

In the Matter Of:

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

-v-

CATHERINE SMITH and STATE OF INDIANA

Victor Kelson

July 25, 2023

1 STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS
2 COUNTY OF MONROE)

3
4 IN THE MONROE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

5 CITY OF BLOOMINGTON,)

6 Plaintiff,)

7 -v-)

8 CATHERINE SMITH, in her) CAUSE NOS.: 53C06-2203-PL-000608
official capacity as) 53C06-2203-PL-000609
9 Monroe County Auditor,) 53C06-2203-PL-000610
) 53C06-2203-PL-000611

10 Defendant,) 53C06-2203-PL-000614
) 53C06-2203-PL-000615

11 and) 53C06-2203-PL-000616
)

12 STATE OF INDIANA,)

13 Intervenor.)

14

15 The deposition upon oral examination of
16 VICTOR KELSON, a witness produced and sworn before me,
17 Barbara Ann Bourbina, a Notary Public in and for the
18 County of Monroe, State of Indiana, taken on behalf of
19 the Intervenor, Office of the Attorney General, State
20 of Indiana, at Bloomington City Hall, 401 N. Morton
21 Street, Allison Conference Room 225, on the 25th day
22 of July, 2023, commencing at 9:52 a.m., pursuant to
23 Indiana Trial Rule 30(b)(6).

24

25

A P P E A R A N C E S

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1 V I C T O R K E L S O N, the witness herein, having been
2 first duly sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth,
3 and nothing but the truth, was examined and testified
4 as follows:

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION,

6 QUESTIONS BY MR. BARTA:

7 Q Good morning, Mr. Kelson.

8 A Good morning.

9 Q My name is James Barta. I'm one of the attorneys for
10 the State today.

11 Have you given a deposition before?

12 A No, I have not.

13 Q Okay. Well, I'm just going to go over a few
14 background principles to orient us, and then we'll get
15 started. Okay?

16 A Okay.

17 Q So the basic format is, you know, I'm going to ask
18 questions, and you will need to answer them. At some
19 point the City's Attorney may object, but you'll still
20 need to answer the question unless the attorney
21 specifically tells you not to do so. Understood?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And as you're doing already, verbal answers are
24 appreciated. Shaking of the head and nodding of the
25 head doesn't show up very well on a transcript, so,

1 you know, please continue to answer verbally. Okay?

2 A Yes, I will.

3 Q Great.

4 If at any point you don't understand my
5 question, please ask for clarification. If you start
6 answering it, I'm going to assume you've understood
7 it. Fair enough?

8 A Fair enough.

9 Q Okay. We'll both do our best to try to not speak over
10 one another for the benefit of our court reporter
11 here, who is by far the most important person in the
12 room.

13 And then if you need a break at any time, please
14 let me know. I'd only ask that you answer any
15 question that's been asked before the break. Okay?

16 A I will do that. Thank you.

17 Q Great.

18 Is there any reason that you cannot understand
19 my questions today?

20 A I don't have any reason to think so, no.

21 Q Any reason you can't answer them truthfully and
22 accurately?

23 A No.

24 Q Okay.

25 MR. BARTA: I have a document I'm going to

1 introduce as Exhibit 1.

2 (Intervenor's Exhibit 1 was marked for
3 identification.)

4 A Thank you.

5 Q What is this document?

6 A I believe this is the notice that we are going to do
7 this deposition, and it outlines questions and --
8 well, issues to be considered during the deposition.

9 Q Okay. Do you understand today you're testifying as
10 the City's representative?

11 A Yes, I do.

12 Q And you just mentioned the list of topics that was
13 attached to this notice. Did you prepare to discuss
14 the ones that you were designated to discuss?

15 A Yes, I did.

16 Q What did you do to prepare?

17 A I reviewed all the documentation that we prepared so
18 far: so my affidavit; the interrogatories; all the
19 other information that's been requested; all the
20 documents that I've been asked to sign or review
21 through this whole process. I discussed it with
22 Mr. Rouker and the City legal team; and I reviewed a
23 lot of the background material from my own e-mails
24 that was involved in these matters.

25 Q Okay. Did you speak to anyone else besides the City's

1 attorneys?

2 A I did not.

3 Q And the e-mails you just mentioned, do you know if
4 those have been provided to us?

5 A Yes. They were related to, and it's my understanding
6 that our legal team has given you all the e-mails that
7 they had at their disposal regarding requests for
8 service outside of our service area and anything that
9 was associated with waivers of remonstrance.

10 Q Okay. By way of background, you are, I understand,
11 the Director of the City Utilities Department; is that
12 correct?

13 A That is correct, yes.

14 Q How long have you been in that role?

15 A Since April of 2016, so seven-and-a-half years.

16 Q Generally what are your responsibilities?

17 A Our Utilities Department provides water, sewer, and
18 storm water services. Our water services serve all of
19 the residents of the City of Bloomington.

20 We have a group of wholesale customers who sell
21 water to customers outside the City of Bloomington,
22 but essentially serves the whole County. So for
23 water, essentially, if you don't have a well, and you
24 live in Monroe County, you're getting your water from
25 us ultimately.

1 On the sewer side, our service area extends
2 outside the City and covers the whole City. About
3 20 percent, in round numbers, of our customers are not
4 within City limits right now.

5 And then for storm water services we serve only
6 parcels that are inside the City. So any City
7 resident pays a storm water fee on a monthly basis,
8 and that's based on the nature of if it's a
9 residential customer or if it's a larger customer.

10 For example, a big parking lot, you pay for the number
11 of acres of impervious service. That just pays for
12 storm water services.

13 Q Okay. To clarify, you mentioned wholesale customers.

14 Are those only customers for water?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. And --

17 A So I didn't finish my answer.

18 I oversee all those activities. So basically I
19 lead the Department, and all of the five assistant
20 directors run separate aspects of the operation, but
21 I'm the lead of the Department.

22 Q Have you held any other positions in the Utilities
23 Department?

24 A No, I have not.

25 Q And who do you report to?

1 A I report to the Mayor and to the Utility Service

2 Board.

3 Q And who sits on the Utility Service Board?

4 A There are seven members. Do you want their names or

5 their --

6 Q Just generally.

7 A In general, okay.

8 It is a seven-member board. It is all

9 appointed. Four of the members are appointed by the

10 Mayor, and the other three members are appointed by

11 the City Council.

12 In order to be appointed to our Board, you do

13 not have to reside within the City of Bloomington, but

14 you have to be a customer of the City of Bloomington

15 Utilities. So we do have at least one board member,

16 that I can think of, who lives outside the City but is

17 served by us for water and sewer, and they can also

18 serve on our Board.

19 Q So you may have touched on this, but how many sewer

20 system customers does the City serve?

21 A In round numbers around 22,000; between 22- and 23-.

22 Q Approximately what percentage are individuals versus

23 businesses?

24 A Oh, I would imagine the large majority of them are

25 individuals.

1 Q What is the City's objective in running a -- in
2 providing municipal sewer service?

3 A Well, in the eyes of the EPA and the Indiana
4 Department of Environmental Management, the purpose of
5 having a wastewater system, or a Publicly Owned
6 Treatment Works, POTW -- and you'll see that
7 abbreviation -- our objective is to live in an
8 industrial-developed society without having a negative
9 impact to downstream water bodies. So basically our
10 job is to make sure that the rivers are not polluted
11 with either industrial pollutants or the aftereffects
12 of putting sanitary discharge -- basically, what comes
13 out of your toilet -- directly into streams.

14 So if you go back a couple of hundred years,
15 basically people had chamber pots, and they poured it
16 into the street and the rain would carry it away, and
17 it really didn't have a negative, detrimental effect
18 on downstream waterways. As communities became larger
19 and populations became denser, it became necessary to
20 do other things to protect the waterways from those
21 discharges.

22 So essentially what our job is to protect the
23 stream, and, you know, so that's why we exist. As a
24 City Department our job is to serve the City's
25 residents and to serve our customers and to provide a

1 high level of service that protects the waterways and
2 ultimately fosters the development of our community.

3 So without our ability to treat wastewater and to
4 collect wastewater and to prevent it from being
5 discharged directly into the natural environment, our
6 community can't exist in the way it exists, and it
7 can't grow because we can't add more development to
8 it.

9 Q Okay. So you mentioned a moment ago that there are
10 people who live outside the City limits who have
11 connected to the City's sewer system, correct?

12 A That is correct.

13 Q What is the process for connecting? Let me rephrase
14 that.

15 If someone outside the City limits wants to
16 connect to the sewer system, what is the process for
17 doing that?

18 A And it comes in several different fashions. But
19 typically when we're looking at the kinds of things
20 that were described in the e-mails that I went back
21 and reviewed, oftentimes what happens is someone will
22 have a parcel of land that they may wish to subdivide
23 it, or oftentimes that is exactly what's happening.

24 There's land that used to be a farm or used to
25 be undeveloped. A person wants to subdivide it into

1 small parcels and build single-family homes, for
2 example. They would need to go to the County Planning
3 Department in order to do that subdivision. They
4 don't live in the City. When they go to the Planning
5 Department, and they want to do a subdivision or a
6 project of these kinds of natures, what will happen is
7 the Planning Department, before they even start, will
8 say, will ask them basically, Can you get sewer
9 service there?

10 And that's when they'll come to us right at the
11 beginning. They will come to us looking for what we
12 call a Will Serve Letter, a letter from us saying that
13 we will serve the development that they're planning to
14 do on that parcel. They need to have that in order to
15 move toward with the planning process. So that is
16 almost always handled by Nancy Axsom, who's in our
17 Engineering Division at CBU, so she works for one of
18 the divisions that's under my guidance.

19 Nancy will review the proposal in terms of, for
20 example, How many houses do you plan to build? Where
21 do you plan to connect? Is there already a sewer
22 nearby that you can connect to?

23 We will review it to see if the nearby
24 collection system, the sewers that are there, are
25 sufficient to take the additional flow. We will look

1 at it to make sure that we have the capacity to treat
2 it at our wastewater plant. Our wastewater plant is
3 rated for 15 million gallons per day coming from
4 inflow, and so over the last several years we're
5 pretty tight on capacity, although we're working on
6 increasing it. So we'll look at that.

7 We'll look at the nature of the development,
8 whether it's residential or industrial or commercial.
9 That will tell us something about the flow, but it
10 also tells us something about the characteristics of
11 the wastewater. And we will look at all of that right
12 at the beginning to decide whether this is something
13 we could take on.

14 The Will Serve Letter basically says that we are
15 able to take it on the day that we issue the Will
16 Serve Letter. So if something, you know, unexpected
17 happened in the meantime, there may be issues, but
18 that has not happened yet.

19 Once they've got the Will Serve Letter they move
20 ahead with their design. Once the design is complete
21 there's a complete plan review by the County Planning
22 Department. We also have to review the plan to make
23 sure that the pipes are properly sized and configured
24 and so forth.

25 Once all of that's done, and once it's built,

1 the developer then will file an application for
2 service, and we will allow them -- if everything has
3 been done appropriately, we will allow them to tap
4 into our sewer and connect.

