary you were 24 If you consistently allow the utility to earn 40 basis points more, then what you're 25 giving yesterday as well about the actual 25

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	Page 145		Page 147
1	really saying is the allowed ROE, the fair	1	MR. O'BRIEN:
2	allowed ROE is 8.9 percent and I would like	2	Q. So you haven't done any assessment, any
3	the Board to spell out, in its decision, as	3	jurisdictional review on earnings sharing
4	what it regards as a fair allowed ROE.	4	mechanisms, is that fair?
5	MR. O'BRIEN:	5	DR. BOOTH:
6	Q. Okay.	6	A. That's absolutely fair. As I said there, I
7	DR. BOOTH:	7	mean, this is not really—I'm not presenting
8	A. In my perception it is not 8.5 percent.	8	earning sharing mechanism and you can strike
9	MR. O'BRIEN:	9	that 50/50 if you like. I just want to know
10	Q. So in this answer to an RFI here, there's a	10	what the fair and reasonable ROE is.
11	question here, A, "Is Dr. Booth recommending	11	MR. O'BRIEN:
12	that the Board place a hard cap on	12	Q. And that's my point, Doctor, you just said
13	Newfoundland Power's authorized ROE, such	13	you can strike that 50/50, it's in your
14	that any earnings above the authorized ROE	14	report as a recommendation. It's not
15	should be shared evenly with customers", and	15	observation, this was a recommendation on a
16	your answer—and is this your answer, do you	16	50/50 earnings sharing mechanism and I'm
17	adopt this as your answer?	17	going to suggest to you you weren't asked to
18	DR. BOOTH:	18	look at it, you didn't do any jurisdictional
19	A. Look, nobody interferes with neither my	19	review to assess the appropriateness of a
20	evidence or my IRIs, except to tell typos.	20	50/50 earning sharing mechanism, that's
21	MR. O'BRIEN:	21	fair, correct?
22	Q. Right, okay, so the answer is no, Dr. Booth	22	DR. BOOTH:
23	had not presented evidence on earnings	23	A. That's correct.
24	sharing mechanisms and that's what I want to	24	MR. O'BRIEN:
25	ask you about, on earnings sharing	25	Q. All right, yet you put it in your report as
	Page 146		Page 148
1	mechanisms, so if we could go back, I want	1	a recommendation to this Board.
2	to get a flavour for what sort of analysis	2	DR. BOOTH:
3	you did on earnings sharing mechanisms for	3	A. That's correct, but as I said, there's the
4	this report.	4	otherwise after that, that qualifies that
5	DR. BOOTH:	5	statement.
6	A. Well I'll give you a clear answer on that,	6	MR. O'BRIEN:
7	nothing.	7	
1	MR. O'BRIEN:	8	Q. So that qualification can't be based on a review of earning mechanisms because you
8 9		9	didn't do that.
10	Q. Nothing, okay. DR. BOOTH:	10	DR. BOOTH:
1		10	
11 12	•	12	
1	mechanism, my concern is with the fair and		it's a fair ROE and you got equal
13	reasonable ROE and what the Board regards as a fair and reasonable ROE.		probability of over or under earning, they
14		14 15	should be shared – I would judge that a rational forecast should result in both over
15	MR. O'BRIEN:		
16	Q. That's my understanding. So why did you	16	and under earning, in which case you might
17	recommend a 50/50 sharing of earnings?	17	as well share those. But you're absolutely
18	DR. BOOTH:	18	correct, I have not done any research on
19	A. Well if the Board generally believes that	19	earning sharing mechanism, and as I said,
20	there's uncertainty and you're basically	20	otherwise, and this is where it comes in,
21	giving them the opportunity to earn their	21	it's a question of what is the fair and
22	fair ROE, then standard economic theory is	22	reasonable ROE. If a company consistently
23	that's a rational forecast, there's equal	23	over earns, as Newfoundland Power does, you
24	probability of being above or below, in	24	got to ask what does the Board really think
25	which case, share it.	25	is the fair and reasonable ROE when in fact,

Page 149 Page 151 it doesn't make it's fair and reasonable response, and you've just presented some of 1 1 2 2 ROE, it earns in excess of that. the commentary I was going to put to you. 3 MR. O'BRIEN: 3 (12:15 p.m.) 4 4 DR. BOOTH: So, this Board has already made a 5 determination on an excess earnings account. 5 So, we agree with each other? There's one in existence. 6 MR. O'BRIEN: 6 7 DR. BOOTH: 7 0. In this RFI response, and this is your RFI 8 A. Yeah, I know. 8 response, is it not? 9 MR. O'BRIEN: 9 DR. BOOTH: 10 Q. Right. You under – obviously, you know 10 A. Yeah. 11 that. But you haven't done any research and 11 MR. O'BRIEN: 12 you've made a recommendation here. You 12 You have mentioned what you just mentioned 13 haven't presented any evidence. Do you 13 about being contacted by a lawyer and Hydro 14 agree with me that as an expert before this 14 Quebec – "being certified for a class action 15 Board, you should be presenting evidence in 15 against Hydro Quebec for knowingly and 16 a fair, impartial, unbiased manner? Agree 16 recklessly presenting evidence on its costs 17 with me? 17 and expenses resulting in consistent over 18 DR. BOOTH: 18 earning over an eight-year period. Dr. Booth wonders whether a similar suit would 19 That is impartial and fair. 19 be certified in Newfoundland and Labrador 20 MR. O'BRIEN: 20 21 But you haven't done any research on this. 21 given Newfoundland Power's 25-year history 22 of over earning." Do you have any evidence 22 You haven't presented any evidence and now to suggest Newfoundland Power knowingly and 23 you're making a recommendation. 23 24 DR. BOOTH: 24 recklessly presents its costs and expenses 25 25 to this Board? I'm making a recommendation of what the Page 150 Page 152 DR. BOOTH: 1 Board thinks is a fair and reasonable ROE, 1 2 and I would tell you, Mr. O'Brien, I was 2 A. No. 3 contacted by a litigation expert in Quebec. 3 MR. O'BRIEN: 4 They got a class action suit against Hydro 4 O. Not a shred, do you? 5 5 Quebec. Why have they got a class action DR. BOOTH: 6 suit in Hydro Quebec? It's because they 6 No, but all I do know is it consistently Α. 7 consistently over earn their allowed ROE and 7 over earned and I just say I'm wondering. 8 the claim – yeah, but they're certified, but 8 I'm not saying that I know. 9 9 the claim is that Hydro Quebec basically MR. O'BRIEN: 10 manipulates its forecast to consistently 10 Q. Dr. Booth, this is not a passing comment. over earn. I've told them I want nothing to This is not a benign comment here. 11 11 Knowingly and recklessly, the implication is 12 do with it, but they wanted to hire me as an 12 13 expert witness. But it does raise the base 13 Newfoundland Power is doing the same. 14 - and this was only - this was after I filed 14 DR. BOOTH: 15 15 my testimony. But it raises a fundamental A. That is not the implication. The 16 point which I'm addressing here is what is a 16 implication is that Newfoundland Power is fair and reasonable ROE. You're right, I 17 17 consistently over earning its allowed ROE. 18 put in 50/50. Perhaps I shouldn't have done 18 MR. O'BRIEN: 19 that. But you got to read the otherwise. 19 You could have easily said that without O. 20 Otherwise what is the fair and reasonable 20 mentioning knowingly and recklessly presenting evidence of cost in that manner. 21 ROE if NP consistently over earns? 21 22 MR. O'BRIEN: 22 You could have easily said they consistently 23 Q. Dr. Booth, I'm going to be honest to you, I 23 earn their ROE and left it at that, but you 24 was going to come back to this at the end of 24 chose not to. 25 my questioning, this particular RFI 25 DR. BOOTH:

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1	A. No, they consistently over earn -	1	intending to be an impartial witness before
2	MR. O'BRIEN:	2	this tribunal. Is that fair?
3	Q. Yeah, but you chose -	3	DR. BOOTH:
4	DR. BOOTH:	4	A. That's correct.
5	A their allowed ROE.	5	MR. O'BRIEN:
6	MR. O'BRIEN:	6	Q. I'm going to suggest to you that's an
7	Q. You could have left it at that, but you	7	inappropriate comment. Without any evidence
8	chose not to.	8	or any shred of evidence, that's an
9	DR. BOOTH:	9	inappropriate comment.
10	A. No.	10	DR. BOOTH:
11	MR. O'BRIEN:	11	A. Well, you might – look, that might be your
12	Q. You suggested they could be certified on the	12	judgment. I'm just – I'm not saying that
13	same basis that Hydro Quebec was certified,	13	they've done anything. I'm just wondering
14	and you have absolutely no shred of evidence		if in fact Quebec, they're certifying a
15	to say Newfoundland Power is engaging in	15	class action based upon eight years, what
16	that kind of conduct. Is that fair?	16	would happen when they look at Newfoundland
17	DR. BOOTH:	17	Power over 30 years.
18	A. I have not looked into the mechanism by	18	MR. O'BRIEN:
19	which Newfoundland Power has consistently	19	Q. So, you're going to stick to your guns on
20	over earned its allowed ROE.	20	that?
21	MR. O'BRIEN:	21	DR. BOOTH:
22	Q. So, they could be doing that? Is that what	22	A. Well, no, I'm just saying it's a fact that
23	you're saying?	23	Newfoundland Power has over earned
24	DR. BOOTH:	24	consistently for 30 years, and generally,
25	A. I don't know. I'm wondering. I don't know.	25	that's about 30 basis points. I'd like the
	Page 154	==	Page 156
1	I'm wondering, Mr. O'Brien. I'm not saying	1	Board to state what it thinks is the fair
2	they're doing it. I'm just saying I'm	2	and reasonable ROE, whether it's 8.5 plus 30
3	wondering how is it that year after year	3	or 8.5 plus 40, but the fact is Newfoundland
4	Newfoundland Power over earns its allowed	4	Power has consistently over earned. And as
5	ROE, and I'm – and I mean, the Board allows	l .	I've said repeatedly, that's not just
6	the 40 basis points around the utility cost	6	Newfoundland Power. That's right the way
7	of capital. So, and I have to go back to	7	across Canada, and I don't know what's going
8	Hydro Quebec and work out what they allow,	8	on in Quebec. I was contacted by the lawyer
9	but I'm just pointing out that this question	9	and I said no, I'm not going to do that.
10	of over earning has resulted in a class	10	But the fact is there is a lawsuit in Quebec
11	action suit in Quebec, and that's based upon	11	•
12	, ,	ı	about over earning. The lawyers have been
	eight years. MR. O'BRIEN:	12 13	certified as knowingly and recklessly. I
13		l .	haven't said it's knowingly and recklessly.
14	Q. So, that must be happening here? DR. BOOTH:	14 15	I'm just - MR. O'BRIEN:
		ı	
16	A. Here, we're concerned with 30. MR. O'BRIEN:	16 17	Q. You wondered it. DR. BOOTH:
17		18	
18	Q. Is that – it must be happening here? DR. BOOTH:	ı	A. Well, that's why it's in brackets, but it's not what I've said. That's what the lawsuit
19		19	
20	A. Well, I don't know. If there's any lawyers	20	says, and it's been certified in Quebec.
21	in the room, they might look at this and	21	MR. O'BRIEN:
22	say, "well, if they can get certified in	22	Q. Doctor, I'm going to take you through some
23	Quebec -	23	further testimony on the models that you use
24	MR. O'BRIEN:	24	and that sort of thing, and you've testified
25	Q. This is your response, Doctor, and you're	25	already here in your direct that you use a

