COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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4 In re:

A-00102471, FOO1, Am-T Application of Pitt-Ohio Express, Inc. Amendment to permit the transportation of property, from points in the County of Allegheny to other points in Pennsylvania beyond the County of Allegheny, and vice versa; which is to be a transfer

of part of the rights authorized under the certificate issued at A-00024261, Folder 23 to Exhibitors Service Commany. Initial hearing.

Verbatim record of hearing held in the 11th Floor Hearing Room, State Office Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Friday,

> February 14, 1986 11:30 a.m.

BEFORE: JOHN CLEMENTS, ESQUIRE, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

JOHN A. VUONO, ESQ. 2310 Grant Building Pittsburgh, PA 15219

For - Transferer and Applicant



MAR 1 0 1986
SECRETARY'S OFFICE
Public Utility Commission





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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CLEMENTS: This is the time scheduled for hearing in the matter of the application of Pitt-Ohio Express, Inc. involving transfer of rights under certificate issued to Exhibitors Service Company designated by the Commission at AlO2471 Folder 1 Amendment I.

I am the Administrative Law Judge assigned to the proceeding. Maybe counsel would like to identify himself for the record.

MR. VUONO: John A. Vuono, 2310 Grant Building, Pittsburgh 15219 representing the Applicant and Transferer.

JUDGE CLEMENTS: It is my understanding, Mr. Vuono, prior to the hearing, there were agreements worked out involving the protest to this application?

MR. VUONO: Yes, Your Honor. You should have a letter dated February 7 from counsel for Newcomer Trucking, Inc.; and I received this this morning. I will deliver to you a copy of a letter dated February 13 from the president of J & S, Inc. withdrawing that company's protest.

JUDGE CLEMENTS: Okay. Thank you.

MR. VUONO: With that, according to my records, this is an unopposed proceeding.

> JUDGE CLEMENTS: Fine.

It is my understanding that you wish to proceed and put your testimony on the record at this time, is that correct?

MR. VUONO: Yes, sir.

JUDGE CLEMENTS: Would you like to have me swear all the witnesses in at once?

MR. VUONO: Yes.

(All potential witnesses were duly sworn by Administrative Law Judge Clements.)

MR. VUONO: Your Honor, in view of the fact that this case is unopposed, we will attempt to expedite the matter as best we can and not overburden the record. I would preliminarily say that I was under the impression that this was going to be an opposed case until late yesterday. I have prepared, and I want to deliver to you a memorandum of law on the subject which you are already well informed on the issues in the transfer proceeding.

JUDGE CLEMENTS: Thank you.

MR. VUONO: I would like to call Mr. Lacey for the service company.

FRANK LACEY, called as a witness, having been previously duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. VUONO:

- Q State your name and your business address.
- A Frank Lacey, L-A-C-E-Y, 85 Helen Street, McKees Rocks, 15136.
 - Q By whom are you employed?

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1	A Exhibitors Service Company.
2	Q That is the Transferer in this proceeding?
3	A Yes.
4	Q What is your position?
5	A Assistant secretary-treasurer.
6	Q How long have you been with Exhibitors?
7	A Thirty-nine years.
8	Q In your position with your company, are you familiar
9	with the operating rights, facilities, and equipment of Ex-
10	hibitors Service Company?
11	A Yes.
12	Q . Have you been authorized to testify in this proceeding?
13	A Yes, I am.
14	Q How long has it been in the trucking business?
15	A 1911.
16	Q And I understand the president of the company is
17	George S. Callahan, III?
18	A Correct.
19	Q Mr. Callahan is due to testify today, but he is not
20	here. Is there a reason for that?
21	A Illness.
22	Q Rather sudden flu illness?
23	A Yes.
24	Q This is the third generation trucking company we
25	have sitting here, George S. Callahan, IV. I understand