5 Q Who handles the plan review?

6 A The plan review is handled by the staff in our
7 Engineering Division. That division is led by
8 Phil Peeden. He's our City Assistant Director for
9 Engineering at CBU. CBU is City of Bloomington
10 Utilities, just to be clear.

11 That review will be done by the group, so
12 there's a number of inspectors and technicians and
13 engineers in the department that will do that review.

14 Q How long does that review typically take?

15 A It can take months. Typically we try to turn them
16 around in 30 to 60 days, I should think. Basically
17 we're looking to see that they're choosing proper
18 materials, construction standards, and so forth.

19 I should say this, that what happens is we have
20 our own construction standards. If the plan and the
21 design meet our construction standards, we will agree
22 to adopt the infrastructure that's built once it's
23 installed and inspected.

24 So if you build a system for your apartment
25 building that we don't approve of the pipe that you

1 chose or whatnot, you may still be able to get it
2 built, and you may still be able to connect, but we
3 won't be responsible for any of the pipe.

4 If you build a residential subdivision and you
5 install sewers, we will adopt the portion of the
6 sewers that lie in the City's right-of-way or in the
7 County right-of-way.

8 Q And by "adopt" you mean the City takes it over?

9 A That's right. We'll be responsible for maintenance
10 and repairs.

11 Q Okay. So you also mentioned the submission of an
12 application.

13 A Uh-huh.

14 Q What is the review process associated with that?

15 A I haven't really tracked that in extreme detail. But
16 the application process, the application itself, lays
17 out the location. Typically we ask them exactly what
18 they're planning to do as we're going through the
19 review process. And we require the person who's
20 applying for the process to -- at the time service is
21 provided, they have to sign a waiver of the right to
22 remonstrate against annexation.

23 Q Who handles the review for the application?

24 A Our Engineering staff.

25 Q Okay.

1 MR. BARTA: I have a document I'm going to
2 introduce as Exhibit 2.

3 (Intervenor's Exhibit 2 was marked for
4 identification.)

5 A Thank you.

6 Q Okay. Mr. Kelson, what is this document?

7 A This is an application for new water or sewer
8 connection.

9 Q So this would be the application form you mentioned a
10 minute ago for an individual residence?

11 A That is true.

12 Q Okay. And just so I'm clear, this would be submitted
13 after -- usually at the last stage of the process, not
14 as part of the Will Serve Letter?

15 A That's right. What happens is this is sort of the
16 last step.

17 Q And on the second page of the document, it's titled
18 "Individual Customer Contract." Do you see that?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Is this document submitted with the application?

21 A I assume so. I actually have not handled these
22 myself.

23 Q Okay. But someone applying for sewer service would
24 need to sign the application and this contract to
25 receive service from the City?

1 A Yes, they would.

2 Q And when they sign this, they're agreeing to pay the
3 rates that the City charges?

4 A Yes.

5 Q All right. You can set this aside for the moment.

6 (The witness complied with the request.)

7 Q So the application we just looked at was for a
8 residence. There's a business application as well; is
9 that right?

10 A There is, yes.

11 Q Okay.

12 MR. BARTA: Also I want to introduce this
13 document as Exhibit 3.

14 (Intervenor's Exhibit 3 was marked for
15 identification.)

16 Q What is this document?

17 A This is the contract for a commercial customer.

18 Q Okay. And the business would need to sign this
19 contract to receive sewer service from the City?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Would that be signed when they submit their
22 application?

23 A I am not certain. I would assume so.

24 Q But it would need to be signed before they receive
25 service?

1 A But before the connection was allowed, yes.

2 Q Okay. So you walked me through a moment ago the
3 City's process for, you know, handling a request for
4 sewer service from someone outside the City limits.
5 Has that process ever looked substantially different
6 from how you described it?

7 A To my knowledge, it has not. The process that we're
8 using is the process that was explained to me when I
9 came on at CBU. We have made a couple of -- there's
10 been some modifications relating to the annexation
11 waiver question that we have taken on, but other than
12 that it's the same process that's been used for many
13 years.

14 Q Okay.

15 MR. BARTA: I have a document that I'm going to
16 introduce as Exhibit 4.

17 (Intervenor's Exhibit 4 was marked for
18 identification.)

19 A Thank you.

20 Q What is this document?

21 A This is an application request for a new water or
22 sewer connection at 4365 West Red Rock Road.

23 Q And this is from someone outside the City limits?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. So looking at the first page, is this sort of,

1 you know, a typical sample of an application?

2 A Yes. Yes, it is.

3 Q So can you turn to the second page.

4 (The witness complied with the request.)

5 Q Do you see that there is a section where there's a box

6 where it says, "Approved," there's a check mark, and

7 then it says, "Recommendations or conditions of

8 approval"?

9 A Yes.

10 Q So this section is something that the Utilities

11 Department fills out?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And it looks like this was filled out by Nancy --

14 A Axsom.

15 Q -- Axsom; is that correct?

16 A Yes. It's A-X-S-O-M.

17 Q And she's the one who typically fills these out?

18 A That is right.

19 Q Is her recommendation here what you would expect to

20 see on an application?

21 A Yes. It's basically standard for us to have a 1-inch

22 yoke, and the yoke is the device where the meter is

23 connected; and the three-quarter-inch meters are

24 standard for a new development, yeah.

25 Q Okay. You can set that document aside.

1 (The witness complied with the request.)

2 MR. BARTA: I'm going to introduce another
3 document as Exhibit 5.

4 (Intervenor's Exhibit 5 was marked for
5 identification.)

6 A Thank you.

7 Q What is this document?

8 A This is also an application request for a new water or
9 sewer connection.

10 Q This would be the application that a business or
11 apartment unit fills out; is that right?

12 A Let me look. Yes.

13 Q So this is essentially the business version of the
14 residential application you looked at a moment ago?

15 A Yes, either for commercial or multiple dwellings or
16 industrial. Yes.

17 Q So can I get you to turn to the second page.

18 (The witness complied with the request.)

19 Q Do you see there's again a recommendation and approval
20 section for the Utilities Department?

21 A Yes.

22 Q This is something that it looks like Nancy filled out
23 as well?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Is this what you expect to see on a business

1 application recommendation?

2 A Yes.

3 Q So feel free to set that aside.

4 A Okay.

5 Q I'm finished with that document.

6 So you walked me through the process of the
7 request to the application approval.

8 After the application is approved, what happens
9 next?

10 A Once the application is approved, the customer is then
11 allowed to connect to our sewer. So we would be
12 there, or our staff would be there to oversee the
13 installation of the tapping of the line and the
14 installation of the pipe and connections.

15 Q Okay.

16 A And at that point we would start accepting their
17 wastewater, and they would start being billed for
18 that.

19 Q Who handles the construction and the changes to the
20 infrastructure needed to connect?

21 A Usually it's the developer who does that. Sometimes
22 we do the actual tapping of the line, sometimes we
23 don't.

24 Q Okay. Who pays for the construction?

25 A The developer pays for the construction of the pipes.

1 Q When a person outside the City limits taps into the
2 sewer system, do they pay any connection fees or
3 charges?

4 A They do. And our connection fee covers the cost of us
5 allowing the connection to be made in -- and I don't
6 know the exact date -- but my recollection is it was
7 2018 we reviewed the connection fees and increased
8 them.

9 The purpose of that increase was to create
10 something called a system development charge. The
11 system development charge, if I step back, we assumed
12 that the current group of customers have paid for all
13 of the entire utility. So they paid for all the
14 pipes, they paid for all the pumps, they paid for the
15 plants.

16 At the time someone installs a connection,
17 they're going to be responsible for the sewer pipe
18 that they run.

19 They also may be responsible for increasing the
20 size of the sewer that they connect to. So if you
21 imagine there's an 8-inch sewer, you got a 6-inch
22 sewer coming from your development. If that 8-inch
23 sewer already has a lot of flow in it, that may need
24 to become a 12-inch sewer. And at that time the
25 developer would be responsible for at least a portion

1 of the cost of increasing the size of the downstream
2 infrastructure. But they may or may not have to pay
3 for all of that increase going downstream.

4 If you think about going all the way to the
5 plant, pipes 6 feet in diameter, by the time you get
6 to the plant, that gets very expensive. So increasing
7 the size of the downstream infrastructure oftentimes
8 is shared with the existing customer base.

9 But what's not mixed up in all of that is the
10 fact that one day we're going to have so much demand
11 on our treatment plant, and there's going to be so
12 much water going to our treatment plant, that we will
13 be unable to treat all of that water.

14 So the system development charge is an
15 acknowledgement of the responsibility of the new
16 customer to pay for the eventuality that we will have
17 to increase the size of the treatment plant. And it
18 may take years, and it may be decades before we get
19 there, but it's reasonable and proper that the new
20 connection should have to pay for that eventuality
21 because they're part of the reason that the plant
22 needs to be made bigger.

23 Q Okay. So the system development charge, you charge
24 them amounts sufficient to cover the costs of the
25 immediate connection costs plus some share of this

1 future development, right?

2 A That's right, uh-huh.

3 Q Okay. Who calculates the system development charge?

4 A That was calculated at the time we established the
5 system development charge. We did not do that. That
6 was done by our financial advisor, which is Crowe. At
7 the time I think they were Crowe Horwath.

8 Q So once someone connects to the City sewer system they
9 then pay rates for sewage, correct?

10 A That's right.

11 Q Okay.

12 MR. BARTA: I'm going to introduce a document as
13 Exhibit 6.

14 (Intervenor's Exhibit 6 was marked for
15 identification.)

16 A Thank you.

17 Q What is this document?

18 A This is the first set of our interrogatories that were
19 sent to the City, and I believe this contains answers
20 to the questions that I was asked.

21 Q Okay. And if you look at the second-to-last page,
22 Page 20, this is your signature at the bottom; is that
23 correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. Is there any way in which these interrogatory

1 answers are no longer correct or accurate?

2 A I reread these last night, and I do not see anything
3 in here that would be incorrect.

4 Q Okay. Can I get you to turn to Page 13, please -- or,
5 sorry, Page 14.

6 (The witness complied with the request.)

7 Q This chart, does this chart list the current rates
8 charged by the City for sewer service?

9 A Yes.

10 Q So can you give me an overview of how the City
11 calculates rates for sewer service?

12 A Certainly.

13 As a municipal utility, we're not a
14 profit-making entity. We don't receive any funding
15 from the City through taxes or any other vehicle, so
16 we charge what it costs over time to provide the
17 service. In any given year we have might be -- in a
18 specific year -- well, let me step back.

19 The rates are calculated by looking at the cost
20 of personnel services, the cost of chemicals and
21 electricity, and all those kinds of things that we
22 have to buy. They look at the cost of contract
23 services for various things. For example, sending
24 things to laboratories, hiring engineers, those kinds
25 of things. And then, of course, our debt service.

1 People are surprised often to find out that one of the
2 biggest parts of our annual budget is debt service
3 because we have so much infrastructure. All of that
4 is put together.