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1	fair bit of judgment in certain areas. You	1	its share and there's absolutely no question
2	rely on data, but you also impose your own	2	that its fair rate of return is less than
3	judgment in -	3	8.5 percent, in which case – and I can't see
4	DR. BOOTH:	4	how it's higher than my recommendation. So,
5	A. I would hope so.	5	I don't think my recommendation is biased.
6	MR. O'BRIEN:	6	I don't think I have a dirty window. And by
7	Q. Right, you agree with me on that?	7	the way, Mr. O'Brien, the phrase "dirty
8	DR. BOOTH:	8	window", I've been using it for the last 35
9	A. Yeah, absolutely.	9	years in Canada, increasingly so because we
10	MR. O'BRIEN:	10	need to look at the operating company. We
11	Q. All right. So, how is it that in imposing	11	can't see the operating company. It is a
12	that judgment, and I'm going to use a phrase	12	dirty window, trying to extract from the
13	from your own report. You talk about the	13	holding company what's going on in the
14	use of US utility data as looking through a	14	operating company. And I've talked about
15	dirty window, I think is what you use,	15	regulators about this issue for a long time.
16	because it gives biased results, biased high	16	We lost Maritime Electric. We could have
17	results, and I'm going to use that phrase of	17	looked at Maritime Electric and we could
18	dirty window and I want to understand	18	look at their stock price, their beta and we
19	whether or not – how is it you, when	19	could look at everything and there was no
20	exercising your judgment, make sure you do	20	dirty window. Now, to look at Maritime
21	so without looking through your own dirty	20	Electric, we have to go through Fortis and
1	• • •	22	, , ,
22	window to see if there's no bias on your	23	we have to pick samples. It's a dirty
23	behalf when you're exercising that judgment?		window that we're trying to look through to
24	What do you do?	24	find out what's going out with a regulated
25	DR. BOOTH:	25	utility and all we've got is these utility
_	Page 158		Page 160
1	A. I think you misunderstand the dirty window.	1	holding companies. Now, that's not a bias.
2	MR. O'BRIEN:	2	It's a fact is we have got a dirty window
3	Q. Well, I'm using it in a different way.	3	and I don't think that US electric holding
4	DR. BOOTH:	4	companies are a good proxy for Newfoundland
5	A. Exactly.		
1		5	Power, as I made that clear.
6	MR. O'BRIEN:	5 6	Power, as I made that clear. MR. O'BRIEN:
6 7	MR. O'BRIEN: Q. But it's bias.	6 7	Power, as I made that clear. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. You've made that clear.
6 7 8	MR. O'BRIEN: Q. But it's bias. DR. BOOTH:	6 7 8	Power, as I made that clear. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. You've made that clear. DR. BOOTH:
6 7 8 9	MR. O'BRIEN: Q. But it's bias. DR. BOOTH: A. Very much in a different way.	6 7 8 9	Power, as I made that clear. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. You've made that clear. DR. BOOTH: A. Yeah, they're holding companies. They're
6 7 8 9 10	MR. O'BRIEN: Q. But it's bias. DR. BOOTH: A. Very much in a different way. MR. O'BRIEN:	6 7 8 9 10	Power, as I made that clear. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. You've made that clear. DR. BOOTH: A. Yeah, they're holding companies. They're not operating companies. They're riskier
6 7 8 9 10 11	MR. O'BRIEN: Q. But it's bias. DR. BOOTH: A. Very much in a different way. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. It's a bias issue that you raise in here,	6 7 8 9 10 11	Power, as I made that clear. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. You've made that clear. DR. BOOTH: A. Yeah, they're holding companies. They're not operating companies. They're riskier than operating companies is well accepted.
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	MR. O'BRIEN: Q. But it's bias. DR. BOOTH: A. Very much in a different way. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. It's a bias issue that you raise in here, the US bias – US results are biased high.	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Power, as I made that clear. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. You've made that clear. DR. BOOTH: A. Yeah, they're holding companies. They're not operating companies. They're riskier than operating companies is well accepted. They've got generation. They've got
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	MR. O'BRIEN: Q. But it's bias. DR. BOOTH: A. Very much in a different way. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. It's a bias issue that you raise in here, the US bias – US results are biased high. That's the way you describe it. So, I'm	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Power, as I made that clear. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. You've made that clear. DR. BOOTH: A. Yeah, they're holding companies. They're not operating companies. They're riskier than operating companies is well accepted. They've got generation. They've got industrial – they've got so many things that
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	MR. O'BRIEN: Q. But it's bias. DR. BOOTH: A. Very much in a different way. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. It's a bias issue that you raise in here, the US bias – US results are biased high. That's the way you describe it. So, I'm asking how you get rid of your own bias, if	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Power, as I made that clear. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. You've made that clear. DR. BOOTH: A. Yeah, they're holding companies. They're not operating companies. They're riskier than operating companies is well accepted. They've got generation. They've got industrial – they've got so many things that make them non-comparable, as this Board has
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	MR. O'BRIEN: Q. But it's bias. DR. BOOTH: A. Very much in a different way. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. It's a bias issue that you raise in here, the US bias – US results are biased high. That's the way you describe it. So, I'm asking how you get rid of your own bias, if you have any, any inherent biases?	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Power, as I made that clear. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. You've made that clear. DR. BOOTH: A. Yeah, they're holding companies. They're not operating companies. They're riskier than operating companies is well accepted. They've got generation. They've got industrial – they've got so many things that make them non-comparable, as this Board has accepted. Looking through that dirty window
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Page 161 Page 163 traded, to have Maritime Electric traded, to 1 But the fact that they earn their allowed 1 2 have Maritime T&T still around. We can't do 2 ROE should be used by the Board to assess 3 3 that. They don't exist anymore. We're how good a job they're doing in transferring 4 looking at through dirty windows to try and 4 the risk from the utility to the ratepayers, 5 get what's going on for these utilities. 5 which is what all these deferral accounts 6 That means we have to exercise judgment 6 do. And that's part of the regulatory 7 because there is no data, except for Hydro 7 protection and the regulatory compact in 8 One, on a Canadian operating T&D utility, 8 Canada. 9 9 and unless this Board decides we're just MR. O'BRIEN: 10 going to use Hydro One, which is not in 10 Q. So, it's not the fact that they've earned it Newfoundland, it's in Ontario, that's all that should set what the ROE is? 11 11 12 we've got. Everything else involves looking 12 DR. BOOTH: 13 through a dirty window. 13 No. I think it should take into account the Α. 14 MR. O'BRIEN: 14 fact that we – look, as I said, when I first 15 Doctor, in terms of the earned ROE, 15 testified I used to see the company Q. witnesses coming in talking about business 16 Newfoundland Power having earned it for the 16 last number of decades, is that part of the risk, financial risk, regulatory risk. 17 17 18 fair return standard? Is that one of the 18 Thers is no regulatory risk. It's 19 legs of the fair return standard; for the 19 regulatory protection in Canada. 20 MR. O'BRIEN: 20 regulator to look back and decide "well, 21 you've earned your ROE, so we're not going 21 And you agree with me that determination of 22 to raise it"? Is that the approach that has 22 what an ROE is, this is a forward-looking determination? It's not looking back at the 23 to happen here? Is that what you're 23 24 24 suggesting? last 25 years to say you've earned your ROE, 25 DR. BOOTH: 25 so we're going to knock you down one. Page 162 Page 164 DR. BOOTH: 1 A. I'm not suggesting that at all. 1 2 2 MR. O'BRIEN: A. No, I don't recommend that. 3 3 MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Okav. 4 DR. BOOTH: 4 Q. No.

> 5 DR. BOOTH:

6 A. I say that the Board should look at the past 7 experience and take that into account in 8 assessing its business risk, as in fact 9 Moody's recommends.

10 MR. O'BRIEN:

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And let me move just to your models that you've used with respect to the ROE and how you – and you've taken the Board through a fair bit in your direct on that and I've listened to your description of how you use models. I want to ask you in general whether you agree with me when it comes to the use of models, in order to establish a fair – what a fair ROE might be. You've mentioned over time you've gone back and forth with some models. You had some DCF models you used earlier in your career and you've changed somewhat. But would you agree with me there's no single widely accepted best financial model to use to set

5 A. The fair return standard basically – look, 6 you got to remember where all of this comes 7 from. It comes from the fact that utilities 8 are regulated monopolists and without 9 regulation, they'd charge unfair prices. 10 So, the key is the prices. There's nothing in regulation to say, "well, give them a 11 deferral account for their pension benefits. 12 Give them a deferral account for all these 13 other things." That's not in the fair 14 15 return standard. That's the way we 16 implement the fair return standard. But what we – but technically, there should be 17 18 losses and gains. All we need to do is 19 regulate their prices and then like a 20 regular company, if there's a shock, they get losses and they lose money. And if it's 21 22 a positive shock, they make money. There's 23 nothing in regulation that says that we 24 should basically regulate them so carefully 25 that they exactly earn their allowed ROE.