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2 the so-called grandfather days beginning 1933, is that correct? 3 A Correct. 4 Mr. Lacey, in connection with the authority held 5 by Exhibitors, am I correct that is the authority on Docket 6 No. 24216 and various folders thereto? 7 A Yes. 8 MR. VUONO: May we have marked for identification 9 marked as Exhibit B-1? 10 JUDGE CLEMENTS: So identified and admitted without 11 objection. 12 BY MR. VUONO: Q You have before you what has been marked for iden-13 tification. Is that a true and correct copy of the author-14 ity issued by this Commission as Exhibitors Service Folder 15 16 23 Amendment I? 17 Yes. 18 That is the operating authority which is the sub-19 ject of this transaction? 20 Yes. And has Exhibitors Company entered into an agree-21 ment with Pitt-Ohio Express, Inc. to sell a portion of that 22 authority? 23

Exhibitors has held authority from this Commission since

Q And the witness for Pitt-Ohio will introduce that

A Yes.

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agreement as an exhibit, and it will be Exhibit A-1. want to show you a copy of that agreement. Is that a true and correct copy of the document that was signed by George Callahan, III as president of the Exhibitors?

Yes, it is.

Q And that agreement in Paragraph 3 provides for the purchase of the rights set forth in Appendix A for a total of what consideration, sir?

A For \$65,000.

That is to be paid in cash on consummation, is that correct?

A Correct.

Q According to the agreement, the full amount has been deposited in escrow, is that correct?

That's correct.

And does that amount remain in escrow up to the present time?

It does.

Look at Appendix A. Am I correct that the authority set forth on that appendix covers all of the rights set forth in Exhibitors Folder 23 Amendment I which is Exhibit B-1 except a nine county area in Western Pennsylvania specifically the counties of Beaver, Crawford, Erie, Fayette, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Washington, and Westmoreland, is that correct?

Q You are familiar with the background of this transaction, Mr. Lacey. Why has Exhibitor decided to sell its general freight authority?

A Because of the non-profitability of the operation for Exhibitors Service Company.

Q If you were going to describe Exhibitors Service Company's main business today, main transportation business, how would you describe it?

A It would be the transportation of specialized products, motion picture -- frozen perishables.

Q It would be dated commodities that would require specialized service?

A Yes.

Q That, in fact, is why the company has been named Exhibitors; it served in the old days many movie --

A Right.

Q It continues to do that today?

A Correct.

Q I understand from your testimony that the company believes by eliminating Pennsylvania general freight operation, it can make the balance of operation more efficient and profitable?

A Right.

Q The result: in recent years has been not profitable?

A No.

MR. VUONO: I would like to be marked for identification Exhibit B-1, a summary of operating results for the years 1981 through 1984.

JUDGE CLEMENTS: It shall be so identified and admitted.

BY MR. VUONO:

Q Mr. Lacey, you have before you a copy of Exhibit B-2?

A Yes.

Q Can you tell us with respect to the operating revenue, the trend obviously has been one of decline, from \$4,230,000 in 1981 to \$1,705,000 in 1984, is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q Has that downward trend in operating revenue continued in 1985, if so, what was the total revenue?

A Yes. It has continued, and the operating revenue for 1985, \$1,350,000.

Q Now, that Exhibit B-2 also shows your profit and loss, the company's profit and loss for the same four-year period. Can you tell us what the profits and losses have been?

A For the year 1985, the loss at the end of twelve months was approximately \$3,900.

Q Can you tell us what the operating results were beginning 1981?

A 1981 loss of \$84,383. In 1982, a loss of \$49,075. In 1983, a net profit of \$7,156. In 1984 the loss was \$74,689.

Q Will that substantial loss in 1984, was that really the primary reason for entering into this agreement in early 1985?

A Definitely.

Q Now, I show you Exhibit E to the transfer of application in this proceeding. Can you tell us what Exhibitors' Pennsylvania gross operating revenues have been for the year 1982, 1983, and 1984 as shown on that Exhibit?

A In 1982, \$304,367; in 1983, \$141,159; in 1984, \$37,522.

- Q Can you give us the comparable figure for 1985?
- A In 1985, intrastate revenue was \$16,150.
- Q Now, in connection with the sale of operating rights, am I correct that you also agreed to permit Pitt-Ohio to secure emergency temporary authority?

A Yes, we did.

