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BEFORE THE BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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BOARD MEETING )  
DECEMBER 8, 2023 )

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS (VIA ZOOM)

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December 8, 2023  
9:00 a.m.

BEFORE CHAIRMAN DAVID SIMPSON,  
BOARD MEMBERS JON REITEN, JOSEPH SMITH,  
JULIA ALTEMUS, and JENNIFER RANKOSKY,

PREPARED BY: LAURIE CRUTCHER, RPR  
COURT REPORTER, NOTARY PUBLIC  
lauriecrutcher@gmail.com

1           WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were  
2 had:

3                                   \* \* \* \* \*

4           CHAIR SIMPSON: Good morning, everyone.  
5 Good morning, Sandy. Would you take the roll,  
6 please. We'll come to order, please.

7           MS. MOISEY-SCHERER: Good morning.  
8 Chairman Simpson.

9           CHAIR SIMPSON: Here.

10          MS. MOISEY-SCHERER: Vice Chair Stacy  
11 Aguirre.

12                                   (No response)

13          MS. MOISEY-SCHERER: Board Member  
14 Altemus.

15          BOARD MEMBER ALTEMUS: Good morning.  
16 Present.

17          MS. MOISEY-SCHERER: Board Member  
18 Rankosky.

19          BOARD MEMBER RANKOSKY: Present.

20          MS. MOISEY-SCHERER: Board Member  
21 Reiten.

22          BOARD MEMBER REITEN: Here.

23          MS. MOISEY-SCHERER: Board Member Smith.

24          BOARD MEMBER SMITH: Here.

25          MS. MOISEY-SCHERER: We have five

1 members present, sir. We have a quorum.

2 CHAIR SIMPSON: Thank you very much,  
3 Sandy. Could we also just document who else is on  
4 the call for the record, please.

5 MS. MOISEY-SCHERER: I'm Sandy  
6 Moisey-Scherer, Board secretary; Laurie Crutcher,  
7 Court Reporter; Deputy Director James Fehr, Board  
8 liaison; Moira Davin, DEQ Communications; Board  
9 Counsel Terisa Oomens; Kirsten Bowers, DEQ; Vicki  
10 Marquis, Crowley Fleck; Bill Mercer, Holland and  
11 Hart; Sarah Bordelon, Holland and Hart; Andy  
12 Ulven, DEQ; Catherine Armstrong, DEQ; Angie  
13 Colamaria, DEQ; Emily Lodman, DEQ; Kaitlin  
14 Whitfield, DEQ; Kurt Moser, DEQ; Loryn Johnson,  
15 DEQ; Sam King, DEQ; Sarah Christopherson, DEQ; Sam  
16 Yemington, Holland and Hart. That's all I have.

17 (Katie Makarowsky, Elena Hagen,  
18 Jeremiah Langston also present)

19 CHAIR SIMPSON: Thank you, Sandy. We'll  
20 begin with Item 1-A, review and approve the  
21 minutes. Are there any comments or corrections to  
22 the minutes of the October 2023 Board meeting?

23 (No response)

24 CHAIR SIMPSON: Hearing none, is there a  
25 motion?

1 BOARD MEMBER SMITH: I'll motion to  
2 approve.

3 BOARD MEMBER REITEN: I'll second.

4 CHAIR SIMPSON: It's been moved and  
5 seconded to approve the minutes of the October  
6 2023 Board meeting. All in favor, say aye.

7 (Response)

8 CHAIR SIMPSON: Opposed.

9 (No response)

10 CHAIR SIMPSON: Motion carries. Item  
11 A-2, review and approve the proposed Board meeting  
12 schedule for 2024. That was included in our  
13 packet. Any comments on our schedule for the  
14 upcoming year?

15 (No response)

16 CHAIR SIMPSON: I have no comment on it  
17 either. I think it looks good. And as we get  
18 closer to these meetings, we may have occasion to  
19 make adjustments, depending on availability of our  
20 Board members, but for now, do we have a motion to  
21 approve the schedule for 2024?

22 BOARD MEMBER ALTEMUS: So moved.

23 BOARD MEMBER SMITH: Second.

24 CHAIR SIMPSON: It's been moved and  
25 seconded to approve our proposed Board meeting

1 schedule for 2024. All in favor, say aye.