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1	an ROE?	1	DR. BOOTH:
2	DR. BOOTH:	2	A. I used to call it a contingent, cap asset
3	A. No.	3	pricing model by making it contingent upon
4	MR. O'BRIEN:	4	credit spreads -
5		5	MR. O'BRIEN:
I .			
6	controversial, right.	6	Q. Right.
7	DR. BOOTH:	7	DR. BOOTH:
8	A. The financial theory says that the DCF,	8	A because there's consensus across Canada
9	Gordon model, whatever you want to call it,	9	that when the credit spreads widen, you're
10	and the risk premium should give the same	10	in a default and the equity costs goes up,
11	answer.	11	and I've never been a big fan of that
12	MR. O'BRIEN:	12	because it evens out over the business
13	Q. Yeah, and so -	13	cycle, but I've accepted that and it's in my
14	DR. BOOTH:	14	recommendations and within – and it's in
15	A. And then you -	15	almost every formula. So, that is there and
16	MR. O'BRIEN:	16	I have to make adjustments to use the long –
17	Q. Oh, sorry.	17	the risk-free rate. I cannot use a -
18	DR. BOOTH:	18	MR. O'BRIEN:
19	A. Then, as the survey said, you talk to people	19	Q. You can -
20	what are their expectations and then you use	20	DR. BOOTH:
20 21	common sense in terms of a risk ranking.	21	A rate that's not fair market value.
	e i	22	
22	That's exactly the same. It's a data		MR. O'BRIEN:
23	question in terms of which ones are better.	23	Q. Would you agree that cost of capital models
24	Mr. Coyne takes exception to the fact that I	24	are imperfect tools? I mean, each one of
25	said the DCF model fell out of favour in the	25	them has its own limitations. That's not
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1	'90s. Well, the fact is it did, and it – we	1	controversial, is it?
2	used risk premium models right the way up	2	DR. BOOTH:
3	until 2009 when we had this massive bond	3	A. No, I'd say the models are credibly valid,
4	buying. So, the usefulness of these models	4	but the data is imperfect in the practical
5	depends upon the underlying data that's	5	applications of them.
6	available and if the data become corrupt in	6	(12:30 p.m.)
7	some way, then the usefulness of that model	7	MR. O'BRIEN:
8	goes away. And I'm not – I would not	8	Q. But there's limitations for the purpose
9	continue slavishly using a model where the	9	we're using them for?
10	underlying data, such as the long Canada	10	DR. BOOTH:
1			
11	rate, is no longer fair market value and is	11	A. I would say that's – I'd say that we've used
12	corrupt.	12	a CAPM for the last 20 years without too
13	MR. O'BRIEN:	13	many problems.
14	Q. I'll get to that point because I think you	14	MR. O'BRIEN:
15	do make some adjustments to continue to use	15	Q. Well, if there's no limitations to it,
16	that model. Is that fair?	16	you've just mentioned there's a limitation,
17	DR. BOOTH:	17	the long-term Canada bond.
18	A. That's correct.	18	DR. BOOTH:
19	MR. O'BRIEN:	19	A. That's right.
20	Q. Yeah. So, you do use the model?	20	MR. O'BRIEN:
21	DR. BOOTH:	21	Q. So, there's a limitation to that.
22	A. I use the model because there is a -	22	DR. BOOTH:
23	MR. O'BRIEN:	23	A. Well, that's true. There's always data
24	Q. Yeah, but it's a contingent model, I think	24	problems in putting that in and so, I'll
25	is what you called it.	25	agree with you on that, Mr. O'Brien, and the
	is what jou called it.		agree in jou on man, min. o brief, and the

Page 169 Page 171 DCF fell out of fashion when inflation 1 A. It's because we're all trained to think in a 1 2 dropped and all of a sudden growth rates 2 certain way, and it's our professional became a lot more difficult to focus. 3 3 training that takes us down a silo, as it 4 MR. O'BRIEN: 4 were. So, I don't – and I don't think 5 Yes, and I'm not – I'm not arguing economic 5 that's that revolutionary, but I mean, theory with you and whether the models 6 6 finance academics, estimating the cost of 7 themselves are supposed to bring out a 7 capital is not the most difficult problem in 8 certain result, but the fact of the matter 8 finance. 9 9 is there are limitations with each one of MR. O'BRIEN: 10 them, depending on certain factors, data, 10 Q. No. DR. BOOTH: 11 that sort of thing? You'd agree with me? 11 12 DR. BOOTH: 12 Α. And I said that before the CRTC when they I would agree with that. 13 were saying how difficult it was. I said 13 MR. O'BRIEN: 14 14 it's not difficult. This is something we 15 Yeah, okay. 15 give our undergraduates. But it becomes Q. 16 DR. BOOTH: 16 difficult when you're in a litigated hearing and you end up with nuances in terms of the 17 And that's in my testimony. 17 18 MR. O'BRIEN: 18 data and the estimation processes. 19 And depending on the approach used, I mean, 19 MR. O'BRIEN: this whole cost of capital assessment, as 20 20 Q. And that's where judgment comes in? 21 Ms. Greene has indicated, there can be more 21 DR. BOOTH: 22 22 of an art to it than a science. A. That's where judgment comes in, but honestly, what I do, I don't think there's a 23 DR. BOOTH: 23 24 24 lot of judgment in it, and my estimates – A. Non-finance people say that. So, I mean -25 MR. O'BRIEN: 25 the judgment is really on the long Canada Page 170 Page 172 1 Q. I'm a non-finance person. 1 rate. 2 DR. BOOTH: MR. O'BRIEN: 2 3 Yeah. Well, I know, you're a lawyer. I 3 Well -A. O. 4 4 DR. BOOTH: hate lawyers. 5 5 MR. O'BRIEN: And the market risk premium and betas, I use A. 6 I'm sure you hate me more today than 6 public market betas and public market data Q. 7 yesterday. 7 to backup my judgment in those areas and I 8 DR. BOOTH: 8 do not deviate from consensus in those 9 9 areas. The long Canada rate, I do deviate Α. And I say that because I was taught a long because – and I've deviated consistently 10 time ago to read paragraphs and I know 10 there's a lot of lawyers in the room and a because I think I understand a little bit 11 11 lawyer explained to me, we don't read 12 more about the global capital markets and 12 the intervention of the central banks and paragraphs, we read words, and how you 13 13 interpret that word – look, and I've been in 14 sometimes I listen to some of the witnesses, 14 15 15 tax cases where it hinges on the particularly the United States witnesses. 16 interpretation of the word. I read the 16 They generally, in the US, they don't have a paragraph and I say, "my God, it's obvious" 17 big section on financial market conditions 17 18 and then the lawyer says, "no, it's that 18 and the economy. They come in and they -19 word". So, lawyers are not like other 19 and in fact, I was told – not told, but said 20 people. I'll say professors of finance are 20 "why do you have all of this economic stuff 21 not – professors of finance are not like in here? We just want to know what your 21 22 other people. 22 estimates are." And that was before the 23 MR. O'BRIEN: 23 Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers 24 O. There's one on the Board. 24 when I first put my testimony. I said, "we 25 DR. BOOTH: 25 need it in Canada. It's a legal requirement

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1	to look at conditions in the money market."	1	exercise judgment today? Is that what
2	So, you can't – and the ROE comes out of	2	you're saying?
3	those conditions in the money market. But	3	DR. BOOTH:
4	my understanding is a lot of people don't do	4	A. Mr. O'Brien, I would never say I don't
5	that. And yet, to use the CAPM, you have to	5	exercise judgment.
6	have the appropriate risk-free rate.	6	MR. O'BRIEN:
7	MR. O'BRIEN:	7	Q. Okay. Well, that's what I'm trying to get
8	Q. So, Doctor, I guess my question was more of	8	at.
9	a general question that there are areas	9	DR. BOOTH:
10	where you have to exercise judgment in	10	A. It's the job, my job to advise the Board.
11	giving a cost of capital opinion, in	11	MR. O'BRIEN:
12	interpreting, in what data to put in there,	12	Q. That's what I thought.
13	and that sort of thing, and this is where, I	13	DR. BOOTH:
14	think, myself and Ms. Greene had put kind of	14	A. And that's judgment.
15	questions to the cost of capital experts	15	MR. O'BRIEN:
16	that it may be more of an art than a	16	Q. I didn't think we'd be at odds on this
17	science, and that's what I'm wondering. Do	17	point.
18	you agree with that?	18	DR. BOOTH:
19	DR. BOOTH:	19	A. I exercise judgment, but the biggest area of
20	A. No.	20	judgment at the moment, particularly in the
21	MR. O'BRIEN:	21	risk premium, is in the long Canada rate.
22	Q. In that context. You don't?	22	MR. O'BRIEN:
23	DR. BOOTH:	23	Q. Okay.
24	A. No, not in terms of the market risk premium,	24	DR. BOOTH:
25	not in terms of betas.	25	A. Not in the betas and not in the market risk
	Page 174		Page 176
1	MR. O'BRIEN:	1	premium.
2	Q. Okay.	2	MR. O'BRIEN:
3	DR. BOOTH:	3	Q. Okay. Well, let's talk about that, the long
4	A. Not at the current point in time. If you	4	Canada rate. So, that biggest area of
5	went back to 2000, we were getting negative	5	judgment. So, we're talking – and you
6	betas and I'd say yes. But at the current	6	walked us through here today the components
7	point in time, I don't see there's	7	of that CAPM model with risk-free rate.
8	significant difference between me and most	8	That's the long-term Canada bond. And then
9	of the independent people that provide	9	you got your risk premium. So, you got your
10	betas. The area where there's more judgment	10	market risk and then you got your beta. So,
11	is in the long Canada rate. Do we use the	11	I mean, those are your components to that
12	actual rate in the capital market and ignore	12	model. Is that fair?
13	the fact that the Bank of Canada is holding	13	DR. BOOTH:
14	300 billion dollars worth of Government of	14	A. Yeah, yeah.
15	Canada debt.	15	MR. O'BRIEN:
16	MR. O'BRIEN:	16	Q. Okay. So, in your risk-free rate, you used
17	Q. So, Doctor, when you indicated earlier	17	a long-term Canada bond. You've used a 3.8
18	you've reviewed the testimony from 2016, and		kind of holding figure, trigger value I
19	in 2016, Mr. Kelly asked you a number of	19	think is what you called it, right?
20	questions concerning judgment where you had		DR. BOOTH:
21	indicated, for example, the market risk	21	A. Yeah, I've used it as trigger.
22	premium, there's an element of judgment that	22	MR. O'BRIEN:
23	you exercise there. The beta estimates,	23	Q. Yeah, I think that's fair. You called it a
24	there's an element of judgment that you	24	trigger value. And that's an area where
25	exercise there. Are you saying you don't	25	you've exercised judgment with that model.