Q And that authority was, in fact, granted, is that correct?

A Correct:

Q According to the records, the order of the Commission approving knowledge of temporary authority was entered June 13, 1985. A copy of that will be entered by the Appli-

cant. Tariff compliance was effective June 22, 1985. So

I assume that revenue figure that you gave us was from January 1 through the emergency temporary authority date, is that correct?

A Correct.

MR. VUONO: Finally, Your Honor, may we have marked for identification as Exhibit B-3 a financial statement for Exhibitors as of November 30, 1985, please.

JUDGE CLEMENTS: It shall be so identified and admitted.

BY MR. VUONO:

Q Would you look briefly at the operating statement and tell us what the total revenue of Exhibitors was for the 11-month period ending November 1985, the total income of eleven months?

- A It was \$1,260,152.
- Q What was the net loss for operations?
- A End of eleven months, net loss was \$3,792.
- Q But that takes into account the profit on disposable equipment. What was the loss from operations?
 - A From operating, loss was \$8,955.
 - Q So that the losses have continued, have they not?
 - A Yes, sir.
- Q And that is one of the things you are trying to eliminate by this transaction?

1 That's correct. 2 Also, would it be an average of the company to 3 have available immediate cash flow of \$85,000? 4 It certainly would. 5 Has Exhibitors provided service continuously under 6 the operating authority that is involved in this transaction? 7 Have we what? Α 8. Have you provided service under those operating 9 rights? 10 Yes, sir. 11 And in that connection, do you have on file tariffs 12 setting forth rights to be charged in connection with the 13 movement, traffic under the general property rights? 14 Α Yes. And do you have in effect and certified with the 15 16 Commission public liability, property damage, and cargo in-17 surance coverage? 18 We do. Have you filed annual reports with the PUC when 19 20 and as due? Yes, sir. 21 Do you believe, Mr. Lacey, there's a continuing 22 need for service under these operating rights for shippers 23 24 and receivers in Pennsylvania?

A Yes, I do.

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14 If that is so, why are you selling? To our company, it is not profitable to operate as part of the authority. Q Why do you think the purchaser in this transaction would be able to do something that obviously you are not able to do? A Well, I think they are rather set up to handle this type of business not being involved with the specialized freight that Exhibitors Service is. They have available the continuing flow of traffic today that they could match up with? ' Right. Has Exhibitors ever abandoned or given any indicarefusing to provide service under these rights? tion of No. And based on your knowledge of the needs of the shipping public in this area, do you believe there continues to be a need for service under these rights? A Definitely. MR. VUONO: I have nothing further.

JUDGE CLEMENTS: Very well. Let's go off the record. (An off-the-record discussion was held.)

BY MR. VUONO:

O Mr. Lacey, with respect to the Hammel's Express phase of this transaction, I show you the agreement dated the same

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day, May 24, 1985 between Exhibitors and Hammel's and ask you if this is a true and correct copy of the agreement signed by George Callahan, III as the president of Exhibitors Service Company?

A Yes, it is.

Q Am I correct that Paragraph 3, that agreement provides for a total consideration of \$20,000 for the segment of the operating right being purchased by Hammel's?

A That's correct.

Q And that amount has also been placed in escrow and continues to be in escrow up to this time, does it not?

A It does.

Q Referring to Appendix A, am I correct that Appendix A sets forth the portion of the authority of Exhibitors at Folder 23 Amendment I which Hammel's is purchasing in this transaction; specifically, general property from Allegheny County, one, to points in the counties of Crawford, Erie, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango and vice-versa and, two, points in counties in Beaver, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland located in more than 25 airline miles to Pittsburgh and vice-versa;, is that correct?

A Correct.

Q And the reason for the 25 airline miles is because the authority is restricted at the present time?

A Yes.