2 (Response)

3 CHAIR SIMPSON: Motion carries. Thank  
4 you very much.

5 Briefing items. We have quite a bit  
6 going on here, so I would ask Terisa to review --  
7 Let's go through this item by item, and those that  
8 have new updated information, Terisa, if you could  
9 just point those out, and give us a short summary  
10 of what's going on with each of these cases.

11 MS. OOMENS: Sure. So the first one,  
12 A-1(a) is one that we've been waiting on for a  
13 little while now. We finally got an order from  
14 the Montana Supreme Court, which I believe was  
15 also in your briefing packet.

16 Some of the issues got remanded to the  
17 District Court, and some of the issues got  
18 remanded to the District Court to remand to BER  
19 for further decision, and so that's something that  
20 once we get the remand from the Montana Supreme  
21 Court, we'll have to discuss how that case moves  
22 forward.

23 I think essentially we need to make sure  
24 everybody understands what is being remanded to  
25 the Board, and how those decisions are made moving

1 forward, but that's kind of the big news this <sup>6</sup>  
2 week, is we got that decision from the Supreme  
3 Court.

4 As far as Item (b), one of the nice  
5 things about the Montana Supreme Court decision in  
6 Item (a) was that they noted that BER is not a  
7 necessary party to cases. And so as noted in Item  
8 (b), we'll be renewing our motion to dismiss in  
9 that case because we had previously asked for a  
10 motion to dismiss.

11 The Court said, "Well, I'm going to wait  
12 and see what the Montana Supreme Court decides."  
13 The Montana Supreme Court said we don't have to be  
14 involved if we don't want to be, and we don't want  
15 to be involved in that case, so we'll be renewing  
16 our motion to dismiss on that one.

17 Item (c) is one that I am not directly  
18 involved with. That's the DEQ v. BER case. I  
19 don't know if, Chair Simpson, if you have any  
20 update for that, but that's nothing I have a  
21 background in. So --

22 CHAIR SIMPSON: Thank you, Terisa. Yes.  
23 Since the agenda was prepared, there has been one  
24 development there.

25 The environmental groups have petitioned

1 the Court with two documents, reminder of  
2 submittal, and a request for a scheduling  
3 conference. Those were filed on the 21st of  
4 November.

5 And the Judge has scheduled a scheduling  
6 conference for December 19th, so hopefully at that  
7 scheduling conference we'll gain a better  
8 understanding of just where this case is going.  
9 As of now, there are a couple of pending matters  
10 still before the Judge, specifically the request  
11 from the environmental groups to intervene in the  
12 case; and then the other has to do with  
13 counterclaims submitted by Teck Coal. That's all  
14 that's happening there.

15 MS. OOMENS: So in nonenforcement cases,  
16 the first one is one of my cases. This is also a  
17 case that the Board has been getting updates on  
18 the last couple meetings. The parties have said  
19 that they're working towards getting deadlines,  
20 and they did submit deadlines to me just a couple  
21 weeks ago, a week ago actually.

22 And so they have some suggested  
23 deadlines that they've agreed on amongst  
24 themselves to get this case finished up hopefully  
25 by November of next year. They're just working

1 their way through that permitting process. And so  
2 I'm just very happy that the parties came to some  
3 deadlines in that case.

4 Item (b) is a Rob Cameron case. This is  
5 one of the cases that was stayed pending the  
6 decision from the Montana Supreme Court. Now that  
7 they've made that decision, the parties have to  
8 decide whether their questions were answered and  
9 they're going to proceed with the case, or whether  
10 that case is going to continue to be stayed  
11 pending a final decision from the Board.

12 Item (c) is another one of my cases.  
13 Again, the parties are working their way through  
14 the application resubmittal process. They have  
15 been giving me regular updates, and so they are  
16 moving their way through that process. It's just  
17 taking some time.

18 Item (d), Moudy Pit. We had intended to  
19 have this case in front of the Board for this  
20 meeting, but in order to make sure that the  
21 parties have sufficient time to issue any  
22 exceptions and responses to exceptions, we  
23 extended it to the next meeting; and that also  
24 gives the Board ample time to review all of those  
25 documents.

1           So once I get the FOFCOL from the  
2 Hearing Examiner and exceptions from the parties,  
3 I'll make sure to send those to the Board so they  
4 can review before the next meeting.