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1	Is that correct?	1	to be maximizing their utility and trading
2	DR. BOOTH:	2	off risk versus return. And that's not
3	A. That's correct.	3	happening in the government bond market
4	MR. O'BRIEN:	4	because it's not individuals trading of risk
5	Q. All right. And is that an area where other	5	and return. It's the government intervening
6	cost of capital experts have used the same	6	for specific reasons. So, I don't think Mr.
7	judgment?	7	Coyne and I disagree about the fundamental
8	DR. BOOTH:	8	problem. We disagree about how that's
9	A. You mean the same judgment, the same value?	9	incorporated into our models and how we
10	MR. O'BRIEN:	10	adjust for it.
			MR. O'BRIEN:
11	Q. Yeah. I'm just trying to get a sense where	11	
12	this comes from.	12	Q. And so, why don't you use four, instead of
13	DR. BOOTH:	13	three?
14	A. Kroll used – I mean, look, Kroll – people	14	DR. BOOTH:
15	pay Kroll for their cost of capital	15	A. I have used four.
16	navigator series. They have exactly – look,	16	MR. O'BRIEN:
17	same problem we all face, which is that the	17	Q. When have you used four?
18	long Canada bond and the US treasury yield	18	DR. BOOTH:
19	are not fair market value. They're affected	19	A. I can't remember. I went back and looked at
20	by the massive holdings by the central	20	my testimony. The bulk of the time I've
21	banks. Kroll uses 3.5 percent as their	21	used 3.8, but I did use four percent in a
22	trigger and that's 3.5 percent in the United	22	hearing, and I can't remember which one it
23	States and that's over the 20-year rather	23	is.
24	than we use the 30-year in Canada. So,	24	MR. O'BRIEN:
25	there's a few basis points there. So, and	25	Q. Recently?
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1	they are certainly an authority in terms of	1	DR. BOOTH:
2	the market risk premium. Other than that, I	2	A. No, this is going back right at the
3	don't see a lot of people using the current	3	beginning, when we first had the problem for
4	spot rate for the long Canada rate. Mr.	4	the long Canada bond in 2011-2012. But I've
5	Coyne, I'd have to check what he's doing at	5	used 3.8 percent as a minimum rate. I don't
6	the moment, but he used to use a normalized	6	think, if we didn't have the government –
7	long Canada rate, and he used to go out and	7	well, if we didn't have the Government of
8	look at the rate -	8	Canada, we wouldn't have Government of
9	MR. O'BRIEN:	9	Canada bonds, but if we didn't have the
10	Q. Over a three-year period.	10	central bank intervening in the bond market,
11	DR. BOOTH:	11	I suspect the yield on the long Canada bond
12	A. Yeah. He would – because he had the same	12	would be higher than the 3.2 percent which
13	problem. Look, the problems he and I face	13	it is at the moment. It's how much higher
1			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
14	are exactly the same, which is the base of	14	I've got – in my Appendix B, I've got a
15	the risk premium, time value of money is	15	model that predicts the real return on the
16	distorted and it's less distorted now than	16	long Canada bond and the factors that
17	it was say three years ago. Three years	17	determine that return. Like everything
18	ago, in 2021 when we had a negative real	18	else, it's supply and demand. It's – one of
	return on a long Canada bond yield, that was	19	my students asked me what determines this.
19			Leavest's supply and domand. Examples as
20	absolute nonsense. I mean, nobody trades	20	I say it's supply and demand. Everything is
20 21	off the risk of equities versus a negative	21	supply and demand. It's a question of what
20 21 22	off the risk of equities versus a negative return on long Canada bond. It's	21 22	supply and demand. It's a question of what goes into those supply and demand curves and
20 21 22 23	off the risk of equities versus a negative return on long Canada bond. It's incompatible with basic financial models,	21 22 23	supply and demand. It's a question of what goes into those supply and demand curves and the long Canada bond, I've got the deficit.
20 21 22	off the risk of equities versus a negative return on long Canada bond. It's	21 22	supply and demand. It's a question of what goes into those supply and demand curves and

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1	up that the prices go down and the yields go	1	Q. You didn't use 3.8.
2	up. So, it's not an accident that our	2	DR. BOOTH:
3	yields drop below those of the United	3	A. No, that's exactly the same. What happened,
4	States. When the Conservative government	4	it was in – we had preferred yields and we
5	moved the – well, actually the Liberal	5	had the time series of preferred yields put
6	government balanced the budget, we moved	6	out by the Toronto Stock Exchange. So, we
7	into surplus. This is why long Canada bonds	7	had good data or preferred shares. We don't
8	went down and as a result, the – we had high	8	no longer have that. And I looked at –
9	rates on long Canada bonds. Now, we've got	9	preferred share, it's a question of what is
10	a government that's increasing the supply of	10	a made-in-Canada rate. What is it that
11	long Canada bonds again and if the Federal	11	people trade off to buy equities? And you –
12	government persists in 50-billion-dollar	12	at that time, the US was flooding the market
13	deficits, that's 50 billion dollars of	13	with bonds and they were being bought by the
14	Government bonds that are added to the	14	central bank and we were being whip sored.
15	Canada bond market and if the government –	15	I mean, we're not perfectly integrated with
16	and if central bank then basically sells 300	16	the United States. The United States is the
17	billion dollars, you wonder where are	17	elephant in the room in all this, in the
18	interest rates going to go. So, 3.8 percent	18	sense that we get buffeted by what's going
19	is my minimum bound. I would expect,	19	on in the United States. So, that's
20	depending upon the actions of the government	20	obvious. And it impacted the bond market
21	and the central bank, to see those yields go	21	because the bond market is integrated
22	up significantly above 3.8 percent.	22	globally. So, when the ECB and the Bank of
23	MR. O'BRIEN:	23	England and the US Central Bank started
24	Q. So, Doctor, the 3.8 percent, your minimum	24	buying bonds, absolutely no question, it
25	bound, that's a figure you exercise your	25	impacted on Canada, and in fact, at one
25		23	Page 184
	Page 182		Page 184
1 1	indoment and about that moutionlan figure	1	
1	judgment and chose that particular figure.	1	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the
2	That's fair?	2	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned
2 3	That's fair? DR. BOOTH:	2 3	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned by foreigners because the money – the demand
2 3 4	That's fair? DR. BOOTH: A. That's fair.	2 3 4	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned by foreigners because the money – the demand was coming into Canada. The preferred share
2 3 4 5	That's fair? DR. BOOTH: A. That's fair. MR. O'BRIEN:	2 3 4 5	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned by foreigners because the money – the demand was coming into Canada. The preferred share market wasn't buffeted by foreign capital
2 3 4 5 6	That's fair? DR. BOOTH: A. That's fair. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Okay. And -	2 3 4 5 6	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned by foreigners because the money – the demand was coming into Canada. The preferred share market wasn't buffeted by foreign capital coming into Canada. Preferred share market
2 3 4 5 6 7	That's fair? DR. BOOTH: A. That's fair. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Okay. And - DR. BOOTH:	2 3 4 5 6 7	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned by foreigners because the money – the demand was coming into Canada. The preferred share market wasn't buffeted by foreign capital coming into Canada. Preferred share market is an almost entirely Canadian market
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	That's fair? DR. BOOTH: A. That's fair. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Okay. And - DR. BOOTH: A. And it's been accepted by this Board and the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned by foreigners because the money – the demand was coming into Canada. The preferred share market wasn't buffeted by foreign capital coming into Canada. Preferred share market is an almost entirely Canadian market because – I don't know whether you're a
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	That's fair? DR. BOOTH: A. That's fair. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Okay. And - DR. BOOTH: A. And it's been accepted by this Board and the BCUC and other boards.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned by foreigners because the money – the demand was coming into Canada. The preferred share market wasn't buffeted by foreign capital coming into Canada. Preferred share market is an almost entirely Canadian market because – I don't know whether you're a private investor, but we get the dividend
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	That's fair? DR. BOOTH: A. That's fair. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Okay. And - DR. BOOTH: A. And it's been accepted by this Board and the BCUC and other boards. MR. O'BRIEN:	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned by foreigners because the money – the demand was coming into Canada. The preferred share market wasn't buffeted by foreign capital coming into Canada. Preferred share market is an almost entirely Canadian market because – I don't know whether you're a private investor, but we get the dividend tax credit for buying dividend paying
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	That's fair? DR. BOOTH: A. That's fair. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Okay. And - DR. BOOTH: A. And it's been accepted by this Board and the BCUC and other boards. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. And you've used different – you've used four	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned by foreigners because the money – the demand was coming into Canada. The preferred share market wasn't buffeted by foreign capital coming into Canada. Preferred share market is an almost entirely Canadian market because – I don't know whether you're a private investor, but we get the dividend tax credit for buying dividend paying stocks, and the Americans don't. The Brits
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	That's fair? DR. BOOTH: A. That's fair. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Okay. And - DR. BOOTH: A. And it's been accepted by this Board and the BCUC and other boards. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. And you've used different – you've used four before in another board. I think you used	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned by foreigners because the money – the demand was coming into Canada. The preferred share market wasn't buffeted by foreign capital coming into Canada. Preferred share market is an almost entirely Canadian market because – I don't know whether you're a private investor, but we get the dividend tax credit for buying dividend paying stocks, and the Americans don't. The Brits don't. The Europeans don't. It's a
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	That's fair? DR. BOOTH: A. That's fair. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Okay. And - DR. BOOTH: A. And it's been accepted by this Board and the BCUC and other boards. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. And you've used different – you've used four before in another board. I think you used this trigger value. I'm going to suggest	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned by foreigners because the money – the demand was coming into Canada. The preferred share market wasn't buffeted by foreign capital coming into Canada. Preferred share market is an almost entirely Canadian market because – I don't know whether you're a private investor, but we get the dividend tax credit for buying dividend paying stocks, and the Americans don't. The Brits don't. The Europeans don't. It's a Canadian market. So, I was trying to look
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	That's fair? DR. BOOTH: A. That's fair. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Okay. And - DR. BOOTH: A. And it's been accepted by this Board and the BCUC and other boards. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. And you've used different – you've used four before in another board. I think you used this trigger value. I'm going to suggest you used something – a different approach	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned by foreigners because the money – the demand was coming into Canada. The preferred share market wasn't buffeted by foreign capital coming into Canada. Preferred share market is an almost entirely Canadian market because – I don't know whether you're a private investor, but we get the dividend tax credit for buying dividend paying stocks, and the Americans don't. The Brits don't. The Europeans don't. It's a Canadian market. So, I was trying to look at how to gauge this buffeting that was
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	That's fair? DR. BOOTH: A. That's fair. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Okay. And - DR. BOOTH: A. And it's been accepted by this Board and the BCUC and other boards. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. And you've used different – you've used four before in another board. I think you used this trigger value. I'm going to suggest you used something – a different approach back early on in 2011-2012, when this first	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned by foreigners because the money – the demand was coming into Canada. The preferred share market wasn't buffeted by foreign capital coming into Canada. Preferred share market is an almost entirely Canadian market because – I don't know whether you're a private investor, but we get the dividend tax credit for buying dividend paying stocks, and the Americans don't. The Brits don't. The Europeans don't. It's a Canadian market. So, I was trying to look at how to gauge this buffeting that was going on in the bond market and I said, ah-
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	That's fair? DR. BOOTH: A. That's fair. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. Okay. And - DR. BOOTH: A. And it's been accepted by this Board and the BCUC and other boards. MR. O'BRIEN: Q. And you've used different – you've used four before in another board. I think you used this trigger value. I'm going to suggest you used something – a different approach back early on in 2011-2012, when this first initially became an issue for you, and in	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	point, the Bank of Canada pointed out the Government bond market was 60 percent owned by foreigners because the money – the demand was coming into Canada. The preferred share market wasn't buffeted by foreign capital coming into Canada. Preferred share market is an almost entirely Canadian market because – I don't know whether you're a private investor, but we get the dividend tax credit for buying dividend paying stocks, and the Americans don't. The Brits don't. The Europeans don't. It's a Canadian market. So, I was trying to look at how to gauge this buffeting that was going on in the bond market and I said, ahah, we have the preferred share market
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Page 185 Page 187 look at the preferred shares anymore because Q. 1 Well, let's move to the market risk premium, 1 2 we don't have the data. 2 and you mentioned a fair number of things 3 3 MR. O'BRIEN: there in your slides this morning. Your 4 4 market risk premium range is 5.5 to 6. Is Okay. O. DR. BOOTH: 5 5 that right? 6 So, there's things that we can do if we got 6 DR. BOOTH: 7 the data and if we don't have the data, we 7 That's correct. A. 8 can't do it. 8 MR. O'BRIEN: 9 MR. O'BRIEN: 9 Yeah. And -10 10 Q. So, otherwise, you stick with your own DR. BOOTH: personal sort of figure, your personal 11 11 The actual range from the historic estimates A. 12 assessment. You feel that's a reasonable 12 is 4.87 to 6.4 or whatever. 13 assessment and that's what you're stuck MR. O'BRIEN: 13 14 with, the 3. -14 O. Right. And then I believe Concentric's is 15 DR. BOOTH: 15 6.4 range. So, there's a difference between what you, as experts, have used for that 16 A. Well, it's personal assessment. I mean, the 16 market risk premium, and that affects the data wasn't a personal assessment. The data 17 17 18 is the data. So, the spread between the 18 outcome of the model. DR. BOOTH: 19 preferred share yield and the A bond yield, 19 it increased because foreign investors 20 20 A. I mean, they're basically using what looks 21 didn't buy preferred shares, they bought the 21 to me like the US experience historic market 22 Canadian bond market. So, that's not 22 risk premium. 23 personal judgment. That is what it is. 23 MR. O'BRIEN: 24 MR. O'BRIEN: 24 So, the last time you were before the Board, Q. 25 Well, the trigger value, using it as a 25 you had a 5 to 6 range. So, what has O. Page 186 Page 188 1 trigger value when the risk-free rate is not 1 changed to bring you up to 5.5? 2 3.8, that's a personal judgment. 2 DR. BOOTH: 3 3 Well, some of it's the data. DR. BOOTH: 4 4 A. It comes from applying the statistics and MR. O'BRIEN: 5 the data on the spread between the preferred 5 And where does that come from? Q. 6 share and the A bond yield and how that DR. BOOTH: 6 7 changed as a result of this flood of capital 7 Well, it comes from we got another year of 8 coming into Canada and adding that to the 8 data. 9 existing Canada bond yield to say well, but 9 MR. O'BRIEN: 10 for this distortion caused by foreign 10 Q. Yeah. capital coming into Canada in the bond DR. BOOTH: 11 11 market, the best I can come up with is 12 12 In 2016, we had 1956 to 2015. Now we got adding this spread and you get 3.8 percent, 1956 – sorry, 1926 to 2013. So, some of 13 13 and that is an imprecise estimate. I will 14 it's data. Not a big amount is data. Some 14 15 15 give of it is the result of looking at what Kroll MR. O'BRIEN: 16 is doing. Some of it is due to the fact 16 17 that the Fernandez survey seemed to come out 17 I think that's my point, Doctor. Q. 18 DR. BOOTH: 18 at 5.5 to 6 percent, and Damodaran, and when 19 It's the best estimate I could come up with 19 people did it, they did a little survey in Α. 20 and nobody else has even tried to do an 20 some magazine, I forget which it is, who do estimate like that. They've just – they 21 you look for for market risk premium. They 21 22 just washed their hands of trying to 22 said Damodaran, Fernandez and Kroll. So. 23 actually solve the problem of how distorted 23 I'm using the three sources that were cited 24 is the yield on the Canada bond market. 24 as independent estimates of the market risk 25 MR. O'BRIEN: 25 premium.