5 So there'll be some assumptions made about
6 inflation for those things that increase over time.
7 And then we will have a capital improvement plan that
8 will outline the capital investments that we're
9 planning to make. Expanding the capacity of the
10 wastewater plant, for example. All of that goes
11 together into a financial analysis that Crowe, our
12 financial advisor, conducts. They will look at it at
13 a period of time. So typically it's a four or
14 five-year planning horizon.

15 When I joined the Utilities, it had been about a
16 decade since the previous rate review. Counsel
17 prefers that we do them more regularly so that
18 customers don't experience huge price increases, so
19 we've been doing them on about a four-year cycle.

20 So that analysis is done. The financial advisor
21 calculates the cost of providing service and the cost
22 of paying for the projects that are in the plan, any
23 debt service that we might take on during the next
24 rate period, and then calculates what it costs, or
25 what the rate will have to be per customer to pay for

1 the cost that we've outlined.

2 So it's a break-even operation over time. So in
3 a given year we may have more revenue than we spend,
4 but over a period of time, we spend all the revenue
5 that we collected during that time. So this is to
6 account for inflation.

7 Q So I see on the chart sort of a couple different -- a
8 breakdown between metered and non-metered users. What
9 is that difference?

10 A If you have -- typically for a residential customer,
11 if you're a residential customer, and you're our
12 residential customer, then we know how much water you
13 used and we calculate your sewer bill based on your
14 water use. It's all done in terms of thousands of
15 gallons, so each of these is based on a 1,000-gallon
16 unit. So if you use three units in a month, you pay
17 three times \$8.95 if you're a residential customer
18 inside City limits. There's also a fixed charge for
19 the meter that goes into this.

20 We also have metered customers. Oftentimes
21 they're industrial customers that -- well, just as an
22 example, imagine you had a brewery and you bought a
23 whole bunch of water from us, and you were going to
24 brew beer, and a quarter of the water that you bought
25 ended up in the beer that you sold to someone else.

1 If you don't have your own sewer meter, you will be
2 charged the sewer fee based on the amount of water
3 that you took in. If you think that you have a
4 consumptive use inside your process, or the water that
5 you're buying is going on to your customer, we will
6 allow you to install a separate sewer meter, and we
7 will charge your sewer bill based on how much water
8 you sent down the sewer. So that's what the metered
9 uses are.

10 You can also imagine you had a residence that
11 had a well, so you weren't a water customer. You
12 could either install a meter or pay the non-metered
13 rate, which would be the non-metered fee is an
14 annualized calculation that's based on an assumption
15 of a certain number of gallons. I could figure out
16 what that number was, but I don't know it off the top
17 of my head.

18 Q Okay. So I see there's a -- it looks like customers
19 outside the City limits pay higher rates for both
20 metered and non-metered uses; is that right?

21 A That is right.

22 Q Why do they pay higher rates?

23 A That's a change that was made in our 2019 rate review.

24 As I explained the process, we do exactly the
25 same process. And what happens is this: the

1 collection system, that's the pipes that are
2 underground, if I imagine I have a sewer that's
3 running through an unincorporated area outside the
4 City, there will be fewer connections and fewer
5 gallons per mile of pipe, but it costs the same to
6 maintain that mile of pipe whether it's in the City or
7 not. So it's reflecting the overall lower density,
8 even though there may be pockets of higher density
9 areas out there. It reflects the fact that our
10 infrastructure out there is sized for and has to be
11 maintained for a smaller population of customers.

12 That analysis was also done by Crowe in the
13 context of our 2019 rate review. It came out to be
14 about 12 percent. There are other utilities in the
15 State that do this, and it ranges from 14 to 50
16 percent. But, again, it's cost recovery. What we're
17 doing is accounting for the fact that it costs more to
18 serve on average customers outside of the City than
19 customers inside the City for the pipe maintenance.

20 On the water it's not -- this isn't the only
21 place we do a similar kind of thing. On the water
22 utility our customers are broken into categories,
23 depending on their type of use. So IU, industrial,
24 residential, and so forth, they all get different
25 charges for water based on the cost of us providing a

1 service.

2 For sewer the only place that we have the
3 ability to separate is inside or outside. All sewer
4 water is the same basically.

5 Q Okay. So the idea behind the different charges is
6 that customers outside the City will be responsible
7 for the higher costs associated with maintaining that?

8 A That's right.

9 Q Okay. And you mentioned this set of charges being
10 established in 2019. Was there any difference in
11 rates for customers inside and outside the City before
12 2019?

13 A No, there was not. Not for sewer.

14 Historically, many years ago we did have a
15 different water rate for inside customers and outside
16 customers. We just don't have very many outside water
17 customers anymore, so we don't do that.

18 Q Okay. And I see on the next page, Page 15, there's a
19 section called "Connection Fees."

20 A Yes.

21 Q Are these the fees that are charged when someone
22 connects to the sewer system?

23 A That's right.

24 Q This is different from the system development charge
25 you mentioned?

1 A The system development charge is in the fee.

2 Q Okay.

3 A So the fee includes a lot of things, and the system
4 development charge is a big piece of it.

5 Q Okay.

6 MR. BARTA: I think that we've been going about
7 an hour, I think?

8 MR. ROUKER: Just about. You want to take a
9 break?

10 MR. BARTA: Would everyone be okay with a
11 five-minute break?

12 MR. ROUKER: It works for us.

13 MR. BARTA: Okay. Why don't we do that.

14 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

15 MR. ROUKER: You got 10:35. We'll try to stick
16 to 10:45.

17 MR. BARTA: Sounds good.

18

19 (AT THIS TIME THERE WAS A BRIEF RECESS TAKEN,
20 AFTER WHICH THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD:)

21

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION,

23 QUESTIONS BY MR. BARTA:

24 MR. BARTA: I have a document I'd like to
25 introduce as Exhibit 7.

1 (Intervenor's Exhibit 7 was marked for
2 identification.)

3 A Thank you.

4 Q Mr. Kelson, what is this document?

5 A This is CBU's Rules, Regulations and Standards of
6 Service.

7 Q And I see on the first page it says, "Approved by
8 Utilities Service Board on April 28, 2008." Is that
9 right?

10 A That is correct.

11 Q And am I correct that this document -- am I correct
12 that this version was in effect till February of 2021?

13 A That's correct, yes.

14 Q What is the purpose of the Rules, Regulations and
15 Standards of Service?

16 A They tell our customers and us what our
17 responsibilities are in terms of what we -- the
18 processes and the various actions the staff takes and
19 that the Board will take, and the responsibilities of
20 the City Department, and the responsibilities of our
21 customers.

22 Q So the customers and the Utilities Department are
23 required to adhere to this document?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Who adopts these regulations?

1 A The Utilities Service Board.

2 Q And what is the typical process for adopting them?

3 A Well, I was not present when these were adopted in

4 2008. I have seen them amended. Those amendments

5 were done by -- our staff working with the Legal

6 Department has developed amendments. Those amendments

7 come in the form of a resolution to the Utility

8 Service Board. They debate it and then ultimately

9 decide whether to approve the changes or not.

10 Q All right. So can I get you to turn to Section 24 on

11 Page 47.

12 A Okay, got it.

13 Q Do you see the Section 24, Growth Policies Plan, at

14 the top?

15 A Yes.

16 Q What is this section's purpose?

17 A The purpose of this section is to specify the

18 requirements and the rules for extending sewer service

19 outside the City limits of the City of Bloomington.

20 Q Okay. So in Section 24.1 it refers to something

21 called a Sewer Service Area Map. What is that?

22 A The Sewer Service Area Map delineates the -- it shows

23 where the City of Bloomington boundary is. It shows

24 an area that's called Area A, and then everything

25 outside of Area A is called Area B.

1 Area A, not exactly but approximately, is
2 intended to be conceptually congruent with what used
3 to be called the Area Intended For Annexation, which
4 came after the former two-mile fringe. The Area
5 Intended For Annexation at the time that there was an
6 AIFA was an area that was not inside the City, but it
7 was expected to be annexed into the City and,
8 therefore, planning jurisdiction was with the City.
9 The City Planning Department had planning jurisdiction
10 over that area.

11 Q Okay. And what is Area B?

12 A Area B is the rest of the world.

13 Q And approximately when was Area A established?

14 A Oh, that was before my time. It was sometime -- in my
15 recollection, it was sometime in the early 2000s,
16 somewhere in there. I don't know for certain.

17 And I remember there was some debate about it, a
18 public debate, about this whole question of the sprawl
19 of the City. Back at that time it was in the early
20 2000s. The planning jurisdiction extended before
21 that, so I'm sure there was a similar kind of process
22 in place at that time, but I don't know.

23 Q Okay.

24 MR. BARTA: I want to introduce as Exhibit 8
25 this document.

1 (Intervenor's Exhibit 8 was marked for
2 identification.)

3 A Thank you.

4 Q What is this document?

5 A This is the Sewer Service Area Map dated 20 --
6 September 20th, '21 [sic].

7 Q So I see there's an area called Area A on this?

8 A Yes.

9 Q That's the Area A you referred to a moment ago?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And the white area here is Area B?

12 A Yes, everything outside Area A.

13 Q And the blue lines here appear to be the City limits;
14 is that correct?

15 A Well, that's what I'm trying to identify here
16 because -- I believe so, but I can't be certain. It's
17 not labeled.

18 Q Okay. And --

19 A I presumed originally that the blue line was Area A,
20 but that's not exactly right. Oh, I see Area A is the
21 black line. The blue line is City limits, yes.

22 Q And all the green lines here is the City sewer service
23 and construction?

24 A That's right.

25 Q Okay. You can feel free to set the map aside for now.

1 (The witness complied with the request.)

2 Q So turning back to the 2008 rules and regulations, in
3 Section 24.2 it says, "The SSAM will designate Area A
4 as the area in which the Utility shall allow sewer
5 connections."

6 Did I read that correctly?

7 A That is correct.

8 Q So under these regulations the City was required to
9 let anyone in Area A connect to the sewer system?

10 A I believe that inside Area A it was the Director's
11 discretion. It's the second sentence: "The Utilities
12 Service Board hereby authorizes the Director of the
13 Utility to make the decision as to whether a request
14 for extension of sanitary sewer service shall be
15 granted in Area A."

16 Q Okay. What do you believe the Director would consider
17 in making that decision?

18 A Well, the Director would consider, first of all,
19 whether it's feasible to construct the sewer that
20 would serve it. That would be probably an engineering
21 decision.

22 The sewer water wants to flow downhill so if you
23 have to -- if the flow would go all the way to the
24 bottom of a hill and then have to be pumped, you'd
25 have to put a lift station in to pump the water

1 farther. In some cases you would require so many lift
2 stations that it would be infeasible to do it with a
3 traditional gravity sewer. We do not want to have
4 lots and lots of lift stations because it's a
5 maintenance expense, so we would look at the
6 feasibility of actually getting the sewer installed.

7 We would look at the amount of water that the
8 proposed development would generate. We would look at
9 the current capacity, rated capacity.