5           Item (e). They've had a lot of motion  
6 briefing in this case, and so they're just working  
7 their way through all those motions.

8           Item (f) is one that's kind of been  
9 stagnant for a little while. Sidney Sugars is  
10 still trying to sort out the status of its  
11 ownership, and how it proceeds through that  
12 ownership with all of their other stuff, including  
13 its permit. So they're just in the process of  
14 trying to figure that out.

15           Item (g), again, is another one that has  
16 had a lot of motions. Rob Cameron, poor Rob  
17 Cameron, has a lot of motions briefing in front of  
18 him. So again, they're just in the midst of that.  
19 But the good news is once you get through motions  
20 briefing, you know, you're kind of towards the  
21 back end of the case, and so these cases are  
22 heading towards resolution.

23           The next one is in the middle of  
24 briefing again, in the middle of summary judgment  
25 briefing.

1           Moving on here, (j), they're still in  
2 the discovery phase, so a little bit earlier in  
3 the phases for that one.

4           Item --

5           CHAIR SIMPSON: Excuse me, Terisa.  
6 Which case are we on again? I'm sorry.

7           MS. OOMENS: That's okay. I think we're  
8 on Item (j).

9           CHAIR SIMPSON: (j). Okay.

10          MS. OOMENS: The CHS case. They're  
11 still in the discovery phase.

12          And then Butte Highlands was one that we  
13 had dismissed before. This is just a reminder  
14 that it will be removed from the agenda going  
15 forward.

16          Item (i) is in the discovery phase of  
17 the case -- or (l). I'm sorry. Item (l).

18          Clearwater has done some briefing  
19 recently, and so we're getting towards the end of  
20 that case in Item (m).

21          Item (n), Dairy Subdivision is still  
22 kind of in the beginning stages of that case.

23          And then for enforcement cases, we only  
24 have the one, and that's William Deveny, and we're  
25 still in discovery phase on that case.

1           That's about it from me unless you have  
2 any questions. I will say that the cases not  
3 assigned to Hearing Examiners, Subsection (4) Item  
4 (b) I believe is one that we have been receiving  
5 updates on. So other than that, I think that's  
6 it.

7           CHAIR SIMPSON: Thank you, Terisa. On  
8 that last item, this is the Westmoreland Rosebud  
9 Mining MPDES permit settlement agreement, and work  
10 as described here moving forward on that.

11           I note here that the existing data has  
12 been compiled, and there's been a written  
13 determination, "In accordance the stipulation  
14 21(e), DEQ determined additional data is required  
15 to properly develop nonanthropogenic standards for  
16 EC and SAR in the receiving water," and then  
17 there's a target date of November 29th to  
18 "determine whether the NAS sources alone cause EC  
19 and SAR to exceed the standards for the receiving  
20 waters."

21           That deadline has passed, and I was  
22 curious if that's been completed.

23           MS. OOMENS: Are you asking me that  
24 question? Oh, go ahead.

25           MS. MOISEY-SCHERER: Chairman Simpson,

1 Kirsten Bowers of DEQ has her hand up.

2 CHAIR SIMPSON: Ms. Bowers.

3 MS. BOWERS: Good morning, Chair,  
4 members of the Board. I can update you a little  
5 bit on the Westmoreland Rosebud Mining  
6 stipulation, and the process that's been made  
7 under that stipulation.

8 And yes, we did, DEQ did determine that  
9 nonanthropogenic sources caused the EC and SAR  
10 standards to exceed the water quality standards in  
11 the receiving waters, and so we're now in the  
12 process of working with Westmoreland to develop a  
13 sampling and analysis plan to collect some  
14 additional data to develop a nonanthropogenic  
15 standard.

16 And I believe Westmoreland has Counsel  
17 on the call, too, if they have anything to add.

18 CHAIR SIMPSON: Mr. Mercer.

19 MR. MERCER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
20 agree with the summary that Ms. Bowers provided,  
21 and I would only add that that next date is coming  
22 up later in the month, and the parties will  
23 continue to work to try to meet that deadline as  
24 well.

25 CHAIR SIMPSON: Okay. Thank you very

1 much. We'll look forward to hearing from the  
2 parties as this progresses, but it sounds like  
3 progress is being made, which on behalf of the  
4 Board we certainly appreciate. So thank you very  
5 much.