Page 189 Page 191 MR. O'BRIEN: 1 A. I think the first time Fernandez came out. 1 2 2 it was – I was – gave testimony before the Q. When you were here before the Board last in 3 2016, Mr. Kelly did ask you do you exercise 3 Regie in Montreal and I actually said, 4 any judgment in coming to your figure, as to 4 "here's my market risk premium. Here's an 5 what the appropriate figure would be, and 5 adjustment for other professional advice" 6 you indicated to him that you do. I'm 6 and I think I said I can't ignore the fact 7 wondering sort of can you tell the Board 7 that 1,000 – whatever the number was of 8 what element of personal judgment do you 8 people came in and said the market risk 9 apply to that data to come up with your 9 premium. Other professionals think it's 10 figure? 10 this. So, that's probably a more current DR. BOOTH: forward-looking estimate of what the market 11 11 12 I think in 2016, there wasn't this survey 12 risk premium is, rather than just looking 13 that indicated the three sources of straight at the historic data. 13 14 independent advice on the market risk 14 MR. O'BRIEN: 15 premium. I certainly didn't use Damodaran, 15 Is it fair to say that ultimately in the Q. his independent estimates. I certainly did grand scheme of things in your report that 16 16 use Fernandez, which has changed. I can't that change in the Fernandez report probably 17 17 remember whether I used Kroll. I'd have to 18 18 had a fair impact on you jumping from 7.5 to 19 go back and see if I used Kroll. But you 19 7.7? DR. BOOTH: 20 asked me what do I do when I read a 20 21 decision, and obviously I look – as I said, 21 I think the 20 basis points has gone up 22 I'm vain. I think everyone's vain. You 22 because of my increase in the market risk like to see whether they like what you did, 23 23 premium. 24 and what they didn't like, you say, "well, I 24 MR. O'BRIEN: 25 know I'm right. I'm going to have to find -25 Yeah. O. Page 192 Page 190 1 try and rectify that perception that I 1 DR. BOOTH: 2 didn't do a good job", and I've now got the 2 A. And you're absolutely correct. When the 3 Kroll work. I've got the Damodaran work and 3 survey, the 41 survey respondents said six 4 does that inform my judgment? Yes, it does. 4 percent in Canada. I used to use a range of 5 5 Do I just look at my estimates and say, five to six percent. When Kroll said 5.5, 6 "well, these are my estimates, historic 6 when the survey respondents in the US said 7 estimates, I'm going to live and die by 7 5.7, when Damodaran said 5.5, I thought 8 them"? No, I don't. You have to look at 8 well, five seems to be a little bit low, 9 expectations. That's one of the things that 9 compared to what I was doing before. So, I 10 the survey of cost of capital looks at and 10 did bump it up to 5.5 to 6 percent. I've tried to do everything in that survey 11 11 MR. O'BRIEN: which is indicated as important things in 12 12 And if it wasn't for that change, we'd be estimating the cost of capital. back – you'd be recommending 7.5 likely? 13 13 14 MR. O'BRIEN: DR. BOOTH: 14 15 I got the impression from either a response 15 I think the betas, the betas that I used 16 to an RFI or somewhere in your evidence that 16 this time are slightly higher than in the survey results from this Fernandez 17 17 MR. O'BRIEN: 18 survey had sort of made an impression on you 18 Q. I'll get to that. 19 to increase your estimate to the 5.5 versus 19 DR. BOOTH: 20 the 5 bottom. Is that fair? 20 - in 2016. So -21 DR. BOOTH: 21 MR. O'BRIEN: 22 I think that's fair. 22 O. Okav. It's a combination of the two? Α. 23 MR. O'BRIEN: 23 DR. BOOTH: 24 O. Yeah. 24 Α. It's a combination of the two, basically as 25 DR. BOOTH: 25 20 basis points.

Page 193 Page 195 MR. O'BRIEN: 1 own estimates of the market risk premium? I 1 2 2 could just use these public market. Why do Q. That Fernandez survey, has there been any concern raised about that survey itself over 3 3 I bother coming up with my own beta 4 time that you've been using it, any issues 4 estimates? I can just use public beta 5 with its validity that you're aware of? 5 estimates" and I would dramatically reduce a 6 DR. BOOTH: 6 lot of my testimony. But I feel, as an 7 7 expert, I have to validate the external I think there's always a concern with the A. 8 validity of surveys. One of the concerns is 8 work, and that's a job that I do. So, how 9 who actually fills out the survey. 9 much do I weigh these things? I honestly 10 MR. O'BRIEN: 10 don't know. There's no formulaic 30 percent Fernandez, 20 percent Damodaran to come up 11 Exactly. 11 O. 12 DR. BOOTH: 12 with that. It's what I think is reasonable 13 We do surveys for chief executive officers, 13 given the values that come out. 14 for example, on financial things. We send 14 MR. O'BRIEN: 15 them a survey. They say, "I'm not going to 15 Okay, all right. So, let's talk about that Q. answer this. I'm going to give it to that 16 16 then. You were here last time and you had – 17 hire with the MBA from Wharton" and then the in 2016, and you had a range of five to six. 17 MBA from Wharton says, "well, what did they 18 18 Why has your range – you've upped your range 19 tell me to do in my finance classes? Ah-ah, 19 now or you've changed your range to five and capital asset pricing model". So, the big a half to six. Why has it narrowed? Why 20 20 21 problem in – I mean, surveys are important, 21 haven't you gone five and a half to six and 22 but I mean, I wouldn't totally hang my hat 22 a half? on them because there is a certain – there's DR. BOOTH: 23 23 24 24 a response bias attached to surveys. I haven't seen any reputable people A. 25 MR. O'BRIEN: 25 producing an estimate above six percent. Page 194 Page 196 1 Q. So, how do you account for that in your own 1 MR. O'BRIEN: 2 personal assessment of what the market risk 2 Q. No reputable people? 3 premium would be if there's a response bias 3 DR. BOOTH: 4 4 there? Α. No. 5 5 DR. BOOTH: MR. O'BRIEN: None? 6 Well, I think it's five to six percent. The 6 Α. O. 7 response in the United States, 5.7, Canada, 7 DR. BOOTH: 8 six percent, Damodaran, 5.47 percent, Kroll, 8 And I say the three main sources are 9 9 5.5. When you get this overwhelming number Damodaran, Kroll and Fernandez. 41 10 of values, did I look at Fernandez and say, 10 respondents put the median for Canada at six 11 "well, I'm going to hang my head on – or my 11 percent, which is the top of the range. I hat on that?" No, I honestly don't know 12 haven't seen any support of anything beyond 12 what – how much I filtered that information 13 13 six percent. 14 to come up with 5.5 to 6. It's more 14 MR. O'BRIEN: 15 impressionistic that that was basically what 15 Q. Any relevance to the US data? 16 was coming back in the data from external 16 DR. BOOTH: experts. Tell me what I could have done is 17 17 The US data is lower. They're now coming Α. 18 say, well, I'm – Booth isn't going to do 18 with a US market risk premium in the survey 19 anything, and I used to do everything 19 of 5.7 percent and Damodaran's estimate of 20 myself, all my own estimates. Now, there's 20 5.4 percent is US data, and Kroll's estimate 21 a lot of people out there that do this and 21 is US data at 5.5, now reduced to five 22 it's public information. So, Fernandez 22 percent. 23 survey is out there. Damodaran is out 23 MR. O'BRIEN: 24 there. Kroll is out there. I'm looking at 24 O. So, are these figures all narrowing all 25 this saying, "why do I bother to produce my 25 across the board, like the data?