10 Just to fill in, the Indiana Department of
11 Environmental Management is responsible for deciding
12 how much sewer water we can take at our plant. So our
13 rated capacity is 15 million gallons per day at the
14 Dillman Road Wastewater Treatment Plant, and 6 million
15 gallons per day at Blucher Poole Plant. And basically
16 the reason we have two plants is there's a water
17 divide that runs right through the middle of the City.
18 So everything flows downhill to the Dillman Plant
19 south of that divide and flows downhill to the Blucher
20 Poole Plant on the other side.

21 So we looked at all of those things.

22 And currently we're still in a situation where
23 the way IDEM does it is if we are at the point of
24 regularly exceeding the rated capacity for a
25 wastewater plant, you can actually put more water

1 through it. The rated capacity is just that we're
2 absolutely sure you could treat that much every day is
3 the way that works.

4 If we get really close to that capacity on
5 average, IDEM will say -- if we say, for example, I
6 want to build ten new homes inside the big City of
7 Bloomington and hook them to the sewer, IDEM has the
8 authority to say, No, you cannot make those
9 connections because you don't have the ability to
10 treat that water.

11 So in 2016 we received a letter from IDEM
12 warning us that in the previous three years we had
13 exceeded 90 percent of our rated capacity, and we had
14 to come up with a plan for expanding that capacity.
15 We've been working on it ever since. That was part of
16 the reasoning behind the system development charge.
17 We realized that we are not charging new customers for
18 plant expansions, so that's part of what gave rise to
19 that.

20 So if we're close on capacity, we are
21 required -- we don't have -- I don't have that
22 discretion to -- inside City limits, if the project's
23 feasible, you can build it, and there's no discretion
24 either for me or the Utility Service Board at that
25 point.

1 The area inside Area A, the Director has the
2 discretion to say, I'm sorry, we don't have enough
3 capacity to take this on even though it's feasible.
4 So we can. That's another thing to take into account.

5 We would consider whether it was an industrial
6 user or whether it was, for example, an industrial
7 user that might have a high level of some particular
8 contaminant. We would consider that. What else? You
9 know, obviously, the volume of flow that they would be
10 sending, and the nature of the use.

11 Q And just so I make sure I captured everything.

12 A Uh-huh.

13 Q I got -- I heard you say the feasibility, the capacity
14 of the system, the volume of the sewage, the nature of
15 the use, and the type of waste you would be receiving.

16 Did I miss anything?

17 A Those are the things that I said, yes.

18 Q Is there anything else that would have been considered
19 under the 2008 regulations?

20 A Under the 2008, I can't think of anything.

21 Q Okay. Can you turn to Page 55 of this document.

22 (The witness complied with the request.)

23 Q Do you see that there's a heading, "Definitions," at
24 the top?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Is this a definition section for the entire document?

2 A I presume it is, yes.

3 Q Okay. Can you turn to Page 60.

4 (The witness complied with the request.)

5 Q Near the bottom it says, quote, "Shall" is mandatory;
6 "May" is permissible.

7 Did I read that correctly?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. Does that change your understanding of Page 47
10 where it says, "The SSAM will designate Area A as the
11 area in which the Utility shall allow sewer
12 connections"?

13 A It doesn't because the following sentence clarifies
14 the circumstances under which those connections should
15 be allowed.

16 Q Okay. So I see further down in the paragraph it says,
17 "Utility staff will determine what information is
18 required from the applicant and advise as to what
19 information is necessary to process the request. Any
20 connection or extension must be in compliance with all
21 applicable federal, state and local rules and
22 regulations. Any request must be in compliance with
23 provision 24.8."

24 Did I read that correctly?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Okay. Does that clarify what the Director is supposed
2 to consider?

3 A Yes.

4 Q So it would be compliance for federal, state and local
5 rules and regulations would be one thing?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And compliance with provision 24.8 would be another
8 thing?

9 A That's right.

10 Q But you think the Director could still consider things
11 beyond those two considerations outlined there?

12 A Can you repeat that question?

13 Q I'm just trying to understand how the things operated
14 under 2008 regulations.

15 A Okay.

16 Q So it looks to me like, you know, when the Director is
17 asked to evaluate a request in Area A that he needs to
18 consider, you know, whether it's in compliance with
19 applicable federal, state and local rules and
20 regulations; is that right?

21 A Which includes the capacity of the plant.

22 Q So that's where the capacity would come in, and it
23 would be that you need to have the capacity to accept
24 it.

25 A That's right.

1 Q Okay. So the local rules and regulations would
2 include this regulations document?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And there's other sections that deal with capacity and
5 so on.

6 A That's right. Our ability, if we can't treat the
7 waste, we won't take it.

8 Q Okay, that helps me understand. Thank you. I was
9 just trying to figure out how everything fit together.

10 A And, of course, it's all subject to having an
11 annexation. The waiver is also required as part of
12 the application at that time as well.

13 Q Right, right, okay.

14 And we also -- you mentioned Area B.

15 A Yes.

16 Q So it looks like 24.5 deals with Area B. It says,
17 "The SSAM will designate all areas outside of Area A
18 as Area B. Sanitary sewer service shall generally not
19 be extended to Area B unless requests are made in
20 writing to the Utilities Administration to be
21 considered by the Utilities Service Board."

22 Do you see that?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And I read that correctly?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Okay. Area B, so how would the consideration process
2 be different for Area B than Area A during the 2008
3 regulations?

4 A So the issue here is, again, it's going back. This is
5 growth policy.

6 So the issue in Area B is extending beyond the
7 service area that's already been established.

8 Basically what Counsel and the administration at the
9 time this was established, and the Utility Service
10 Board was responsive to that, they were concerned that
11 we were stretching far beyond, that we might stretch
12 out far beyond areas that might be annexed in a
13 reasonable period of time.

14 What basically this provision does is it allows
15 for extensions when they're really necessary outside
16 of the normal service area, and it creates another
17 level, another step, in the requirements -- or in the
18 approval process.

19 Typically sewer connections are managed entirely
20 by staff inside the City. That's very simple. The
21 sewer connections in Area A require the Director's
22 approval, but if you wanted to go outside of Area A,
23 it required an affirmative vote of the Utility Service
24 Board.

25 In my time at Utilities there have been a

1 handful of requests, all of them back before 2017.
2 We've had a number of requests for service outside of
3 Area A.

4 In the Dillman basin, the southside of town,
5 they have all been turned down by the Utility Service
6 Board owing to the demand issue that I've already
7 mentioned.

8 They did approve one extension outside of Area A
9 on the northside for a particular development that had
10 no other way to get wastewater treatment, and they did
11 approve that one. So the only connection outside of
12 Area A that's been approved since I've been here was
13 on the northside.

14 Q I think in describing Area B you said it's to areas
15 that the City doesn't expect to be able to annex
16 within a reasonable period of time; is that right?

17 A I believe that was the standard.

18 So what would you want to approve out there?
19 Typically, my understanding at the time I came on was
20 that imagine somebody wanted to locate a large factory
21 that was going to hire 2,000 people.

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 A You don't want to have the Area A line be a hard
24 boundary that you can't go outside because someone
25 might want to put something big outside that would

1 be -- a substantial customer would have a lot of
2 benefits to the community overall. You don't want to
3 simply say, No, we won't serve out there. But you
4 need -- but you wanted to have a higher level of
5 public input on whether it should happen. So whenever
6 something goes to the Utility Service Board, then it's
7 subject to being opposed in the meetings by members of
8 the public.

9 Q Okay. You know, in establishing Area B, when they
10 were trying to figure out what is a reasonable period
11 of time, can you quantify that for me?

12 A I do not know.

13 Q Do you know if it was measured in decades?

14 A I do not know.

15 Q Okay. You don't --

16 A I just know there was a boundary, and my presumption
17 is that if you did too much development out there,
18 that you might not achieve -- I'm assuming. I don't
19 know that for certain.

20 Q That would have all been before your time?

21 A Long before my time.

22 Q All right. So on Page 48 here there's Section 24.7.

23 A Yes.

24 Q It says, "Under no circumstances shall the Utility's
25 approval of a request for permission to extend

1 sanitary sewer service obligate it to construct or pay
2 for the construction of any sanitary sewer extension
3 or connection to the City's sanitary sewer collection
4 system. All such costs are to be borne by the party
5 requesting the extension or connection. The applicant
6 for a sewer service extension must make any upgrades
7 to the Utility collection systems that are required to
8 accommodate the impact of the new connection."

9 A Yes.

10 Q Did I read that correctly?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. So, you know, can you break that down for me?

13 What does that mean?

14 A What that means is that if we approve a new
15 development's connection, we don't have to build the
16 pipe. In short that's what it means. That the City
17 is not promising to build anything for you.

18 Q And when it says, "upgrades to the Utility collection
19 systems," is that referring to downstream upgrades?

20 A Yes, it's referring to anything that we already have.

21 Q So that would be similar to the example you gave
22 earlier where you might need a bigger pipe downstream
23 to accommodate the new flow.

24 A That's right. Or upgrade a lift station to like a
25 larger capacity or, you know, anything that might have

1 to happen in response to the increase.

2 Q Okay. And this rule would apply to all requests for
3 extensions, whether in Area A or Area B?

4 A That's right. And also, whether water or sewer. This
5 is what we do always.

6 Q Okay. So you can feel free to set that document to
7 the side.

8 (The witness complied with the request.)

9 Q So I think you touched on this earlier, but these
10 rules were amended in February of 2021, right?

11 A That's right.

12 Q What was the change made to the rules?

13 A The change made to the rules was that the Utility
14 Service Board, for any new connections outside City
15 limits, would require voluntary or super-voluntary
16 annexation to be requested by the person applying for
17 the service.

18 Basically it was with the view towards the
19 concerns about the waivers that came from the 2019
20 legislation. There's concern that we would not be
21 able to rely on the waiver of remonstrance anymore.
22 So the idea would be that if you applied for voluntary
23 or super-voluntary annexation, that we would consider
24 that.

25 Q Okay. And so that would be moving away from the

1 Area A and B, referring to the voluntary or
2 super-voluntary annexation?

3 A I believe the 2021 rules did not -- it still had the
4 Area A and Area B designation. So I would presume
5 that had someone requested a connection in Area B, and
6 was petitioning for voluntary or super-voluntary
7 annexation, that that would be also part of the
8 consideration the Board would have to consider. But
9 I'll point out that there's no place in Area B that's
10 contiguous with the City of Bloomington. So
11 essentially requiring voluntary or super-voluntary
12 annexation eliminates Area B.

13 Q Okay. So you mentioned part of what prompted the
14 change was problems with waivers. Did anything else
15 factor into the decision to make the change?

16 A It was -- that is my recollection.

17 Q And do you know when the process was began for
18 planning the change in February of 2021?

19 A I don't know for certain. I do believe we did have
20 one request for a connection outside of the City, that
21 there were some -- but that lay within one of the
22 proposed areas for annexation. And I think it was a
23 consideration of what we would do with a situation
24 like that. I believe that's what the circumstance
25 was, but I don't know the -- I can't ...