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ı	Q Am I correct that the conditions attached to
2	Appendix A set forth the same as those set forth in Exhibitors'
.3	Restriction No. 6; and that Restriction No. 7 has been added
4	to eliminate any questions due to perating : rights?
5	A That's correct.
6	Q If I ask you the same series of questions con-
7	cerning the Hammel's transaction that I asked you concerning
8	the Pitt-Ohio transaction, would your answers be the same?
9	A Yes, they would.
10	MR. VUONO: I have no further questions.
11	JUDGE CLEMENTS: Thank you, Mr. Lacey.
12	MR. VUONO: I would like to call Mr. Charles Hammel,
13	III.
14	CHARLES HAMMEL, III, called as a witness, having been
15	previously duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
16	DIRECT EXAMINATION
17	BY MR. VUONO:
18	Q State your name and business address.
19	A Charles Hammel, III, business address is 26 A.V.R.R.,
20	Pittsburgh 15222.
21	Q What company are you affiliated with?
22	A Pitt-Ohio Express.
23	Q What is your position with that company?
24	A I am president.
25	Q How long have you been involved with the Pitt-Ohio

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	Express?	
	Α	Since beginning, seven years.
	Q	In your capacity as president, are you familiar
	with the	operating authority, facility, and operations of
•	Pitt-Ohio	? .
	A	Yes, I am.
	Q	Are you authorized to testify in this case?
	. A	Yes, I am.
	Q	Can you tell us who the owners of Pitt-Ohio are?
	A	Myself, Charles Hammel, and my two brothers, Rob
	and Kenne	th Hammel.

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and my two brothers, Robert

- A Yes, we do.
- Who are the other officers and directors, are they your brothers?
 - A Yes, they are.
- You heard the testimony of Mr. Lacey concerning this transaction. I will now ask you a series of questions along the same lines.

MR. VUONO: First of all, Your Honor, may we have marked for identification a multi-page document, and agreement of sale which I ask to be marked as Exhibit A-1.

JUDGE CLEMENTS: It shall be so identified and admitted.

BY MR. VUONO:

1	Q Mr. Hammel, do you have a copy of Exhibit A-1
2	before you?
3	A Yes, I have.
4	Q Is that a true and correct copy of the agreement
5	dated May 24, 1985?
6	A Yes, it is.
7	Q Between Exhibitor and Pitt-Ohio covering a portion
8	of the rights which Pitt-Ohio seeks to purchase in this
9	transaction?
10	A Yes, sir.
11	Q This agreement is signed by you as the president
12	of Pitt-Ohio?
13	A Yes, it is.
14	Q And were you active in the negotiations of this
15	agreement?
16	A Yes, I was.
17	Q And am I correct that the purchase price is
18	\$65,000?
19	A Yes.
20	Q To be paid in cash which is the amount in escrow
21	today?
22	A Yes.
23	Q That amount would be released from escrow and paid
24	to Exhibitors upon PUC approval?
25	A Yes.

Q Would you look briefly at Appendix A which sets forth the scope of authority in this proceeding. With respect to that appendix, did you hear the questions and answers in connection with my examination of Mr. Lacey?

A Yes, I did.

Q What those answers generally said, were they accurate?

A Yes, they were.

Q Am I correct that Pitt-Ohio is in effect purchasing all of the authorities of the Exhibitors Service Company at Folder 23 Amendment I except for the nine counties set forth in Restriction No. 7 on Appendix A beginning with Beaver County and ending with Westmoreland County?

A Yes, sir.

Q Am I also correct that the restrictions one through six and eight and nine are restrictions that were taken verbatim Trom the authority being purchased there in Exhibitors Folder 23

A Yes, they are.

Q An additional restriction at number seven is also taken from that authority with respect to all of the language down through Lancaster County, is that correct?

A Correct.

Q We have added the other nine counties in that restriction since those counties are being transferred to

Hammel's to avoid any --

A Yes.

Q Am I also correct that Restrictions 10, 11, and 12 are new restrictions that have been imposed which would prevent Pitt-Ohio from transporting motion picture film and frozen perishable foods and so forth, the kind of special operation that Exhibitors intends to continually provide?

A That's correct.

Q And those Restrictions 10, 11, and 12, Restriction 12 has to do with certain specific locations designed to avoid any question that Pitt-Ohio might be buying authority being retained by Exhibitors?

A That's correct.

Q And do you believe to the best of your knowledge that we have effectively eliminated any duplicating rights issues?