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1	DR. BOOTH:	1	depends upon the betas that we observe, and
2	A. I'm surprised at how narrow they are. And I	2	I think back in 2016, I was adjusting them
3	used to use three percent, Mr. O'Brien.	3	towards the Grand Mean -
4	That was back in the '90s when long Canada	4	MR. O'BRIEN:
5	bond yields were up at 14 percent and the	5	Q. Grand Mean, I believe, yeah.
6	spread for the equity market was a lot	6	DR. BOOTH:
7	narrower than it is today. My estimates	7	A. The betas, which was the evidence of beta
8	have gone up for the market risk premium as	8	adjustment processes in the United States.
9	long Canada bond yields – expected normal	9	MR. O'BRIEN:
10	long Canada bond yields come down.	10	Q. And was that something that came out of
11	MR. O'BRIEN:	11	research that you were involved in?
12	Q. Let's talk about your betas.	12	DR. BOOTH:
13	DR. BOOTH:	13	A. No, that came – well, before the National
14	A. Yeah.	14	Energy Board in 2001, my late colleague, Dr.
15	MR. O'BRIEN:	15	Berkowitz and I, and it was mainly Mike,
16	Q. Your beta estimates. So, that's the	16	that was something that he was interested
17	coefficient that represents the relative	17	in, we looked at the number of Canadian
18	risk of the utility or whatever you're	18	pure, reasonably pure regulated utilities
19	measuring. Is that fair?	19	and we did a Blume adjustment at that time,
20	DR. BOOTH:	20	and the adjustment was, surprise, surprise,
21	A. It's the relative risk and risk relative -	21	to the Grand Mean, consistent with the work
22	MR. O'BRIEN:	22	in the United States on beta adjustment, and
23	Q. To the market.	23	we presented that before the NEB and it
24	DR. BOOTH:	24	wasn't controversial. If you see a utility
25	A to a diversified portfolio of equities.	25	and it's always had a beta of .5 and then
	Page 198		Page 200
1	MR. O'BRIEN:	1	you look at your estimates and it's dropped
2	Q. Yeah, okay. And I gather from a review of	2	to .1, you say, "what on earth's happened
3	your previous evidence before the Board in	3	here? That looks to be something special.
4	2016, you had betas in the range or a beta	4	I need to adjust that" and that's all that
5	range of .45 to .55. Is that correct?	5	the beta adjustment does. So, it's not a
6	DR. BOOTH:	6	question of do we adjust betas. It's a
7	A. That's correct.	7	question of do we adjust them towards the
8	MR. O'BRIEN:	8	average risk of the stock in the market,
9	Q. All right. Was that reflective of market	9	which is what the Blume adjustment does to
10	data at that time?	10	all stocks in the market, and if I didn't
11	DR. BOOTH:	11	know anything about what's going on in the
12	A. No, that was mainly the estimate of the	12	stock market, Blume is right, that if you
13	long-run tendency of betas in the Canadian	13	just tell me that beta is .2, and you don't
14	market. As I explained in my direct, the	14	tell me the stock, like a game, they hide
15	question is if you see an observation, do	15	the game, they hide the utility behind a
16	you adjust it, and you have – we call this	16	wall and they say, "it's a beta of .2".
17	Bayesian adjustment. It's due to a British	17	(1:00 p.m.)
18	clergyman called Reverend Thomas Bayes	18	I'd say "well, I think the appropriate beta
19	hundreds of years ago. Basically you look	19	would be .33 plus 66 – two-thirds of that
20	at something and you assess "is that	20	.2" and then if they said, "ah, by the way,
21	reasonable?" and you update your estimate,	21	it's a tech company" and I say, "well,
22	which we all do this. We look at things and	22	that's ridiculous". You don't adjust it to
23	it changes our knowledge and we update what		one. Tech stocks are riskier than one. I
24	we do. So, when we look at betas, we all	24	would change my beta adjustment. And if you
25	adjust betas. How much we adjust them, it	25	told me, "Ah-ah, it's a bank". I'd say,
			- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

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1	"well, banks have got betas around about	1	relative to other people? Yes. The only
2	one." I would adjust it with the Blume	2	other refereed publication looking at US
3	adjustment. And if you told me it was a	3	regulated utilities was in the electricity
4	utility, I'd say, "well, utility are low	4	journal by two people. I've forgotten the
5	risk. The .2 may be low, but it's not	5	first – and the second name was Theodossiou.
6	excessively low", I'd adjust it upwards to	6	They could find no beta adjustment for US
7	.5. So that is where Blume is right and	7	electric utilities either.
8	Blume is wrong. He's right for the overall	8	MR. O'BRIEN:
9	stock market. He's not right for anybody	9	Q. I sent you a – or I've given counsel a
10	that knows anything about the beta and the	10	cross-aid and this was a BCUC decision from
11	information about that company, and we know	11	2016, and I'm going to ask you just about
12	a lot about utilities.	12	how the commission had assessed your betas,
13	MR. O'BRIEN:	13	and maybe we can put that in as an
14	Q. I'll get to Blume. I'm just wondering about	14	information item? I've got two copies
15	your betas first.	15	there.
16	DR. BOOTH:	16	GREENE, KC:
17		17	
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	18	Q. A decision - MR. O'BRIEN:
18	looked at a beta adjustment for Canadian		
19	utilities. Can't do that anymore. They	19	Q. That was the 2016 – it's a 2016 one.
20	don't exist.	20	MS. PHILPOTT:
21	MR. O'BRIEN:	21	Q. So, the 2016 decision between Fortis Energy
22	Q. No.	22	Inc., the application for its common equity
23	DR. BOOTH:	23	component and return on equity, is
24	A. So, I looked at the betas for the electric	24	Information Item number 26.
25	utility holding companies that I had and I	25	COFFEY, KC:
	Page 202		Page 204
1	did a Blume assessment on those electric	1	Q. I'm sorry, number –
2	utility holding companies as beta, and I		
	• • •	2	MR. O'BRIEN:
3	discovered that the intersect was .45 and	3	MR. O'BRIEN: Q. 26.
	• • •	3 4	MR. O'BRIEN:
3	discovered that the intersect was .45 and	3	MR. O'BRIEN: Q. 26.
3 4	discovered that the intersect was .45 and the coefficient on the actual beta was .05, barely significant, and as I say, the best I could say is .45 to .5 looks to be	3 4	MR. O'BRIEN: Q. 26. MS. PHILPOTT: Q. 26. COFFEY, KC:
3 4 5	discovered that the intersect was .45 and the coefficient on the actual beta was .05, barely significant, and as I say, the best I	3 4 5	MR. O'BRIEN: Q. 26. MS. PHILPOTT: Q. 26.
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3 4 5 6 7 8	discovered that the intersect was .45 and the coefficient on the actual beta was .05, barely significant, and as I say, the best I could say is .45 to .5 looks to be reasonable for the beta adjustment for the grand mean.	3 4 5 6 7 8	MR. O'BRIEN: Q. 26. MS. PHILPOTT: Q. 26. COFFEY, KC: Q. 26? Thank you. MR. O'BRIEN:
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	Page 205		Page 207
1	Commission's determination with respect to	1	So, since that point in time, and in this
2	betas. I think right down near the bottom	2	particular hearing we've got a different
3	of the page there's a comment there, and	3	beta assessmentyou've got .5 to .6 in this
4	you'd indicated already that you look at	4	one.
5	Commission decisions and consider them and	5	DR. BOOTH:
6	how they've ruled in your evidence that was	6	A. That's correct.
7	given, and even make adjustments going	7	MR. O'BRIEN:
8	forward. The Commission says it does not	8	Q. And how much of that is based on your
9	accept it should rely solely on Dr. Booth's	9	estimates, and how much is based on market
10	judgment without stronger empirical	10	data? How much is based on an
11	corroborating evidence to support his beta	11	interpretation of the two?
12	judgments. Accordingly, the Panel finds it	12	DR. BOOTH:
13	can place only limited weight on Dr. Booth's	13	A. I'd say thewell, I don'tI'd have to go
14	beta estimates. Did you have cause to	14	back to what I did in the BCUC, but I don't
15	review this particular decision after it	15	think I used only public market betas that I
16	came out?	16	do now. I'm almost certain I didn't.
17	DR. BOOTH:	17	That's something that I've tried to
18	A. Yes, and I now look at beta adjustments	18	emphasize. And also to be fair in response
19	specifically to address this.	19	to other witnesses, I estimate my betas, but
20	MR. O'BRIEN:	20	I now have RBC betas, and I have all these
21	Q. Okay.	21	other betas, so that the judgment component
22	DR. BOOTH:	22	isI mean, when I say judgment I mean the
23	A. There was no beta adjustment in the 2016. I	23	betas are the betas, are what they are.
24	relied upon the work that I referenced,	24	They're empirical estimates. I use the same
25		25	
	Page 206		Page 208
1 1	which was the only empirical work that was	1	software to develop those betas as Bloomberg
2	there. Since then there's the Thomadakis	2	or anybody else. So, that's what the data
3	paper that looks at beta adjustment for US	3	shows. I have come up from Nord .45 to Nord
4	utilities, and since then I've resurrected	4	.55, to Nord .5 to Nord .6. So, there has
5	the work I did in-my colleague and I did in	5	been an increase in my beta estimates.
6	2001 before the NEB, and I've looked to the	6	They're still not adjusted because I can't
7	beta adjustment for electric utilities in	7	find any evidence whatsoever for a beta
8	the United States. So, as I said, I look at	8	adjustment towards 1, but I still do think
9	it and I say, wow, I obviously didn't do a	9	we should adjust beta estimates based upon
10	good job there. I'm going to have to do	10	judgment.
11	some work on beta adjustment techniques, and	11	MR. O'BRIEN:
12	I did that. MR. O'BRIEN:	12	Q. Your estimates are significantly below the
13		13	raw data presented by Mr. Coyne and Concentric.
14 15	Q. And in that particular hearing was your assessment similar, .45 to .55? Would that	14 15	DR. BOOTH:
16	have been your assessment?	16	A. That I don't understand because what Mr.
17	DR. BOOTH:	17	Coyne is saying is not just that Booth uses
18	A. Probably, because the estimate of the grand	18	judgment, which I don't, but his estimates
19	mean was about .52, so that would probably	18	are too low. The Royal Bank of Canada's
20	bewould have been my estimate.	20	estimates are too low. CFRA's estimates
$\frac{20}{21}$	MR. O'BRIEN:	21	are too low. The Globe and Mail's estimates
$\frac{21}{22}$	Q. Yes, and I recall that coming out of the	22	are too low, and Yahoo, S&P's estimates are
23	last hearing52 I think is what your	23	too low. So, it's like everybody else is
24	evidence said, so that would make sense.	24	too low, but leave my betas.
25	evidence said, so that would make sense.	25	too lon, but leave my better.
1 43		23	