1 Q Okay. Do you know if it was months before? years
2 before? some other time period?

3 A I believe it would have been within months of February
4 2021. It wouldn't have been -- it was -- I don't
5 remember the details of the particular circumstance.

6 I have some recollection that there was a question
7 about, Well, what if I just say I'll go ahead and be
8 annexed now? I believe that may have been what led to
9 the conversation, but I can't completely certain.

10 Q Okay. And I understand the Utilities Board made
11 another change to the rules and regulations in
12 August of 2022; is that right?

13 A Yes.

14 Q What did that change entail?

15 A That change eliminated the distinction between Area A
16 and Area B, left it in the Director's discretion, and
17 added a list of specific items that the Director was
18 expected to consider when doing extensions outside
19 City limits.

20 Q Okay. Do you know when that change was proposed?

21 A Well, I know it went to the Board in 2022, and I
22 believe it was in the fall. The exact date, I -- I
23 knew the exact date earlier, but I've forgotten it
24 now.

25 Q Perfectly fine.

1 A But it was in that time frame, yes.

2 Q Okay. And what prompted the August 2022 change?

3 A It was the realization that there was some challenges
4 with the rules and some clarification for especially
5 the community that wants to make new connections. We
6 want to make it as clear and explicit as possible what
7 it is that we're doing and what things we're paying
8 attention to. We didn't want to do anything that
9 wasn't carefully considered, and we didn't want to do
10 anything that was difficult for us to explain.

11 The biggest thing was clarifying our concerns
12 about increasing population density outside the City
13 limits in the possible absence of the annexation
14 process. And so that's a lot of what we were trying
15 to do.

16 Q Okay. Has the City extended sewer service to anyone
17 outside the City limits since February of 2021 that
18 was not a candidate for voluntary annexation?

19 A We had some that were in process, and even up to now
20 we still have a couple of things that are still in
21 process.

22 We weren't -- our philosophy has been that once
23 someone has invested the time and money to start
24 planning and development, they've begun the planning
25 process, they've gone through the Will Serve process

1 and so forth, that it would be inappropriate for us to
2 cut them off and say, Well, sorry, we changed our
3 rules. So things that have been in process, we're
4 continuing to do that.

5 Also, there have been some -- there's a new
6 library being built outside the City limits. We
7 approved that as an institutional facility. We've
8 also approved some connections for some commercial and
9 industrial connections as well.

10 Q Okay. Can you pull out Exhibit 6, the interrogatories
11 again.

12 (The witness complied with the request.)

13 Q Can you flip to Page 8.

14 A Okay.

15 Q So Interrogatory No. 2 says, "Describe the
16 considerations relevant to the City of Bloomington's
17 decisions to extend sewer service within Areas 1A, 1B,
18 1C, 2, 3, 4, and 5."

19 Did I read that correctly?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And what are Areas 1A, 1B, 1C, 2, 3, 4, and 5?

22 A Those are the proposed annexation areas.

23 Q Okay. Under the "Answer" there's a sentence that
24 says, "It is impossible for Plaintiff to identify the
25 considerations that would have been relevant to such

1 decisions over that period of time. Without waiving
2 the foregoing objections, it is reasonable to presume
3 that Plaintiff earlier would have taken, and currently
4 is taking, the following factors into consideration."

5 Did I read that correctly?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. So about over what area of time were these
8 sewer extensions approved?

9 A Oh, you mean, for clarification, in the extensions
10 that are already present in these annexation areas?

11 Q Correct.

12 A Can you repeat the question?

13 Q For the extensions we're discussing here that already
14 exist, Areas 1A through 5, over what period of time
15 were those approved?

16 A That, I don't know specifically, but it would be over
17 decades.

18 Q Okay. So when you say, "It's reasonable to presume
19 that Plaintiff earlier would have taken, and currently
20 is taking, the following factors into consideration,"
21 that's an educated guess of what the City would have
22 considered?

23 A Yes.

24 Q But you don't know for sure.

25 A I don't have any documentation, so I don't know. I

1 only know it's been done since I've been here.

2 Q Understood.

3 But any considerations would have to be
4 consistent with the rules and regulations governing at
5 the time?

6 A Yes, that's true.

7 Q Okay. So I have a couple of questions about some of
8 the specific factors you list here.

9 Factor 6 says, "The value of the proposed
10 development to the broader community, including, but
11 not limited to, the nature of the development's
12 proposed use."

13 Did I read that correctly?

14 A Yes.

15 Q What exactly do you mean by "value of the proposed
16 development to the broader community"?

17 A The library, for example. The Monroe County Public
18 Library System is now building a new library that lies
19 outside City limits on the southwest side of town. So
20 that is considered as an institutional development
21 that's considered to be of high value to the
22 community.

23 Q Because it benefits everyone.

24 A It benefits everyone, that's right.

25 Q So some City residents, and some Non-City residents?

1 A That's right.

2 And the Monroe County Public Library is not a
3 City institution. It's a County institution.

4 Q Okay. And then Factor 7 here says, "Whether the
5 proposed development would place a significant
6 increased burden on other non-utility municipal
7 services."

8 Do you see that?

9 A Yes.

10 Q What are these -- what do you mean by "other
11 non-utility municipal services"?

12 A So other non-utility municipal services would be all
13 the other things that the City does. So that's -- we
14 have housing and neighborhood development, we have
15 parks, and we have fire and police, and we have a
16 street department.

17 So imagine that you put a very large development
18 adjacent, right adjacent to the City, so it's a large
19 residential development. You have to presume that the
20 people who live there might very well be going to work
21 in Bloomington, which means the current streets may
22 not be big enough anymore. And those streets are
23 inside the City of Bloomington, so the City of
24 Bloomington would incur additional costs to serve that
25 additional traffic.

1 You'll presume that the person who lives -- the
2 people who live there might want to enjoy the parks
3 that the City is providing. Those are provided by the
4 residents of the City. There would be additional
5 costs associated with that, and those would be borne
6 by the residents of the City.

7 Our fire department has agreements to assist in
8 times of need with the outside fire departments. If
9 that large development is sitting right adjacent to
10 the City, it would be likely that they would be called
11 in on emergency calls.

12 Similarly, anything that the police might be
13 involved in inside the City that involved people who
14 live outside the City, there would be the more
15 possibility of that kind of thing.

16 So basically anything that the City, any
17 services that the City provides, there would be a
18 larger population of people who were very close by who
19 would be likely to take advantage of those services.

20 Q When did the City start considering this factor?

21 A I don't have an answer. I don't know that.

22 Q And we also talked about in Factor 6 about "the value
23 of the proposed development." When did the City start
24 considering that factor?

25 A Well, explicitly, that came up in about the time that

1 the amendments were being made to the rules regarding
2 connections outside the City.

3 Q Are you aware of anything, but before that amendment,
4 that explicitly dealt with these considerations?

5 A I am not.

6 And a point of fact, I don't know of any
7 circumstances where, and certainly I, as Director,
8 prior to the considerations related to the waivers,
9 and up until that time, I had never declined to serve
10 a property in Area A and, to my knowledge, my
11 predecessor didn't either.

12 So practically speaking, Area A was treated
13 as -- it was not looked at in that way as being
14 outside the City. It was looked at as being an area
15 that the Director had discretion over. But I don't
16 know of any cases at that time that we turned anything
17 down in Area A. Area B we did, but Area A we did not.

18 Q And you're not aware of anything where requests for
19 Area A was turned down for any of these reasons listed
20 here?

21 A Certainly not in my tenure, no. I don't know of -- I
22 don't know about my predecessor.

23 Q Okay. So Factor 9 here says, "Whether the proposed
24 development was part of an 'Area Intended For
25 Annexation' (AIFA) or within the two-mile fringe,

1 where the Plaintiff possessed planning jurisdiction."

2 Did I read that correctly?

3 A Yes.

4 Q What is the "Area Intended For Annexation" and

5 "two-mile fringe"?

6 A The AIFA, or A-Fa [phonetic], as we usually say, was
7 an area that was agreed upon between the City and the
8 County, that the County and the City agreed that it
9 was intended that those areas would be annexed, and,
10 therefore, the City had planning jurisdiction over it.

11 The two-mile fringe was the rule prior to the
12 establishment of the AIFA. The two-mile fringe is
13 basically draw a two-mile border around the outside of
14 the City, and the City had planning jurisdiction.

15 It's my understanding that the AIFA is smaller than
16 the original two-mile fringe. I think that reflects
17 the likelihood that an area would be developable or
18 not. But that was all an agreement between the City
19 and the County.

20 The agreement that created the AIFA expired, so
21 we don't have that anymore.

22 Q So approximately when was that agreement created?

23 A I don't know the exact date. It was in the 2000s.

24 Q And approximately when did it expire?

25 A It was before I became Utilities Director, but I don't

1 know the exact date.

2 Q Okay.

3 A So during my tenure there was no AIFA or two-mile
4 fringe.

5 Q Can I get you to turn to Page 7.

6 (The witness complied with the request.)

7 Q At the top it says, "Interrogatory No. 1: During the
8 period described in Paragraph 15 of the Complaints,
9 describe the considerations relevant to whether the
10 City of Bloomington would extend sewer service to
11 unincorporated areas."

12 Did I read that correctly?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And I will represent to you the period described in
15 Paragraph 15 is from the 1950s until now.

16 A Okay.

17 Q So under "Answer" it says, "Interrogatory No. 1 asks
18 Plaintiff to describe the considerations that would
19 have governed specific individual sewer extension
20 decisions for a period of more than 60 years. It is
21 impossible for Plaintiff to identify the
22 considerations that would have been relevant to such
23 decisions over that period of time. Without waiving
24 the foregoing objections, it is reasonable to presume
25 that Plaintiff earlier would have taken the following

1 factors into consideration."

2 Did I read that correctly?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And so when you say "it is reasonable to presume,"

5 this is, again, a situation where you don't know for

6 sure, but you're making an educated guess, right?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. And under here there's listed 11 factors,

9 right?

10 A Yes.

11 Q So you don't know which of these factors were

12 considered in any individual instance?

13 A I do not.

14 Q Okay. And different factors could have been

15 considered at different points in time?

16 A That's true.

17 Q And you just don't know.

18 A I just don't know.

19 Q Okay. I will set this aside.

20 I would like to introduce the next exhibit, this

21 document, as Exhibit 9.

22 (Intervenor's Exhibit 9 was marked for

23 identification.)

24 A Thank you.

25 Q What is this document?

1 A This is the affidavit that was filed by me, or were
2 filed, that I helped to prepare regarding the
3 initial -- the initiation of the case.

4 Q Is there any way this affidavit is no longer accurate
5 or correct?

6 A No, it is correct.

7 Q So in Paragraph 3, it says, "When new developments are
8 built beyond the City's municipal boundaries without
9 municipal wastewater service, they generally utilize
10 septic systems as an alternative wastewater solution."

11 Did I read that correctly?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. Do developments outside the City limits have
14 any other options besides septic systems?

15 A The only other option they would have would be the
16 creation of or construction of something we call a
17 package plant. It's basically a wastewater treatment
18 plant that's on a skid that they can deliver to a
19 particular location.