6 Anything further on these briefing  
7 items? Any other questions, comments?

8 (No response)

9 CHAIR SIMPSON: Hearing none, let's move  
10 along. There are no action items for the Board  
11 for this meeting. I think I was talking with Ms.  
12 Oomens the other day, and I believe this is the  
13 second meeting in a row where we haven't had any  
14 new cases, which is something to be noted, I  
15 think.

16 Item IV, any general public comment?

17 (No response)

18 CHAIR SIMPSON: Hearing none, we'll move  
19 to the Board Chair update. The agenda is so brief  
20 that we seriously considered just dispensing with  
21 the meeting, and covering these items next time  
22 around, but decided to go ahead with it because of  
23 this Supreme Court decision that Terisa summarized  
24 a short time ago, and which I hope you all had a  
25 chance to read.

1           Just as a matter of background  
2 information, the subject of this case, that is,  
3 the Rosebud, the Westmoreland Rosebud Amendment 4  
4 to Area B, the application was received by DEQ  
5 June 15th of 2009, and the permit was issued after  
6 going through the prescribed process on December  
7 4th of 2015. So this process has been going on  
8 for just about exactly eight years.

9           MEIC filed objections to the permit on  
10 the 4th of January of '16, and the FOFCOL,  
11 findings of fact and conclusions of law, was  
12 issued by the Hearing Examiner on the 15th of  
13 March, 2018.

14           That date of course is before any of us  
15 at this meeting were on the Board, so there really  
16 isn't any background knowledge by any of us  
17 currently on the Board as to the history of this  
18 case, other than what is contained in the Supreme  
19 Court decision, and also the findings of fact and  
20 conclusions of law.

21           I've read the FOFCOL. I think it's very  
22 useful in moving forward with this, so as we move  
23 forward here, that will be distributed to the  
24 Board before the next meeting.

25           What I'd like to propose is that at the

1 February meeting, that if at all possible,  
2 considering winter weather conditions, that be an  
3 in-person meeting, and also that it be a two-day  
4 meeting. That date I believe is the -- Is it the  
5 15th of February? I don't have the schedule right  
6 in front of me.

7 MS. MOISEY-SCHERER: It's the 16th.

8 CHAIR SIMPSON: 16th. Okay. So the  
9 Friday would be the 16th, that would be our  
10 regular meeting. And what I'd like to do is to,  
11 on the day before have a scheduling conference --  
12 not a scheduling conference -- a status conference  
13 -- excuse me -- on this Westmoreland Rosebud  
14 Amendment 4 case.

15 And we will flesh out just exactly what  
16 the agenda for that meeting will be within the  
17 next couple of weeks, but in general, what I have  
18 in mind is a briefing from Westmoreland Rosebud on  
19 the subject of this case, that is, the Rosebud  
20 Mine layout, the mine plan, and specifically the  
21 Area B Amendment.

22 I think this is important for a couple  
23 of reasons. One is, as I mentioned, the Board  
24 really doesn't have any hands-on background in  
25 this case. And also there are two other related

1 cases, as mentioned during Terisa's briefing, that  
2 are potentially affected. The first would be the  
3 Area F case, and then -- Westmoreland Rosebud Area  
4 F, and also Area B Amendment 5, both of which have  
5 been, there have been petitions from MEIC opposing  
6 those permits.

7 So as we move forward, I think it will  
8 be very helpful to have a little bit of  
9 familiarity with the layout at the mine. I'm  
10 probably a little bit ahead of the Board here  
11 because of my background in mining, and also  
12 although I never worked at Colstrip, I did work  
13 with Westmoreland, and I'm generally familiar with  
14 the layout of the mine, although I've never worked  
15 on any permitting work there.

16 So that would be the first item. The  
17 second item would be to go through the three  
18 specific items remanded to the Board by the  
19 Supreme Court, and to get the perspective of the  
20 parties on those issues. I won't go into those in  
21 any detail now. I think they're fairly  
22 self-explanatory from the Supreme Court decision.

23 But then in addition to that, I would  
24 also like to hear from the parties on their views  
25 of how the Supreme Court decision affects those

1 other two pending cases, and whether it will be  
2 necessary to back up on the status of those cases  
3 or make any adjustments going forward, to be sure  
4 that as those cases eventually are to be resolved.