Page 209 Page 211 MR. O'BRIEN: Mr. Coyne hasn't provided, as far as I 1 1 2 can see, apart from the beta, the adjusted 2 O. Okay. So, back to--my question really is 3 3 betas, any corroborating evidence for his more along the lines of--I'm trying to get a 4 betas. I do note that he tends to use 4 sense of what you've done since 2016 to 5 weekly betas, and I present evidence--and 5 change your approach here, and have you 6 again, the only published research on this 6 looked at more data? Have you exercised 7 area that there's a time horizon over which 7 more judgment to suggest that, okay, I need 8 you estimate the betas reduces, so instead 8 to increase my data estimates? Just sort of 9 9 of monthly they use weekly. then the how do you get from the .45 to the .5? 10 estimates for thinly traded stocks go down, 10 DR. BOOTH: and for thickly traded stocks go up, and the 11 11 I've been criticized. A. 12 reason for that is straightforward. Thinly 12 MR. O'BRIEN: traded stocks don't trade, and if they don't It's not a big jump. 13 13 Q. 14 trade, the prices stay exactly the same. 14 DR. BOOTH: 15 So, the estimate of their volatility goes 15 Yeah, I know. It's a tiny jump. Α. 16 down so they look less risky, where thickly 16 MR. O'BRIEN: traded stocks, they trade all the time, and 17 17 A tiny jump. 18 you got all this information about what's 18 DR. BOOTH: 19 19 In fact going on. A. MR. O'BRIEN: 20 So, since they have to add up to 1, it 20 21 means the thickly traded stocks, the beta 21 Yes, tiny jump. O. 22 estimates, are over-estimated. So, that is 22 DR. BOOTH: 23 empirical evidence. I don't use weekly 23 Mr. Coyne usually criticizes me. He's been A. 24 24 betas because everybody in academia has at 7.5 for the last 10 years, and now I'm 25 25 Page 210 Page 212 1 access to the same data tapes, and for the 1 being criticized by going up 20 basis 2 2 points. But I have increased--I've last 30 or 40 years we've used the Center 3 for Research and Security Prices which has 3 decreased the reliance on my own estimates, 4 monthly beta on stock prices and returns. 4 and increased reliance on public market 5 5 Mr. Coyne uses Bloomberg, but these data. Why? Because when I started out 6 series weren't available 10, 20, years ago. 6 doing this there was no public data on 7 A lot of the data that's available now 7 betas. There were no estimates on the 8 8 market risk premium, you had to do it simply wasn't available when I started 9 9 yourself, and I did it myself, and I testifying, and he uses weekly beta, weekly 10 beta. I mean, this has been an issue before 10 continue to do it myself, but I've added a the Alberta Utilities Commission. Why is lot, a large amount of external estimates, 11 11 12 Mr. Coyne's beta estimates so high. One is 12 and low and behold, if we all do the same thing on the same day that we should end up 13 because their adjustments are regarded as 13 14 inappropriate. The other is because he uses 14 with the same results, and by and large, the 15 15 weekly betas and not monthly betas. And if external data gives exactly the same 16 you use six monthly betas, i.e. betas that 16 results. are estimated over six monthly periods, MR. O'BRIEN: 17 17 18 they've been even lower because the 18 So, the Bloomberg data that Mr. Coyne uses Q. 19 frequency with which you estimate the beta 19 has raw data up close to .8 sort of range 20 has an impact on the value that you get out 20 and higher in some cases for Canadian, US, 21 21 and North America? That's the raw data? of them, and it's not an accident, and most 22 of the utility witnesses have gone to weekly 22 DR. BOOTH: 23 betas, and almost all academics continue to 23 A. As of what time period and what estimation -24 use monthly data. 24 MR. O'BRIEN: 25 25

Page 213 Page 215 O. In the last five years. 1 also 1, because you're adjusting towards 1. 1 2 DR. BOOTH: 2 So, the higher the beta by definition the 3 I cannot understand that because it's--well, 3 range is going to get smaller. 4 I can understand it in the sense that the 4 MR. O'BRIEN: 5 Bloomberg data -5 But even the raw data is closer to 1. Q. 6 MR. O'BRIEN: 6 (1:15 p.m.) 7 7 (Unintelligible)? DR. BOOTH: Q. 8 DR. BOOTH: 8 A. Yeah, I don't understand that to be 9 9 It just looks at price changes. They don't absolutely honest because it's not--it's not 10 look at dividends, and when you include 10 consistent with the data in the Centre for dividends, as you do, for the overall rate 11 11 Research and Security Prices. It's not 12 of return, that tends to moderate the beta 12 consistent with the data in the Toronto estimates; whereas Bloomberg I know uses Stock Exchange database. It's not 13 13 14 price changes. It says so on their webpage. 14 consistent with all of the betas produced by 15 But I can't understand, if that is correct, 15 independent authorities. So, it has to be and I haven't looked at Bloomberg, and I 16 16 that they use weekly betas, estimated the don't have a Bloomberg, I do not understand data, and you use the short time period, and 17 17 18 why those estimates are so different from 18 probably the short time period is you're 19 public market beta estimates. And as I 19 saying that whatever happens in that short time period is going to happen in the said, you can check Bloomberg betas on the 20 20 21 internet and you can find out how they do-21 future. So, it would have to be covering 22 22 the period of the last 36--the last three estimate their betas, and they report both Bloom adjusted betas, and they report years if you're using three year weekly 23 23 24 unadjusted raw betas. I cannot understand 24 betas, and then you must then be assuming 25 25 Page 214 Page 216 1 how their estimates disagree from all the 1 that whatever happened in the last three 2 other public market -2 years, or from--I think somewhere uses 3 MR. O'BRIEN: 3 January 2020, is going to repeat in the 4 Now, Mr. Coyne has shown adjusted and 4 future, which means--which means that you're Q. 5 5 unadjusted, so raw and adjusted, in his COVID and the rising interest rate period 6 report, in Concentric's report. 6 over the last 18 months is going to happen 7 DR. BOOTH: 7 again in the future. 8 8 MR. O'BRIEN: Okay. Well, the public market -9 9 So, that's your assumption? MR. O'BRIEN: O. 10 They're shown. 10 DR. BOOTH: Q. DR. BOOTH: 11 No, I'd say that is--that is not my 11 assumption, that's what it is. 12 The unadjusted -12 MR. O'BRIEN: MR. O'BRIEN: 13 13 Q. And he adjusted--and there's a narrow range You just said you haven't looked at it. 14 14 O. 15 DR. BOOTH: between the two I'm going to suggest to you 15 16 now, more so than there was before. 16 No, no. Look, if you estimate the data--all DR. BOOTH: 17 you do when you estimate is you look at the 17 18 A. Well, look, that's true. If there's a 18 data and you estimate a beta. If you 19 narrow range, by definition they have to be 19 estimate that beta over the last three 20 a lot closer. I mean because otherwise the 20 years, and you say that is the latest beta, 21 difference in the--the point of adjusting 21 I'm going to use that going forward, you are 22 them is because there's a big difference, so 22 saying that the experience over the last 23 the range should get--I mean, look if the 23 three years is going to be repeated in the future. That is your estimate. And if Mr. 24 beta was equal to 1, the adjusted beta is 24 25 25

Page 219 MR. O'BRIEN: 1 Coyne had done that in 2021, and we got 1 2 negative betas, he would have said that's 2 O. (Unintelligible). 3 the current beta, I'm going to use that 3 DR. BOOTH: 4 beta. I would have said that's nonsense. 4 - I'm not doing anything for two years thank 5 You have to look at the time period over 5 you. 6 which the betas are estimated. 6 MR. O'BRIEN: 7 7 I'm saying Bloom and Value think--Bloomberg It's like somebody saying well, today O. 8 and Value think this. That's what their 8 is a hot day in Newfoundland. Suppose you 9 estimated the weather, the temperature, over 9 betas are. 10 the last three days in Newfoundland and 10 DR. BOOTH: 11 said, well, 24 degrees, 25 degrees. I'm 11 No, no, they don't -A. 12 going to assume it's going to be 24, 25, 12 MR. O'BRIEN: 13 degrees for the rest of the summer. That's The raw data is closer to 1 than it is to 13 14 the data. That is what you're doing. 14 .52, your grand mean. 15 You're estimating--you're looking at the 15 DR. BOOTH: 16 data and saying I'm assuming that's going to 16 A. They are producing an estimate. MR. O'BRIEN: 17 continue in the future, and that's not my 17 18 estimate, that's what the data says. 18 O. Yes. DR. BOOTH: 19 Well, by using a short time period you 19 20 are making an assumption, and I wouldn't say 20 And I can't understand the estimate, except 21 the temperature in Newfoundland and St. 21 for the fact it must be a short-term 22 22 John's is going to be 24 degrees for the estimate based upon the last few years data. rest of the summer. I'm told it's because otherwise it's substantial deviation 23 23 24 24 ridiculously high at the moment. You from everything else that's out there in the 25 25 Page 218 Page 220 1 basically say, well, I'm going to ignore 1 market, and as I said, we don't want the 2 that, I'm going to adjust my forecast for 2 latest beta, we want an estimate of what is 3 the last three days, and that's where we get 3 the risk of this utility relative to the 4 to betas. It's actually no different from 4 stock market going forward. 5 5 looking at anything else. It's a question MR. O'BRIEN: 6 of whether you think the sample data that 6 So, the betas presented by Concentric are O. 7 you estimate something on is reasonable for 7 similar to those adjusted betas presented in 8 the forecast test period. And if you think 8 the BCUC case in 2023, is that correct? 9 9 the last five years of COVID, and the You've reviewed that case. 10 massive government borrowing, and the rise 10 DR. BOOTH: 11 in interest rates, is going to be repeated 11 No. I haven't reviewed that case. I wasn't in the future, I think I'd retire because I 12 involved with that case. 12 don't like that scenario, and I don't think MR. O'BRIEN: 13 13 14 for one minute that's going to be repeated. 14 Okay. And it was given to you, I think, as-O. 15 15 MR. O'BRIEN: -well, it might have been given to all 16 We talked earlier about how everything was 16 counsel. I'm not certain you would have O. up and down, and up and down, and you seem 17 17 seen it, but I can suggest to you that they 18 to think everything was all on the line. 18 were accepted adjusted beta, the Bloom and--19 So, why isn't--aren't these things going to 19 Bloom and Value adjusted betas were accepted 20 happen? 20 by the BCUC. Do you have any reason to 21 21 disagree with me on that? DR. BOOTH: 22 Well, if Mr. Coyne thinks we're going to get 22 DR. BOOTH: Α. 23 COVID I think I don't want to stay in my 23 A. No. I can take you to Mr. Coyne's rebuttal evidence if I can find it. Where is it? 24 house but -24 25 25