20 There are, especially in the Lake Monroe
21 Watershed, the County has been given that Lake Monroe
22 is their only source of drinking water. The County's
23 been very protective of Lake Monroe. So there are a
24 couple of developments that took place in the Lake
25 Monroe Watershed where the County required them to put

1 a package plant in rather than simply having septic
2 for all the homes. So the homes basically have their
3 own wastewater treatment plant.

4 Q If you have one of those package plants, does that
5 allow for development as dense as connecting to the
6 City's sewer service?

7 A It does not, not as dense, a higher density.
8 Presumably over a very small area it could, but
9 they're going to be limited in their capacity. So a
10 package plant might be able to take 50,000 gallons per
11 day, whereas our plant can take millions of gallons
12 per day. So if it could, it perhaps could have
13 density, but it wouldn't be very large.

14 Q Okay. But if you added several of these package
15 plants, you could theoretically come up with something
16 of similar density?

17 A Theoretically. Practically, no, because package
18 plants are subject to the regulation of the Indiana
19 Department of Environmental Management. So the County
20 can't just say, Sure, put a package plant in, and
21 that's all good. IDEM will still regulate the
22 management and operation of the package plant and its
23 effluence. So it is a wastewater treatment plant, and
24 those are subject to the State's jurisdiction.

25 Q Okay.

1 A So I couldn't build a suburb and put 30 package plants
2 along Clear Creek. And part of the reason for that is
3 that imagine there were a bunch of package plants in
4 the watershed of Bean Blossom Creek where one of our
5 wastewater plants discharges into. Our affluent
6 limits, the amount of the contaminant level that could
7 be in the water that we discharge, is partially
8 dictated by the current condition of the water in the
9 receiving water body, the stream. So if there were a
10 bunch of package plants upstream, then they would be
11 discharging sewage upstream from us, which would
12 probably restrict our limits, our concentration limits
13 might go down, but it also might restrict us from a
14 future expansion of the plant capacity because the
15 stream's capability of handling wastewater loading
16 would be reduced. So a stream can receive a certain
17 number of pounds per day of the contaminants and then
18 a certain number of gallons per day of water from
19 these plants.

20 So proliferation of those package plants has
21 affects on all the other treatment plants in the area
22 as well. So, in general, the State doesn't like to
23 have a lot of package plants around.

24 The other thing is that package plants -- this
25 is not to denigrate any of my colleagues in the

1 wastewater industry, but package plants are usually
2 less capitalized financially and probably don't
3 receive the level of monitoring and oversight that a
4 community-owned treatment works would do. So
5 typically those private package plants will not
6 receive the level of oversight that a large wastewater
7 plant would. And ultimately, the issue, then, is the
8 water quality in the receiving stream.

9 Q In the interplay between the City's sewage service and
10 package plants, those are regulated by the State?

11 A That's right.

12 Q Okay. So in Paragraph 4 of your affidavit it says,
13 "In most cases where the City declines to extend
14 municipal wastewater service to a non-municipal
15 proposed development, the development cannot move
16 forward and is not built."

17 Did I read that correctly?

18 A You did.

19 Q So it sounds like there are some exceptions to -- some
20 developments are still able to move forward?

21 A Some are subject to the ability of a particular
22 development to institute septic.

23 I've owned homes that had sewer service, and
24 I've had homes that had septic. If it were my choice,
25 I would always have sewer service. It's much more

1 convenient. I don't end up having to treat wastewater
2 on my premises. There's lots of things that can go
3 wrong with a septic system.

4 So if you had a development that was proposed
5 that had parcels large enough to accept a septic tank,
6 and had the soil conditions appropriate for having a
7 septic tank, a development like that might be proposed
8 to the County, presuming this is outside the City.

9 Q Right.

10 A When that gets proposed to the County, they may
11 propose it with sanitary sewer service because the
12 homes will be more valuable, and the owners will be
13 happier to have the sewer service if they could. If
14 they couldn't, they could have septic as a fallback.
15 So you might achieve the same density, but that
16 density might be two-acre parcels.

17 If you have sewer service, you can have
18 quarter-acre parcels or smaller, or large apartment
19 buildings that you couldn't have on a septic system.
20 Well, you couldn't have it as effective in a septic
21 system. It'd be a large septic system.

22 So what I'm meaning here is that there may be
23 cases where a residential development could be built
24 on septic or on sewer, depending on whether it was
25 authorized or not. But typically what we're talking

1 about is if they come to us, very often it's because
2 they want to have a higher density development that's
3 more like an urban development, and without septic you
4 can't build that.

5 Q So if the City turns a developer down for sewer
6 service, they could go back to the County and propose
7 moving forward with septic or a package plant; is that
8 right?

9 A They could propose going back with septic. They could
10 propose a package plant. Chances are that won't ever
11 be approved. IDEM's not going to let you build a
12 package plant right next to an area that's served by a
13 publicly-owned treatment works typically.

14 But if they did want to go ahead with the
15 development, it's very likely that that development
16 would have much lower density than if it could have
17 had sewer because you're usually looking at one- to
18 two-acre parcels by the time you're going to septic.

19 Q Okay. So it seems like just the main benefit of
20 someone being able to connect to the sewers, City
21 sewer service, is that they get to build more and
22 build more densely; is that right?

23 A That's correct. So a higher density development means
24 you get to sell more houses.

25 Q Okay. Does the City receive any benefit when it

1 allows someone outside the City limits to connect to
2 its sewer service?

3 A For clarification, do you mean residential
4 development, or do you mean development in general?

5 Q If there's a difference, please explain it.

6 A So if someone built a factory that was just outside
7 City limits, and that factory hired 2,000 people to
8 work in it, then there would be benefits all-round for
9 the residents of the community whether they lived in
10 the City or whether they don't.

11 If the residents of the City of Bloomington make
12 more money at their job, whether they do the job in
13 the City or not, they are going to do things in the
14 City that they wouldn't have done otherwise. So that
15 could be beneficial.

16 Residential development doesn't have any
17 particular benefits to the City if it's not within the
18 City limits. It creates additional burdens for City
19 services that aren't water or wastewater.

20 Speaking from the perspective of the Utilities
21 Department, as I said, we break even over the long
22 term. Over the short term there could be additional
23 hassles for us if things are going -- because our
24 staffing could never keep up with rapid -- the pace of
25 our staffing and the equipment that we have probably

1 can't keep up with rapid development.

2 Q Okay. Does the Utilities Department get any economies
3 of scale from having more residential customers?

4 A No.

5 Q So there's no economies of scale in sewage management?

6 A Well, there are, but we're big enough that, in
7 particular, if -- we got 22,000 customers. If I add
8 20- more, it's not making that big a difference for
9 us. If we get big enough, say, we got up to -- say,
10 we were suddenly 75,000 customers. If we had 75,000
11 customers, we'd have probably two more wastewater
12 plants.

13 So we can't just keep making the current plant
14 bigger and bigger because if the development happens
15 in a concentrated area, you're going to have to expand
16 the current plant. But if you start extending service
17 farther out, it may not be feasible to actually
18 collect the wastewater from over there and put it in
19 the plant you have right now. You'd have to have a
20 gigantic lift station to do that.

21 So what you would do is you would build another
22 plant in another basin, which you would get no
23 economies of scale from doing that, but you'd have to
24 build the plant.

25 Q Okay. So for a given plant, there's a point where you

1 max out your economies of scale?

2 A Exactly, yeah.

3 Q But, you know, the closer you get to that point the
4 better it is. Wherever that optimum point is, the
5 closer you get to your optimum point, you want to sort
6 of be there for a given plant?

7 A Yeah, you don't want to get bigger than -- you don't
8 want demand to exceed your capacity, yeah.

9 Q Okay. When denser development happens just outside
10 the City limits, does that increase the property
11 values in the City?

12 A I'm not an economist. I don't know the answer to
13 that.

14 Q Okay.

15 MR. BARTA: I think we've been going about
16 another hour, and I think I have about one more
17 section. So, you know, given the time, we could
18 either take a five-minute break and then maybe go
19 for -- you know, finish it out, or if you guys would
20 prefer to break for lunch, I'm happy to do that, too.

21 MR. ROUKER: Well, I'd rather not break for
22 lunch. Speaking for myself only, I'd rather take a
23 five-minute break and then come back and knock it out,
24 but I guess I'll defer to the group.

25 MR. UNGER: We don't need to have it. If you

1 want to take a break, we can take a break.

2 MR. BARTA: Five minutes is good for me.

3 MR. UNGER: Okay.

4 MR. BARTA: But I will leave it to our court
5 reporter, who has been helping us get through this.

6 THE WITNESS: I'd be happy to take a five-minute
7 break.

8 MR. BARTA: Okay. Well, why don't we do that.

9

10 (AT THIS TIME THERE WAS A BRIEF RECESS TAKEN,
11 AFTER WHICH THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD:)

12

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION,

14 QUESTIONS BY MR. BARTA:

15 Q So I think that a concept that's come up, I think
16 previously in this deposition, is the waivers against
17 of the right to remonstrate against annexation.

18 Is it okay if I just refer to those as waivers?

19 A Yes. I was going to ask that, too.

20 Q Okay, great.

21 Just wanting to make sure we're on the same
22 page, what is your understanding of the waiver?

23 A My understanding of the waiver is that you are saying
24 that in return for being able to connect to the sewer
25 that you are agreeing to have the parcel eventually

1 annexed into the City of Bloomington. And that waiver
2 applies to the property and not to the person who
3 signed it, so you and any future owners of the parcel
4 will not remonstrate against a future annexation.

5 Q And we mentioned annexations that the City is
6 currently trying to conduct for Areas 1A to 5, right?

7 A That's right.

8 Q And the City has waivers from people with -- or for
9 properties within those waivers, right?

10 A Within those areas, yes.

11 Q Do you know about over what period of time the City
12 obtained those waivers?

13 A I don't know specifically, but it's decades.

14 Q Is a waiver typically obtained at the time the
15 development occurs?

16 A It's attained when the sewer connection is made. The
17 agreement is that in return for us allowing you to
18 connect to our sewer you're waiving your right to
19 remonstrate.

20 Q Okay. And usually the sewer connection is made about
21 the time the development is built?

22 A Yeah. Certainly before the people move into the
23 houses, yes.

24 Q But it's not generally the case where someone connects
25 to the sewer and waits years to build?

1 A No, they would not do that.

2 Q Okay. So if we have a waiver from 1985 that would
3 suggest the property was probably developed around
4 1985?

5 A That's true, yes.

6 Q Which departments or persons at the City are
7 responsible for determining whether to seek a waiver
8 from someone wanting to connect to the sewer system?

9 A Well, it's part of our rules and regulations that you
10 would have to sign a waiver in order to get a
11 connection. So that would typically be someone from
12 our Engineering Division at CBU, or it could be
13 someone from the Legal Department. Historically, I
14 don't know if any other departments would be involved
15 in that or not. But prior to CBU's existence that
16 might have been a different City department.