5 One is in -- There's been, if I'm not  
6 mistaken, there's been a hearing on the Area F  
7 case, and the parties are still reviewing and  
8 filing motions back and forth on that FOFCOL.  
9 Please correct me if I'm wrong, but I think that's  
10 the status, having read through that.

11 And then the Area B Amendment 5 case has  
12 not been heard yet.

13 So I guess I would ask for comments from  
14 the Board on the schedule I'm proposing here, and  
15 the subject matter of that meeting.

16 Excuse me. Before going any further, as  
17 was mentioned earlier, we expect the Moudy Pit  
18 case -- that's an opencut gravel pit case -- to be  
19 before the Board at that meeting also, which is  
20 why I'm suggesting two days in person. That case  
21 I think -- we've not seen any of the paperwork on  
22 it, but I expect that it will be fairly complex.

23 This will be the first opencut case to  
24 come to the Board since revisions were made in the  
25 opencut law, I believe in the '21 session, if I'm

1 not mistaken.

2 So with that, any comments or questions  
3 from the Board about the proposed two day meeting  
4 and the subject matter thereof?

5 MS. MOISEY-SCHERER: Chairman Simpson,  
6 Jeremiah Langston of DEQ has his hand up.

7 CHAIR SIMPSON: Oh, I'm sorry.  
8 Jeremiah.

9 MR. LANGSTON: Chairman Simpson, thanks  
10 for the opportunity just to interject here for a  
11 moment. I just wanted to add one bit of detail on  
12 the Rosebud AM4 Montana Supreme Court case that  
13 you were previously discussing.

14 I just wanted to bring to the Board's  
15 attention that DEQ has filed a petition for  
16 rehearing of the Montana Supreme Court's decision  
17 on a very narrow issue regarding attorneys fees,  
18 and that relates to when the Montana Supreme Court  
19 will issue remittitur, which is what's essential  
20 for this Court to obtain jurisdiction over AM4.

21 I don't think it's necessarily the case  
22 that that won't happen before the February  
23 meeting, and I think it's fine for the BER to be  
24 proactive, and I think it's actually quite good  
25 for the BER to be thinking about this case; but I

1 just wanted to mention that as a detail that will  
2 affect when this matter gets back to the Board.

3 CHAIR SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Langston.  
4 I was not aware of that. We're assuming that the  
5 remands on these three items that we talked about  
6 earlier will be forthcoming before the February  
7 meeting. I don't believe the issue of attorneys  
8 fees really impacts Board deliberations, so I  
9 agree with your assessment that it shouldn't  
10 really have any bearing on whether we proceed.  
11 Mr. Yemington.

12 MR. YEMINGTON: Good morning, Chairman  
13 Simpson, members of the Board. Samuel Yemington,  
14 Holland and Hart on behalf of Westmoreland.

15 I echo Mr. Langston's comments, and just  
16 wanted to put the Board on notice that we have a  
17 conflict on February 15th, an oral argument on a  
18 matter that has matriculated through the Board is  
19 scheduled before Judge Davies in Billings that  
20 day, that afternoon. So it may make sense to  
21 coordinate this in a way that doesn't conflict  
22 with that oral argument or otherwise.

23 I think that's something that we can  
24 move. I'm hesitant to make any commitments  
25 without Counsel for MEIC being part of this

1 conversation, but that's currently on the calendar  
2 for February 15th.

3 CHAIR SIMPSON: What would you suggest  
4 in terms of scheduling?

5 MR. YEMINGTON: Again, I caution that  
6 Counsel for MEIC is not on this call, to my  
7 knowledge, so with that caveat, I think there's  
8 two options here. One would be to the extent that  
9 the Board requires those extra days, needs us  
10 either before or after the regular scheduled  
11 hearing, we can accommodate that.

12 Alternatively I think we have enough  
13 time to revisit that scheduling with Judge Davies,  
14 and reset that oral argument in a manner that  
15 would free up the 15th. But again, I think  
16 there's other folks at the table here -- DEQ,  
17 their Counsel, can weigh in on this -- and I would  
18 emphasize that MEIC needs to be part of this  
19 conversation.

