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STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of
CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY for a
Certificate of Public Convenience
and Necessity to render natural gas
service in Sections 6 and 7,
Summerfield Township,
Monroe County, Michigan.

Case No. U-12285

PREHEARING CONFERENCE

Proceedings had in the above-entitled
matter before George Schankler, J.D., Administrative
Law Judge, at 6545 Mercantile Way, Lansing, Michigan,
on Thursday, February 24, 2000.

APPEARANCES:

RAYMOND McQUILLAN, J.D. (P24100)
Consumers Energy Company
212 West Michigan Avenue
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Appearing on behalf of the Applicant

WILLIAM DERONGOSKI, J.D. (P34242)
Assistant Attorney General
6545 Mercantile Way
Lansing, Michigan 48911

Appearing on behalf of the Commission Staff

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Jury
Etc

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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MERRILL & ASSOCIATES, INC. SECRETARY'S OFFICE

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SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN LANSING, MICHIGAN

1 Lansing, Michigan

2 Thursday, February 24, 200

3 9:10 A.M.

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5 (The hearing was commenced pursuant to the
6 notice.)

7 JUDGE SCHANKLER: Let's go on the record
8 this morning.

9 This is the time and place set for the
10 prehearing conference in the matter of the application of
11 Consumers Energy Company for a certificate of public
12 convenience and necessity to render natural gas service in
13 Sections 6 and 7, Summerfield Township, Monroe County,
14 Michigan. This is Case No. U-12285.

15 I am George Schankler, and I am the
16 presiding Administrative Law Judge.

17 Would counsel please enter their
18 appearances at this time.

19 MR. McQUILLAN: Your Honor, I am Raymond
20 McQuillan on behalf of the applicant, Consumers Energy
21 Company.

22 MR. DERONGOSKI: William W. Derongoski,
23 Assistant Attorney General, for the staff.

24 JUDGE SCHANKLER: I would note a couple of
25 things for the record.

1 First of all, there is no intervention
2 filed in this case. So the only parties are the applicant
3 and the staff.

4 Secondly, the proofs of service, mailing
5 of the notice of hearing in this matter have already been
6 filed by Consumers. The docket indicates three filings,
7 one on January 31st, one on February 1st, and one on
8 February 3rd.

9 And it's my understanding that the parties
10 are not going to need to set a schedule in this case,
11 because the matter is going to be subject to settlement
12 agreement. Is that correct?

13 MR. McQUILLAN: Yes, your Honor. We have
14 a, just a preliminary draft of that settlement agreement
15 to be reviewed. It isn't quite finished yet today. It
16 shouldn't take very long.

17 MR. DERONGOSKI: My understanding is that
18 the staff is in agreement in principle with everything in
19 this case and that the final draft of the settlement
20 agreement is imminent.

21 JUDGE SCHANKLER: All right. What I am
22 going to do is adjourn without date and indicate that the
23 settlement will be left to do, along with the proposed
24 order, within two weeks from today's date.

25 If there's nothing further then, this

1 hearing is closed.

2 MR. McQUILLAN: Thank you, your Honor.

3 MR. DERONGOSKI: Thank you.

4 (At 9:15 A.M., the hearing was adjourned
5 without date.)

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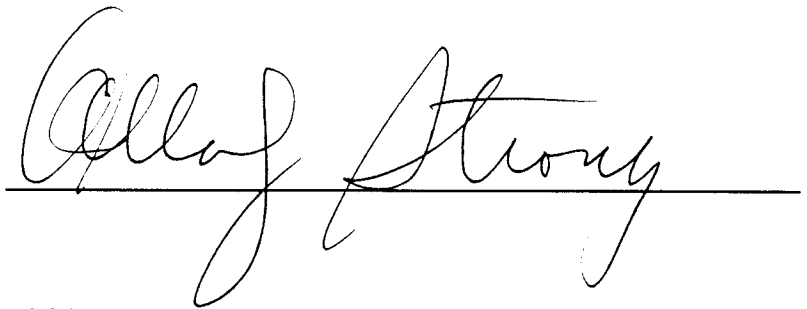
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Allan J. Strong (CSR-2197), do hereby certify that I reported in stenotypy the foregoing proceedings had in the within-entitled matter, being Case No. U-12285, before George Schankler, J.D., Administrative Law Judge, at the Mercantile Building, Lansing, Michigan, on Thursday, February 24, 2000; and that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct transcript of my stenotype notes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Allan J. Strong", is written over a horizontal line.

Dated: February 25, 2000