17 Q Okay. And when did the CBU come into existence?

18 A I don't know for certain. Our current structure was
19 established in 1973 when the Utility Service Board was
20 created.

21 Q Okay. And you mentioned that the current rules
22 require the City to obtain a waiver?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Was there ever a point in time when the City's rules
25 did not require that?

1 A I know for certain since 2008 we certainly have.
2 Before that I know that the State -- there's statutory
3 language regarding the importance of waivers for sewer
4 extensions outside of cities. I'm not a lawyer, I
5 don't know the specifics of that, but I know that
6 there is statutory language establishing the
7 importance of cities accepting and receiving waivers
8 for sewer service.

9 Q As far as the City's own regulations and policies, you
10 don't know for sure one way or the other what they
11 said about waivers before 2008?

12 A I don't know at this moment. I'm sure I could find
13 paperwork that would demonstrate one way or the other.
14 But my assumption, and what I've been told, is that
15 this has been the practice for as long as anyone at
16 CBU can remember.

17 Q Okay. Do you know for sure whether this has been the
18 practice all the way back to the 1950s?

19 A I don't know for certain. Personally I don't know.

20 Q Okay. So we talked about the Rules, Regulations and
21 Standards of Service has language related to waivers,
22 right?

23 A That's right.

24 Q Are there any other policies, rules, or regulations
25 that govern the waiver process?

1 MR. ROUKER: Objection, calls for a legal
2 conclusion.

3 Q Let me restate that.

4 Are you aware of any other regulations, rules,
5 or policies the City looks at when obtaining the
6 waiver?

7 A I'm not aware of any. It's simply a requirement in
8 order to make a connection to the sewer, from my
9 perspective.

10 Q There has been times in the past when the -- or let me
11 restate.

12 There are properties connected to the City's
13 sewer service system today for which the City does not
14 have a waiver, correct?

15 A That is true, yes.

16 Q And some are outside the City limits?

17 A That's my understanding, yes.

18 Q Do you know why there's no waiver for those
19 properties?

20 A As I said, certainly since 2008 it's been required.

21 So if any of those have occurred since 2008, it would
22 clearly be, to my mind, an omission and not an
23 intentional decision that was made at any particular
24 time. I've seen no documentation, and I've heard no
25 assertions from staff, that anybody ever said, Nah,

1 you don't have to do a waiver. My understanding is if
2 there isn't a waiver, it's because either the
3 paperwork was lost or someone forgot or something like
4 that.

5 Q Okay. And that's since 2008?

6 A Prior to that I know it's been the rule for as long as
7 anyone can remember. So my assumption is if there
8 were periods, there was something in the '70s or the
9 '60s, I would presume it was the same.

10 Q But it could be different?

11 A I really don't want to speculate. I know that's
12 been -- the State law has been that way for a long
13 time.

14 Q But you're not aware of any -- you don't have specific
15 knowledge --

16 A I have no specific knowledge.

17 Q -- of any rules from the '60s or '70s?

18 A No.

19 Q Okay. So you're making an educated guess about what
20 the practice was before in the '60s and '70s.

21 A That's -- yes, certainly.

22 Q Okay.

23 A I do want to assert I also have not gone back through
24 the paperwork from the '60s and '70s to see. But it's
25 been required for as long as anyone can recall.

1 Q Okay. And when you say "as long as anyone can
2 recall," what time period is that?

3 A Well, we have employees, believe it or not, who worked
4 in the Utilities Department in the 1970s, and we have
5 alumni from before that who are in regular
6 conversations with us about all sorts of things, and
7 we certainly do go back and talk to them from time to
8 time.

9 Right now we're involved in identifying where
10 there are lead service lines. It's a requirement, a
11 federal requirement. We've interviewed a lot of
12 people who go back to the 1960s to find out what their
13 recollections were, so.

14 Q Have you interviewed those people specifically about
15 the topic of waivers?

16 A The ones inside the Engineering Division, yes, we've
17 talked with them.

18 Q Okay. And how long have they been around?

19 A Can't say for certain. Some of them are more than
20 30 years. Certainly back into the '80s and possibly
21 before.

22 Q So after the City obtains a waiver from someone, what
23 happens to the waiver?

24 A It gets recorded.

25 Q Who at the City is responsible for that?

1 A I don't know specifically. I presume it's someone in
2 the Legal Department.

3 Q Why does the City record waivers?

4 A Because they have to be recorded.

5 Q They have to be recorded by what standard?

6 A I believe it's a -- I believe it's the law that they
7 have to be recorded.

8 Q What is the City's understanding of why the law
9 requires recording?

10 A I can't speak for the City.

11 MR. ROUKER: I'm going to object. It's asking
12 for a legal conclusion again.

13 MR. BARTA: Okay.

14 Q You can still answer.

15 A I don't know.

16 Q Okay. If a waiver is not recorded, what would be the
17 consequences of that?

18 A I --

19 MR. ROUKER: Hold on.

20 I'm going to object. Again, this is calling for
21 a legal conclusion.

22 Q Let me see if I can -- if a waiver is not recorded,
23 what impact could that have on property owners?

24 MR. ROUKER: I'm going to voice the same
25 objection.

1 You can answer.

2 A I don't know what it could mean to property owners.

3 It would depend on whether there was one or two of
4 them or a thousand of them, I would presume. But I
5 don't know.

6 Q Why do you say it depends on whether there's one or
7 two or a thousand?

8 A Well, because it is my understanding that the process
9 is that when an involuntary annexation is pursued, the
10 people can -- the people who have not waived their
11 right to remonstrate can remonstrate against it. If
12 there are enough remonstrances, then it can either
13 jeopardize or prevent an annexation. So if you were
14 annexing an area that had 8,000 people in it, it would
15 matter whether there were three that didn't have
16 waivers or whether there were 3,000 that didn't have
17 waivers.

18 Q Okay. Does the City have any regulations, rules, or
19 policies governing the recording of waivers?

20 A I don't know that.

21 Q And just to clarify, the City does not have them, or
22 you don't know one way or the other?

23 A I would presume that that would be in the jurisdiction
24 of the Legal Department. I can't speak for how they
25 operate. All I know is that we have people sign them,

1 and then we turn them in.

2 Q Okay. And the Legal Department records them?

3 A I can't speak to that. I don't know.

4 Q The Utilities Department does not take care of the

5 recording?

6 A We do not do the recording.

7 Q Okay. So we've been talking about the annexation that

8 kicked off in 2017.

9 A Uh-huh.

10 Q The City recorded a number of waivers right before the

11 annexation, right?

12 A I don't know. I don't have specific knowledge of

13 that.

14 Q That's fine.

15 MR. BARTA: I'm going to introduce a document as

16 our next exhibit, Exhibit 10.

17 (Intervenor's Exhibit 10 was marked for

18 identification.)

19 Q What is this document?

20 A This is a waiver of the right to remonstrate against

21 annexation that was executed in return for the ability

22 to tap into and connect to our sewer system.

23 Q Okay. Midway down on the page it says, "Before me, as

24 Notary Public, personally appeared Jay Hall and owners

25 of the above described real estate and acknowledged

1 the execution of the above release of the right to
2 remonstrate against pending or future annexation to
3 the City of Bloomington, Indiana to be their voluntary
4 act and deed, this 29 day of October, 1998."

5 Did I read that correctly?

6 A Yes.

7 Q So it looks like this waiver was executed in 1998; is
8 that right?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. And I see at the top right of the document
11 there's a stamp that says, "Monroe County Recorder
12 IN" -- Indiana -- "Recorded as Presented." Is that
13 right?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And it looks like the date there is "02/22/2017." Do
16 you see that?

17 A Yes.

18 Q So it looks like this waiver was recorded in 2017?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Do you know why it took so long to record this waiver?

21 A No, I don't.

22 Q Do you know if there's other waivers that's taken
23 years for the City to record?

24 A I can't speak to that specifically. It's possible.

25 Q Has there been any changes made to the process for

1 recording waivers since 2017?

2 A That's outside of my jurisdiction. I will say that my
3 presumption is that these have never been questioned.

4 This has never been an issue before. I'm sure they
5 were kept on file, but I don't know any specifics of
6 it.

7 Q So in the areas that the City is now trying to annex
8 there are some waivers that date back decades, right?

9 A Well, this one does certainly, so, yes.

10 Q Are you aware there's other waivers that date back to
11 the 1950s?

12 A I did not know that.

13 Q Okay. Does the City have any concerns about the
14 passage of time between the execution of the waivers
15 and their use?

16 MR. ROUKER: Objection, calls for a legal
17 conclusion.

18 Q You can answer.

19 A I can't speak for the City. I can only speak to what
20 we do, and from CBU's perspective, we assume that once
21 there's a waiver, there's a waiver.

22 Q Do you think developers could have concerns about
23 decades elapsing?

24 A I have never heard --

25 MR. ROUKER: Hold on.

1 Same objection: calls for a legal conclusion.

2 A I've never heard anyone complain about that.

3 Q So the City has communications with landowners about
4 waivers?

5 A We have communications with landowners about waivers
6 when they apply for sewer service.

7 Q Has the City had communications with landowners about
8 waivers after the application period?

9 A Well, from the perspective of the Utilities
10 Department, we don't have any. There's no particular
11 reason why we would.

12 Q So I believe you were designated to sort of talk about
13 communications between the City and landowners about
14 waivers generally.

15 A Okay.

16 Q So I'm curious more broadly about, you know, has the
17 City had conversations about landowners and waivers
18 after the application period?

19 A Not that I'm aware of.

20 Q Have you asked --

21 A Well, prior to the annexation proposal I don't know of
22 any.

23 After the annexation proposal came out, we had
24 public meetings. People asked us questions about the
25 waiver and how their property ended up with a waiver

1 on it and all that sort of thing. To our knowledge,
2 it was a previous owner in some cases that had done
3 it.

4 Q Okay. Well, when you say people had questions, that
5 was about individual properties?

6 A Individual properties.

7 We had public meetings where individuals could
8 come and talk to us about what it would take for them
9 to get sewer and those kinds of things.

10 Q Okay. What did individuals express at these public
11 meetings regarding waivers?

12 A I don't recall specifically anything that's -- how do
13 I say this? There's a common thing that happens, and
14 stepping back from waivers for a moment, we have --
15 there are lots of cases where the City or the
16 Utilities Department has documentation associated with
17 a parcel that a property owner might not become aware
18 of. They might not read the deed closely when they
19 bought their home, and then they discover that there's
20 a storm easement, storm water easement. It's their
21 job to maintain the property, and storm water is
22 allowed to flow across the property.

23 We also have cases where people have
24 accidentally built homes on top of buried
25 infrastructure that we had to remove.

1 The common thread through all of those is I
2 didn't know when I bought the property that this was
3 the case. So to the extent that when we were having
4 those conversations with people, I would say that that
5 was -- When I bought the house, I didn't know that
6 there was a waiver on it.

7 And we had that happen with other things. And
8 what we typically say is, Well, it was attached to the
9 property, attached to the parcel, so at that point I
10 don't have anything more to say other than we
11 acknowledge that it was a previous owner that gave
12 this easement or whatever, or was paid for an
13 easement, or whatnot. We recognize that that happened
14 before your time, but it's still attached to the
15 parcel, and you're still responsible for it.