A Yes, sir, I do.

Q Did Pitt-Ohio file an application seeking emergency temporary authority to operate this segment of the Exhibitor rights pending action to application?

A Yes, we did.

MR. VUONO: Your Honor, may we have marked the order of Folder 601 Docket 102471 dated June 13, 1985 as Exhibit A-2.

JUDGE CLEMENTS: It shall be so identified and admitted.

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BY MR. VUONO:

Do you have a copy of Exhibit A-2 in front of you?

Yes, sir.

Is that a true and correct copy of the emergency temporary authority order issued by the Commission in connection with this transaction?

A Yes, it is.

On page 2 in the last paragraph on that page before the ordering paragraph, am I correct that the Commission recognizes Transferers as Exhibitors deteriorating financial condition; and on the basis of that fact and continuing need for rights, approved the emergency temporary authority?

A Yes, it is.

Do you know whether or not the Commission has acted on the so-called long-period temporary application?

A No, sir.

It has not been acted on?

No, it has not.

Am I correct that the tariff incorporating the emergency temporary rights became in effect in January 2, 1985?

A Yes, it was.

Does Pitt-Ohio now hold authority from this Commission?

A Yes, it does.

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Q Have you caused to make and prepare a summary of those operating rights?

A Yes, sir.

MR. VUONO: May I have marked for identification as Exhibit A-3 a summary of the Pitt-Ohio operating authority.

JUDGE CLEMENTS: It shall be so identified and ad-

BY MR. VUONO:

mitted.

Q Is Exhibit A-3 an accurate and correct copy of the operating authority, Mr. Hammel?

A Yes, it is.

Q Specifically without reviewing each of the grants in detail, some of them have to do with single shippers, will you look at Page 1 under Authority Folder 1 Amendment B. Is that the basic authority presently held by Pitt-Ohio? That is primarily between points in 15 Western Pennsylvania counties?

A Yes, it is.

Q. That is subject to certain restrictions of one through six as set forth on that Exhibit?

A That's correct.

Q Is the purpose of this publication to expand Pitt-Ohio's operating territory to include longer hauls of traffic moving beyond Allegheny and beyond 15 counties to your knowledge?

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A Correct.
Q Does Pitt-Ohio hold any authority from the Inter
State Commerce Commission?
A Yes, they do.
MR. VUONO: May we have marked for identification
an Inter-State Commerce Commission certificate of public c

onvenience and necessity No. MC-30136 Sub 2.

It shall be so identified and ad-JUDGE CLEMENTS: mitted.

BY MR. VUONO:

Exhibit A-4, is it a true and correct copy of your I.C.C. authority?

A Yes, it is.

Q And is Pitt-Ohio presently providing service under that authority?

A Yes, it does.

In connection with that authority, does Pitt-Ohio gain some experience in handling traffic over longer distances?

A Yes, we have.

Q Do you believe those experiences will come in handy with respect to operating the Exhibitors rights?

Most definitely.

Does Pitt-Ohio operate any terminals in Pennsylvania, if you know, where?

1	A Yes. They operate two, Pittsburgh and Philadelphi
2	Actually, Norristown which is a Philadelphia suburb.
3	Q Is Pittsburgh your main office?
4	A Yes, it is.
5	Q How long is that facility?
6	A In number of doors?
7	Q Yes.
8	A I'm not sure of the accurate amount. I would say
9	about 45.
10	Q It is a large facility capable of handling a sub-
11	stantial amount of truckload and traffic?
12	A Yes.
13	Q Do you, sir ,in fact, do so?
14	A Yes, sir.
15	Q And your operating statement that we are going to
1,6	put into the record in a moment will reflect that fact?
17	A Yes.
18	Q Would it be fair to say that Pitt-Ohio and Hammel'
19	are the largest LTL carriers operating in Pennsylvania intra
20	state commerce in Western Pennsylvania?
21	A I'm not sure, but I would think so.
22	Q I assume Pitt-Ohio operates a substantial large
23	amount of equipment?
24	A Yes.
25	MR. VUONO: May we have marked for identification