Page 221 Page 223 SIMMONS, KC: Because he has a direct quote in the BCUC 1 1 2 which I thought was--it was quite relevant. 2 O. And, Mr. Chair, at present I don't have any 3 Well, it's here somewhere, Mr. O'Brien. 3 questions for Dr. Booth. 4 I'll find it sooner or later, but it's a 4 **CHAIR:** 5 direct quote from the BC Utilities 5 Q. Do you want to talk about--do you want to 6 Commission, and I'll remind you that the 6 proceed for a little while longer, or do you 7 only witnesses presenting evidence before 7 want to hold off until tomorrow? 8 the BCUC were American witnesses, and why 8 MR. O'BRIEN: 9 9 they would do that I have no idea, but--and And I hate to say this, but my daughter's O. 10 American witnesses brought in what they do 10 cap and gown is at 2:30, so her graduation 11 in the United States, where I'd absolutely 11 is this afternoon, so I'm not certain I can 12 agree with Mr. Coyne that used adjusted 12 go much longer than the 1:30. 13 13 CHAIR: betas. 14 MR. O'BRIEN: 14 O. Sounds -15 So, do you consider the BCUC -15 GREENE, KC: Q. DR. BOOTH: 16 16 O. And in any event, if Mr. O'Brien is going to be up to 45 minutes and I'm--we'll be over 17 Hold on now. I will find the exactly quote. 17 18 MR. O'BRIEN: 18 an hour anyway. 19 I thought you did agree with that. 19 MR. O'BRIEN: O. DR. BOOTH: Yes. 20 20 O. 21 No, no, no. Look, I agree he said that, but 21 CHAIR: 22 when I read the quote it was like, oh my, 22 O. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Dr. Booth. God, what else could we do. The only 23 23 MR. O'BRIEN: 24 evidence before us is these betas. Nobody 24 Did you find the quote? Q. 25 25 Page 222 Page 224 1 disagreed with him, so we're forced to 1 DR. BOOTH: 2 accept them. And as I said, it's a question 2 A. Yes, I did. 3 of the evidentiary basis put before the 3 MR. O'BRIEN: 4 Commission. 4 O. Okay. 5 5 CHAIR: DR. BOOTH: 6 Excuse me. Mr. O'Brien, while the witness 6 And it's on page 30, and this is from the Q. A. 7 is trying to find the information, do you 7 decision. "The Panel notes Mr. Coyne's 8 want to just talk about like how much time 8 explanation that Dr. Blume, founder, is 9 you'll require and we can figure out 9 estimates are applicable to all betas," and 10 somewhat of a plan? 10 I'm going to read this quickly because it's 11 on the record. "Ranges of below .5 to a MR. O'BRIEN: 11 high of 1.5, and in Mr. Coyne's view there 12 O. Sure. I'm guessing I might be 45 minutes 12 is no reason to expect the regulated 13 13 tomorrow. 14 14 utilities would be an exception to this GREENE, KC: 15 15 Page 30, Dr. Booth. You can read it while rule." No reason in Mr. Coyne's--he didn't 16 they're -16 provide any evidence whatsoever that DR. BOOTH: utilities satisfied that. He just said that 17 17 18 Actually, that's exactly what I was looking 18 low risk companies were in the sample that A. 19 19 Bloom used, and I don't have a problem with for, yes. 20 MR. O'BRIEN: 20 that. Maybe 30 to 45 minutes I would think. 21 21 "Given the views of the two experts in Q. 22 GREENE. KC: 22 this proceeding, both of them American, both 23 And I will have some questions for Dr. Booth 23 of them using--and since none of the parties 24 as well, but not too many. 24 object to Mr. Coyne's use of Bloom adjusted 25 25

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	Page 225		Page 227
1	beta, the Panel accepts the expert's	1	substantially increased my coverage of
2	recommendation to use Bloom adjusted betas."	2	adjusted betas. This was never an issue in
3	The Panel has no choice.	3	Canada because we never accepted adjusted
4	MR. O'BRIEN:	4	betas until American witnesses came in. And
5	Q. You're saying that a competent tribunal of	5	now I'm providing evidence that there's no
6	competent jurisdiction, like the BCUC, has	6	evidence whatsoever the electric utility
7	no choice? Is that your suggestion?	7	beta adjust towards 1, none, absolutely
8	DR. BOOTH:	8	none. And I've never, ever, seen, even a
9	A. No. I would say that my experience has been	9	utility witness, put in evidence to show
10	that the panel, every panel, makes a	10	that utility betas adjust towards 1. They
11	decision based upon the evidentiary basis	11	just say, oh, no, Bloomthis is a Bloom
12	put before them, and the evidentiary basis	12	adjustment, and the Bloom adjustment was not
13	put before the BCUC was from two witnesses,	13	anything to do with utilities.
14	both of whom apparently used adjusted betas.	14	MR. O'BRIEN:
15	MR. O'BRIEN:	15	Q. Just a last couple of questions on the CAPM
16	Q. Do you know whether the BCUC had actually	16	model. So, your results from that model,
17	rejected using adjusted betas previously?	17	you come up with a 7.05 to 7.9 range, I
18	DR. BOOTH:	18	think, and a midpoint of 7.45. Does that
19	A. I think it looks at all the data fromthe	19	sound right to you?
20	BCUC looked at all the betas in the past and	20	DR. BOOTH:
21	then forms its assessment. So -	21	A. What waswhen?
22	MR. O'BRIEN:	22	MR. O'BRIEN:
23	Q. I think they rejected those adjusted betas	23	Q. Your CAPM model comes up with that range, a
24	in the past, and actually had made a change	24	mid range of 7.45, and then you add the
25	in the publication actually had made a change	25	inia range or 7.13, and then you add the
	Page 226		Page 228
1	Page 226 in approach in this case.	1	Page 228 spread to it, a credit spread of .23. So,
1 2	Page 226 in approach in this case. DR. BOOTH:	1 2	spread to it, a credit spread of .23. So,
2	in approach in this case. DR. BOOTH:	2	
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Page 229 Page 231 spread between utility A bonds and the 1 didn't last very long, but we included that 1 2 Government of Canada bond rate. So, that's 2 spread adjustment, and the first people to 3 3 use it I think was the Ontario Energy Board, the--right. So, that spread before the 4 financial crisis was typically 100 basis 4 and it increased the ROE if they had it in 5 points. And when we first looked at this, 5 2009 to remove the problem of this A bond 6 Ms. McShane, the witness for Newfoundland 6 cost going up, ROE going down, and since 7 7 then--I mean, the OEB still uses it. Power, in a hearing in Gazifere used an 8 adjustment of 100 basis points for the 8 Everybody as far as I'm aware uses it. 9 9 credit spread before the financial crisis MR. O'BRIEN: 10 and then looked at the current credit spread 10 Q. Is that something that came out of the NEB 11 to reflect--to make the capital more 11 formula, that 50 percent? 12 sensitive to capital market conditions. And 12 DR. BOOTH: 13 just about everybody, as far as I'm aware, 13 No, before--the NEB formula was working 14 has agreed that since 2009 that the fair 14 until 2008, the financial crisis, and it was 15 ROE, if you make a 50 percent adjustment, 15 dumped--they used the ATWACC, A-T-W-A-C-C, 16 .5, times the change in the credit spread 16 and then they dropped it, and now the NEB, 17 17 from 1 percent, and that's what we were for all pipe clients, there are settlements 18 using back in 2011, that would make the 18 because you're dealing with a smaller number 19 capital market, the CAPM, a little bit more 19 of shippers and the pipelines, and they 20 sensitive to capital market conditions. 20 negotiated an agreement. 21 So, in the height of the financial 21 MR. O'BRIEN: 22 22 crisis, that spread--I forget how big it 0. And is there any personal sort of judgment 23 was, but it was huge, but supposed it was 23 as to what percentage to use there, or is 24 24 200 basis points, because the markets were that something everybody uses? 25 25 Page 232 Page 230 1 in freefall and people were just selling A 1 DR. BOOTH: 2 2 I answered evidence that the Bank of Canada rated bonds. So, if the spread was 2 A. 3 percent, normally it's 1 percent, then we 3 estimated the credit spread as being worthy 4 got an indicator of actual current 4 of a 37 percent adjustment, and that's the 5 5 conditions in the capital market, and the only evidence I've seen for that adjustment, 6 recommendation was to say the .5 adjustment 6 and because when you look at an A bond yield 7 of that change in the credit spread. So, if 7 it's risky. It's risky for the Government 8 8 of Canada. You got default risk. But it's your credit spread is adjusted by 1 percent 9 9 you add 50 basis points, .5 times 1 percent. also less liquid than the Government of 10 And that was sort of commonly accepted 10 Canada bond yield. 11 across the board. So, when we look at the A bond yield we 11 12 I can't remember whether this Board 12 have to extract the liquidity impact and the 13 default impact, and those are the two accepted or used that credit, but certainly 13 14 components, the main components, to get into the Regis did, the Ontario Energy Board did, 14 15 15 the Alberta Utilities Commission did, the the credit spread. And when you look at 16 BCUC Commission did, just to make the CAPM a 16 those two, liquidity doesn't affect the 17 little bit more sensitive to market equity market. In times of financial 17 18 conditions, and to remove the impact that we 18 crisis, liquidity in the bond market goes 19 had in 2008/2009, remember this flight to 19 down, but liquidity in the equity market 20 quality and ROE tied to long-term Canada 20 goes up. There's a huge increase in 21 21 bond went down, whereas at the same time the volumes. People trade shares. 22 borrowing cost for the utility went up, 22 So, the problem the Bank of Canada 23 which people regarded as—and I would regard 23 researchers had that looked at this was 24 it as anomalous. It was temporary. It 24 trying to extract the liquidity component 25 25

Page 233 Page 235 from the default component in the credit 1 **CERTIFICATE** 2 spread, and their analysis showed it should 3 be a .37 adjustment. I, Judy Moss, hereby certify that the foregoing is a 4 The first time this came up I said true and correct transcript of hearing in the matter 5 well, the only evidence we got on the record of Newfoundland Power Inc. 2025-2026 General Rate 6 is research by the Bank of Canada. It Application heard on June 20th, 2024 before the should be a 37 percent adjustment to the 7 Newfoundland and Labrador Board of Commissioners of change in the credit spread, but we all 8 Public Utilities, 120 Torbay Road, St. John's, sort--37 percent is a funny number. We 9 Newfoundland and Labrador and was transcribed by me to 10 actually--everyone agreed with 50 percent, the best of my ability by means of a sound apparatus. mainly because the Ontario Energy Board, I 11 12 think, used 50 percent. Dated at St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador this 13 So, the 50 percent is a judgment call 20th day of June, 2024 14 It's not my judgment call. I wasn't 15 particularly favourable to a credit spread adjustment because it should even out over 16 Judy Moss the business cycle, but I have no problem 17 18 with using a credit spread adjustment because it does make the ROE a little bit 19 more sensitive to capital market conditions, 20 21 and I discussed that in Appendix E in 22 detail. MR. O'BRIEN: 23 24 I think – Q. 25 Page 234 1 CHAIR: 2 Do you want to conclude now for today? Q. 3 MR. O'BRIEN: 4 We can conclude for today, Mr. Chair. Q. 5 CHAIR: 6 See you in the morning, everybody. O. 7 Upon conclusion at 1:33 p.m. 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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