20 CHAIR SIMPSON: Well, I'm under the  
21 assumption that we'll go ahead with this concept,  
22 and we will be distributing documentation to the  
23 parties as to when the meeting will be, and what  
24 the subject matter will be, and any specifics  
25 about specific information that the Board may

1 request.

2           And the reason I say that is that, as I  
3 mentioned earlier, I've read through the FOFCOL.  
4 There are some informational items that I don't  
5 see in there, but I'm going to go through it  
6 again, just to double check -- that I think are  
7 probably available, certainly in the mine plan  
8 and/or the CHIA -- that might be helpful in  
9 resolving the issue going forward.

10           But I guess one possibility would be to  
11 flip those days, that is, to do the Moudy Pit on  
12 Thursday and the status conference on this case on  
13 Friday.

14           But Terisa and I will discuss that, and  
15 I think if you would please advise her of  
16 specifics. In fact as we go forward, we'll be  
17 sure to get the concurrence of the parties on the  
18 date, but that's something that could be  
19 rescheduled as well if necessary.

20           Further comments, questions?

21           (No response)

22           CHAIR SIMPSON: Terisa, do we need a  
23 motion on this?

24           MS. OOMENS: A motion on what?

25           CHAIR SIMPSON: On scheduling a status

1 conference with the full Board.

2 MS. OOMENS: I think we should wait  
3 until we know for sure whether we get the  
4 remittitur from the Supreme Court. As Mr.  
5 Langston stated, when we get that remittitur is  
6 when the Board obtains jurisdiction, so if we  
7 don't get that before the February meeting, we  
8 don't have jurisdiction over the case. And so I  
9 think we should wait before we decide for sure to  
10 pass a motion that we're having a two day meeting.

11 CHAIR SIMPSON: Very well. Let's defer  
12 that decision then until we hear from the Court.  
13 In the meantime, we'll continue compiling our  
14 preparations, so that when we're ready to send out  
15 a notice, we'll have all the information we need.

16 Anything else from the Board?

17 BOARD MEMBER ALTEMUS: Mr. Chair, I was  
18 wondering. Do you have an update on the status of  
19 filling that seventh seat, our Board seat? Do you  
20 know what's going on there?

21 CHAIR SIMPSON: I do not. Is there any  
22 word on that, Sandy?

23 MS. MOISEY-SCHERER: Chairman Simpson, I  
24 have not heard from the Governor's Office on that  
25 yet. They have a few people that they are

1 considering, but I have not heard any names at  
2 this point in time.

3 CHAIR SIMPSON: I see. Thank you very  
4 much. Thank you for the reminder, Julia. Hearing  
5 nothing further, do we have a motion to adjourn?

6 BOARD MEMBER RANKOWSKY: Motion to  
7 adjourn.

8 BOARD MEMBER SMITH: Second.

9 CHAIR SIMPSON: A motion has been made  
10 and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Thank you  
11 everybody. It's been a brief one, but I think  
12 necessary reviewing what lies ahead of us. So  
13 we'll keep everyone posted as we move forward with  
14 developing this case. I'm sorry. Excuse me?

15 BOARD MEMBER ALTEMUS: Chair Simpson,  
16 did we ask for public comment?

17 CHAIR SIMPSON: Yes, we did.

18 BOARD MEMBER ALTEMUS: We did. Okay.  
19 Sorry. Thank you.

20 CHAIR SIMPSON: A motion has been made  
21 and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All in  
22 favor, say aye.

23 (Response)

24 CHAIR SIMPSON: Once again, thank you,  
25 everyone, and we'll see you here in a couple

1 months.

2 (The proceedings were concluded

3 at 9:38 a.m. )

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STATE OF MONTANA )

: SS.

COUNTY OF LEWIS & CLARK )

I, LAURIE CRUTCHER, RPR, Court Reporter,  
Notary Public in and for the County of Lewis &  
Clark, State of Montana, do hereby certify:

That the proceedings were taken before me at  
the time and place herein named; that the  
proceedings were reported by me in shorthand and  
transcribed using computer-aided transcription,  
and that the foregoing - 24 - pages contain a true  
record of the proceedings to the best of my  
ability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
hand and affixed my notarial seal this 18th day of  
December, 2023.

*Laurie Crutcher*

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LAURIE CRUTCHER, RPR  
Court Reporter - Notary Public  
My commission expires  
March 9, 2024.

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