2 Pitt-Ohio. 3 JUDGE CLEMENTS: It shall be so identified and ad-4 mitted. 5 BY MR. VUONO: Q Without going into details, can you tell us the 6 7 number of pieces of equipment shown on that equipment list? A There are 23 straight trucks, 38 tractors, 24 8 9 trailers that are owned. There are 18 leased straight trucks. There are two leased tractors, and I haven't totalled the 10 11 trailers, 71. 12 Q Am I correct that these are leased equipment, are 13 all leased from an affiliated company? 14 A Yes, it is. 15 Q That is a long-term lease? That's correct. 16 17 Q You, in effect, treat that equipment certainly as if it is your own equipment? 18 19 A Yes, sir, we do. 20 Does your company have a safety and maintenance 21 program? 22 Α Yes. Has it been successful? 23 24 Very successful. Q Have you had any problems complying with Pennsyl-25

Exhibit A-5, a summary of equipment owned and operated by

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vania PUC or other restrictions? . 2 No, sir. 3 MR. VUONO: Your Honor, may we have marked for identification the Pitt-Ohio financial statement for nine months 4 5 entering September 30, 1985. 6 JUDGE CLEMENTS: So identified and admitted. 7 BY MR. VUONO: 8 Is Exhibit A-6 a true and correct reflection of 9 the operating condition of Pitt-Ohio as of the date indicated? A Yes, sir, nine months. 10 Has there been a substantial change in the company 11 12 operating position since that time? 13 I don't understand that question. 14 If we look at a financial statement currently, would there be any substantial change in the net worth or 15 16 what? . A Yes. 17 18 Will it be increased? Yes, sir. 19 Look at Exhibit B to Exhibit A-6, which is an in-20 come statement for nine months entering September 30, what is the total revenue earned by Pitt-Ohio during that period 22 of time?

A 'Total revenue, \$6,971,639.

And on that revenue, what was the net income before

1 taxes? Before taxes, that was \$679,326. 2 3 Is this fairly representative of the operating results of the company in recent years? 4 5 Yes, sir. And Exhibit A which is your balance sheet, also 6 7 this is fairly representative of the conditions of the company conditions at this period of time? 8 9 Yes, it is. Q Tell us the total share equity. 10 11 \$1,416,961. 12 And do you have any doubt that your company's position could meet the financial requirement of this transaction? 13 14 No, there's no doubt. We have, in fact, already advanced the considera-15 16 tion? A Yes, sir. 17 18 It would not affect the balance at all? No, sir, it would not. 19 Have you considered the availability of business 20 21 in the certificates that you would be authorized to serve this application if granted? . 22 A Yes, we have. 23

Do you believe there is a need for a service under

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these rights?

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Yes, sir, I do. And is your company in a position to provide that service and fulfill that need? Yes, we are. Have you complied with the Commission's requirement concerning filing of tariffs and annual reports? A Yes, we have.

- Are you presently complying with these requirements?
- Yes, we are.
- Q Have you maintained in effect and have evidence on public liability, property damage, and cargo insurance coverage?

A Yes, we have.

Do you have any doubts that your company can effectively provide service to the public under these rights?

No, I have no doubt.

Do you believe there is a continuing need for these services?

Yes, I do.

Nothing further. MR. VUONO:

I have one question either for wit-JUDGE CLEMENTS: ness or counsel. As I read the Commission's order on emergency temporary authority, it remains in effect until permanent authority is granted. So as far as you know, I do not have to do anything about intermediate steps of another

order just for temporary authority?

MR. VUONO: I do not think so. Our contract provides that emergency temporary authorities will end upon issuance of final approval.

JUDGE CLEMENTS: Off the record.

(An off-the-record discussion was held.)

JUDGE CLEMENTS: To the extent that the exhibits have not been admitted, they are admitted.

If there is nothing else, the record in the matter at Al02471 Folder 1 Amendment I is hereby closed.

(An off-the-record discussion was held.)

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence taken by me before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission are fully and accurately indicated in my notes and that this is a true and correct transcript of same.

April Noyles (Reporter/dp