16 Q Just to clarify, so there were landowners in the
17 annexation area that expressed surprise a waiver had
18 covered their property?

19 A Yeah. I suppose so, yeah.

20 Q Do you know if any of those instances -- do you know
21 if any of those properties involved waivers that had
22 not been recorded for a period of years?

23 A I do not know that.

24 I do know that we provided them the sewer
25 service that was referenced in the waivers. They

1 would not have waived it had we not agreed to the
2 connection.

3 Q Have any landowners in the annexation area, you know,
4 expressed other concerns regarding waivers?

5 A Not to me. I don't know specifically.

6 Q Have they expressed it to the City generally?

7 A I would presume they would have expressed concerns
8 about waivers, but I can't speak to specific
9 instances.

10 Q Okay. I think just one last question for you: So are
11 there any answers you've given today you need to go
12 back and correct?

13 A No, I don't think so. No.

14 Q Okay.

15 MR. BARTA: I am done.

16 MR. ROUKER: Take a couple minutes?

17 MR. BARTA: Perfectly fine.

18 MR. ROUKER: Thanks, James.

19

20 (AT THIS TIME THERE WAS A LENGTHY RECESS TAKEN,
21 AFTER WHICH THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD:)

22

23 REDIRECT EXAMINATION,

24 QUESTIONS BY MR. ROUKER:

25 Q I have just a couple questions for you, Vic.

1 You testified earlier that developers pay the
2 cost of the installation of actual sewer
3 infrastructure when there is a sewer extension; is
4 that correct?

5 A I did testify to that, yes.

6 Q You did testify to that.

7 Can you think of any times when that may not be
8 the case?

9 A We do have cases where -- well, first of all, the IURC
10 has a rule that we forego three years of revenue from
11 that new sewer extension under their rules, and that
12 happens in every case.

13 Another thing that happens is that we have a
14 requirement that imagine having a neighborhood in the
15 City that isn't served by the sewer, they have septic
16 tanks, and we do have those neighborhoods.

17 If a neighborhood wants to have sewer installed
18 along their street, they can ask us to do that. Our
19 requirement is that we calculate what it will cost,
20 and then more than half of the people who are going to
21 be served by that pipe have to pay their share of that
22 cost at the beginning.

23 So, for example, if you have a street that has
24 ten homes on it, and it isn't served by sewer, and
25 they want it to be served by sewer, we'll calculate

1 that it costs whatever it is -- a hundred thousand
2 dollars -- to run the sewer down that street. Six of
3 those neighbors will have to agree up-front to pay
4 their share of that cost when we build the sewer. The
5 others will be charged with interest when they
6 eventually -- so 10 years, 15 years later, they have a
7 septic tank fail. They'll pay their share at that
8 time with interest. In the meantime the utility has
9 to pay for that other 40 percent. In practice you may
10 never collect that. That cost may never be passed on
11 to that resident because if they never connect, you
12 never get the money.

13 And another one, an analogous one we've talked
14 about, and I referred to it before, is the whole thing
15 of having to upsize a sewer because a new development
16 makes an existing sewer reach its capacity, and it has
17 to be upsized.

18 I can't make a sewer exactly fit the new demand.
19 I have to make a sewer, and I have to make it at least
20 big enough to handle the demands, which practically
21 means that if I have a 10-inch sewer that was maxed
22 out, you brought another 6-inch sewer onto it, that
23 puts it over its capacity. I might upsize it to a
24 14-inch sewer, but I'm also going to look around to
25 see what else might eventually might want to connect

1 to it.

2 And oftentimes when you're talking about new
3 development, you're talking about being way out on the
4 edge of the system. There may be five or six large
5 parcels that are ultimately going to want to be
6 subdivided and connected. A 12-inch sewer would do,
7 but a 16-inch sewer would cover all those other folks
8 as well eventually.

9 Well, what's going to happen is we're going to
10 charge the developer who's putting in their new
11 development. We're going to charge them for a share
12 of that expansion. We're not going to charge them for
13 all of that, and if those other parcels never get
14 developed, then our rate payers never get reimbursed
15 for that.

16 At times we are in a situation where we have to
17 spend rate payer dollars to protect ourselves from
18 having to spend more rate payer dollars later. So if
19 I went from a 10 to a 12 and then to a 14 and then to
20 a 16, I'm tearing everything up three or four times to
21 do those expansions. Where the smarter thing would
22 have been to plan for what will eventually be there
23 because our planning horizon is 50 to a hundred years,
24 not 5 to 10 years.

25 Q Switching gears, at what point in the process of

1 requesting a sewer extension for a connection outside
2 the corporate boundary of the City of Bloomington is a
3 requester notified that they'll have to execute a
4 waiver of the right to remonstrate against a future
5 annexation?

6 A And, as I said, a lot of times if it's outside the
7 City, these things begin with an inquiry at the County
8 Planning Department, and they have to come to us to
9 get a Will Serve Letter. At that point our staff
10 describes everything that has to happen in order to
11 get the sewer, including the remonstrance waiver.
12 That's explained at the very beginning of the process,
13 even before the Will Serve Letter.

14 Q And I'm jumping around a little bit here.

15 I believe in your testimony to Mr. Barta you
16 mentioned that you're not aware of any instance where
17 the City said no to a request for a sewer extension
18 within what was designated as Area A on the SSAM.

19 Can you explain a little bit more why that might
20 have been the case?

21 A Well, first of all, there are just a limited number of
22 situations that would have led us to that outcome.

23 A large factory that needed to be able to get
24 rid of 5 million gallons a day of wastewater that we
25 didn't have enough capacity to treat. That could have

1 happened, but it didn't, so we didn't have to turn
2 that down.

3 We didn't have any requests for industrial
4 facilities that would have made highly contaminated
5 waste, so we didn't have anything to deal with there.

6 And, you know, frankly, we never anticipated
7 that we wouldn't be able to annex once we had the
8 annexation waivers. All of our decisions have assumed
9 eventually we'll be able to annex the areas that we
10 were serving with sewer because we had waivers on the
11 properties.

12 Q So was that assumption in part based on the ongoing
13 enforceability of those waivers?

14 MR. BARTA: Objection, leading.

15 A Yes.

16 Q What was that assumption based on?

17 A Well, it was based on the assumption that the waivers
18 were tied to the parcels and that eventually we would
19 be able to annex them as had been previously agreed.

20 Q You were asked a little bit about sort of a history of
21 the Rules, Regulations and Standards of Service and
22 about sort of how those existed over time.

23 Do you have any reason that a waiver was always
24 required in exchange for a sewer extension by one of
25 the rules in the CBU's Rules, Regulations and

1 Standards of Service?

2 A I have no reason to doubt that.

3 Q And then are you familiar with sort of the level of
4 development that exists in the areas that are
5 currently proposed for annexation in Areas 1A
6 through 5?

7 A Yeah, I'm familiar with that. Yes.

8 Q Could the majority of development that is present in
9 those areas have occurred in its form with its current
10 density without the City having extended sewer service
11 to those areas?

12 A No. Certainly large dense neighborhoods could not be
13 served without sewer, and we are the only viable place
14 to get sewer service in Monroe County -- well, sorry,
15 in the Bloomington area. Ellettsville also has a
16 sewer department themselves, but CBU would be the only
17 place they could have gotten it.

18 MR. ROUKER: Nothing further.

19

20 FURTHER REDIRECT EXAMINATION,

21 QUESTIONS BY MR. BARTA:

22 Q Just a few follow-up questions.

23 In talking about different development
24 scenarios, you mentioned a situation where a sewer
25 line goes down a street, and half the people have to

1 agree to pay the up-front cost. Do you remember that?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Is that situation only applicable to people inside the
4 City limits?

5 A No, it's also applicable to people anywhere in our
6 service area.

7 Q And you also mentioned something about a three-year
8 window of foregoing revenue under IURC rules, correct?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Why does the City forego three years of revenue?

11 A Because it's the requirement. We're required to.

12 Q What is the three-year period based on?

13 A I don't know the legislative history of the three-year
14 period. I only know that it's the rules.

15 Q Okay.

16 MR. BARTA: I don't think I have anything
17 further.

18 MR. ROUKER: Nothing else.

19 We will read and sign. Send the transcript
20 directly to me.

21 MR. BARTA: I will take a full-size E-Tran
22 transcript.

23 MR. ROUKER: I will take a full-size PDF
24 transcript.

25

1 (Deposition proceedings conclude at
2 1:09 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS
2 COUNTY OF MONROE)

3
4 IN THE MONROE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

5 CITY OF BLOOMINGTON,)

6 Plaintiff,)

7 -v-)

8 CATHERINE SMITH,in her) CAUSE NOs.: 53C06-2203-PL-000608
) 53C06-2203-PL-000609

official capacity as) 53C06-2203-PL-000610

9 Monroe County Auditor,) 53C06-2203-PL-000611

) 53C06-2203-PL-000614

10 Defendant,) 53C06-2203-PL-000615

) 53C06-2203-PL-000616

11 and)

12 STATE OF INDIANA,)

)

13 Intervenor.)

14
15 I, VICTOR KELSON, state that I have read the
16 foregoing transcript of the testimony given by me on
17 July 25, 2023, at my deposition;

18 That said transcript constitutes a true and correct
19 record of the testimony given by me at said deposition
20 except as so indicated on the errata sheet(s) provided
21 herein.

22 FURTHER THE DEPONENT SAITH NOT

23 _____
24 VICTOR KELSON

25 Dated: _____

1 STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
2 COUNTY OF MONROE)

3 I, Barbara Ann Bourbina, a Notary Public in and
4 for said county and state, do hereby certify that
5 VICTOR KELSON, the deponent herein was by me first
6 duly sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth and
7 nothing but the truth in the aforementioned matter;

8 That the foregoing deposition was taken on
9 behalf of the Intervenor, Office of the Attorney
10 General, State of Indiana, at Bloomington City Hall,
11 in Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, on the 25th
12 day of July, 2023, pursuant to the Applicable rules;

13 That said deposition was taken down in
14 Stenograph notes and afterwards reduced to typewriting
15 under my direction, and that the typewritten
16 transcript is a true record of the testimony given by
17 said deponent;

18 And that the deposition upon oral examination
19 was taken down in Stenograph notes and afterwards
20 reduced to typewriting under my direction and
21 thereafter presented to said witness for signature;

22 I do further certify that I am a disinterested
23 person in this cause of action; that I am not a
24 relative or attorney of any of the parties.

25 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
and affixed my notarial seal on this 8th day of
August, 2023.

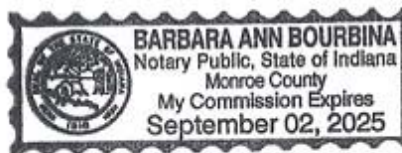
Barbara Ann Bourbina

Barbara Ann Bourbina, Notary Public

Commission Number: NP704124

My Commission Expires:
September 2, 2025

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My
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